

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING OF
JULY 14, 2015

The Meeting was called to order by President Trovato at 7:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance in Council Chambers at Woodbury City Hall, 33 Delaware St.

Invocation

The Invocation was delivered by the Reverend Norwood Cuff, Campbell AME 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 #15-05 adopted at the 2015 Reorganizational Meeting of Mayor and Council on January 3, 2015.

Roll Call:

Present: Tierney, Swanson, Floyd, Fleming, Reddin, Carter, Trovato, Mayor Volk

Absent: Johnson, Parker

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Councilman Fleming, seconded by Councilman Reddin, the minutes of the Council Meeting of June 23, 2015 were approved as submitted. Councilpersons Carter, Tierney and Swanson abstained from the vote.

Presentations and Discussions

City Clerk Roy A Duffield read a Proclamation Honoring Willie C. Murray, Jr. which was presented at the 3rd Annual Memorial Basketball Tournament on July 11.

President of Council

President Trovato asked Mr. Theokas to update Council on the June 23 storm damage. Mr. Theokas reported that our City suffered significant damage; however in comparison to other communities in the county we fared pretty well. He has compiled a list of 15 properties where fallen trees caused damage to their curbs and sidewalks. Under our current tree ordinance these repairs and tree removal would be the property owners' responsibility; however in light of the magnitude of the storm damage he asked for Council's direction as to how to proceed. A motion was made by Swanson, seconded by Reddin, for the City to undertake the removal and repair of tree damage at those 15 properties. Councilwoman Floyd asked about potential abuse of this policy. Mr. Theokas stated that he and Rich Leidy personally visited each of those sites to verify that the damage was caused by the June 23 storm. Councilman Redden inquired if this included damage to properties that are abandoned. Mr. Theokas responded that if it was a safety issue then the City would address them on an individual basis.

There being no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Public Hearing on Agenda Items only

On motion of Councilman Fleming, seconded by Councilwoman Tierney and unanimously approved, the Regular Order of Business was suspended and the floor was opened to the Public for Agenda Items Only. Seeing no one, on motion of Councilman Swanson, seconded by Councilwoman Tierney and unanimously approved, the Public Portion was closed and the Regular Order of Business was resumed.

Resolutions, Ordinances and Committee Reports

Administration Committee:

#15-135 - Resolution Rejecting Bids for the Paving of Franklin Street, and Authorizing City Engineer to Re-bid

Councilman Fleming presented the above-titled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.
On motion of Councilman Fleming, seconded by Councilwoman Tierney, the resolution was unanimously adopted by a voice vote.

#15-136 - Resolution of the City of Woodbury Imposing Lien(s) for Property Maintenance Pursuant to Municipality Code §162-4

Councilman Fleming presented the above-titled resolution.
The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.
On motion of Councilman Fleming, seconded by Councilwoman Tierney the resolution was unanimously adopted by a voice vote.

#15-137 - Resolution Authorizing Executive Session

Councilman Fleming presented the above-titled resolution.
The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.
On motion of Councilman Fleming, seconded by Councilwoman Tierney the resolution was unanimously adopted by a voice vote.

#15-138 - Resolution Authorizing the Renewal of Alcoholic Beverage Licenses with the City of Woodbury beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016

Councilman Fleming presented the above-titled resolution.
The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.
Councilman Swanson stated he was concerned with one of the businesses listed for liquor license renewal and suggests that Council investigate these more closely before approving their renewal.
On motion of Councilman Fleming, seconded by Councilwoman Carter the resolution was unanimously adopted by a voice vote.

#2234-15 - An Ordinance of the City of Woodbury Amending Chapter 20 of the Code of the City of Woodbury (First Reading)

Councilman Fleming presented the above-titled ordinance.
The City Clerk read the title of the ordinance. Councilman Fleming made a motion to approve the ordinance on first reading. Solicitor James Pierson pointed out that the title was incorrectly stated. Councilman Fleming then presented this ordinance:

#2234-15 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY AMENDING CHAPTER 89 "FIRE PREVENTION" AND CHAPTER 20 "FIRE DEPARTMENT" OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY (first reading)

Mayor Volk and Mr. Theokas explained the rationale for these code revisions. Councilman Fleming stated the Administration Committee has discussed these revisions and recommends them.

On motion of Councilman Fleming, seconded by Councilman Swanson and unanimously approved, the ordinance was approved on first reading, ordered to be advertising according to law, to come up for public hearing and final adoption at the next regularly scheduled meeting on July 28, 2015.

Councilman Fleming advised that his Committee and Paul Breier, City Engineer met today regarding the proposals received for the Water/Sewer Evaluation. The Engineer has nearly completed his inventory of our assets and the committee will soon have a recommendation on which firm to choose for the evaluation.

Finance Committee:

#15-139 - Resolution of the City of Woodbury appointing Molinari and Associates City Appraiser Pursuant to Non-Fair and Open Process

Councilman Swanson presented the above-titled resolution.
The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.
On motion of Councilman Swanson, seconded by Councilwoman Carter the resolution was unanimously adopted by a voice vote.

#15-140 - Resolution Authorizing Award of a Contract for Site Improvements regarding 220 South Broad Street

Councilman Swanson presented the above-titled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

#15-141 - Emergency Resolution Requiring Approval of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services – N.J.S.A. 40A:4-49

Councilman Swanson presented the above-titled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

On motion of Councilman Swanson, seconded by Councilman Reddin, the resolution was adopted by a roll call vote:

Ayes: Tierney, Swanson, Floyd, Fleming, Reddin, Carter, Trovato

Nays: none

Absent: Johnson, Parker

Vouchers

On motion of Councilman Swanson, seconded by Councilwoman Tierney and unanimously approved, the vouchers as presented and certified were authorized paid.

Councilman Redden questioned the voucher for postage for delinquent water bills and if we could reduce that cost. Mr. Theokas stated this cost is part of the late fees and shutoff fees incurred by delinquent payers.

Councilman Swanson stated that the tax rate has been certified by the County and he is happy to report that the City portion did not increase; but the County and School tax rate was increased.

Councilman Swanson stated during the recent storms the City and WPD received numerous calls for service and our Public Works Department, along with all other City responders did an excellent job in getting our residents back to normal as quickly as possible. Also, PSE&G did a great job in restoring our electric as quickly as possible with minimal incidents.

Old Business, New Business: none

Other Committee Reports:

Councilwoman Floyd thanked everyone who worked on the annual Fireworks show and described it as 'a magical event'. Also, the Juneteenth Event went very well and everyone seemed to enjoy it. She thanked the Public Works Department for their quick response during the recent storms. She announced the Bonsal Blues Band gave a free concert at Rotary Park and will do so again on August 24; and the County is sponsoring a free Family Movie Night July 15 at Stewart Lake Park. Lastly, her Community Development Committee is seeking more involvement from residents in each ward.

Report of the Mayor

Mayor Volk spoke personally about the late Willie Murray who was honored earlier with the Proclamation. The City Clerk read the Proclamation again and presented it to Ms. Ramona Wilcox who graciously accepted on behalf of the family.

Mayor Volk announced the resignation of Assemblyman Angel Fuentes thanking him for all his support to the City and wished him well in his new position. The Mayor also mentioned the successful Fireworks show and thanked everyone who worked on putting it together. He announced resident Brandon Christina will receive Eagle Scout award on August 2nd. Lastly he announced the blessing of our new fire trucks July 18.

Report of the City Clerk

Mr. Duffield stated that he received a call from a resident advising of the great job our Public Works Department does clearing the paths around our lakes & parks, in addition to the storm cleanup.

Department Announcements:

Police Department

Captain Ryan advised Council that WPD is open for inspection and public comment on July 19-20th for re-Accreditation. Ours is one of 120 out of 550 police departments statewide that is Accredited.

Several of his officers attended an open house "Meet and Greet Police" at Central Baptist Church on July 8th and it was a great event.

Library

Jean Wipf, Librarian stated that the Woodbury Library has a variety of programs for our children to enjoy during the summer months. See our website for details.

Engineer

Paul Breier, City Engineer advised that construction will begin July 27 on East Red Bank Avenue. He also recognized Mr. Murray who was also a great track coach.

Administrator

Mr. Theokas mentioned several public works projects that will be getting underway in the near future. He also stated that students from the High School are working with our Parks and Recreation Department again this summer.

Open to the Public

On motion of Councilwoman Carter, seconded by Councilwoman Tierney and unanimously approved the Regular Order of Business was suspended and the floor was opened to the Public for any Items.

Tim Zatzariny, 237 S. Horace Street, came forward to inquire if the recent White Table Gala hosted by Main Street Woodbury obtained all of the proper permits required by our recently enacted Social Affairs ordinance. Mr. Theokas responded that to his knowledge all of their permits and insurance were in order. Mr. Zatzariny asked point by point about the requirements of the Social Affairs ordinance and asked for copies of the permits. He stated that in his perception, when applying for a Social Affairs permit FAF was held to a higher standard than was Main Street. FAF is planning an event in the near future and want to be clear on the permitting requirements. Discussion continued among Council Members Floyd, Fleming, Trovato, Mr. Zatzariny, and Mr. Theokas.

Angela Rhodes, 140 Franklin Street, was concerned that the playground areas are not being adequately maintained for the children to utilize during the summer months, since many of them cannot participate in programs at the YMCA.

Jackie Robinson, 921 N. Broad Street, was concerned about problems along Broad Street in front of the Liquor Store. She also would like to establish a scholarship in honor of Willie Murray because of all his contributions to Woodbury.

Jacquallynn Knight, 232 Hunter Street, stated she heard good reports about the White Table Gala but is bothered that they may not have followed all of the rules of the Social Affairs ordinance. This has discouraged her from volunteering with other events.

President Trovato stated that he is aware changes may have to be made; however, he disagrees with some of the comments made tonight. He is still open to hear all comments if it will improve future events in Woodbury.

Rhonda Hunter, 128 High Street, again inquired if any statistics are available to know how many Woodbury residents have to go to the new location for Municipal Court. Mr. Duffield stated it was too soon to have those figures available, but he will continue to look into it. Mrs. Hunter also discussed having a Community Center in Woodbury, possibly at the former Woolworth's building. Mr. Theokas stated the City Officials have had these conversations and continue to; but everything comes at a cost and that is a big factor. Mrs. Hunter also asked about available programs for drug abuse treatment

and for children with special needs. Mr. Theokas and Capt. Ryan named some programs that may be available to her.

Gloria Holmes, 19 Nelson Avenue, advised that the African American History Group is looking for a meeting place. Ms. Holmes referenced the recent White Table events stating that she feels that our activities need to be monitored at our Park areas. Ms. Holmes thanked former Councilman Trout and Roy Duffield for clarifying the recent question she had regarding Green Acre Funds for work done at the Parks. She also thanked everyone involved for the recent Basketball Tournament held at the Wing-Dickerson Park.

Seeing no one else, on motion of Councilman Fleming, seconded by Councilwoman Carter and unanimously approved, the Public Portion was closed and the Regular Order of Business was resumed.

There was a five minute recess before going into Executive Session (approximately 9:51 pm).

(EXECUTIVE SESSION)

The Regular Order of Business was resumed at 10:07 pm.

Councilman Fleming stated that he did not recall our Social Affairs ordinance having requirement for fenced in areas and security guards. Councilwoman Floyd said she attended the June 13 Main Street event and they did not check her ID to verify her age. James Pierson suggested that Mike Theokas investigate the circumstances surrounding the Main Street event to see whether or not the proper procedures were followed.

Adjournment

There being no future business, on motion of Councilman Fleming, seconded by Councilwoman Carter, the meeting was adjourned at 10:11 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

ROY A. DUFFIELD
City Clerk

Other Officials in Attendance

Administrator: Mike Theokas
City Clerk: Roy A. Duffield
Police: Captain Tom Ryan
Solicitor: James Pierson, Esq.
Economic Development Director: Randi Woerner
Library Director: Jean Wipf
City Engineer: Paul Breier