

July 13, 2009

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Woodbury held on the above date was called to order by President C. Barry E. Sloane at 7:30 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 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, 2009.

President Sloane opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Invocation delivered by Evangelist Samuel Jackson.

ROLL CALL

Present: Villari, Brown, Fleming, Louis, Tierney, Trout, Croce, President Sloane and Mayor Curtis

Absent: Pottillo

MINUTES

On motion of Councilman Fleming, seconded by Councilwoman Tierney, the minutes of June 22, 2009 and June 25, 2009 were approved as submitted.

PUBLIC

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

Paul Bunn, 18 E. Packer Street, approached Council regarding Resolution #09-154 appointing a replacement for Don Hall. Mr. Bunn inquired about a planned change in the work days for the Community Service Program. He was very concerned that this change would create a problem especially when events are held over the weekend.

President Sloane stated that although there has been a change in the days of the week for that program, the soon-to-be appointed Director has agreed to change the schedule when special weekend events are held.

Mr. Bunn then inquired where the individual will have his office and who he will be reporting to.

President Sloane stated that the location for reporting would be the Public Works Department.

Ms. Leah Traband of Holroyd Place came forward to ask Council if they would consider an “idle” ban on local public vehicles. She knew that the State had implemented a ban and would like the City to do a local ban.

President Sloane advised that if she had a specific complaint he would like to see this further looked into with Public Works and advised Mr. Bowe to follow-up on the question.

Victor Browne, 400 Hess Avenue, also wanted to address Resolution #09-154, which was appointing a new Community Service Director. Mr. Browne was concerned that the individual who was to be hired is not a Woodbury resident. Mr. Browne started to express his concerns when President Sloane interrupted him stating that this conversation could not continue because it was a “personnel matter”. Mr. Browne stated that it was his right to express himself under the Freedom of Speech Act . President Sloane strongly suggested that the conversation not continue and told Mr. Browne he was out of order. President Sloane further insisted that the topic not be continued in a public forum.

Anthony Chiesa, 36 Rugby Place, addressed Resolution #09-148 inquiring if the information in the resolution included the current increase in taxes.

Councilman Fleming explained the particulars regarding the City’s budget for this year.

Lenora Mirochna, 555 Briar Hill Lane, came forward to inquire about the property formerly known as Polsky’s at S. Broad and E. Barber Avenues. Was it being converted to a Laundromat?

President Sloane advised Ms. Mirochna that this topic was not listed on the agenda; therefore, it could only be addressed at the end of the Council Meeting during the Public Portion.

President Sloane also apologized for not handling Ms. Traband’s complaint in the same manner, as her subject matter was also not listed on the agenda.

Dave Jenkins, 345 Glover Street, stated the urgency of appointing a new Community Service Director especially since coming activities and events are quickly approaching.

President Sloane again stated that the new Director has agreed to work weekends after special events. The schedule change will just not include every weekend, as in the past.

Seeing no one else, on motion of Councilman Louis, seconded by Councilman Trout, the Public Portion for Agenda Items Only was closed, and the Regular Order of Business was resumed.

PRESENTATION BY CAPTAIN SHEEHAN

Captain Timothy Sheehan came forward to explain that through an application by the County Prosecutor's Office the City of Woodbury received \$27,757, from the Recovery Act Joint Tactical Grant for the purchase of equipment; the money could also be used for the hiring of police personnel to be used for times the Woodbury Police Department would determine to be in the best interest of the community.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATOR

RESOLUTION #09-144 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FROM THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE THROUGH THE GLOUCESTER COUNTY MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE PROGRAM

Councilman Fleming presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

RESOLUTION #09-148 – RESOLUTION TO ADOPT 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 Councilwoman Tierney, the resolution was adopted by a roll call vote.

Ayes	5	Villari, Brown, Fleming, Croce, President Sloane
Nays	3	Trout, Louis, Tierney
Absent	1	Pottillo

RESOLUTION #09-149 – RESOLUTION FOR RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE GLOUCESTER, SALEM, CUMBERLAND COUNTIES' MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND

Councilman Fleming presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

RESOLUTION #09-150 – RESOLUTION TO CANCEL OLD OUTSTANDING CHECKS

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 voice motion.

RESOLUTION #09-151 – RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY AWARDED BID FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROJECT ADA COMPLIANT HANDI-CAP RAMP INSTALLATIONS

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 voice motion.

RESOLUTION #09-152 – RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY AWARDED BID FOR FINISHED WATER RESERVOIR REPLACEMENT PROJECT CONTRACT NO. 2 SITE WORK AND UTILITY

Councilman Fleming presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

Ted Wilkinson, City Engineer, briefed Council on the status of the reservoir project and answered questions.

On motion of Councilman Fleming, seconded by Councilman Louis, the resolution was adopted by a voice motion

RESOLUTION #09-154 – RESOLUTION APPOINTING A DIRECTOR FOR THE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM FOR THE CITY OF WOODBURY (Thomas Cirone)

Councilman Fleming presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

Councilman Louis inquired as to how the decision was made in deciding on the new director indicating that he had no problem with the choice of individual, he just was questioning how the process was determined.

President Sloane advised that resumes were received and reviewed by himself, the Mayor, Councilman Fleming, and Councilman Pottillo as Chairman of the Public Works Department.

Councilwoman Tierney stated she was concerned with the change of eliminating weekends from the regular schedule as many of the assignees cannot report on week days.

Mayor Curtis, referring to the choice for the position, advised that he was impressed by Mr. Cirone's background and his offering of some positive changes for the program. As this position previously involved weekend duties, not many resumes were received until the final days prior to the selection.

President Sloane added that when they contacted other municipalities which also do week day reporting, it was found that week day work got a better response than weekend reporting. President Sloane reiterated that when there is a special event happening in the City, weekend work will be scheduled so the streets are cleaned.

Councilwoman Brown stated that she would hope that Council keep in mind that when making a decision, we represent the City, not ourselves.

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

VOUCHERS

On motion of Councilman Fleming, seconded by Councilman Louis, the vouchers as presented were authorized paid.

Councilman Fleming referred back to Resolution #09-152 which addressed the Reservoir Project stating that Federal funding was not received as anticipated; however, the City is anticipating receiving money from other sources; he is working with Congressman Andrew's Office to pursue these other avenues.

Councilman Louis inquired if there was any specific reason for not receiving the approval.

Councilman Fleming stated that he thought possibly some logistics were involved; it was North Jersey's time to get some funding for their projects rather than South Jersey.

President Sloane thanked Ted Wilkinson, City Engineer, for all his hard work knowing the time that was involved in attempting to get the grant money.

Mayor Curtis concurred saying that Mr. Wilkinson stayed on top of things but because of restrictions put on the application process. The City was not in a favorable position to receive the grant.

PUBLIC SAFETY

APPLICATION TO FRIENDSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

Councilman Louis presented an application for the Friendship Fire Department from Juan A. Pagan, 251 Myrtle Avenue. Seeing all paperwork in order, on motion of Councilman Louis, seconded by Councilwoman Tierney, the application was approved as submitted.

PUBLIC WORKS

Councilman Fleming had nothing to report in Councilman Pottillo's absence.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

RESOLUTION #09-153 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CLOSED SESSION FOR DISCUSSIONS REGARDING REAL ESTATE

Councilman Villari presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

President Sloane advised that action may be taken following this Executive Session.

On motion of Councilman Villari, seconded by Councilwoman Tierney, the resolution was adopted by a voice motion

RESOLUTION #09-155 – RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY SUPPORTING THE SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY TRANSIT PLAN AND LIGHT RAIL THROUGH WOODBURY FROM CAMDEN TO GLASSBORO

Councilman Villari presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

On motion of Councilman Villari, seconded by Councilman Croce, the resolution was adopted by a voice motion.

PERSONNEL

Councilwoman Tierney stated she had nothing under Personnel; however, she did want to thank Tom Dukelow for putting the fireworks program together. Also, a “thank-you” goes to the Woodbury Fire and Police Departments, and to West Deptford Township.

Also, Councilwoman Tierney advised to keep Tom Dukelow in your thoughts and prayers as he is having back surgery next week.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Councilman Croce inquired who was overseeing the Soccer Fields.

Councilman Trout advised that Public Works was maintaining the area.

Mr. Wilkinson, City Engineer, advised that he was on vacation when topsoil was laid and upon his return advised the contractor that he was not satisfied with this application. He is meeting tomorrow with the contractor to rectify this situation.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

RESOLUTION #09-145 – RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTIONS #09-54 AND #09-92 AUTHORIZING THE USE OF NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM FUNDS FOR BLOCK 141, LOT 2 A/K/A 115 UNION STREET

Councilwoman Brown presented the above-entitled resolution.

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 motion

RESOLUTION #09-146 – RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION #09-146 AUTHORIZING THE USE OF NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM FUNDS FOR BLOCK 63, LOT 13 A/K/A 115 HIGH STREET

Councilwoman Brown presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

RESOLUTION #09-147 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM FUNDS FOR BLOCK 114, LOT 22 A/K/A 28 HOPKINS STREET

Councilwoman Brown presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

GREEN ACRES

Councilman Trout had nothing to report.

MAYOR CURTIS

Mayor Curtis stated that he spoke with many residents and non-residents who all expressed how much they enjoyed the fireworks display this year. A special “thank-you” goes to the Woodbury Fire Department, Police Department and Public Works Department for all their efforts to make sure there were no problems and all safety precautions were taken.

The Mayor also requested that all residents exercise care in conserving water, especially while we are undertaking the Construction of the Reservoir Project in Woodbury Heights.

Mayor Curtis referenced a letter from the Chief of Police regarding an incident that occurred at an apartment on June 17th and the expedient manner in which the Woodbury Police Department responded to what could have been an otherwise tragic situation. A special “thank-you” goes to Sergeants Duffy and Outten, and Patrolmen Fellon, Nelson, Ryan, and Collins and Detective Beckett for a job well done.

And lastly, the Mayor referenced another correspondence he received from Reverend Burgess of Christ Episcopal Church acknowledging how safe he feels under the watchful eye of our Police Department.

CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Bowe requested approval for Fiber Tech to take down old Fire Alarm System wiring in areas where they are placing their own new wiring.

On motion of Councilwoman Tierney, seconded by Councilwoman Brown, the above request was approved.

Mr. Bowe also reported that he has requested that the County’s Landscape Architect be engaged for a potential project at Hendrickson Park.

PUBLIC

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

Lenor Mirochna, 255 Briar Lane, approached Council to express her concern regarding the vacant portion of the Polsky building and the owner's intention of putting a laundromat at that location. Her question was to see if plans were available for the public to see.

Mayor Curtis stated that no plans are available as they do not need to submit any before the Planning Board for approval. The interior plans will have to be submitted to the Gloucester County Utilities Authority and advised her to check with them.

Councilman Fleming stated that parking may be an issue and plans for that may have to be approved by the City's Planning/Zoning Board.

Councilwoman Tierney inquired if the Planning Board would recommend an amendment to the current ordinance to not allow coin-operated businesses in a "Historic District".

James Pierson, City Solicitor, stated that the preparation for amending the Planning/Zoning ordinance based on a recommendation by the Planning/Zoning Board would be time consuming, as notification would be necessary before anything could be done.

Dialogue continued amongst the Mayor and Council Members regarding the pros and cons of amending the ordinance and what could be done.

President Sloane then broke down some of Council's options to Mrs. Mirochna.

Councilman Fleming continued by stating that another concern is that the property is in the coming redevelopment area, which would also make the final process of changing existing ordinances even longer.

The Mayor advised that thus far nothing has come before the Planning/Zoning Board regarding any plans for a laundromat.

In conclusion, President Sloane advised that this cannot be resolved at this moment and all conversation is only speculative at this point.

Mr. Wilkinson advised that he works with many other municipalities regarding zoning changes and can only recommend that the Zoning Officer be the number one person to be contacted and based upon his recommendation the Planning/Zoning Board could then move forward.

Mr. Wilkinson stated that any change of use could be enough to trigger going before the Planning/Zoning Board based on sign usage, parking, accessibility, and in this case water usage.

Mayor Curtis stated that he would contact John Leech, the City's Zoning Officer, and have him call Ted Wilkinson to further discuss the subject.

Mr. Gerard Taylor, a W. Red Bank Avenue resident approached Council to thank them for having the bus stop moved from in front of his home near the hospital. Also, a special thank-you to Mr. Bowe who was his main contact person with whom he dealt during the entire ordeal.

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

On motion of Councilwoman Tierney, seconded by Councilman Villari, the Regular Order of Business was suspended again before going into Executive Session (approximately 8:50 pm).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Councilwoman Brown, seconded by Councilwoman Tierney, Council returned to the Regular Order of Business (approximately 9:28 pm).

There being no further business, on motion of Councilwoman Tierney, seconded by Councilman Louis, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

THOMAS B. BOWE
Clerk/Administrator

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT

Assessor: Roy Duffield
Auditor: Michael D. Cesaro, CPA, RMA
City Engineer: Ted Wilkinson, PE
Deputy Clerk: Gail R. Scheffler
Emergency Management Officer: Lieutenant Cope
NPP Coordinator: Virginia Horn
Police: Captain Timothy Sheehan
Public Works Manager: Mike Walsh
Solicitor: James Pierson, Esq.