

November 23, 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 Pro-Tempore Fleming 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.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a Moment of Silence.

ROLL CALL

Present: Villari, Pottillo, Brown, Fleming, Louis, Tierney, Trout,
and Mayor Curtis

Absent: President Sloane

MINUTES

On motion of Councilwoman Tierney, seconded by Councilman Pottillo, the minutes of November 9, 2009 were approved as submitted.

MAYOR ADMINISTERED THE OATH OF OFFICE

Mayor Curtis administered the Oath of Office to Councilman Joseph Villari who will be filling a vacancy left in the First Ward expiring 12-31-2010.

President Pro-Tempore Fleming then explained that since Councilman Villari resigned from his previous Council position the Democrat Party could replace that position. The nominations were: Danielle Carter, Susan Schrock and David Schrock.

On motion of Councilman Villari, seconded by Councilman Pottillo, the nominations were closed with the name of Danielle Carter being chosen to fill the position. There was a roll call vote on the nomination.

Ayes	4	Villari, Brown, Fleming, Pottillo
Nays	3	Louis, Trout, Tierney
Absent	1	President Sloane

Mayor Curtis administered the Oath of Office to Danielle Carter to fill the vacancy left by Joseph Villari as Councilperson for the First Ward.

President Pro-Tempore Fleming welcomed Councilwoman Carter to her new role as Councilperson from the First Ward.

PUBLIC

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

Anthony Chiesa, 36 Rugby Place, came forward to inquire about Resolution #09-228 “Appointing a Fund Commissioner” and inquired if this position was a paid position.

President Pro-Tempore Fleming stated that the position was not a paid position.

Mr. Chiesa also inquired about Ordinance #2112-09 and what financial obligations were involved.

President Pro-Tempore Fleming explained that it was necessary to go out to bond for certain engineering fees which were not originally allocated in the yearly Capital Budget Appropriations.

Mr. Law, Chief Financial Officer, further explained how the funds would be used to offset the amount that was needed and how it would affect the budget for next year.

Mr. Chiesa inquired about three resolutions that referenced the City Engineer being paid a \$1 million dollars.

President Pro-Tempore Fleming advised that the amount in the resolution was the total amount of the project not what was being paid to the City Engineer.

Finally, Mr. Chiesa inquired about the RCA Program.

Mrs. Virginia Horn explained how the RCA Program works and what the income qualifications for application were and how the City is eventually refunded.

Brandon Chiesa, 36 Rugby Place, inquired about Resolution #09-223 regarding the language in one of the paragraphs pertaining to water usage and if that was a typo.

Mr. Pierson, City Solicitor, stated that the wording would be amended.

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

RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Law stated that Resolutions #09-206, #09-211, #09-214 depended upon the passage of Ordinance #2112-09. The purpose of this ordinance was to pay for engineering fees associated with the costs stated in those resolutions.

Mr. Law also advised that Resolution #09-228 cannot be adopted until the Reorganization.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

ORDINANCE #2111-09 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY AMENDING CHAPTER 92 OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY, “FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION”

Councilman Villari presented the above-entitled ordinance for final adoption.

The City Clerk read the title of the ordinance.

On motion of Councilman Villari, seconded by Councilman Louis, the ordinance was ordered opened for Public Hearing.

On motion of Councilman Villari, seconded by Councilman Louis, the Public Hearing was ordered closed.

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

Ayes	8	Villari, Brown, Fleming, Louis, Tierney, Pottillo, Trout, Carter
Nays	0	
Absent	1	President Sloane

ORDINANCE #2112-09 – BOND ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DESIGN, ENGINEERING AND PLANNING COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH CERTAIN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECTS IN AND FOR THE CITY OF WOODBURY, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$57,000 THEREFOR; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OR BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, NEW JERSEY IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF UP TO \$30,000; MAKING CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS AND COVENANTS; AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN RELATED ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING

Councilman Villari presented the above-entitled ordinance.

The City Clerk read the title of the ordinance.

On motion of Councilman Villari, seconded by Councilwoman Tierney, the ordinance was ordered opened for Public Hearing.

On motion of Councilman Villari, seconded by Councilman Pottillo, the Public Hearing was ordered closed.

On motion of Councilman Villari, seconded by Councilman Louis, there was a roll call vote.

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

The ordinance failed needing a 2/3 majority vote to pass.

Resolution #'s 09-206, 09-211 and 09-214 were removed from the agenda by President Pro-Tempore Fleming.

RESOLUTION #09-223 – RESOLUTION TO ADJUST WATER CHARGES

Councilman Villari presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

RESOLUTION #09-229 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY REPAIRS FOR THE WOODBURY SEWER MAINS

Councilman Villari presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

VOUCHERS

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

RAFFLE APPLICATION

Councilman Louis presented a raffle application from the American Legion Post #133 for a raffle to be held for the upcoming 2010 year.

On motion of Councilman Louis, seconded by Councilman Trout, the application was approved with one (1) “No” vote (Councilwoman Brown).

RESOLUTION #09-227 – RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY REQUESTING BUS SHELTERS

Councilman Louis presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

PUBLIC WORKS

Councilman Pottillo stated he would like to commend the crew in the streets department for a job well done for leaf removal.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Councilman Villari had nothing to report.

PERSONNEL

ORDINANCE #2113-09 – ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY ADOPTING USE OF CITY-OWNED VEHICLES POLICY

Councilwoman Tierney stated that after much deliberation with many people and after much consideration there have been changes made to the Personnel Policy regarding the Usage of City Vehicles.

Councilwoman Tierney then presented the above-entitled ordinance.

The City Clerk read the title of the ordinance.

Councilman Pottillo stated that he felt that the changes would mostly affect some of the employees in the Public Works Department; but understands that the changes had to be made especially considering costs funded by tax dollars.

On motion of Councilwoman Tierney, 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 December 14, 2009.

Councilwoman Tierney advised that Woodbury Youth Basketball sign-ups for grades 3 through 8 and other pertinent information will be on the website. Last year was a very successful year for the program so be sure to sign your child up as soon as possible. A special

“Thank-you” to Tom Dukelow and all the volunteers who make this program as successful as it is.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

RESOLUTION #09-224 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF REGIONAL CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT FUNDS FOR BLOCK 135.01, LOT 7 A/K/A 145 GANTT 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 Pottillo, the resolution was adopted by a voice vote.

RESOLUTION #09-225 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT HELPING HAND PROGRAM FUNDS FOR BOCK 114, LOT 22 A/K/A 28 HOPKINS STREETS

Councilwoman Brown presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

RESOLUTION #09-226 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF REGIONAL CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT FUNDS FOR BLOCK 177, LOT 22 A/K/A 137 PROGRESS 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 Pottillo, the resolution was adopted by a voice vote.

Councilwoman Brown read a note she received from the Sunrise Assistant-Living Facility thanking her for her continued support of the elderly at their facility.

GREEN ACRES

Councilman Trout advised that he visited the two park project locations and received nothing but positive feedback from the residents in those areas.

Councilman Trout also thanked Ronda Abbruzzese, Main Street Director, for the work she has accomplished already while with Main Street.

MAYOR CURTIS

Mayor Curtis welcomed Danielle Carter to her seat on Council.

The Mayor reminded everyone that the Annual Merchants Association will be welcoming Santa by a parade on December 4th at 6:00 pm along with the start of Candlelight Shopping.

Mayor Curtis stated that he met with the new representative from PSE&G and discussed improving the lighting at the Police Station and Fire House to meet state statues. Also increased lighting is being planned around Underwood Memorial Hospital and at the Wing-Dickerson Park and Frances Avenue Park.

The Mayor also stated that he has been informed that in the year 2010, PSE&G will be doing induction lighting, which increases lighting but decreases energy usage.

Mayor Curtis advised that the Emergency Drill along Broad Street took place this past weekend and everyone should be commended, especially the Police and Fire Departments who did a great job. A special "thank-you" to Lieutenant Cope who is Woodbury's Emergency Management Co-Ordinator.

Lieutenant Cope explained in a little more detail what actually occurred that day, thanking everyone for their participation.

Councilman Pottillo inquired about the new light at Broad and Hunter Streets. Mayor Curtis stated that it should be activated in about a week or so.

CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Bowe informed everyone that the JIF Elected Officials' Dinner will be held on the 30th of November at 6:30 and everyone has an application form in front of them. If interested, please return the form at the end of the meeting.

Mr. Bowe stated that the City Engineer was present if anyone had any questions regarding his report.

PRESIDENT PRO-TEMPORE

President Pro-Tempore Fleming reviewed the resolutions that were put on hold this evening explaining what options were available if these projects were or were not incorporated

into our 2009 budget. If a way were not found to fund these engineering fees then certain significant grant funds would be lost.

Mr. Law further explained what was included in the 2009 budget pertaining to engineering costs and the projects to which they would be applied.

President Pro-Tempore Fleming then addressed specific projects such as the pedestrian crossing project stating that \$194,000.00 has been received as a grant; we don't want to lose this.

Councilman Louis stated that he found this information troubling not having been informed earlier of a shortfall so that Council could make an informed decision about going out for additional bonding at this late date.

Mr. Law, Chief Financial Officer, stated that the only alternative the City has now is to find the money in the 2009 budget and find ways to transfer these monies. At this time the money needed amounts to about \$35,000.00

Councilman Pottillo stated that Council must do what is in the best interest of the City at this time so that we do not lose the grant money.

Councilman Louis totally agreed but warned that the City appears to be over-extending itself; if this is the case, then we need to reevaluate our priorities. Councilman Louis continued by stating that it is troubling when a City has a Finance Committee that meets only once a year.

More conversation continued regarding financial matters, the lack of communication amongst Council Members, and what can be done to save the grant projects.

PUBLIC

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

Brandon Chiesa, 36 Rugby Place, came forward to inquire about the sewer replacement on Delaware Street.

Mr. Wilkinson, City Engineer, explained the details of the proposed project.

Brandon Chiesa also inquired about the lighting that was referenced as "green" and would that be the color of the lighting.

Mayor Curtis stated that the light would be white; the fixture is green.

Brandon Chiesa further inquired about the nomination process which occurred this evening and what the political procedure was.

Mayor Curtis stated that the majority party makes the nomination and Council votes on the nomination.

Charles Rose , the Democrat Party Chairman for the City of Woodbury, addressed Councilman Louis asking why he and his fellow Republicans voted against Danielle Carter.

Councilman Louis explained that the last time this situation presented itself to Council all of the Republicans voted for the Democrat who was replacing Jeff Craig. In the political campaign that followed, that vote was used against the Republicans.

Mr. Rose stated that City Council has to come together as a family instead of allowing politics to interfere with good local government.

Anthony Chiesa, 36 Rugby Place, inquired about putting a crosswalk in front of Evergreen Avenue School because of it being too dangerous and the children are jaywalking.

Mayor Curtis stated that the area in question was looked at and because of the curve in the road, it is recognized as being dangerous. The Mayor continued that he was advised that when suggestions were recommended to the school board, the matter was dropped because of the cost factor involved in correcting the situation.

Councilman Pottillo stated that he finds it disturbing to hear of projects not being done because of a lack of money when it comes to the safety of the children.

Ronda Abbruzzese, Main Street Director, came forward and thanked Councilman Trout especially for recognizing the efforts Main Street is making. Ms. Abbruzzese then explained what will be happening in Woodbury in the next couple of weeks and welcomed everyone out to support Main Street.

CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Bowe stated that he had a need to address a situation he found quite disturbing especially in light of all the remarks made this evening regarding "integrity". Mr. Bowe took exception to Mr. Rose's remarks especially with reference to a situation involving former Council Member Jeffrey Croce. Mr. Bowe continued by saying he was approached by Councilman Croce who was unaware that he would not be supported by the local Democrat Party in the upcoming primary election; he had to find out about this by reading it in the newspaper. Mr. Rose didn't have the courtesy to keep one of his own council people informed of the fate that befell him.

Mr. Rose defended his stand indicating that he attempted to contact Mr. Croce to discuss the subject matter.

Mayor Curtis advised that he personally had a conversation with Mr. Croce and was under the impression that because of Mr. Croce's work schedule he was not interested in continuing with his position as Councilman.

Mr. Bowe stood by his earlier remarks.

President Pro-Tempore Fleming stated that the discussion was closed and requested a motion to close the floor.

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

There being no further business, on motion of Councilwoman Tierney, seconded by Councilman Trout, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

THOMAS B. BOWE
Clerk/Administrator

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT

Assessor: Roy Duffield
Chief Financial Officer: Robert Law
City Engineer: Ted Wilkinson, PE
Deputy City Clerk: Gail R. Scheffler
Emergency Management Officer: Lieutenant Cope
NPP Coordinator: Virginia Horn
Main Street Director: Rhonda Abbruzzese
Solicitor: James Pierson, Esq.