

March 19, 2008

A Special Meeting of Mayor and Council was held on the above date and was called to order by President Sloane at 7:00 PM. The meeting was held in Council Chambers located at Woodbury City Hall, 33 Delaware Street, Woodbury, NJ.. The Clerk/Administrator, Thomas B. Bowe, stated that it was a Special Meeting of the Mayor and Woodbury City Council and due notice had been given to both the press and the public. President Sloane lead with a Pledge of Allegiance.

President Sloane requested a Moment of Silence.

ROLL CALL

Present: Riskie, Villari, Fleming, Louis, Tierney, Belko, President Sloane, and Mayor Curtis

Absent: Schreyer, Brown

President Sloane introduced Marie Di Tito, Esquire, who would be acting on behalf of James Pierson, City Solicitor.

ORDINANCE #2073-08 – YEAR 2008 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK WHEN THE COLA IS EQUAL TO OR GREATER THAN 2.5 PERCENT (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

Councilman Fleming presented the above-entitled ordinance.

The City Clerk read the title of the ordinance.

On motion of Councilman Fleming, 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 April 14, 2008.

Councilman Belko asked for a translation on why this ordinance was being introduced.

Mr. Law, Chief Financial Officer stated that we have adopted this ordinance the past several years in order to establish a CAP Bank for the appropriate year because there are two different type of CAPS. Mr. Law then explained the differences.

A roll call vote was necessary.

Ayes	7	Riskie, Villari, Fleming, Louis, Tierney, Belko, Sloane
Nays	0	
Absent	2	Schreyer, Brown

RESOLUTION #08-81 – RESOLUTION TO INTRODUCE THE 2008 BUDGET

Councilman Fleming presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

Councilman Fleming first thanked all the Department Heads for all their help in putting this budget together. Possibly more cuts can occur to further decrease expenditures; but we had to introduce the budget for publication purposes in order to meet our deadlines.

Councilman Fleming further stated that there will be about a 19 cent increase in the local tax rate compared to 12 cent last year. Much of the increase was due to the reduction in state aid in addition to an increase in pension costs.

President Sloane also thanked all the Committees and Department Heads for their help and input into the Budget, and further discussed how the tax increase was out of the control of the City because of state and federal revenues that was not afforded to the municipalities. The good news is that the School Board Tax rate has been decreased by 25 cents.

Councilman Louis then inquired about the use of surplus in the budget and how that is transferred.

Mr. Law explained and gave an example to give some clarity to how this is accomplished.

Councilman Riskie inquired about the \$250,000 Anticipated Utility Operating Surplus in the Current Fund Budget.

Mr. Law stated that this is a return of surplus that was anticipated a few years ago from the Current Fund Budget to the Utility Operating Budget.

Councilman Belko commented that the City of Woodbury suffers because of the non-ratables in town such as the hospital and County properties; and how they need to step-up and start helping the City with this issue.

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

Councilman Belko inquired what would happen if the Budget was not adopted this evening. Mr. Law stated that it would prevent the City from applying for Extraordinary Aid, as the deadline is on Monday, March 24, 2008.

There was a roll call vote.

Ayes	3	Fleming, Villari, Sloane
Nays	3	Riskie, Louis, Tierney
Abstained	1	Belko

Because of a tie vote the Mayor was requested to cast his vote. Mayor Curtis voted Aye which allowed the resolution to pass.

President Sloane stated that he was disappointed with the outcome of the vote considering there have been numerous meetings with Department Heads, Council Members, Committee Members and Workshops; now at the eleventh hour is either a failure to communicate or a very unfortunate situation to now prevent the passage of this budget.

Mayor Curtis concurred with President Sloane's remarks and commented that it was everyone's responsibility as Council members to make sure they are on top of their departments and were given ample time to discuss whatever had to be addressed prior to this evening.

Councilwoman Tierney stated this budget process should have been started in January, not on March 4th.

Mayor Curtis made it a point to advise that the only person to come through with staying on top of things in his department was Councilman Belko and did a great job.

Mr. Law advised that he just spoke with the Auditor regarding the vote and was advised that there must be a simple majority of the **full membership** of the governing body, which interprets to five (5) votes, not the four as recorded. Therefore, that means that the resolution just introduced and voted on **DID NOT PASS**.

President Sloane reminded everyone that if this resolution is not passed this evening it guarantees that the City cannot qualify for Extraordinary Aid.

There was some discussion about contacting Councilwomen Schreyer and Brown to get their input on the vote.

Mayor Curtis expressed his displeasure with passing the buck to two Council members who were not even present this evening and left the Council Chambers at 7:35 pm.

The conversation continued with President Sloane strongly urging everyone to reconsider their votes and suggesting that the Budget be reintroduced.

Some conversation ensued by Council Members.

Mayor Curtis returned to Council Chambers at 7:40 PM.

Ms. Di Tito, Esq. who was acting on behalf of the City Solicitor, advised that the resolution could be reintroduced but as a new resolution under a different #.

RESOLUTION #08-82 – RESOLUTION TO INTRODUCE THE BUDGET

Councilman Fleming presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

Ayes	5	Villari, Fleming, Louis, Belko, Sloane
Nays	2	Riskie, Tierney
Absent	2	Schreyer, Brown

Councilman Fleming stated that the Finance Committee duly acknowledges Council's concerns and would like to acknowledge Councilwoman's Tierney's remarks about the time frame that was afforded to Council to go over their Departments budgets. Councilman Fleming gave examples of how everyone is working under time restraints due to trying to balance out the figures from the previous year and not knowing what impact the increases of the current budget will have on taxes. Councilman Fleming stated that he experienced the same dilemma when he sat on the School Board, it is a very frustrating situation.

President Sloane stated that he is not making excuses and truly understands everyone's concerns; however Council did not hear until two weeks ago that there was a significant reduction in State Aid.

President Sloane also referred to Councilman Riskie's concern about the surplus and Councilwoman Tierney's concern about the time frame not being adequate; but tonight's decision and vote was very crucial and we all have to work together.

Councilwoman Tierney stated that we join together as a municipality and pass a resolution that expresses our concerns to the State. Councilwoman Tierney also stated that she understands that we cannot predict what the revenue side of the budget will be but we do have the expenditure side available and we can compare those figures. Councilwoman Tierney also stated that she was very pleased that Mr. Law has required the Department Heads to put together a five-year capital plan which will help us in the future.

Mr. Law stated the budget will be advertised in the Gloucester County Times on April 9, 2008 and has been added to our website for everyone's review. Also the Public Hearing will be in Council Chambers on April 28, 2008.

MAYOR CURTIS

Mayor Curtis advised that he attended a meeting last Friday the County held to discuss the Ten (10) Year Trash Program and the County has made an offer to do whatever the Municipalities would like to start an interlocal service within the County to save money.

Another area the City will be looking into to joining in with the County is our EMS Service; simply because we cannot afford to spend approximately \$150,000 it costs the City to use a private company.

Mayor Curtis announced that the City did receive a Clean Community Grant in the amount of approximately \$11,000.

PUBLIC

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

As no one from the public wished to address Council, on motion of Councilwoman Tierney, seconded by Councilman Louis, the Public Portion was closed and the Regular Order of Business was resumed.

There being no further business, on motion of Councilwoman Tierney, seconded by Councilman Louis, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

THOMAS B. BOWE
Clerk/Administrator