

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD  
FEBRUARY 19, 2019  
AT 33 DELAWARE STREET, WOODBURY, NJ 08096**

The meeting of February 19, 2019 was called to order by Council President Parker at 7:02 pm. City Clerk, Daneen Fuss, led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a Moment of Reflection.

**Open Public Meeting Statement**

Ms. Fuss stated that due notice had been given to both the public and the press by posting and publication, a notice in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act adopted at the 2019 Reorganizational Meeting of Mayor and Council on January 5, 2019.

**Roll Call:**

**Present:** Councilman Fleming, Councilman Hagerty, Councilman Johnson, Councilman McIlvaine, Councilwoman Miller, Councilwoman Tierney, Council President Parker, and Mayor Floyd

**Absent:** Councilwoman O'Connor Councilwoman Carter

**Others Present:** City Clerk, Daneen Fuss; Solicitor, John Alice; Deputy Administrator, Robert Law; City Engineer, Paul Breier; Treasurer, Richard Wright

Councilman Fleming made a motion to have a committee meeting of a whole, seconded by Councilman Johnson.

**Presentations and Discussions**

Mr. Wright went over the information in front of the council. Packets of information include; Police Department, Utility Fund, Current Fund, Library, and City Clerk.

Mr. Wright then went on to say the average budget does not change and this meeting is to discuss specific increases. Mr. Wright stated in May the Fire Department is looking to hire two part time employees, and there will also be some minor upkeep of the building and software. Councilman Johnson asked which line item includes maintenance. To which Mr. Wright replied. Mr. Wright went on to say the Fire Department is looking to revive the grant for the smoke detectors. Mr. Wright stated the theme is to work as one department instead of splitting the offices within the Fire Department.

Chief Ryan stated he was asked to bring up the list of items that were most urgent. He then went over the programs received by the solicited and received by the way of grants. He went on to say he understands the city needs to work together and stated the city has a very productive and cooperative administration. Chief Ryan went over information pertaining to new hires, uniforms, vehicles, Information technology / social media, and education. Mayor Floyd asked what the cost difference is between RAPID. Chief Ryan stated the business' are not paying directly for the program with LEEDS so therefore the city is paying more for this option. Mayor Floyd clarified that there is now a 3k dollar cost to the city. Councilman McIlvaine asked why we would pay for this and not have the business' pay for this.

Councilman Johnson asked if he knows how many businesses are currently involved in the current system. Chief Ryan said 1. Chief Ryan explained the difference of the programs. Councilman Johnson asked if the city is a frequent user of the RAPID system. Councilman McIlvaine asked what the biggest expense of 2019 is. Councilman Johnson asked what the cost of the city website is as of now. Mayor Floyd asked who does the design of the website. Councilman Hagerty stated he believes the cost for web design is minimal. Councilman Hagerty then asked why there is a hike in budgeted amount from last year to this year. Councilman Flemming stated the budget has gone up 400k in 7 years, stating that is not a drastic hike over that period of time.

Councilman Johnson asked how many Full-Time officers there are. Then asked what would be the benefit of two more police officers. Chief Ryan went over the reasoning for new hires each year.

Councilman Hagerty asked if the additional officers would include more officers on the street. He went on to say the hiring of more officers may also put the city in better standing for the recipient of grants. Administrator Law stated the Watch over Woodbury Maintenance cost is not in the police budget as it was moved to Emergency Management.

Councilman Flemming asked Administrator Law to explain the process of caps.

Administrator Law then gave examples and explanation of the caps and how they work in reference to the budgeting process.

Richard Leidy – Councilman Fleming reminded the Council the budget for Public Works is split between the water/sewer and the city funds. Mr. Leidy stated the Community Forestry program has 210 trees to be removed in 2019. He went on to say the Gloucester County Utility Authority (GCUA) fees have increased. The Public Works department is looking to redo the sewer lining throughout the city. Administrator Law stated the increase is also due to the recycling issues that occurred in 2018 with China no longer taking our recycling.

Councilman McIlvaine asked what the Bond Principal Balance is; to which Mr. Law replied. Administrator Law asked if training can be done for the public to educate the residents? Mayor Floyd asked to research existing websites to get the information on social media. Councilman Johnson asked that the council continue to look into growing the parks.

Councilwoman Miller left at 8:18

Ms. Yeager – Expressed the purpose and positive things that come from libraries. Ms. Yeager then went over the 2019 receipts as well as the 2019 proposed expenditures. She expressed the many grants researched and received by the library and the many programs and initiatives held. She also stated the 2020 salary line would have to be increased if there is an increase in minimum wage.

Councilwoman Tierney arrived at 8:25.

Councilman Johnson asked how much the city appropriates for the library on an annual basis. Ms. Yeager responded. Councilman Johnson asked if the library had any plans for the surplus left in their 2018 budget. Ms. Yeager responded.

Councilman Johnson thanked the Ms. Yeager for her hard work as well as the Library staff for all they do for the community.

Councilman McIlvaine stated 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of the budget is designated to salaries and wages. He then asked, what do the employees do on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis? Ms. Yeager went over the ins and outs of the library workers including summaries of 2018 programs and duties. She then stated she would like to begin replacing 16 public computers in batches as they are 5+ years old.

Donna Miller arrived again at 8:33 pm

Mayor Floyd asked about the legal fees section of the budget. To which Ms. Yeager replied.

Mr. Leech thanked the City Council, Mayor, and Police Department. He also encouraged all Councilmembers to go to the Police Station and see the Emergency Operations Center. He stated the Office of Emergency Management is now all in real-time due to the increase in technology.

Councilman Flemming asked about the capitol budget. Administrator Law stated the capitol budget has not yet been combined for the city as these are the first steps of the budget process. Councilman McIlvaine what would happen if an emergency requires funding. Administrator Law stated after the depletion fund balance the city would have to petition the state for funding. Councilman Johnson asked what the city's bond rating looks like. Administrator Law stated AA.

Clerk Fuss spoke a briefly on the components of her budget and the reasoning for the minor increase.

Councilman McIlvaine asked, what the next steps are in the budget process. Administrator Law replied stating the next steps will be done now through the Finance Committee. The introduction for the budget will be on March 26 and adoption on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Any councilperson can meet with the finance committee to discuss their recommendations and/or concerns.

Councilman McIlvaine stated he is pleased with this process of openness through the entire council. Councilman Johnson also agreed with what Councilman McIlvaine.

Councilman Flemming moved to come out of the meeting of a whole. Councilman Johnson seconded. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

### **Open to the Public**

Councilman Flemming made a motion to open the floor to the public for non-agenda items, seconded by Councilman Johnson. Motion approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Seeing no one Councilman Jonson made a motion to close the floor, seconded by Councilman McIlvaine. Motion approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Councilman Flemming made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Johnson. Motion approved by a unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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**DANEEN D. FUSS**, City Clerk