

March 13, 2003

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Woodbury held on the above date was called to order by President Curtis at 7:30 p.m.. The meeting was held in Council Chambers located at Woodbury City Hall, 33 Delaware Street, Woodbury, N.J.. The Clerk and Administrator, Thomas B. Bowe, stated that it was a Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Woodbury City Council and due notice had been given to both the press and the public by reason of a resolution for Regular Meetings adopted January 2, 2003.

ROLL CALL

Present: Schrock, Schreyer, Brown, Sloane, Louis, Graziani, President Curtis and Mayor Clark

Absent: Riskie, Grebb

MINUTES

On motion of Councilman Sloane, seconded by Councilwoman Brown, the minutes of the meeting of February 27, 2003 were approved as submitted.

PRESENTATION BY MR. TIMMONS

Mr. Timmons of the Veterans Administration relayed a story that recently occurred pertaining to a veteran (from New York) who was lost. The veteran contacted the Woodbury Police Department asking for assistance in this particular situation. After many calls made to various family members, arrangements were made to have the veteran returned via taxi to his hometown, the Bronx. Mr. Timmons stated that three of Woodbury's Police Officers went beyond the call of duty in this case to ensure the veterans a safe return home. Plaques were presented from the Commander of the Marine Corps VFW in Wenonah to Officers Thomas Cirone, Harold Holstrom and Morgan Meehan.

PRESENTATION BY PSE&G

Joe Barton, Regional Public Affairs Director from PSE&G, introduced Gary Bickle, a PSE&G engineer, to explain to Council their company's interest in constructing a fish ladder at the N. Broad Street Dam in the City of Woodbury.

Sean Shotzberger, a Biologist with PSEG, explained how the program works and also answered questions directed to him by Council.

Mr. Bowe thanked Mr. Bickle stating that this concept was discussed some eight years ago; Mr. Bowe was appreciative that the plan will now be implemented.

PUBLIC

On motion of Councilman Sloane, seconded by Councilman Schrock, the floor was opened to the public for agenda items only.

Seeing no one, on motion of Councilman Sloane, seconded by Councilman Louis, the Public Portion was closed and the Regular Order of Business was resumed.

RESOLUTIONS

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

RESOLUTION #03-61 – RESOLUTION TO APPLY CERTAIN TAX OVERPAYMENTS YEAR TO YEAR 2002 TO 2003

Councilman Sloane presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

On motion of Councilman Sloane, seconded by Councilman Graziani, the resolution was adopted by a voice vote.

RESOLUTION #03-62 – RESOLUTION TO REIMBURSE TAX OVERPAYMENTS

Councilman Sloane presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

On motion of Councilman Sloane, seconded by Councilwoman Schreyer, the resolution was adopted by a voice vote.

RESOLUTION #03-64 – RESOLUTION TO CORRECT TAX PAYMENT FOR REIMBURSEMENT

Councilman Sloane presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

On motion of Councilman Sloane, seconded by Councilman Louis, the resolution was adopted by a voice vote.

RESOLUTION #03-65 – RESOLUTION TO INTRODUCE THE BUDGET

Councilman Sloane presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

Councilman Sloane stated that unfortunately as presented, the Budget will include a 26 cent tax increase. However, the City has applied for Extraordinary Aid in the amount of \$750,000 and if received will decrease the tax hike to 6 cents. Councilman Sloane stated that many areas of the budget have been cut to the bone without affecting City services.

Several Council members had questions regarding Extraordinary Aid.

Councilwoman Schreyer spoke briefly on just how painful the process was in making the cuts that were made for this year's budget. Councilwoman Schreyer did however, express her concerns regarding one of the issues, that being the hiring a full-time Fire Chief especially in today's world of homeland security strategies which may have to be implemented.

Councilman Sloane thanked Mr. Law, Chief Financial Officer and all department heads for their help in putting together the budget presented this evening.

On motion of Councilman Sloane, seconded by Councilman Graziani, the resolution was adopted by a voice vote.

VOUCHERS

On motion of Councilman Sloane, seconded by Councilwoman Schreyer, the vouchers as presented, listed and certified were authorized paid.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

President Curtis advised that he was just informed there would be an addition to the agenda regarding a resolution pertaining to the budget which Mr. Law will go into in more detail.

RESOLUTION #03-67 – RESOLUTION TO AVERAGE TAX COLLECTION RATE FOR USE IN THE 2003 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

President Curtis presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

Mr. Law, Chief Financial Officer, advised that the reason for the resolution was to allow flexibility for the municipality in the event that the City of Woodbury did not receive the Extraordinary Aid. This resolution would allow the City to average out the tax rate increase over a three year period. Mr. Law stated that he was advised of this information by the City Auditor, Michael Welding. As a courtesy, President Curtis stated that because of the late entry of this resolution to the agenda, he would allow for public comment..

On motion of Councilman Sloane, seconded by Councilman Louis, the floor was opened to the public. Seeing no one, on motion of Councilman Sloane, seconded by Councilman Schrock, the floor was closed.

On motion of Councilman Sloane, seconded by Councilman Schrock, the resolution was adopted by a voice vote.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilman Schrock advised that copies of a draft ordinance were distributed this evening for Council to review prior to its introduction scheduled for the next regularly-scheduled meeting of Council on March 27, 2003. If any Council members had comments, they should contact Councilman Schrock prior to the introduction.

PUBLIC WORKS

Councilman Louis advised that there will be a meeting with the Public Works Committee, the City Engineer and the contractor who did the work on West Street. The meeting will be held at the Library at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 17, 2003; the subject matter will be the change order that is in dispute.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

RESOLUTION #03-63 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION HOME PROGRAM FUNDS FOR BLOCK 69, LOT 28 A/K/A 107 WEST BARBER AVENUE

Councilwoman Brown presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

On motion of Councilwoman Brown, seconded by Councilman Graziani, the resolution was adopted by a voice vote.

Councilwoman Brown requested that everyone keep Councilman Grebb in their prayers as well as Ms. Theresa Hamilton, whose step-father recently passed away.

LANDLORD LICENSING

Councilman Graziani advised that a meeting was held to discuss additional ideas on how better to implement the current Landlord-Licensing Ordinance

MAYOR CLARK

Mayor Clark discussed the following topics:

1. Mayor Clark stated that she has been notified that City Hall could have the use of a part-time worker, probably a senior citizen, to do clerical work at no cost to the City. The Mayor is requesting a motion to follow through with the request with an approval of Council pending review of the contract by the City Solicitor. Mr. Stanley El will be utilizing the services of this individual if approved. On motion of Councilman Sloane, seconded by Councilwoman Schreyer, the request to have such part-time help pending review of the contract by the City Solicitor was approved;
2. The Mayor stated that the Storm Water Management “comment deadline” has been extended to April 7, 2003. There is a copy of the proposed regulations for anyone to review;
3. Mayor Clark urged everyone to attend the CEDS Conference on Saturday, March 22, 2003 at the HS Auditorium;
4. The Mayor also advised that the City of Woodbury is considering opening a Farmers Open Market. To further discuss this subject, a meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 26, 2003 at 7:00 in Council Chambers. Anyone interested can contact Virginia Horn for more information; and
5. Mayor Clark announced the appointment of Bruce Grimming and John Pafumi as two alternates to the Planning Board; both individuals were originally on the Zoning Board. Mayor Clark advised that a request was made at the last Zoning Board Meeting to have Council approve the appointment of four alternates to the Planning Board with President Curtis concurring.

CITY CLERK

Mr. Bowe inquired if the storm water regulations were primarily for the purpose of new development.

Mr. Fleming stated they applied to both new and old construction. The primary purpose of the new regulations is to cut down on pollution into our streams, lakes and rivers.

Mr. Bowe requested authorization to continue the yearly donation for flowerpots along Broad Street in the amount of \$1450.00 to the Woodbury Garden Club. Mr. Bowe stated that the money being donated will come from the original PSE&G Grant for Parks & Recreation purposes. On motion of Councilwoman Brown, seconded by Councilwoman Schreyer, the request was approved.

Mr. Bowe also requested a donation of \$5,000 from the same PSE&G Fund to be used to rent four buses for the scheduled Bury, England Twinning Event scheduled for July of this year. On motion of Councilman Graziani, seconded by Councilman Louis, the request was approved.

The City Clerk announced that Monday, April 7th, will be the deadline for the filing of petitions for the upcoming election.

PUBLIC

On motion of Councilman Sloane, seconded by Councilman Louis, the Regular Order of Business was suspended and the floor was opened to the Public for non-agenda items.

Dave Jenkins, 345 Glover Street, came forward to ask some questions regarding taxes and inquired if the County intends to raise their portion of the taxes. Mr. Law stated that a proposed 3.3 percent increase was included in the budget figures; however, this is not the finalized number.

Mr. Jenkins also inquired regarding the West Street project and how unsightly the area is with mud and debris. Mr. Fleming, City Engineer, stated that the project is not yet completed and the contractor will be responsible for the clean up.

Christopher Hope, 727 Washington Avenue, requested a more detailed explanation regarding the landlord/tenant ordinance. Councilman Graziani stated that there is a landlord/tenant ordinance currently on the books; however, there are some procedures that have to be put into place for those landlords who do not take responsibility for their properties so that they will have to face repercussions.

Councilman Sloane stated that there is an existing ordinance in place in Paulsboro that is working. As a Paulsboro landlord, he attested to the ordinance's effectiveness. This is what is needed in Woodbury.

As no one else desired to address Council, on motion of Councilman Sloane, seconded by Councilman Graziani, the Public Portion was closed and the Regular Order of Business was resumed.

There being no other business, on motion of Councilman Sloane, seconded by Councilman Louis, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m..

THOMAS B. BOWE
Clerk/Administrator

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT

Deputy City Clerk: Gail Scheffler
Chief Financial Officer: Robert Law
City Engineer: William Fleming
Economic Development Officer: Stanley El
Emergency Management Coordinator: Sergeant Cope
Library Director: Jean Wipf
Neighborhood Preservation Director: Virginia Horn
Police: Chief Reed Merinuk, Lieutenant McKnight and Lieutenant Sheehan