

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 13, 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.

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: Tierney, Floyd, Johnson, Fleming, Parker, Reddin, President Trovato

Absent: Swanson, Carter and Mayor Volk

Minutes

On motion of Councilwoman Parker, seconded by Councilman Reddin the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 9, 2016 were approved as submitted. Councilwoman Tierney abstained from the vote; all others voted in favor of the motion.

Presentations and Discussions

Councilwoman Jessica Floyd read a Mayoral Proclamation honoring Officers Carl Villone, Alex Phillips, Nicholas Cacciola, William Sheehan, Joseph Wills and SLEO Joseph Duffy for their participation in the 1st Woodbury Junior Police Academy. Councilwoman Floyd introduced several of the students up who attended the academy.

#16-126 - Resolution Authorizing Appointment of Joseph Duffy as Patrolman in the Woodbury Police Department

Councilman Fleming presented the above-titled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

Swearing-In of Patrolman Joseph Duffy

Council President Dave Trovato administered the Oath of Office to Patrolman Joseph Duffy. Chief Ryan spoke about Officer Duffy and welcomed him on board, stating he will definitely be an asset to the City of Woodbury. Officer Duffy thanked Mayor and Council for this opportunity to serve the City and its residents.

Open to the Public for Agenda Items

On motion of Councilwoman Parker, seconded by Councilman Reddin 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 Ordinance #2251-16. Mr. Pierson and Mr. Theokas answered his questions.

Michele Yeager, 320 Edith Avenue inquired about Resolutions #16-131, 16-132 and 16-133 and for more clarification. Mr. Theokas explained that Resolution #16-131 is for an engineer to design a filtration system for our water treatment plant and will be funded by a bond; #16-132 pertains to soil contamination which is likely occurred years ago from a nearby property. This testing will be funded by our EJIF; #16-133 pertains to the design of a walking path around our lake system and is funded in part by Green Acres.

Gloria Holmes, 19 Nelson Avenue inquired about Ordinance # 2251-16, #2252-16 and Resolution #16-136. Mr. Theokas explained each one to her.

Joyce Shorts, 50 Dickerson Street, approached Council to state that her tax bill arrived late and her water bill did not come at all, and as a result she received a delinquent notice. She has heard other residents also have not received their water bills. Mr.

Theokas noted that all tax bills were mailed out late and as a result the 3rd quarter due date was extended by Council. Also, he was aware that some residents did not receive water bills and has contacted the post office to look into it. He will contact her to discuss it when he knows more.

Hearing no one else, on motion of Johnson seconded by Parker and unanimously approved the public hearing was closed.

Resolutions, Ordinances and Committee Reports

Finance Committee:

#16-127 - Resolution of the City of Woodbury Certification of the Annual Audit

Councilman Fleming presented the above-titled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

Councilman Johnson inquired if the Auditor would make a presentation of Audit findings.

Mr. Pierson advised that it is not necessary.

Councilwoman Floyd asked why the same recommendation appeared on last year's audit. Mr. Law explained that the recommendation was to maintain a general ledger system, and he has been implementing it for each account. It will be done this year. Mr. Law also reminded Council Members to sign the group affidavit.

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

#16-128 - Resolution Approving Submission of Corrective Action Plan for 2015 Audit

Councilman Fleming presented the above-titled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

#16-129 - Resolution Authorizing Grace Period for County Water and Sewer Billings

Councilman Fleming presented the above-titled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

#16-130 - 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 Councilman Johnson, the resolution was unanimously adopted by a voice vote.

#16-131 - Resolution Approving a Professional Services Contract for Special Engineering Services at the Water Treatment Plant

Councilman Fleming presented the above-titled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

#16-132 - Resolution Granting Authorization to Retain Professional Services the Cost of which is anticipated not to exceed \$17,500 in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law - TTI Environmental, Inc. – Woodbury Public Works

Councilman Fleming presented the above-titled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

#16-133 - Resolution Granting Authorization to Retain Professional Services the Cost of which is anticipated not to Exceed \$17,500 in Accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law Princeton Hydro – Stewart Lake Improvements

Councilman Fleming presented the above-titled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

Councilman Johnson inquired if it would be advisable to have other areas assessed under this contract. Mr. Theokas advised that this contract is funded by Green Acres grant and therefore can only be used for this project.

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

#16-134 - Resolution Authorizing Change Order No. 1 for the FY2015 Storm Sewer Improvements

Councilman Fleming presented the above-titled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

Councilwoman Tierney inquired which locations were included in this project; Mr. Theokas answered her question.

#2251-16 - Ordinance of the City of Woodbury Establishing Chapter 146 Entitled “Spot Blight Eminent Domain” of the Code of the City of Woodbury (Title Only)

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

The City Clerk read the title of the ordinance.

Councilman Johnson stated that he had some concerns, as do many people, when they hear the wording “eminent domain”. Mr. Pierson stated that in this case the term primarily deals with properties that are vacant and/or abandoned. Further discussion ensued defining the differences.

On motion of Councilman Fleming, seconded by Councilman Johnson, the ordinance was unanimously approved on first reading, ordered to be advertised according to law, to come up for final reading, public hearing and adoption at our next regularly scheduled meeting of Mayor and Council on September 27, 2016.

Councilman Fleming announced the Tax & Utility Collector’s monthly reports:

Transfers from the tax collector account into the current fund were \$527,164.52 for July and \$5,926,488.98 for August.

Transfers from the utility collector account into the w/s operating fund were \$158,398.81 for July and \$894,683.19 for August.

Vouchers

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

Economic Development Committee:

#2252-16 - Ordinance of the City of Woodbury Authorizing the Sale of Certain Property Owned by the City of Woodbury, County of Gloucester, New Jersey, not Required for Public Purposes Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-139(a), et seq. Policy (Title Only)

Councilwoman Floyd presented the above-titled ordinance.

The City Clerk read the title of the ordinance.

On motion of Councilwoman Floyd, seconded by Councilman Johnson and unanimously approved, the ordinance was placed on first reading, ordered to be advertised according to law, to come up for final reading, public hearing and adoption at the next regularly scheduled meeting of Mayor and Council on September 27, 2016.

#2253-16 - An Ordinance of the City of Woodbury Adopting Personnel Policies for the City of Woodbury

Councilwoman Floyd presented the above-titled ordinance.

The City Clerk read the title of the ordinance.

On motion of Councilwoman Floyd, seconded by Councilman Johnson and unanimously approved, the ordinance was placed on first reading, ordered to be advertised according to law, to come up for final reading, public hearing and adoption at the next regularly scheduled meeting of Mayor and Council on September 27, 2016.

Councilwoman Floyd advised that applications are available on line for participation in the Fall Festival Parade. This year's theme is "Diversified but Unified".

Also, Eight & Sand Brewery opened for business this week. Mrs. Floyd attended and feels it is a great addition to our City. The Striped Lion Rum Distillery is still coming, however building renovations are at a halt because of the weather. A high-end Consignment shop is planning to come to the G.G. Green Building in the very near future. Also, a big thank you to Lee Weatherby, the Car Show was a huge success.

Lastly, President Trovato invited all to go see the new mural at Fiore's Bagel Nook, which Jacquallynn Knight painted; it is a great display of her talents.

Public Works

#16-135 - Resolution Authorizing a Purchase Agreement with Winner Ford for Two (2) 2017 F350 Utility Trucks through a State Contract

Councilwoman Parker presented the above-titled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

#16-136 - Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Public Property On-Line through a New Jersey State Contract Auction Service (GOVDEALS.COM)

Councilwoman Parker presented the above-titled resolution.

The City Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

New Business

Special Event Permit Application – FAF “Rock The Woo” Event

FAF has submitted a Special Event Permit to hold their Annual Rock the Woo Event on October 8 at Bell Lake Park. Administrator and Police Chief recommend Council's approval. On motion of Councilwoman Floyd, seconded by Councilwoman Tierney the application was unanimously approved as submitted.

Discussion of Rooming and Boarding Houses

President Trovato advised that he has become aware of several properties that are being used as "Oxford Homes", which are basically boarding homes. President Trovato along with Mike Theokas have reached out to our legislators and continue to discuss the situation. Please refer calls regarding this subject to Mike Theokas or John Leech.

Other Committee Reports

Parks & Rec Committee met on Sept. 12 to discuss maintenance & condition of our parks. Councilman Johnson also thanked Public Works personnel for improvements to Stuart Street Park. He also displayed a proposed site plan for a park at Burriss property.

Green Team: Councilwoman Tierney read a letter from NJDEP commending us for our Tree City USA designation. Green Team met Sept. 12 to plan Make a Difference Day and Shred Event on October 29. They are working on our renewal of our Sustainable Jersey Certification and replanting of trees on our streets.

On a separate matter, Councilwoman Tierney expressed her misgivings regarding the hiring of a new City employee without Council's approval of the job description or salary.

Department Announcements

Jean Wipf, Library Director stated, in reference to Mrs. Shorts' remarks, that she could post taxes, water and sewer due dates on the electronic sign on Delaware St.

Administrator Mike Theokas reported the Bike Path is now complete for residents' enjoyment; and that our spillway will be repaired by Public Works personnel and City Clerk Roy Duffield who has experience with marine construction. Also, our 2016 Roadway Overlay is currently underway and the streets being addressed are; Spruce, Bayard, E. Rugby, Hopkins, Franklin, Carpenter Streets and Federal Street.

Public Hearing

On motion of Councilwoman Parker, seconded by Councilman Johnson and unanimously approved, the Regular Order of Business was suspended and the floor was open to the Public for any items.

Gloria Holmes, 19 Nelson Avenue expressed concern over several items; an elderly couple has been trying to have someone look at an overgrown tree at 209 Emerson Street, lack of participation of children of color in the police academy, improvements to Suiter-Baptiste were not up to par with the other parks in the City. She also has been asking for a sign for the park, which still hasn't been addressed. On a positive note, the Car Show was a success and she would like to thank Lee Weatherby for holding the event.

Anthony Chiesa, 36 Rugby Place asked for an explanation of an ordinance that is introduced 'by title only'; does it mean Council will change it before it is adopted? Mr. Pierson explained that before final adoption it will be available for the public to review.

Jacquallynn Knight, 232 Hunter St asked if the specialist referred to in Res. 16-133 also addresses wildlife in that area; Mr. Theokas responded it does. Ms. Knight inquired about the water tests that are being conducted and implored City officials to 'lead the charge' on this issue for the benefit of our residents, including at the State level. The City Solicitor, Administrator and Councilman Fleming answered her questions.

Michele Yeager, 320 Edith Avenue said hopes Council will continue to share any information on the water quality and test results with the public as it becomes available. Mr. Theokas advised that we are testing much more than what is required in order to ensure the quality of our water. There are no federal guidelines for the compounds in question; however our new filtration system will remove them.

Lee Weatherby, 303 W. Centre Street suggested Council speak with Larry Hanja of NJDEP who is a Woodbury native concerning the our water issues. Also, he thanked everyone for making the car show a great success. Mr. Weatherby commended this governing body for their transparency; however he is concerned about Councilwoman Tierney's remarks that a new employee was hired before Council approved the salary and job description for the position.

As no one else approached Council, on motion of Councilman Johnson, seconded by Councilwoman Parker 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, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy A. Duffield
City Clerk

Other Officials Present:

Administrator: Mike Theokas
Chief Financial Officer: Robert Law
City Clerk: Roy A. Duffield
City Engineer: Paul Breier
Police Chief: Tom Ryan
Public Works Manager: Rich Leidy
Solicitor: James Pierson, Esq.