

March 22, 2004

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 5, 2004.

Pastor Ocie Carroll of the Church of Community Health & Prayer delivered the Invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present: Brown, Curtis, Louis, Graziani, Sloane, Schreyer, Grimming, Tierney, President Riskie and Mayor Clark

Absent: No one

MINUTES

On motion of Councilman Sloane, seconded by Councilman Louis, the minutes of March 8, 2004 were approved as submitted.

PUBLIC

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

As no one desired to address Council, on motion of Councilman Sloane, seconded by Councilman Graziani, the Public Portion was closed and the Regular Order of Business was resumed.

PRESENTATION BY VIRGINIA HORN

Ms. Horn advised Council that a resident of Woodbury, Amelie Harris McGeehan, approached her requesting that a community garden be developed at a City Park on Lafayette Avenue.

Ms. McGeehan came forward to explain how a section of the park would be divided into individual plots with funding for development of the plots available through the NPP Program; she then advised how the garden would be maintained.

Mr. Dukelow from Public Works explained how a water supply would be made available for the gardeners' use.

There were some questions from Council which were answered by Mr. Dukelow.

On motion of Councilman Sloane, seconded by Councilman Graziani, the request to proceed with the Community Garden was approved with Council's support of the project.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

President Riskie advised that Resolution #04-67 would be removed from the agenda and Resolution #04-66 will be considered at the next Council Meeting to be held on April 12, 2004.

RESOLUTIONS

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

RESOLUTION #04-61 - RESOLUTION TO REIMBURSE TAX OVERPAYMENTS

Councilman Louis presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

RESOLUTION #04-62 - RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE TAX APPEALS

Councilman Louis presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

RESOLUTION #04-63 - RESOLUTION TO REIMBURSE TAX OVERPAYMENTS

Councilman Louis presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

RESOLUTION #04-64 - RESOLUTION TO INTRODUCE THE 2004 BUDGET

Councilman Louis presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

Councilman Louis explained in detail what was done by the Finance Committee and Bob Law to keep the increase to a minimum; and how each department contributed to the cuts that were made.

Mr. Law then explained how the application for Extraordinary Aid could reduce the 15 cent tax increase presently in the budget.

Councilman Sloane questioned the low 2003 revenues from Municipal Court fines and also the high cost of insurance coverage for City employees. Councilman Sloane also inquired about the possibilities of a HIF (Health Insurance Fund) or other inter local service agreements with neighboring municipalities, to which Mr. Law responded.

Councilman Graziani questioned why the City was only applying for half the amount of Extraordinary Aid that it had applied for last year.

Mr. Law explained that the amount applied for was reasonable given this year's budget increases.

Councilwoman Brown inquired about the personnel cut in the Economic Development Office which Mr. Law addressed.

Councilwoman Brown also had questions regarding the Parks and Recreation Program to which Mr. Law responded.

Councilwoman Schreyer questioned the elimination of the Community Forestry Program. Mr. Law explained that the program was not eliminated only the planting of new trees, which would be funded by donations and not the regular budget.

Councilman Louis stated that he was anxious for Mr. Law to be able to purchase the software that would allow him to get the budget out in a more timely fashion for Council to review and also to make the entire process less time consuming.

Councilman Louis also advised that the Budget would be published in the Newspaper on April 7th.

Councilman Curtis advised that he was not in favor of certain areas getting cuts and other areas not being cut; however, he does realize that this is just the introduction of the budget and more cuts are needed.

President Riskie advised that many meetings were held and some very difficult decisions had to be made in order to come up with the final budget.

On motion of Councilman Louis, seconded by Councilman Graziani, the resolution was adopted by a roll call vote.

Ayes	9	Brown, Curtis, Louis, Graziani, Sloane, Schreyer, Grimming, Tierney, Riskie
Nays	0	

RESOLUTION #04-65 - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS IN THE LOCAL BUDGET OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY FOR THE YEAR 2003

Councilman Louis presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of resolution.

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

RESOLUTION #04-68 - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF WOODBURY TO APPLY FOR A TONNAGE GRANT TO ENCOURAGE LOCAL SOURCE SEPARATION AND RECYCLING PROGRAMS

Councilman Louis presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of resolution.

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

RESOLUTION #04-69 - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CHANGE IN CONTRACT PRICE FOR THE BROAD STREET SIDEWALK RENOVATIONS AND BUD CONCRETE INCORPORATED

Councilman Louis presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of resolution.

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

RESOLUTION #04-70 - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CHANGE IN CONTRACT PRICE FOR THE HUNTER STREET PUMP STATION COMMUNOTOR INSTALLATION AND C&H INDUSTRIAL SERVICES, INC.

Councilman Louis presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of resolution.

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

VOUCHERS

On motion of Councilman Louis, seconded by Councilman Sloane, the vouchers as listed and certified were authorized paid.

BINGO APPLICATION

Councilman Sloane presented a bingo application from the Beth Israel Congregation for bingo to be held for a three month period, including April, May and June. On motion of Councilman Sloane, seconded by Councilman Louis, the application was approved as submitted.

Councilman Sloane requested a resolution be considered for the agenda and adoption that he had handed out earlier this evening entitled "Resolution Encouraging Cooperation and Participation for Innovative and Cost Effective Education by Woodbury City Council and the Woodbury Board of Education".

President Riskie advised Councilman Sloane that this resolution was not originally on the agenda and he would like to review the contents before having it introduced. After such review, it could be placed on the agenda for the next regularly-scheduled meeting.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Councilman Graziani referenced the cuts made to his Committee stating that although one of the positions was eliminated, he was appreciative of Mr. Stanley El's decision to volunteer his time on projects that he started. Councilman Graziani stated that he requested that Mr. El prepare a list of projects and prioritize their impact on the City for the Economic Development Committee to review.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Councilwoman Brown invited Ms. Holmes forward and asked Mayor Clark to read a Plaque that was prepared by Councilman Brown recognizing Ms. Holmes for her years of service as Parks & Recreation Co-Director. Councilwoman Brown publicly acknowledged all the work Ms. Holmes contributed to the various programs.

RESOLUTION #04-71 - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PLANNING/ZONING BOARD TO CONDUCT A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE WHETHER BLOCK 118, LOT 27, 85/89 COOPER STREET, WOODBURY, IS A REDEVELOPMENT AREA

Councilwoman Brown presented the above-entitled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

Councilman Curtis asked President Riskie to slow down his presentation of resolutions and give other Councilpersons a time to respond if they had any questions. Councilman Curtis stated that he was moving at too rapid a pace.

MAYOR CLARK

Mayor Clark advised that she was appointing Luke Ivy to the Historic Preservation Commission. Mayor Clark stated one of the reasons she chose Mr. Ivey was that he is a very active, concerned property owner and a long-time resident.

Mayor Clark stated that she was part of the process involved in reducing the budget and the cuts that had to be made and expressed her sincere appreciation for all who contributed to the final decisions that were made. She let it be known that it was not easy making the cuts that were made. Mayor Clark then recognized individual departments such as Public Works, the Library, and the Police Department as well as other offices within City Hall for the excellent job they are doing even with the cuts being made.

CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Bowe referenced a letter distributed this evening from the Woodbury Jaycees requesting the City waive the Permit Fee for their annual door to door solicitation to raise money for the fireworks production.

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

Mr. Bowe also referenced a letter from the Woodbury Garden Club asking for the City's support for helping purchase flowers for the hanging baskets along Broad Street. In the past the City has fulfilled this request with money from the PSE&G park and recreation fund. On motion of Councilman Sloane, seconded by Councilman Louis, the request was granted with Councilman Riskie abstaining from the vote.

Councilman Curtis inquired how much money was left in the account of the PSE&G funds. Mr. Law responded less than \$10,000.

Mr. Bowe also requested authorization to have the City Engineer draw up specifications and advertise for bids to be received for the Construction of a Parking Lot on West Barber Avenue and also for the Reconstruction of the West End Tennis Courts. On motion of Councilman Graziani, seconded by Councilman Louis, the request for both projects was approved.

The Clerk/Administrator also requested authorization to have the City Engineer go out for quotes for the Pole Barn at Public Works and also to televise the storm drain on Wick Blvd. as well for purchasing smoke detectors for the Library. On motion of Councilman Sloane, seconded by Councilman Graziani, all the above requests for quotes were approved.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

President Riskie inquired if anyone had any questions in reference to the monthly report.

PUBLIC

On motion of Councilman Graziani, seconded by Councilman Curtis the Regular Order of Business was resumed and the floor was opened to the Public for Non-Agenda Items.

Gloria Holmes, 19 Nelson Avenue, approached Council and expressed her sincere thanks for the acknowledgements she received this evening and stated she enjoyed working as Co-director of the Parks and Recreation Department.

Ms. Holmes also commented on the elimination of Mr. Stanley El's position and how one position could not play that much of a part in a budget savings. Ms. Holmes stated that Mr. El has put all his heart and soul into making this City a better place.

Ms. Baynard, a resident of Lakeside Apts., inquired if changes could be made to allow the bus to come back into the Shop Rite parking lot to pick up those riders who are heading back into Woodbury. The regular pick up location is across Route 45 from the Shopping Center, but it is quite dangerous for senior riders to cross over Rt. 45.

Mr. Bowe advised that he has talked to the Public Works Director and the drivers have been instructed to return to the Shopping Center on request.

Dave Jenkins, 345 Glover Street, came forward to discuss potholes. One in particular is at Tatum Street and Red Bank Avenue; it is very visible and Public Works will have no trouble finding it.

Mr. Dukelow responded that the Public Works Department goes out at least once a week and will take care of the one mentioned.

June Long, 155 Gantt Avenue, addressed Council regarding the traffic pattern and the speed limit on her street. Ms. Long stated that although there is a 25 mph speed limit, it is not being observed and it has become an extremely dangerous situation. Ms. Long inquired if a Police presence could be more obvious or the speed monitor could be placed in that area before something happens.

Sergeant Cope stated that the Police are aware of the area and will be addressing the problem.

Gloria Holmes, 19 Nelson Avenue, thanked the Mayor for appointing Luke Ivy to the Historical Preservation Committee and maybe now something could be done to have the old Carpenter Street School added to the Historical Registry as the first black school in Woodbury.

Robert Killian, 164 Gantt Avenue, agreed with June Long who complained about the traffic pattern as a short cut and advised that at least four accidents have occurred within the last year.

As no one else desired to address Council, the Public Hearing was closed and the Regular Order of Business was resumed.

There being no further business on motion of Councilman Curtis, seconded by Councilman Graziani, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m..

THOMAS B. BOWE
Clerk and Administrator

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT

Assessor: Roy Duffield
Chief Financial Officer: Robert Law
City Engineer: Joseph Schiavo
Deputy Clerk: Gail R. Scheffler
Emergency Management Officer: Sergeant Steven Cope
Neighborhood Preservation Director: Virginia Horn
Police: Chief Reed Merinuk
Public Works: Thomas Dukelow, Supervisor
Solicitor: Michael Aimino, Esquire