

March 14, 2005

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 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 5, 2005.

The Invocation was delivered by the Reverend James Hawkins of the Reconciliation Bible Fellowship Church.

### **ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Brown, Louis, Graziani, Sloane, Schreyer, Grimming, Tierney, President Riskie, and Mayor Clark

**Absent:** Curtis

### **PRESIDENT RISKIE**

President Riskie advised that the Resolution to Introduce the Budget will not be presented this evening; instead, a Special Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 22, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Also President Riskie stated that Ordinance #1985-05 will continue to be tabled.

### **MINUTES**

On motion of Councilman Louis, seconded by Councilwoman Tierney, the minutes of the meeting of February 28, 2005 were approved as submitted, with the provision that the name of Mr. Riggins be corrected to Wiggins in the Public Portion section of the meeting. Councilman Sloane abstained from the approval of the minutes.

### **MAYOR CLARK PRESENTS LETTERS OF HEROISM**

Mayor Clark stated that she wanted to recognize two individuals who were honored yesterday by the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority. The resident is Stephanie Patterson and the Officer is Patrolman Donnell Davis who was honored as an "Unsung Hero" for his help in setting up their Stork's Nest at the Community Policing Center.

Mayor Clark also reiterated the details of a fire call on February 10, 2005 whereby two officers, Patrolmen Donnell Davis and Patrolman Carl Jackson, who displayed exemplary acts of bravery when trying to rescue a resident trapped inside a Queen Street residence. The Mayor read portions of a Letter of Commendation from Chief Reed Merinuk of the Woodbury Police Department. The Mayor then read a

Letter of Heroism she presented to both officers signed by Mayor Clark and each Council member for their heroic acts of bravery.

**PRESENTATION BY COUNCILWOMAN BROWN**

Councilwoman Brown presented a plaque in honor of Reverend Willis for his 55 years of dedicated service to his church. Reverend Hawkins accepted the plaque in Reverend Willis' absence advising that Reverend Willis was unable to join us this evening

**PUBLIC**

On motion of Councilman Sloane seconded by Councilman Graziani, the Regular Order of Business was suspended and the floor was opened to the public for Agenda Items Only.

Dave Jenkins, 345 Glover Street, inquired about Resolution #05-64, "Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Chief Financial Officer to Execute a Regional Contribution Agreement", and what the exact amount of money will be received and how the funds will be used.

Mr. Bowe explained that the funds will be used exactly as the NPP funds are used and the amount received will be \$550,000 over a five year period of time.

Councilman Louis inquired if the funding had to be used in the NPP designated area. Mr. Bowe responded that it did not; it could be used anywhere in the City.

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.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

**RESOLUTION #05-62 - RESOLUTION TO CANCEL WATER AND SEWER BILLING CHARGES**

Councilman Louis presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

**RESOLUTION #05-64 - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER TO EXECUTE A REGIONAL CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT ESCROW AGREEMENT WITH COAH RE: HARRISON TOWNSHIP**

Councilman Louis presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

**RESOLUTION #05-65 - REVIEW OF 2003 AUDIT AND CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN**

Councilman Louis presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

**RESOLUTION #05-66 - NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION RESOLUTION, APPLICATION, AND AGREEMENT FOR STATE AID TO COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES**

Councilman Louis presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

There was some dialogue on this subject matter.

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

**RESOLUTION #05-68 - RESOLUTION TO CANCEL WATER AND SEWER BILLING CHARGES**

Councilman Louis presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

**VOUCHERS**

On motion of Councilman Louis, seconded by Councilman Graziani, the vouchers as listed and certified were authorized paid.

Councilman Louis requested that everyone keep Chris Caton and his family in their prayers. Chris recently passed away at a very early age (48). The Caton family have been long time residents of the City of Woodbury and our heartfelt condolences go out to them.

**ORDINANCES**

**PUBLIC WORKS/UTILITIES**

**ORDINANCE #1986-05 - ORDINANCE ADOPTING CHAPTER 171 OF THE WOODBURY MUNICIPAL CODE ENTITLED: STORMWATER CONTROL**

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, 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 28, 2005.

**ORDINANCE #1987-05 - ORDINANCE ADOPTING CHAPTER 163 OF THE WOODBURY MUNICIPAL CODE ENTITLED: IMPROPER DISPOSAL OF WASTE**

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, 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 28, 2005.

**ORDINANCE #1988-05 - ORDINANCE ADOPTING CHAPTER 157 OF THE WOODBURY MUNICIPAL CODE ENTITLED: ILLICIT CONNECTION**

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, 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 28, 2005.

**ORDINANCE #1991-05 - ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 162 OF THE WOODBURY MUNICIPAL CODE ENTITLED: SOLID WASTE**

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, 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 28, 2005.

**ENVIRONMENTAL**

**ORDINANCE #1989-05 - ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 211 OF THE WOODBURY MUNICIPAL CODE ENTITLED: ANIMALS**

Councilwoman Schreyer presented the above-entitled ordinance.

The City Clerk read the title of the ordinance.

On motion of Councilwoman Schreyer, seconded by Councilman Graziani, the ordinance was placed 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 28, 2005.

**ORDINANCE #1990-05 - ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 136 OF THE WOODBURY MUNICIPAL CODE ENTITLED: PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS**

Councilwoman Schreyer presented the above-entitled ordinance.

The City Clerk read the title of the ordinance.

On motion of Councilman Schreyer, seconded by Councilman Graziani, the ordinance was placed 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 28, 2005.

Councilwoman Schreyer advised that about a year ago, under a storm sewer grant, money was received to install a device that would help filter out exactly the type of debris that is causing problems within the storm sewers that release into our lake systems.

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

#### **RESOLUTION #05-67 - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE WOODBURY FARMERS MARKET, INC.**

Councilwoman Brown presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

Councilwoman Brown publicly recognized the efforts of Don Hall, Community Service Director, for keeping the streets and sidewalks in the City of Woodbury in such good condition.

Councilwoman Brown thanked everyone who remembered her grandmother when she passed in her 101th year, as well as remembering the passing of her grandmother's daughter the following day.

### **MAYOR CLARK**

Mayor Clark stated that recently Woodbury has received a lot of press and the Mayor wanted to brief Council on some of the events that were being reported on.

The first is the Open Public Records Act involving the Gloucester County Times doing a survey contacting all the municipalities in the County. The paper requested a list of all city employees, their titles of their salaries. In last Sunday's paper a reporter gave his comments on how each municipality fared in complying with the request. For Woodbury, the Mayor explained that the response time took seven (7) days; that was because Woodbury had to print out each individual employee separately and then Bob Law had to go over each page to block out any information that might be of a confidential nature. The paper also referenced that the City needed the Solicitor's approval before complying with the request; that was because Mr. Law wanted to insure that the request was within the guidelines for public disclosure. After all of this material was gathered, the Times Reporter had still not picked up the material.

Mayor Clark stated that there has been some press on the proposed Bus Hub planned for Woodbury, not for a Bus Terminal as is being interpreted by the public. A Bus Hub is a small area which would act as a transfer station. Woodbury already serves 6 different bus routes. The Mayor advised that an editorial in the newspaper contained some errors implying that the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission was ignorant of a concurrent study being done the Delaware River Port Authority for potential rail lines in the County. This is not true; the DVRPC did an outstanding job of reaching out to the City Officials for their input ON the pros and cons of the Bus Hub in our City. Mayor Clark stated that in order to take all matters into consideration she appointed an ADHOC Committee who met at length with representatives of the Commission. The Committee's conclusion was that a Bus Hub at S. Barber Avenue near the old CONRAIL Freight Yard would be an excellent location for the HUB for the following

reasons: open space capable of handling the Hub with ease as well as parking; the fact that it bordered an industrial, not residential area; the proximity to commercial development at the Sickie Shopping Center and Evergreen Avenue; accessibility for pedestrians from neighborhoods within walking distance; ease of access from other major highways taking pressure off of Broad Street traffic; and the positive impact on property values on commercial and residential properties at that end of town. However, the #1 impact would be the proposed commuter rail line stop which could possibly be there as well allowing for easy access from train to bus or bus to train.

Next, the Mayor discussed the possibility of the City using Broad Street for parking meters which was also featured in another Gloucester County Times' article. The Mayor reassured everyone that nothing has been decided; the reporter was told that we are only doing preliminary studies.

Mayor Clark reported that the turn out for the meeting to discuss the proposed rail line was excellent and she thanked anyone who attended for their support.

Finally, the launch date for the new website is any day now and everyone will be notified as soon as it is ready. The Sunday Courier-Post had an article analyzing the usefulness of all municipal websites in the tri-county area of Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester Counties. In case you missed the article, Woodbury was the one website that came the closest in offering all the requested material. All praise and recognition goes to Bob Law, who not only has a heavy workload of his own, but who takes the time and interest on his own to make sure our website has the most current information available to help serve the public. Mayor Clark also thanked Council for their approval of grant money to take on the task of redoing our website by a professional. More and more people are using the website to obtain information they otherwise would have to come in for or call about.

### **PRESIDENT RISKIE**

President Riskie also thanked everyone who came out to support the rail line meeting in Deptford. If any other meetings are scheduled, we will advise the public.

Councilwoman Tierney advised that for anyone who couldn't attend the rail meeting, they can go to [www.erga.war](http://www.erga.war) to have their questions addressed.

Bob Law stated that he is aware of at least one other rail line meeting in Monroe Township on March 21, 2005.

### **CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR**

Mr. Bowe advised that the Township of West Deptford is reviewing the housing element portion of their Master Plan.

Also our City Engineer will be working very closely with WHS on the Green Acre Project. Mr. Bowe will keep Council informed of the progress on that project.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

President Riskie presented the Treasurers Report for the Current Fund and the Water & Sewer Fund which was received as filed.

**PUBLIC**

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

David and Susan Schrock, 49 Crescent Avenue, addressed Council on a sink hole problem in the rear and side of their property. It appears that this sink hole has formed as a result of the failure of the sewer lines in that area. Both Mr. & Mrs. Schrock have notified the City's Street Department which has made attempts to fill the sink hole on several occasions using different materials; however, the sink hole still persists.

Mike Walsh, Director of the Public Works Department, advised that the pipe in question probably needs to be replaced. Mr. Walsh also advised of the closeness of the pipes to the Schrock house. Mrs. Schrock stated that they are becoming less tolerant of this situation as it has been on-going for the least 8 to 9 years and continues to worsen with each rainfall.

The City Engineer and Mr. Walsh were directed to investigate.

Dr. Robert Rodgers, 130 Rugby Place, stated that on January 22, 2005 there was a huge snowfall and during his daily walk on January 25, 2005, he noticed two residents who had not shoveled the snow along their sidewalks. After speaking to someone in City Hall, he was referred to Public Works who then referred him to the Police Department whereby he was advised that the situation would be handled. On January 28, 2005 the situation was still not resolved. On February 1, 2005, Dr. Rogers again inquired as to what is being done about this problem. Dr. Rodgers stated he was told that first a letter had to be sent to the property owners; then step two (which he could not recall), and thirdly, if nothing was then done, the City would step in to remove the snow at the cost to the owner of the property. In total, it took eleven (11) days to get to this point; Dr. Rodgers recommended Council review their current ordinance.

Chief Merinuk advised that if the property owner does not live at the location, there is a process that occurs which could be time consuming.

Seeing that no one else addressed 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 further business, on motion of Councilman Sloane, seconded by Councilman Graziani, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

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THOMAS B. BOWE  
Clerk/Administrator

**OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Chief Financial Officer: Robert Law  
Deputy Clerk: Gail R. Scheffler  
Emergency Management Officer: Sergeant Steven Cope  
NPP Coordinator: Virginia Horn  
Police: Chief Reed Merinuk

Public Works Director: Michael Walsh  
Solicitor: Michael Aimino, Esquire  
Fire Department: Assistant Fire Chief