

November 8, 2004

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 5, 2004.

President Riskie requested a Moment of Silence and reflected on the recent passing of City employee, Tom Stone who worked with the Construction Office, as well as being the Co-Director of Parks and Recreation. Mr. Stone also organized our Annual Memorial Day Parade; he will be missed by all.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Curtis, Schreyer

President Riskie advised that Councilman Curtis was not present due to illness and Councilwoman Schreyer was in Florida helping family members who were effected by the recent hurricanes.

MINUTES

On motion of Councilman Sloane, seconded by Councilwoman Tierney, the minutes of October 25, 2004 were approved as submitted.

PUBLIC

On motion of Councilman Louis, seconded by Councilman Grimming, 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 Graziani, seconded by Councilman Louis, the Public Portion was closed and the Regular Order of Business was resumed.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #04-151 - RESOLUTION TO APPLY CERTAIN TAX OVERPAYMENTS YEAR TO YEAR 2003 TO 2004

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 voice vote.

RESOLUTION #04-152 - RESOLUTION TO APPLY CERTAIN TAX OVERPAYMENTS YEAR TO YEAR

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 voice vote.

RESOLUTION #04-153 - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION (Litigation)

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 voice vote.

President Riskie advised that action may be taken after Council resumes the Regular Order of Business following the Executive Session.

VOUCHERS

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP TO FRIENDSHIP FIRE COMPANY

Councilman Sloane presented an application for membership to the Friendship Fire Company from Daniel Lewis of Woodbury. On motion of Councilman Sloane, seconded by Councilman Graziani, the application was approved as submitted.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

RESOLUTION #04-150 - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION HOME PROGRAM FUNDS FOR BLOCK 119 LOT 24.02 A/K/A 71 CURTIS AVENUE

Councilwoman Brown presented the above entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

Councilwoman Brown congratulated the winners of the recent General Election.

MAYOR CLARK

Mayor Clark spoke on the following subjects:

1. Mayor Clark congratulated the Woodbury Fire Department for the acceptance of their recent

grant application for Homeland Security Funds, in the amount of \$143,000. The monies are to be used for the purchase of much needed equipment. Congratulations are extended to Chief Bain and all the officers for their persistence in obtaining this grant;

2. The Mayor advised that this Saturday, November 13th, a Pancake Breakfast will be held at the National Guard Armory from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. All proceeds will be used to benefit the NJ National Guard soldiers and their families;

3. Also, the Mayor advised that the Observance of Pearl Harbor Day will be held on December 7th, at the Battleship New Jersey sponsored by Congressman Rob Andrews from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.;

4. Mayor Clark announced that she is working on the Property Committee that she spoke about at the last meeting. This Committee is being coordinated through the efforts of Chief Merinuk, Tom Bove and the Mayor, along with other City employees not yet named. The Mayor reiterated the purpose of this Committee which will be to focus on ordinance enforcement relating to property issues;

5. In conclusion, the Mayor congratulated everyone who participated in the recent election, whether as a candidate, campaign volunteer or voter.

CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Thomas Bove, Clerk/Administrator, requested approval for the City's annual contribution of \$200.00 for Annual County Disabilities Dinner. On motion of Councilman Graziani, seconded by Councilman Louis, the yearly contribution of \$200.00 for the County sponsored Disabilities Dinner was approved.

Mr. Bove extended his personal feelings of loss of a friend and co-worker, Tom Stone. Mr. Bove stated that Tom had been an employee for the City of Woodbury for the past ten years and stated that Tom carried out his duties with professionalism and enthusiasm; unfortunately, the last couple of years have been very difficult for Tom, and we can only hope that he has found his peace.

PUBLIC PORTION

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 Non-agenda Items.

Dave Jenkins, 245 Glover Street approached Council to remind everyone that there will be a HS soccer game at Palmyra; this is a State Tournament game.

Linwood Bubar, 46 Lake Drive, inquired what Council's view was on the proposed school board referendum.

President Riskie advised Mr. Bubar that the Governing Body does not take a position as a whole; each individual has a personal opinion as a resident.

Councilman Graziani explained that because the Council has no jurisdiction over the issue, they cannot legally get involved; however, on a personal note as a resident, Councilman Graziani stated he would welcome the opportunity to express his personal opinion to Mr. Bubar after the meeting.

President Sloane stated that he has an opinion and would express it publicly and would be very concerned if the referendum did pass. Councilman Sloane also stated that he suggested that the Mayor take the lead to sit down with School Board Members.

Mr. Bubar then explained how the school is the main reason that the taxes in Woodbury have continued to escalate. Mr. Bubar went on to say that with the added referendum, it would only guarantee even more problems for the residents of Woodbury and Council has to stand up and take a position.

Councilwoman Brown quoted figures and there was a discussion about the project costs and the escalated increases that have occurred.

Councilman Graziani concluded the discussion by stating that this referendum is in the voters' hands. Council will be prepared to take whatever action they have to in order to deal with that decision.

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

On motion of Councilman Sloane, seconded by Councilman Graziani, there was a five-minute recess before Council went into Executive Session (7:55 p.m.)

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

On motion of Councilman Sloane, seconded by Councilman Louis, Council resumed the Regular Order of Business at 8:25 p.m..

Regarding the Woodbury Mews' request that the City initiate an RCA which would benefit the Mews, Mr. Bowe stated that the COAH representative, Mr. Keith Henderson, reflected upon the inappropriateness of the City's involvement with such an RCA (Regional Contribution Agreement). Mr. Bowe went on to explain the City's COAH obligation as related to him by Mr. Henderson

On another matter, Mr. Robert Law, Chief Financial Officer, advised that he had presented questions to our JIF representative regarding environmental issues and the potential impact that such issues could possibly have on the City's overall exposure to possible future law suits.

Councilwoman Brown apologized for the absence of Rev. Willis stating that something very important had to have occurred for him to not to be present this evening. Councilwoman Brown stated that she would call his daughter to see if he would be up to coming to another meeting to receive the plaque that Council was planning to present to him.

There being no further business, on motion of Councilman Sloane, seconded by Councilman Graziani, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m..

THOMAS B. BOWE
Clerk/Administrator

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT

Assessor: Roy Duffield

Chief Financial Officer: Robert Law

Librarian: Jean Wipf

Neighborhood Preservation Director: Virginia Horn

Police: Chief Reed Merinuk, Lieutenant Sheehan

Recording Secretary: Fran A. Nigro

Solicitor: Michael Aimino, Esq.