

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING OF
APRIL 11, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by Council President Pro-Tempore Swanson at 7:00 pm on April 11, 2017 in Council Chambers, 33 Delaware Street, Woodbury, New Jersey. Mr. Swanson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation

The Invocation was delivered by Pastor Mark Ott, Hope Christian Fellowship 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 #17-05 adopted at the 2017 Reorganizational Meeting of Mayor and Council on January 3, 2017.

Roll Call: (Note: Councilman Trovato resigned from Council on April 4, 2017 therefore this seat is currently vacant)

Present: Tierney, Swanson, Mcllvaine, Johnson, Fleming, Parker, Reddin, Carter, and Mayor Floyd

Absent: No One

Minutes

On motion of Councilman Fleming, seconded by Councilman Johnson the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 28, 2017 were approved as submitted. Councilman Reddin abstained from voting; all others voted in favor of the motion.

Res. #17-78 Resolution Appointing a Patrol Officer For the City of Woodbury Police Department (Corey Pinkney)

Councilman Mcllvaine presented the above-titled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

Swearing in of Patrolman Corey Pinkney

President Pro-Tempore Swanson read a letter giving details of Cadet Pinkney's educational and professional qualifications.

Mayor Floyd administered the Oath of Office to Officer Pinkney followed by remarks by Chief Tom Ryan welcoming Officer Pinkney.

Presentations and Discussions

Budget Presentation by Bowman and Company

City Auditor Michael Cesaro gave a thorough explanation of the City's 2017 Budget, including the impacts of decreased ratables, levy caps, use of surplus, and the timelines for introduction and adoption of the budget, and the process of amending it if necessary.

Budget Discussion of Council as Committee of the whole

On motion of Fleming, seconded by Mcllvaine and unanimously approved, Council convened as a Committee of the Whole to discuss the 2017 Budget.

Councilman Mcllvaine asked the Auditor about the paradox of increased taxes resulting in decreases property values, which leads to loss of ratables which in turn leads to increased tax rates. He urged Council to review every department for possible budget cuts in order to keep our tax rate flat. Councilman Johnson expressed concern regarding the 4.3 cent tax rate increase; he would prefer to see a 1.5 to 2 cent increase. He hopes we will be able to make year-end transfers to fund parks & rec, forestry, and Master Plan updates. Councilman Fleming observed the City has come a long way in improving the services we provide and the condition of our parks. This year's tax hike is minimal compared to prior years; any further cuts will require reduced services to our residents. The Finance Committee has worked very hard to formulate the Budget they

have introduced. Councilwoman Tierney remarked that only the Finance Committee had input preparing the Budget; she would like more time for Council members to review the budget before it is introduced. There being no further discussion, on motion of Parker, seconded by Johnson and unanimously approved the Committee of the whole was concluded.

Open to the Public for Agenda Items

On motion of Parker, seconded by Johnson 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 Fleming, seconded by Parker and unanimously approved, the hearing was closed and the Regular Order of Business was resumed.

Resolutions, Ordinances and Committee Reports

Finance Committee

#2258-17 - Calendar Year 2017 Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

(Final Reading and Public Hearing)

Councilman Fleming presented the above-titled ordinance for final reading.

The City Clerk read the title of the ordinance.

On motion of Fleming, seconded by Parker and unanimously approved, the Public Hearing for this ordinance was opened.

Seeing no one, on motion of Johnson, seconded by Parker and unanimously approved, the Public Hearing for this ordinance was closed.

On motion of Fleming seconded by Johnson Ord. 2258-17 was adopted by roll call vote:

Ayes 8 Tierney, Swanson, McIlvaine, Johnson, Fleming, Parker,
Reddin, Carter

Nays, Absent, Abstentions 0

Councilman Fleming reported the Tax & Utility Collector's receipts for the month of March were: Taxes \$342,708.79 and Water/Sewer \$254,231.19.

Councilman Fleming thanked the Finance Committee to putting the Budget together.

Vouchers

On motion of Fleming, seconded by Johnson and unanimously approved the vouchers as presented and certified were authorized to be paid.

Old Business - None

New Business

City Clerk, Roy A. Duffield announced that Councilman David Trovato resigned from City Council effective April 4th, 2017; he also advised that according to statues three candidates were submitted by the Woodbury Democratic Committee to fill the vacancy: Karlene O'Connor, Karen Pierce and Barry Sloane.

On motion of Johnson, seconded by Reddin and unanimously approved Karlene O'Connor was appointed to fill the City Council Second Ward vacancy until the next general election.

President Pro-Tempore Swanson requested nominations for Council President. Johnson nominated Councilwoman Parker; Reddin seconded the nomination. Tierney nominated Councilman Fleming; there was no second, and Councilman Fleming respectfully declined the nomination.

Seeing no other nominations, on motion of Johnson, seconded by Reddin Councilwoman Tracey Parker was unanimously approved as Council President. Mayor Floyd administered the Oath of Office to Council President Parker.

Councilman Swanson announced his resignation as President Pro-Tempore of Council. President Parker asked for nominations for President Pro-Tempore. Swanson nominated Councilman Fleming; Tierney seconded the nomination.

Seeing no other nominations, on motion of Swanson and seconded by Tierney, Councilman Bill Fleming was unanimously approved as Council President Pro Tempore.

Other Committee Reports:

Public Works Committee: Councilwoman Parker reminded everyone about changes in the trash collection schedule due to the Good Friday holiday.

Community Development Committee: Councilman Johnson mentioned the Holy Trinity School 5K race next weekend, and the grand opening of the school April 9. He also announced the Chamber of Commerce Cocktail Clatch at the Atrium on April 19. Lastly, he suggested highlighting the annual ‘grand openings’ of our Parks.

Green Team: Councilman Reddin reported on the Green Team meeting of April 10 and Arbor Day program for Stewart Park on April 28th.

Public Safety Committee: Councilman Fleming stressed the importance of background checks for our volunteer firefighters for future applications. He requested the City Solicitor to review our municipal code and give his recommendations.

Property Maintenance Committee: Councilwoman Tierney stated the next Committee meeting is April 24th. She also thanked Dave Trovato for his years of service and wished Councilwoman Parker luck in her new position as President of Council.

Economic Development Committee: Councilman McIlvaine echoed Mrs. Tierney’s comments. He also advised that this Committee is seeking grants for Abandoned Properties and for a Tree Inventory. He also stated that City Planner Group Melvin is conducting a traffic study of the Broad and Red Bank Avenue intersection regarding the proposed light rail station there. Several Ribbon Cuttings are coming soon; details are posted on our Website. He also attended the Grand Opening of the Holy Trinity School, and expects it will generate positive activity in that area. Lastly, he is having discussions with the FAF Coalition regarding Fee associated with Special Events permits.

Report of the Mayor

Mayor Floyd congratulated Officer Pinkney and welcomed him to our Police Department. She also announced Inspira Hospital will sponsor this year’s Fireworks Display with a \$10,000 donation. Mayor Floyd stated she met with our newly appointed Chicken Advisory Board and seven (7) permits have been issued for the raising of backyard chicken hens. Mayor Floyd stated she will be presenting certificates to Woodbury High School athletes at the School Board Meeting on April 19th. She thanked Councilmen Trovato and Swanson for their leadership on City Council.

Report of the City Clerk

Mr. Duffield named the candidates who filed Primary Election petitions City Council:

Ward 1	Democrat - Thomas Shute	Republican – Margaret Mattern
Ward 2	Democrat – Ted Johnson, Jr.	Republican – James Gradwell
Ward 3	Democrat – Ken McIlvaine	Republican – Cynthia Norton

Mr. Duffield advised that anyone interested in running in the General Election for Councilman Trovato’s unexpired term for City Council Ward 2 must file their petitions with the County Clerk by September 14th.

Department Heads’ Announcements

Police Chief Tom Ryan advised he too attended the Holy Trinity School opening. He also welcomed Officer Corey Pinkney to our Police Dept. team and thanked Council for appointing him. He advised everyone there is a Medication Drop Box in the Police Station to safely dispose of old medications. It was funded by our Municipal Alliance. Councilman Fleming spoke about the danger of disposing of medications in our sanitary sewer system, which eventually leach into our drinking water.

Library Director Michelle Yeager listed several upcoming events, including: Library Board meeting and Vegetarian Society lecture April 24; meet author Len Napoli April 20; Securities Fraud lecture April 25 and YMCA Healthy Kids Day April 29.

City Administrator Mike Theokas welcomed Council President Parker and thanked Dave Trovato for his service to our City. He also spoke briefly of the work that goes into preparation of the budget.

Open to the Public

On motion of Mcllvaine, seconded by Johnson and unanimously approved, the Order of Business was suspended and the floor was opened to the Public for Any Items.

Anthony Chiesa, 36 Rugby Place asked about the proposed park at the Atrium site, and said the area should be cleaned up. He also referenced Councilman Mcllvaine's comments regarding the loss of ratables and wonders if the time has come for Woodbury to un-incorporate and merge with another municipality.

Amelia Harris McGeehan of 159 Leona Avenue invited everyone out to the Community Garden Opening day scheduled for April 15th.

Jessica Ferguson of 124 S. American Street, asked about the status of the proposed light rail. Mr. Theokas answered her questions. She thanked Mayor Floyd and Councilman Reddin for attending the Chicken Advisory Board Meeting.

Wanda Mcllvaine of 456 Delaware St stated as a long-time Realtor she has sold hundreds of homes in Woodbury, and spoke about the challenges of enticing buyers into Woodbury when so many say the taxes are too high. She wants to know what services the City intends to offer provide. Woodbury residents love their City but it is increasingly difficult to afford to live here. We want to make sure we can offer the younger buyers a reason to come into Woodbury.

Linda Scott of 155 High Street said she received a violation notice for placing yard waste at the curb, but she insists it was not her doing. Her neighbor runs a lawn care business and she suspects he may have left the debris there. She also wonders whether the lawn care business is permitted at that property. Mr. Theokas advised he would look into the situation.

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

Adjournment

There being no further business before Council, on motion of Tierney, seconded by Reddin and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy A Duffield, City Clerk

Other Officials Present:

Administrator: Michael Theokas
CFO: Robert Law
Library Director: Michelle Yeager
Police: Chief Thomas Ryan, Capt. Kelli Morro
Solicitor: James Pierson, Esq.