

May 17, 2004

A Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Woodbury held on the above date was called to order by President 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 Special Meeting of the Mayor and Woodbury City Council and due notice had been given to both the press and public.

ROLL CALL

Present: Curtis, Louis, Graziani, Schreyer, Grimming, Tierney, President Riskie

Absent: Brown, Sloane, Mayor Clark

PUBLIC

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

Brendan Chiesa, 36 Rugby Place, came forward to inquire what exactly what did "Reduction to Maintenance Projects" address in Resolution #04-86.

Councilman Louis stated it referred to bathroom petitions and cafeteria tables that will be not be replaced as originally planned.

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

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

President Riskie advised that a raffle application from Main Street would be added to the agenda this evening for approval.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Councilman Louis opened the discussion stating that the City's Finance Committee had met several times with the School's Finance Committee to come up with the recommended \$75,000 cut to the School Budget. This \$75,000 represents a 2 cent decrease to the overall 7 cent increase defeated by the voters. The 2 cent decrease will allow for no cuts to school personnel.

Councilwoman Schreyer stated that it is her belief that the voters in the City have sent Council a clear message, both in 2003 and again in 2004, that they did not want an increase in taxes. Councilwoman Schreyer does not believe that Council is hearing that message.

President Riskie stated that the election was very close, and although the budget was defeated, it is his opinion that a 2 cent cut was a very fair decision on Council's part.

Councilman Curtis stated that he looks at the defeat differently. Although there was a \$75,000 cut in the school budget, it represents less than 1/2 percent of the total budget. Councilman Curtis also stated that President Riskie's statement that the budget was defeated by only a small margin could also be interpreted that if it had only passed by a small margin, then you should not spend all of the increase. Another issue is that the people of the City of Woodbury clearly have issues with administrative costs which have not been cut at all. These costs include over \$1.1 million dollars of the school budget. Councilman Curtis stated that if only a 10% cut was applied to the administrative end of the budget, this would decrease the budget by \$100,000 which would not effect the education of the children.

Councilwoman Tierney advised Councilman Curtis that one issue that cannot be forgotten is that 88% of the school budget is state mandated which only gives Council 12% of that budget with which to work; considering, that small margin Councilwoman Tierney stated she thought Council did a fine job of reducing the budget.

Councilman Graziani stated that we have to look at this issue from both sides. We must be sure to scrutinize the City Budget as well.

RESOLUTION #04-86 - RESOLUTION TO REVISE THE 2004-2005 WOODBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

Councilman Louis presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

Ayes	5	Louis, Graziani, Grimming, Tierney, Riskie
Nays	2	Curtis Schreyer
Absent	2	Brown, Sloane

RAFFLE APPLICATION

Councilman Grimming presented a raffle application from Main Street for approval. On motion of Councilman Grimming, seconded by Councilwoman Tierney, the application as presented was approved. Councilman Curtis abstained from the vote due to a conflict of interest.

PUBLIC

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

Anthony Chiesa, 36 Rugby Place, came forward to address remarks made specifically by Councilman Curtis and Councilwoman Schreyer and to say that there was much misinformation distributed during the election and the school board must deal with many issues when making up their budget. It is unfortunate that Council has to make decisions regarding the cuts. However, we all must

move forward and we cannot and should not make this a political issue; it is unfair to the students and unfair to the citizens of Woodbury.

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

There being no further business, on motion of Councilman Graziani, seconded by Councilwoman Schreyer, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m..

THOMAS B. BOWE
Clerk/Administrator

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT
Deputy Clerk: Gail R. Scheffler