

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD  
May 27, 2020 at 6:30 pm  
Electronically via Zoom Electronic Webinar**

The meeting of May 27, 2020 was called to order by Council President Pro-Tempore Hagerty at 6:30 pm. Council President Pro-Tempore Hagerty led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a Moment of Reflection.

**Open Public Meeting Statement**

Ms. Fuss read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement. This is a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Woodbury. Due notice of this meeting provided to the press and public by posting and publication of Resolution #20-05 adopted at the 2020 Reorganization Meeting on January 7, 2020. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Phil Murphy signed Executive orders No. 107 and 108, which took effect on March 21, 2020. Executive Order 107 directs residents of the State of New Jersey to stay home with limited exceptions. Executive Order 108 establishes a statewide social mitigation strategy. Due to these Executive Orders the City of Woodbury has made it possible for public participation in City Business via an electronic format as defined in the Open Public Meetings. The agenda for tonight's meeting is being displayed on your screen. Or if you prefer, it can be found on the City of Woodbury's website at [www.woodbury.nj.us](http://www.woodbury.nj.us). Ms. Fuss then gave instruction on how the public sessions would be run, to ensure everyone who wishes to speak has a chance to do so.

**Roll Call:**

**Present:** Councilwoman Carter, Councilman Fleming, Councilman Hagerty, Councilman Johnson, Councilman McIlvaine, Councilman Merinuk, Councilwoman Miller, Councilwoman O'Connor, Mayor Floyd,

**Absent:** Council President Parker

**Others Present:** City Clerk, Daneen Fuss; Solicitor, Timothy Scaffidi; City Administrator, Franklin Brown; Housing Official, John Leech; CFO, Robert Law; Tax Collector, Theresa Mulvenna; Public Works Manager, Rich Leidy; Police Chief, Thomas Ryan; Engineer, Erika Vardaxis

**Minutes**

Councilman McIlvaine made a motion to approve the minutes of May 13, 2020 seconded by, Councilman Johnson. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

**Open to the Public for Agenda Items**

Council President Pro-Tempore Hagerty stated the meeting will be opened to the public for agenda items only. Since the meeting is being held virtually and some individuals are calling in, Ms. Fuss will read the agenda items aloud. Ms. Fuss then read the title of Ordinance 2327-20 up for public hearing. She then listed the items in the Consent Agenda for this evening. Ms. Fuss went on to give instructions again on how the public can be heard at this time.

Councilman Merinuk made a motion to open to the public, seconded by, Councilwoman O'Connor. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Kayln Rodgers – asked for the purpose of the acquisition of the 3 properties discussed in Ordinance 2327-20. Councilman McIlvaine stated the properties have been discussed for a few years and will help create a blank slate for a developer to come in and build upon. Ms. Rodgers asked if there is a plan to draw in new businesses. Councilman McIlvaine replied.

Hearing no one, Councilman McIlvaine made a motion to close to the public, seconded by, Councilman Johnson. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

### **Resolutions, Ordinances**

#### **Finance & Public Safety**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2327-20** ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY AMENDING EXHIBIT A TO ORDINANCE NO. 2287-18, AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 32 WEST BARBER AVENUE, 38 WEST BARBER AVENUE AND 40 WEST BARBER AVENUE IN THE CITY OF WOODBURY, ADOPTED JULY 28, 2018 Ms. Fuss read the title of the ordinance. Councilman McIlvaine made a motion to open to the public, seconded by, Councilman Merinuk. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Ms. Fuss again gave instructions on how the public could be heard at this time. Hearing no one, Councilman McIlvaine made a motion to close to the public, seconded by, Councilman Johnson. Councilman Merinuk made a motion to adopt ordinance 2327-20, seconded by Councilman McIlvaine . Motion approved by a roll call vote resulting in the following:

Ayes 7 Councilwoman Carter, Councilman Fleming, Councilman Hagerty, Councilman McIlvaine, Councilman Merinuk, Councilwoman Miller, Councilwoman O’Connor,  
Nays 1 Councilman Johnson,  
Absent 1 Council President Parker

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**RESOLUTION NO. 20-92** RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF WOODBURY TAX COLLECTOR TO PREPARE AND MAIL ESTIMATED TAX BILLS IN ACCORDANCE WITH P.L. 1994, C.72

**RESOLUTION NO. 20-99** RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY AUTHORIZING THE REIMBURSEMENT OF A TAX OVERPAYMENT BLOCK 65 LOT 14 FIELDS, ANGELA N & EUGENE A 145 WEST ST

**RESOLUTION NO. 20-100** RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY AUTHORIZING THE FINAL CHANGE ORDER FOR THE FY2018 LOCAL ROADS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

#### **END CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilman McIlvaine made a motion to adopt the consent agenda as read by Ms. Fuss, seconded by, Councilman Merinuk. Motion approved by a roll call vote resulting in the

following:

Ayes 8 Councilwoman Carter, Councilman Fleming, Councilman Hagerty, Councilman Johnson, Councilman McIlvaine, Councilman Merinuk, Councilwoman Miller, Councilwoman O'Connor,  
Nays 0  
Absent 1 Council President Parker

Councilman McIlvaine made a motion to approve the listed vouchers, seconded by Councilman Merinuk. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

**Unfinished Business** No unfinished business at this time.

**New Business** No new business at this time

### **Reports**

Committee Reports:

Councilman McIlvaine spoke regarding Economic Development. He stated he has virtually met with the Gloucester County Economic Development Council every week. These meetings discuss things from unemployment to small businesses and so on. The meetings have been very informative.

Councilwoman O'Connor spoke regarding Public Safety. She stated the police department is working to accommodate the needs of everyone from police to residents.

Councilman Fleming spoke regarding Finance. He stated the budget will be introduced within the next few meetings. He stated this year there are some concerns due to the pandemic. Council will have a chance to review it.

Councilman McIlvaine asked Mr. Leech to speak on the Neighborhood Preservation Plan (NPP) Funds. Mr. Leech gave a brief explanation of NPP and how the funds will be used to help the downtown.

Councilwoman Miller Would like to set up a meeting sometime soon with Ms. Fuss and Ms. Swanson regarding the Clean-up day and the tree planting.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Floyd thanked Ms. Fuss and Ms. Swanson for getting the COVID-19 updates out daily. She urged residents to continue to log on to State and County websites periodically as they have some great information as well as informational surveys. Mayor Floyd also thanked those who put on the virtual Memorial Day celebration. She went on to thank public works for the illumination of our Hendrickson Park Pavilion which is lit blue in support of our first responders. She closed by thanking the City staff for adjusting well to the unusual schedule. She stated staff will be returning to normal hours beginning next week.

Clerk's Report:

Ms. Fuss thanked Ms. Swanson for all of her work in making sure the City residents remain informed. Ms. Fuss then stated the Fresh For All event, that goes on in the parking lot of City Hall every, Thursday has gone to a drive through system which is going quite well.

## Department Reports

John Leech – Code Enforcement – Mr. Leech gave the breakdown of the last quarters; notice of Orders, Certificate of Occupancy, and Court summons, comparing this year and last year. He also stated the City has applied for the DVRPC Transportation Community Development Initiative Grant and he is expecting good news within the next week.

Erika Vardaxis – Engineer - Construction has begun on Rail Road Avenue and 2019 Roads Project. Dam permit has been received and construction is to begin in the fall. She went over upcoming projects that will go to bid after review from the NJDOT and Green Acres. 2020 Local Aid project deadline is July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Bob Law – Finance – The budget, as of now, should be up on June 10<sup>th</sup> with the public hearing in July. He also thanked the Council for the adoption of Resolution 20-92. He concluded his report stating that since the Governor declared COVID an emergency, the Office of Emergency Management has been submitting invoices that will be sent to FEMA.

Chief Ryan – Police – Thanked the residents of the City for taking COVID-19 seriously. Please continue to use caution and maintain social distancing.

Richard Leidy – Public Works – Reported hydrant flushing is complete. He thanked Ms. Fuss and Ms. Swanson for the map created showing the different areas and their timeframes. He stated the shred event will be held on June 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. June first summer hours will begin.

Theresa Mulvenna – Tax – The collection of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter tax period has just ended. The tax sale list is going to be finalized shortly and the sale will begin on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Mulvenna will be preparing senior and veteran deductions to be sent out. Councilman Johnson asked if there was state guidance regarding delinquent taxes at this time. Ms. Mulvenna replied.

## **New Business**

None at this time

## **Old Business**

None at this time

## **Open to the Public**

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

Liz McIlvaine 23 Hess Ave – Thanked Ms. Swanson for helping create and distribute a flyer for the celebration for the graduating seniors. Also the Food Bank at the High school will continue through June, July, and August with the next date being June 4<sup>th</sup>.

Pam Lewis 115 West Street – Ms. Lewis asked Councilman McIlvaine to elaborate more on how the city is helping existing business. Councilman McIlvaine responded. Administrator Brown stated we have been sharing county information and state information related to the aid of businesses.

John Fulmer, 548 Hunter Street – Mr. Fulmer reiterated his frustration with the City of Woodbury and the communication regarding the Stuart Lake project. He again asked for the benches, lights, and trash cans be moved away from the residential area.

Robert Butler 534 Hunter Street – Mr. Butler stated Ms. Rodgers should meet with the council persons on the economic development committee. He also stated he agrees with the statements Mr. Fulmer made regarding the Stuart Lake issues. Mr. Butler stated there was an attempted robbery on Rugby Place and was wondering if the police presence will rise in his area. Chief Ryan replied.

Kayln Rodgers 224 Delaware Street – Stated she has received a letter regarding high grass and asked why her home was selected. Mr. Leech stated complaints are created by citizens either by phone, or the website and may or may not be anonymous. He also stated the verbiage on the letter is mandated by the state. Councilman McIlvaine asked Mr. Leech if the city has a record of who makes the complaints. Discussion was held on whether or not the complaints should be accepted if they are anonymous. Mr. Leech then went over the process of a sending a violation when a complaint is received.

Sandy Uzdavinis 561 Hunter Street – Stated she agrees with Mr. Fulmer. She then asked what the City’s plans are to reduce the amount of geese droppings on the sidewalks of Cooper and Hunter streets. Mayor Floyd stated the administration is already looking into means to keep the area clean. Administrator Brown stated the city is looking into getting the geese to move onto a new location. In the meantime, the public works has begun to place a safe chemical out to divert the ducks and geese.

Tracy Barger 89 N. Columbia Street – Ms. Barger asked if the storm drains in the roads get cleaned periodically. Mr. Leidy replied.

Clifton Miller – Spoke regarding the process of sending violations notices to residents.

Councilman McIlvaine made a motion to close the floor, seconded by Councilman Johnson. Motion approved by a unanimous voice vote.

New Business revisited - Administrator Brown asked the council if the July fireworks should be cancelled due to the current pandemic. Councilman Johnson asked if Inspira is requesting their donation back. Mayor Floyd stated a good portion of the funding comes from local businesses and organizations; and with the current economic situation it may be best to not request funding. Councilman Merinuk made a motion to cancel the fireworks, Councilwoman Carter seconded. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Council President Pro-Temp Fleming closed the meeting wishing Mayor Floyd a happy birthday.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Councilman Johnson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman McIlvaine. Motion approved by a unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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**DANEEN D. FUSS**, City Clerk