

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING OF
MAY 24, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by President Trovato at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers, 33 Delaware Street, Woodbury, New Jersey. Pres. Trovato led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation

The Invocation was delivered by Pastor Jimmy Lindsay of Bethlehem Baptist Church.

Open Public Meeting Statement

The City Clerk stated that due notice had been given to both the public and the press by posting and publication of Resolution #16-05 adopted at the 2016 Reorganizational Meeting of Mayor and Council on January 5, 2016.

Roll Call:

Present: Swanson, Floyd, Johnson, Fleming, Parker, Reddin, Carter, President Trovato and Mayor Volk

Absent: *Tierney (arrived at 7:08 PM)

Minutes

On motion of Councilwoman Parker, seconded by Councilman Johnson, the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 10, 2016, and the Closed Session of May 10, 2016 were approved as submitted. Councilwoman Carter and Councilman Swanson abstained from the vote; all others voted in favor of the motion.

Presentations and Discussions

President Trovato announced that tonight is Students in Government night, and introduced Na'Tanya Bryant, a Junior at WHS and President of the Student Council.

Proclamation for the Woodbury Junior Girls A Division 2016 GCBL Champions

Mayor Volk read the proclamation acknowledging the accomplishments of the Junior Girls A Division basketball team for winning the 2016 GCBL Championship.

Open to the Public for Agenda Items

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

Anthony Chiesa, 36 Rugby Place, inquired about the two bond ordinances on the agenda. Mike Theokas discussed the bonding and their proposed plans for the water & sewer and other capital improvements.

President Trovato asked Mr. Chiesa for an update on the search for a new Superintendent of School. That process has just begun according to Mr. Chiesa.

Gloria Holmes, 19 Nelson Avenue inquired about Res #16-93. Mr. Theokas explained that this is for site work on the Laverty Field Concession Building.

Jackie Robinson, 921 N. Broad Street, asked about Res. 16-93 and implored Council to provide additional funding for children programs in the City.

Catherine George Kayser, 1147 Tatum Street inquired about water testing that was discussed at a previous meeting. Mr. Theokas advised that testing is still being conducted throughout the City and results will be available when they are received.

Hearing no one else, on motion of Councilman Swanson, seconded by Councilman Johnson and unanimously approved, the Public Portion was closed and the Regular Order of Business was resumed.

Resolutions, Ordinances and Committee Reports

Finance Committee:

Parks and Recreation Committee:

#16-93 - Resolution Awarding a Contract for Site Work for the Lavery Building Complex

Councilman Johnson presented the above-titled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

On motion of Councilman Johnson, seconded by Councilwoman Parker the resolution was unanimously adopted by a voice vote.

Councilman Johnson introduced sophomore Veronika Bergen, and encouraged all students to become involved in their local government and community. He gave a special thank-you to former Councilwoman Brown who initiated the Students in Government Program. He also gave a thank you to our Public Works Department for the great job they do keeping our parks in such good condition.

Public Works Committee:

Councilwoman Parker introduced freshman Becca Kennedy.

#16-91 - Resolution Authorizing Change Order No. 2 for the FY2015 Municipal Aid Project – West Barber Avenue

Councilwoman Parker presented the above-titled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

On motion of Councilwoman Parker, seconded by Councilman Reddin the resolution was unanimously adopted by a voice vote.

Councilwoman Parker said our residents are still becoming acclimated to the new trash collection schedules.

Green Team Committee:

Councilwoman Tierney introduced freshman Brianne Kennedy.

#16-92 - Resolution Providing for the Insertion of Special Items of Revenue in the Budget of the City of Woodbury pursuant to N.J.S. 40A:4-87 (Chapter 159, P.L. 1948) (Clean Communities Grant)

Councilwoman Tierney presented the above-titled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

On motion of Councilwoman Tierney, seconded by Councilwoman Parker the resolution was unanimously adopted by a voice vote. Councilwoman Tierney advised that this resolution is to accept a Clean Communities Grant in the amount of \$24,561, a 14% increase over last year's grant.

Old Business - None

New Business

FAF Social Affairs Application

Mike Theokas explained that FAF has requested to have a series of events on City property which require Council's approval. Mr. Theokas and Chief Ryan have investigated the application and recommend Council's approval.

On motion of Councilwoman Floyd, seconded by Councilwoman Parker the Special Event Permit as submitted by FAF was unanimously approved.

Other Committee reports

City Municipal Maintenance Committee:

Councilwoman Carter introduced freshman Aniyah Wilmer.

Councilwoman Carter advised that her Committee met last week to discuss improvements at City Hall and the Lavery Building project.

Policy Committee:

Councilman Fleming introduced WHS sophomore Khalyin Eley.

Councilman Fleming pointed out that with the Memorial Day holiday coming we should again post our new trash schedule on the website.

Economic Development Committee:

Councilwoman Floyd introduced WHS student Nija Spencer.

Councilwoman Floyd announced the new date for the county-sponsored "Movie in Park" will be July 11th; "Herc's Burgers" will be opening at 22 S. Broad St; and a new swimming pool supplies store has opened at 664 Mantua Ave. Councilwoman Floyd said how much she enjoyed the Rotary Duck Race and WORC party on May 21.

Econ. Dev. Director Randi Woerner came forward to bring attention to the City's Website, What's Up Woodbury, Twitter, and other ways she informs the public of events and news going on around town.

Volunteers, Seniors & Veteran's Committee:

Councilman Reddin introduced WHS student Ariana Rivera and also recognized Nicole Rhodes, President of WHS Class of 1998 who was in attendance this evening.

Report of the Mayor

Mayor Volk thanked the Fire Department for their participation in the Rotary Club's Duck Race. He also stated that he has met with the Police Chief to discuss changes in personnel due to upcoming retirements and possible promotions.

Report of the City Clerk

Mr. Duffield introduced Ayana Thompson, a junior at WHS. Ms. Thompson announced a Senior Health and Fitness program on May 26th at YMCA, and reminded everyone that Tuesday, June 7th is Primary Election Day.

Department Heads' Announcements:

Police Chief Ryan advised that the Community Day at the Police Department was rained out twice and has been rescheduled to National Night Out on Tuesday, August 7th. The Police Department will be conducting a Lieutenants exam on June 1st and encourages all qualified officers to apply. Chief Ryan advised that all police officers have been equipped with the body cameras and it already has proven to be a very effective tool for monitoring police interactions. The Chief encouraged all residents to continue to call in any properties that appear to be abandoned for high grass complaints.

Administrator Mike Theokas stated that City Hall will be open Monday through Thursday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, and Friday 8:00 until 12:00 noon from May 23rd until Labor Day. Also, he and the Mayor participated in Career Day at the High School and it was a very rewarding experience. Mr. Theokas advised that he has met with PSE&G regarding their tree trimming schedule for this year. PSE&G informed us they are now under new BPU guidelines for trimming and if anyone has any concerns to contact them.

President Trovato thanked Councilwoman Floyd and former Councilwoman Gwen Brown for putting the Students in Government Program together for this evening. All students who participated this evening did a great job. Councilwoman Floyd also thanked the students' Advisors who also participated in the program.

Open to the Public

On motion of Parker, seconded by Reddin and unanimously approved the floor was opened to the public for any items.

Amelie Harris McGeehan, 159 Leona Avenue, announced this is the 12th Season of the Community Garden. She went on to name and thank many of the people who have played a part in making the daily operations work so efficiently. She also thanked many people who made the May 21 Community Garden Day a success.

Gloria Holmes, 19 Nelson Avenue, thanked everyone for Arbor Day Ceremonies. She requested more information on the trash schedule change, and she requested that Suiter-Baptiste Park be maintained more closely for the sake of the children's safety.

Charles Hughes, 31 N. Childs Street, advised that on Thursday, May 26th, a group of veterans and historians will be speaking at the High School, sharing their experiences.

Lee Weatherby, 303 W. Centre Street, thanked Charles Hughes for putting together the program at the high school, and the Candlelight Vigil. Also, four Woodbury natives and war heroes will be honored this Memorial Day: Ken Seder, Victor Brown, Thomas Davis and George Benjamin. Mr. Weatherby welcomed everyone to come out to honor those who have given their lives for our freedom.

Heidi Louis and Mark Knight of WORC presented a new program called the Downtown WORC's Project. The purpose is to support businesses that locate in our historical buildings, and award them a façade grant. The first recipient will be Tiki Tiki Board Games, who will be moving into the Polsky Building.

Ron Wilcox, 250 S. Barber Ave, invited everyone to the annual Vic Browne III and Keith Washington memorial basketball tournament on July 16th where they will be honoring our veterans. The event is sponsored by Young Gifted & Black.

Summer Smith, 456 Griscom Street, thanked WORC for offering help to downtown businesses. She asked if more can be done to keep Broad Street clean, especially around the trees. President Trovato stated it would be attended to.

Tim Grecco, 427 Woodside Place, inquired if Council knew of what occurred on Friday evening around midnight and gun shots being fired, street closings, police helicopter. Chief Ryan confirmed there was an incident but could not go into detail due to ongoing investigating. He also stated that he would make more of an effort to keep residents informed.

Tara Rea, 61 N. Childs Street, thanked Council for the approval of the FAF Special Events Permit. Every Friday evening they will hold different events on the lot area behind Veterans Plaza. It will be family friendly and will be held during July and August.

On motion of Councilman Johnson, seconded by Councilman Reddin and unanimously approved, the Public Portion was closed and the Regular Order of Business was resumed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, on motion of Councilwoman Parker, seconded by Councilwoman Tierney and unanimously approved the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

ROY A. DUFFIELD
City Clerk

Other Officials Present:

Administrator: Mike Theokas

City Clerk: Roy A. Duffield

City Engineer: Paul Breier

Economic Development Director: Randi Woerner

Librarian: Jean Wipf

Police: Chief Tom Ryan

Public Works: Rich Leidy, Michael McCaughey

Solicitor: James Pierson, Esq.