

November 13, 2006

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 3, 2006

The Invocation was delivered by the Reverend Robert Moore, Macedonian Baptist Church.

ROLL CALL

Present: Belko, Brown, Tierney, Grimming, Sloane, Curtis, President Riskie and Mayor Clark

Absent: *Louis, Schreyer

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

President Riskie advised that a raffle for St. Patrick's Church would be added to the agenda this evening.

MINUTES

On motion of Councilman Sloane, seconded by Councilwoman Tierney, the minutes of October 23, 2006 meeting were approved as submitted.

PUBLIC

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

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

***COUNCILMAN LOUIS ARRIVED AT 7:32 PM**

RESOLUTIONS

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

RESOLUTION #06-202 – RESOLUTION TO CANCEL TAXES ON CITY OWNED PROPERTY (RE: BLOCK 76, LOTS 2.03 & 6)

Councilwoman Tierney presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

RESOLUTION #06-203 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION (COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT, LITIGATION AND CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS)

Councilwoman Tierney presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

President Riskie advised that action may be taken upon return to the Regular Order of Business when Council comes out of the Executive Session.

VOUCHERS

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

ORDINANCE #2041-06 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 190 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY ENTITLED: VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

Councilman Sloane presented the above-entitled ordinance.

The City Clerk read the title of the ordinance.

On motion of Councilman Sloane, seconded by Councilman Louis, the ordinance was ordered opened for public hearing.

On motion of Councilman Sloane, seconded by Councilman Louis, the public hearing was ordered closed.

On motion of Councilman Sloane, seconded by Councilwoman Tierney, the ordinance was passed on second and final reading by a roll call vote.

Ayes	8	Brown, Louis, Tierney, Sloane, Curtis, Grimming, Belko, President Riskie
Nays	0	
Absent	1	Schreyer

RAFFLE APPLICATION

Councilman Sloane presented a raffle application from St. Patrick's Church. On motion of Councilman Sloane, seconded by Councilman Louis, the application was approved as submitted with Councilman Curtis abstaining from the vote.

Councilman Sloane inquired if anyone from the City has reached out to the County within the last two weeks and what if any progress has been made on the Court House Project.

Mayor Clark advised that Freeholder Director Sweeney contacted her the Thursday before the election at which time they spoke at great length and stated he would consider the options that were presented recently by the City. He also asked that our City Planner, Matt Miller, contact the County's architect on the project.

Councilman Sloane stated that he was concerned because since the Historic Site Counsel has denied the request for the expansion, the County is now reluctant to continue the project in that the County has to appeal the State's denial by the 19th of December. Councilman Sloane suggested that possibly the Mayor, or the newly-elected Mayor or both contact DEP to see if something can be resolved so that we can move forward quickly.

Councilwoman Tierney inquired what exactly it was that Councilman Sloane was suggesting.

Councilman Sloane continued by quoting a newspaper article where a remark was made that this problem could wait until the new administration took office in January. Councilman Sloane stated that this is a serious concern because to take that position would be to have the courts move out of the City because by then it will be too late.

Councilman Sloane advised that he was told from Lisa Jackson, the Commissioner of DEP, that the deadline of December 19th was given to either accept the decision or she would turn it back over to the board.

Councilman Louis also stated that he did not understand why this was in our court now, even though a decision was made.

Councilman Sloane continued by saying we do have an option, either we accept the decision or we notify the Commission informing them that there are some things that may be creating some misunderstanding and maybe we can modify the plans so we can continue the project to ensure that the courts remain in Woodbury.

Councilman Louis stated that he did not understand what changes Councilman Sloane was suggesting. It is up to the County to come to a compromise with the Historic Site Counsel, not the City.

Councilman Curtis advised that contrary to what the Mayor is indicating, he has had conversations with Senator Sweeney and the County is prepared to move the project. Originally 5 towns were willing to welcome the county courts into their municipality, now it is up to 6. Councilman Curtis stated that he was aware back in August that the County was going to move the courts out of Woodbury, from articles published in the newspaper .

Councilwoman Tierney stated that to her knowledge no one on Council has ever said that they wanted the Courts and the parking garage to leave Woodbury. The City simply opposed the proposed location.

Councilman Sloane continued by addressing references indicating that this was a political move during the election by the opposing party and he is not interested in bringing politics into his conversation tonight. Obviously, during election time issues come out, there are differences between both parties, even the standard cat fights. Councilman Sloane stated that he did not discuss this with Senator Sweeney, but he did discuss the issue with DEP and his only question tonight is, "What do we intend to do prior to the December 19th deadline to keep the courts in Woodbury"?

Councilwoman Tierney stated that she did not see what more could be done and she was the only Councilmember who attended the meeting that Councilman Sloane keeps referring to and she even has copies of the minutes of that meeting with her tonight, and no where in the body of the minutes does it indicate anywhere that the City is to blame for the denial of the project to proceed. Councilwoman

Tierney then read the concluding portion of the minutes from that meeting. As far as Councilwoman Tierney can determine, relative to Lisa Jackson from DEP agreeing or disagreeing with the decision of the Historic Site Counsel, it is not up to the City to change her mind.

Councilman Belko stated that he cannot understand that because the City objected to where they wanted to locate their garage, the County would spend millions of dollars to relocate the courts to another municipality. That doesn't make sense.

Councilman Belko suggested that possibly an ad-hoc committee be formed to make one more attempt to speak with Senator Sweeney.

President Riskie stated that Council members, Curtis, Sloane, Tierney, Mayor Clark, and himself be part of the Committee to open a new dialogue with Freeholder Director Sweeney.

Councilman Sloane also suggested sending a letter to DEP advising them that an Ad-Hoc Committee has been formed to come to some stay of execution until a solution can be reached.

Councilwoman Tierney directly asked Councilman Sloane if he were for or against the garage at the location at Broad and Hunter Streets.

Councilman Sloane responded indicating that presently there is a boarded up building at that site; however, he also does not think that a garage that would block the greenery of the hills as one enters Woodbury is a good idea either. However, having said that, Councilman Sloane felt that a parking garage could be put at that corner in a tasteful manner that would not infringe on the historical design of that section of the City.

Councilwoman Tierney explained that many people are under the impression that the boarded up American Red Cross building is part of the hospital, but it is not. The American Red Cross Building, which is also known as the Fisher House, should be saved, in her opinion, because of its historic significance.

Councilman Sloane inquired if he could have copies of the minutes Councilwoman Tierney was referring to.

President Riskie instructed Mr. Bove to set up the meeting between Freeholder Sweeney and the Ad-Hoc Committee.

PUBLIC WORKS/UTILITIES

Councilman Belko advised Council that he is continuing to met with representatives regarding the recycling bank process and will be having another meeting with two companies who will be supplying the product. After that meeting he is hoping that he will have enough information to furnish Council to make a decision on implementing the recycling bank program.

Councilman Belko also advised that the Public Works Department is currently awaiting the tags for the new leaf machine so it can be put into use.

Councilman Curtis stated he understood how the recycling bank would work well in the more suburban areas of the city, stating that it might not work in the north end and center area of the City. Councilman Curtis also inquired how will the average resident who is accustomed to carrying his five gallon bucket out to the curb adapt to wheeling out a 30 gallon container to the curb, especially in those

areas where there are many steps to deal with and uneven grading along their sidewalks. Also there are some streets where parking is an issue. Have these problems been taken into consideration? Councilman Curtis also suggested getting input from other City's that have implemented the program.

Councilman Belko explained that the containers come in three different sizes.

Councilman Sloane advised that wheel size is a very important factor and should be looked into very closely before making a final decision.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Councilman Louis advised that the Walgreens Project is starting to move forward and should be completed sometime in the spring.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Councilwoman Brown presented an award to Thomas B. Bowe for his support from the Esther Chapter No. 25 O.E.S.P.H.A..

Mr. Bowe graciously accepted the award and thanked the organization for the honor.

CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Bowe stated that he assumed all of Council was planning to attend the dinner for Elected Officials held yearly by our JIF, if not please let him know. The closest dinner site will be at Nicolosi's starting at 5:00 pm on January 7, 2007.

Mr. Bowe also requested authorization to have the City Engineer advertise and prepare specifications for the YMCA Tennis Courts demolition.

On motion of Councilman Sloane, seconded by Councilman Louis, the motion was approved.

Councilman Grimming questioned the funding for the demolition. The Mayor responded that there was still grant monies in place.

Mr. Bowe also requested authorization to have the City Engineer go out to bid for the demolition of the building on the Elkis property.

Councilman Curtis inquired what the time frame would be from start to finish on this project.

President Riskie estimated about 3 months.

On motion of Councilwoman Tierney, seconded by Councilman Belko, the request was approved.

Mr. Bowe announced that Mr. Thomas Dukelow was having a serious operation on his back and would be out for a while and is in Virtua Hospital in Voorhees.

TREASURER'S REPORT

President Riskie presented the Treasurer's Report which was received as filed.

PUBLIC

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

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

Councilman Belko advised that the Woodbury Midget Football Team has been doing very well in the "playoffs".

President Riskie stated that he was happy to see how well the two parties have worked together and thought that the views expressed tonight were healthy. He hopes that this means that communication will continue so we can put our best efforts together for the betterment of the City.

On motion of Councilman Curtis, seconded by Councilman Sloane, there was a five minute recess before Council went into Executive Session (8:16 pm).

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

On motion of Councilman Curtis, seconded by Councilman Grimming, the Regular Order of Business was resumed after Council came out of Executive Session (8:36 pm).

On motion of Councilman Curtis, seconded by Councilman Grimming, the City Solicitor was authorized to draw up the appropriate legal documents pertaining to the matter discussed in Executive Session.

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

THOMAS B. BOWE
Clerk/Administrator

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Assessor: Roy Duffield
Chief Financial Officer: Robert Law
Emergency Management Coordinator: Lt. Steven Cope
Librarian: Jean Wipf
Streets: Rich Leidy, Supervisor
Solicitor: Michael Aimino, Esq.