

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Woodbury held on the above date was called to order by President Harry R. Riskie 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/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 3, 2006.

President Riskie requested a Moment of Silence and also reflected on the passing of former Councilman Alan Webster.

ROLL CALL

Present: Brown, Curtis, Louis, Tierney, Schreyer, Belko, President Riskie and Mayor Clark

Absent: Sloane, Grimming

MINUTES

On motion of Councilwoman Tierney, seconded by Councilwoman Brown, the minutes of the meetings of February 27, 2006 were approved.

PUBLIC

On motion of Councilman Curtis, seconded by Councilman Belko, the Regular Order of Business was suspended and the floor was opened to the Public for Agenda Items Only.

As no one desired to address Council, on motion of Councilman Curtis, seconded by Councilwoman Schreyer, the Regular Order of Business was resumed.

PRESIDENT RISKIE

President Riskie reflected on some of the highlights of former Councilman Webster's contributions not only to the City but personally as well.

PRESENTATION BY SOLICITOR REPRESENTING WALGRENS

President Riskie introduced Robert Mintz who was representing the developer for the proposed Walgreens on Broad Street. Mr. Mintz was asking for Council's consideration to vacate Spring Street which would affect only two properties: the developer's and the owners of Romar Tire. Mr. Mintz then explained why they would like this request honored and the benefits that would be derived.

Several Council Members had questions pertaining to parking spots, deliveries and a proposed drive-thru, as well as the impact on traffic. Mr. Mintz continued that these are all preliminary considerationS that will be reviewed before Walgreens goes before the Planning/Zoning Board again.

President Riskie stated that the City Solicitor and Police Chief would review the request and make a recommendation at the next Council Meeting on March 27, 2006.

SPECIAL MEETING

President Riskie discussed the purpose of the Special Meeting to be held on Monday, March 20, 2006 to introduce the municipal budget.

President Riskie also advise that probably no action would be taken after Council comes out of Executive Session this evening.

ORDINANCES

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

ORDINANCE #2020-06 - ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 106 OF THE WOODBURY MUNICIPAL CODE ENTITLED: HOUSING STANDARDS

Councilwoman Tierney presented the above-entitled ordinance .

The City Clerk read the title of the ordinance.

On motion of Councilwoman Tierney, seconded by Councilman Louis, the ordinance was placed on first reading.

On motion of Councilwoman Tierney, seconded by Councilman Louis, the ordinance was passed on first reading, to be advertised according to law, come up for second reading, public hearing and final passage at the next Regular Meeting of Council on March 27, 2006.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #06-66 - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CHANGE IN CONTRACT PRICE FOR THE HUNTER STREET PUMP STATION EMERGENCY GENERATOR PROJECT AND SCALFO ELECTRIC, INC.

Councilwoman Tierney presented the above-entitled resolution

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

RESOLUTION #06-68 - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE AN INTERLOCAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER FOR THE PROVISION OF LANDSCAPE DESIGN SERVICES

Councilwoman Tierney presented the above-entitled resolution

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

RESOLUTION #06-69 - RESOLUTION TO REIMBURSE TAX PAYMENT

Councilwoman Tierney presented the above-entitled resolution

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

RESOLUTION #06-70 - RESOLUTION TO REIMBURSE TAX PAYMENT

Councilwoman Tierney presented the above-entitled resolution

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

RESOLUTION #06-71 - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION (Litigation and Attorney/Client Privilege)

Councilwoman Tierney presented the above-entitled resolution

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

Councilwoman Tierney stated she wanted to thank all the Budget Committee members who have met four times already to try to minimize budget costs to keep the tax rate to a minimum.

VOUCHERS

On motion of Councilwoman Tierney, seconded by Councilwoman Schreyer, the vouchers as presented were authorized paid.

PUBLIC SAFETY

RESOLUTION #06-72 - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF WOODBURY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER FOR THE PROVISION OF FUNDING FOR THE MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE DRUG AND ALCOHOL SERVICES FOR THE PERIOD COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2006 AND CONCLUDING DECEMBER 31, 2006 WHICH CONTRACT SHALL BE OPEN ENDED AND SHALL HAVE A MINIMUM CONTRACT OF ZERO AND A MAXIMUM CONTRACT OF \$11,267.00

Councilwoman Tierney presented the above-entitled resolution for adoption.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Councilman Louis advised that the Steering Committee is continuing to meet to find ways to improve the downtown business district.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

RESOLUTION #06-63 - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF REGIONAL CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT FUNDS FOR BLOCK 148 LOT 2 A/K/A 112 HUNTER STREET

Councilwoman Brown presented the above-entitled resolution for adoption.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

RESOLUTION #06-64 - RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION #05-158 AUTHORIZING THE USE OF REGIONAL CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT FUNDS FOR BLOCK 75 LOT 19 A/K/A 128 LUPTON AVENUE

Councilwoman Brown presented the above-entitled resolution for adoption.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

RESOLUTION #06-65 - RESOLUTION APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION PROGRAM LEAD BASED PAINT INSPECTION CONSULTANT AGREEMENT

Councilwoman Brown presented the above-entitled resolution for adoption.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

GREEN ACRES PROGRAM

RESOLUTION #06-67 - STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION GREEN ACRES ENABLING RESOLUTION

Councilman Curtis presented the above-entitled resolution for adoption.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

Councilwoman Schreyer inquired about the request from the Greater Woodbury Ministries, Inc. who desired Council's help in getting the City's Senior Citizen bus to stop periodically at the County Services Office on Delsea Drive in Washington Township.

Mr. Bowe stated that this has been accomplished to everyone's satisfaction.

Councilwoman Schreyer also referenced a correspondence received from the business owner who is operating "Godmother's Blessings" a store in the old Silver Building regarding several issues: one of them being, merchandise out on the pavement in front of the store.

Councilman Curtis stated that one of the issues mentioned in the letter was that the business owner inquired about putting railroad ties around the base of her tree. This was a concern as pedestrians could possibly trip making it a liability factor.

Mr. Bowe responded that he was unaware of the letter and asked to receive a copy so he could look into the issues mentioned. To date he stated he has no reason to believe that the business owner is in any violation of putting merchandise in front of her store.

MAYOR CLARK

Mayor Clark advised that she attended a meeting just this morning in Trenton regarding redevelopment laws, specifically “eminent domain”. There seems to be a group of activists who want to eliminate completely a town’s ability to acquire land through eminent domain.

The Mayor stated that she spoke at the meeting explaining how the City of Woodbury has used “eminent domain” for redevelopment purposes and how much the City has benefited. Many other towns spoke in favor of not eliminating the use of eminent domain, especially if it was to improve the municipality.

CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR

The Clerk/Administrator reminded everyone of a Special Meeting which is to be held in Council Chambers on Monday, March 20, 2006 at 7:30 pm.

Mr. Bowe requested approval of Council to disperse funding for \$2500; \$1,000 for the lighting of the mural and \$1500 for plants along Broad Street.

On motion of Councilman Louis, seconded by Councilwoman Brown, authorization was given to approve the request for \$2500 to be used as requested.

Mr. Bowe publicly thanked the Mayor and Council for all their support during the recent basketball season, which was Mr. Bowe’s best team thus far. A banquet will be held on March 30th in the multi-purpose room at the cost of \$15.00 per ticket.

TREASURER’S REPORT

President Riskie presented the Treasurer’s Report which was received as filed.

PUBLIC

On motion of Councilman Curtis, seconded by Councilwoman Tierney, the Regular Order of Business was suspended and the floor was opened to the Public for Non-Agenda Items.

Seeing no one, on motion of Councilman Curtis, seconded by Councilwoman Schreyer, the Public Hearing was closed and the Regular Order of Business was resumed.

On motion of Councilman Curtis, seconded by Councilwoman Schreyer, the Regular Order of Business was suspended and Council went into Executive Session after a five-minute recess (8:05 PM).

E X E C U T I V E S E S S I O N

On motion of Councilman Curtis, seconded by Councilwoman Schreyer, the Regular Order of Business was resumed at 8:20 PM.

On motion of Councilman Curtis, seconded by Councilwoman Schreyer, the recommendation of a buy-out as discussed in Executive Session was rejected.

Mr. Bowe advised that he was approached by Mr. Dave Budd, a life-long resident of Woodbury, who has come forward to suggest that he, the City or some unique partnership between the two acquire the Elkis property that sits behind City Hall. Mr. Bowe then gave Council the details discussed between Mr. Budd and himself and Mr. Duffield, the City's Tax Assessor, regarding just how the specifics could be accomplished.

On a more positive note, Councilman Curtis stated that his concern would be that the property in question might contain hazardous materials for which clean-up could be costly to the City.

Councilman Curtis gave examples as to how the City could plan for the purchase of the property over time, such as how the Woodbury Fire Department purchased new fire trucks where money was held in escrow each year to accomplish the purchase.

Mr. Bowe stated that he would also look into the possibility of getting any grant money.

Regarding another matter, Councilwoman Schreyer inquired if anything further had materialized regarding the sign to be purchased by Chief Merinuk.

Mr. Law advised that he believed the sign had been ordered.

Some discussion ensued regarding where and when approval was given to purchase the sign.

Councilman Curtis made a point to say that department heads were meeting to cut their costs in as many areas as they could because of budget constraints; and now we are moving forward in spending additional monies that are not there without Council's approval.

Mr. Bowe did indicate that there was a time factor involved and if the sign were purchased now the City would save some substantial monies.

Mr. Law reassured Council that if the purchase was an issue he could make a phone call to cancel the sign.

Councilwoman Tierney stated that she wanted to make one thing perfectly clear and that was she was under the impression phone calls were made to check if there was a majority opinion in favor of the purchase.

Mayor Clark explained that the decision was even more necessary as we adopted an ordinance prohibiting a left hand turn onto Cooper from Hunter whereby the need for a sign posting was necessary to announce the change to motorists.

Councilwoman Tierney reassured everyone that she would contact Chief Merinuk to find out whether or not he had purchased the sign.

There being no further business, on motion of Councilman Curtis, seconded by Councilwoman Schreyer, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

THOMAS B. BOWE
Clerk/Administrator

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT

Assessor: Roy Duffield
Chief Financial Officer: Bob Law
Deputy City Clerk: Gail R. Scheffler
NPP Co-Ordinator: Virginia Horn
Public Works: Michael Walsh
Solicitor: Michael Aimino, Esquire