

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF
OCTOBER 28, 2014**

Pledge of Allegiance

The Meeting was opened by President Fleming at 7:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance in Council Chambers at Woodbury City Hall, 33 Delaware Street, Woodbury.

Invocation

Rev. Dr. Carla Romarate-Knipel, Pastor, Central Baptist Church delivered the Invocation. Mayor Volk presented her with a Proclamation commemorating her ordination as Pastor of Central 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 #14-05 adopted at the Reorganizational Meeting of Mayor and Council on January 6, 2014.

Roll Call

Present: Tierney, Hock, Swanson, Trovato, Lockman, Parker, Carter, Johnson, President Fleming and Mayor Volk

Absent: No One

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Councilman Swanson, seconded by Councilwoman Parker, the minutes of the meeting of October 14, 2014 were approved as submitted.

Presentations and Discussions

Chief Financial Officer Robert Law presented the Best Practices Inventory which is required by the Division of Local Government Services as part of the State Aid approval process. He explained the results of the survey and its impact on the City's Aid eligibility and offered to answer any questions Council may have.

President Fleming noted a large presence of members from the Local #122 Policemen's Benevolent Association in attendance and invited them to address Council.

Patrolman Robert Garish of Woodbury Police Department read a statement concerning injuries he sustained on August 31, 2013 while on duty. As a result of the injuries and subsequent surgeries he is no longer fit for duty as a police officer. Patrolman Garish was informed by Chief Merinuk and Mr. Theokas that for this reason he would no longer be employed by the City of Woodbury effective Nov. 1, 2014 and his medical coverage would be discontinued as of Dec. 31. He is now awaiting disability compensation award, which could take up to 6 months during which he would be without income. His fellow officers have offered to donate their vacation, sick and compensatory in order to keep him on City payroll and health insurance. However this arrangement is not covered by our PBA contract or personnel policy manual, therefore the request was denied by the City.

Michael Cramer representing PBA Local 122 spoke on behalf of Officer Garish. He asked if the City has a Personnel Committee. Councilwoman Tierney told him the Personnel Committee was abolished in 2013. He then asked who heads the Police Committee. Mayor Volk told him the Public Safety Committee covers the Police Department and the Committee Chair is Councilwoman Carter.

City Solicitor James Pierson interjected that since this is a personnel matter and not on the agenda Council should not discuss it publicly at this time.

Mr. Cramer then asked when the Public Safety Committee last met, and who is on the Committee.

#14-165 - Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Funds from the Premium Account into the General Current Fund Block 95, Lot 1 - US Bank-Cust/Sass Muni V Dtr. Tax Sale Cert # 09-00051 - \$3,000.00 Premium Paid

Councilman Swanson presented the above-titled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

#14-166 - Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Funds from the Premium Account into the General Current Fund Block 2, Lot 6.05 - US Bank-Cust/Sass Muni Dtr Tax Sale Cert # 09-00003 - \$10,600.00 Premium Paid

Councilman Swanson presented the above-titled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

#14-167 - Resolution Authorizing a Closed Session

Councilman Swanson presented the above-titled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

President Fleming stated Council expects to take official action after the Executive Session.

Vouchers

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

Public Works/Parks and Recreation Committee

Councilwoman Parker thanked Public Works for their help during Make a Difference Day on October 25 and also noted the schedule for Fall leaf pick-up is on our website.

Economic Development Committee

#14-168 - Resolution of Support from the City of Woodbury Authorizing the Woodbury Economic Development Office to Apply for a \$10,000 Energy Project Small Grants Project through Sustainable Jersey

Councilman Swanson presented the above-titled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

Community Relations Committee

Councilwoman Tierney gave a brief report on the Social Affairs Ordinance #2213-14. She also reported on the success of Make a Difference Day thanking all 24 volunteers and special thanks to EP Henry for donating 6 pallets of landscape stones, to Mary Carter of Main Street Woodbury for arranging the donation, and to Woodbury Breakfast Rotary Club for making a donation which will be used for plants. Plans are already in the process for another clean-up.

Environmental and Green Acres

Councilman Hock advised that the City has been awarded Sustainable Jersey Bronze Certification. We will be recognized at their meeting on November 18th. He thanked the Green Team and especially Randi Woerner for all their efforts to achieve this certification.

Community Development

Councilman Johnson briefed Council on the Honorary Street Sign dedication for Ora Lee

Washington at intersection of Manor & Lafayette Aves. on Oct. 25. He thanked former Councilwoman Brown for her leadership in arranging this event, and all who attended.

Property Committee

Councilman Lockman asked Mr. Theokas to explain a program the County has endorsed regarding abandoned & unfit properties. Mr. Theokas explained that we can contract with a private firm to administer our recently enacted abandoned property ordinance, and their fees would be paid by the vacant properties' owners' registration fees.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Councilman Swanson reported that our Emergency Management Coordinators will be conducting an "active shooter" drill at City Hall in the near future.

Mayor Volk appointed an ad hoc committee to discuss the matters raised by Patrolman Garish and the public's discussion. The committee includes Fleming, Lockman, Swanson and Volk.

On motion of Councilman Swanson, seconded by Councilwoman Carter and unanimously approved Mr. Theokas was directed to open a discussion with Mr. Garish to seek an equitable resolution to his request.

Reports:

Mayor

Mayor Volk advised of the following:

1. Trick or Treating will be October 31 from 4:00-8:00 pm;
2. There was a ribbon cutting for Seven Three Social Club tattoo shop on 10/15/14 ;
3. The Mayor attended the West End Neighborhood Association Meeting on 10/21/14;
4. Burris project held a ground breaking at the former Country Club site on 10/22/14;
5. Ribbon Cutting for T-K Studios architects on 38 Newton Ave. on 10/29/14.

Clerk

Mr. Duffield reminded everyone next Tuesday, November 4 is Election Day.

President of Council

President Fleming recognized former Mayor Donald P. Sanderson, who was in attendance at tonight's meeting.

Police

Chief Merinuk referenced the quick response by the Woodbury Fire Co. to a recent fire at Woodlake Apartments. Also, WPD continues to issue summonses for crosswalk violations.

WORC

Heidi Louis thanked Randi Woerner for helping obtain a grant to paint the Train Station.

FAF

Jacqueline Knight stated FAF is working on a questionnaire to gauge interest in their programs.

Main Street Woodbury

Mary Carter briefed Council on Main Street's recent and upcoming events.

Open to the Public

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 any items.

Stephanie Patterson, 50 Hopkins Street, and Cynthia Russell, 66 Hopkins Street asked why Hopkins Street has not been paved in the past sixteen-plus years. It also has drainage problems and needs handicap ramps at the intersections. They have been told it is on the list to be paved, and it has not occurred yet. Council members and City Engineer Paul Breier explained the process and hope to receive a grant for Hopkins St. for next year's street paving program.

Katrina Homola, 1337 Raphael Place, West Deptford, inquired about her pending dismissal as an employee of the Woodbury Municipal Court. Mr. Theokas advised this will be part of the Closed Session on the Agenda this evening later in the evening. Mr. Pierson advised that all affected employees have received their required Rice notice and the matter will be discussed during the Closed Session this evening.

Jim and Erin McCue, 122 Watkins Street introduced themselves and announced they will be opening an art teaching studio, possibly at the Woodbury Crossing Building.

Paul Bunn, 18 E. Packer Avenue suggested that Council has look into replacing the windows at City Hall to save energy, and to seek grant money to pay for them. He also inquired about 'No Thru Traffic' signs on Woodside and S. Bayard Streets which have not been authorized by ordinance.

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

On motion of Councilman Trovato, seconded by Councilman Swanson and unanimously approved the Regular Order of Business was suspended before going into Executive Session (approximately 9:12 pm).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Councilman Swanson, seconded by Councilman Trovato and unanimously approved, Council resumed the Regular Order of Business at approximately 9:54 pm.

Ordinance #2218-14 – Ordinance of the City of Woodbury, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Amending Chapter 12 of the Code of the City of Woodbury Establishing a Joint Municipal Court for the City of Woodbury and the Township of East Greenwich
(First Reading)

Councilman Swanson presented the above-titled ordinance.

The City Clerk read the title of the ordinance.

On motion of Councilman Swanson, seconded by Councilwoman Parker and unanimously approved, the ordinance was ordered to be advertised according to law, to come up for second reading, public hearing and final adoption at the next regularly scheduled meeting of Mayor and Council on November 10, 2014.

Adjournment

There being no further business, on motion of Councilman Swanson, seconded by Councilwoman Parker and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 9:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

ROY A. DUFFIELD
City Clerk

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT

Administrator: Michael Theokas

Chief Financial Officer: Robert Law

City Clerk: Roy A. Duffield

Engineer: Paul Brier, PE

Fire Official: Joe Buono

Main Street Woodbury: Mary Carter

Police: Chief Reed Merinuk

Public Works: Rich Leidy

Solicitor: James Pierson, Esq.