

City of Woodbury
City Council Meeting Agenda
Virtual Meeting
January 27, 2021
Virtual Waiting Room Opens 6:00 p.m.
Meeting starts 6:30 p.m.

The meeting of January 27, 2021 was called to order by Council President Hagerty at 6:35 pm. Council President Hagerty led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a Moment of Reflection.

Open Public Meeting Statement

Ms. Swanson 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 regular meeting provided to the press and public by posting and publication of Resolution #21-05 adopted at the 2021 Reorganization Meeting on January 6, 2021. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Phil Murphy signed Executive Orders No. 107 and 108, which took effect on March 21, 2020. 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. Ms. Swanson 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 Merinuk, Councilwoman Miller, Councilman Miller, Councilwoman Moore, Councilwoman O'Connor, Councilwoman Parker, Council President Hagerty, Mayor Sickel

Absent:

Others Present: Acting City Clerk, Cassidy Swanson; Solicitor, Tim Scaffidi; City Administrator, Franklin Brown; Housing Official, John Leech; CFO, Robert Law; Police Chief, Thomas Ryan; Engineer, Erika Covely

Open to the Public for Agenda Items

Council President 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. Swanson will read the agenda items aloud. Ms. Swanson then read the titles of the Resolutions. Ms. Swanson went on to give instructions again on how the public can be heard at this time. Councilman Fleming made a motion to open to the public, seconded by Councilwoman O'Connor. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Charles Hughes– 31 N. Childs St.– Mr. Hughes asked for clarification on Resolution 21-55, in what Real Estate Agency is being appointed and if they are being compensated in additional

ways. Mr. Brown answered.

Jared Hunter – 23 North Drexel St. – Mr. Hunter asked for an explanation of the shared service agreement in Resolution 21-54. Mr. Brown answered. In regard to Resolution 21-53, Mr. Hunter asked why the verbiage of the authorized signatories is different than past agreements. Mr. Scaffidi and Mr. Brown answered.

Tony Alvario – 522 Delaware St. – Mr. Alvario asked when there is a resolution with money being spent, does someone check to make sure there is money in the budget for that item. Mr. Law responded. Mr. Alvario asked if there would ever be a situation where the City would spend money that is not allocated in the budget. Mr. Law responded.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. 21-53 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS IN THE LOCAL BUDGET OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2020

RESOLUTION NO. 21-54 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WOODBURY AND THE BOROUGH OF WOODBURY HEIGHTS FOR NEW JERSEY UNIFORM FIRE CODE ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

RESOLUTION NO. 21-55 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY APPOINTING A REAL ESTATE AGENCY TO ASSIST WITH THE SALE OF VARIOUS PROPERTIES IN THE CITY OF WOODBURY

RESOLUTION NO. 21-56 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY EXTENDING LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WOODBURY AND WOODBURY OLD CITY RESTORATION COMMITTEE, INC.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-57 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF SUBORDINATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN JOHN O'CONNOR AND DENISE O'CONNOR AND THE CITY OF WOODBURY (433 HESTERS AVENUE)

END CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Fleming made a motion to approve the list of bills and vouchers, seconded by Councilman Councilwoman O'Connor.

Councilman Merinuk made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as read at the beginning of the meeting, seconded by Councilman Fleming.

Motion approved via roll call vote resulting in the following:

Ayes 9 Councilwoman Carter, Councilman Fleming, Councilman Merinuk, Councilwoman Miller, Councilman Miller, Councilwoman Moore, Councilwoman O'Connor, Councilwoman Parker, Council President Hagerty

Nays 0

Absent 0

Reports

Committee Reports:

Councilwoman Parker – Public Works Committee – Councilwoman Parker said they will be meeting with the Public Works Department tomorrow. We will have updates for this year at the next Council Meeting.

Councilwoman Miller – Green Team, Human Rights Commission – The Green Team met last week and discussed our goals for 2021. The Green Team submitted a report and got feedback from Council President Hagerty. Councilwoman Miller explained that there were things the Green Team wanted to do last year that Covid-19 stopped, so they are hoping to do those items and more, this year. The Human Rights Commission met yesterday. We want residents to understand that the Human Rights Commission is inclusive to all human rights topics, and not just exclusive to LGBTQIA+ rights. Councilwoman Miller would like anyone experiencing any human rights related problems, to please reach out to her or anyone on the Human Rights Commission.

Councilman Fleming – Finance – The Finance Committee met last week to review the end of 2020 budget. Councilman Fleming explained Mr. Law went through what he knew to date on 2020 and our tax rate is up from what we had budgeted. Our water collection rate is down from 2020 but that is likely related to the Covid-19 pandemic. Councilman Fleming is hopeful that we can recover some ground in 2021. During the Finance Committee they discussed the tax assessments and that will not go into effect until 2022 due to the County still completing assessments. Councilman Fleming explained they are in the initial discussion of the 2021 budget.

Councilman Hagerty announced that the website will be updated with the 2021 Committee Members by Friday. If residents have questions, Council President Hagerty asked for residents to please reach out to a specific committee and those committee members.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Sickel – Mayor Sickel explained she is in the process of finalizing all of the Boards. She thanked Councilwoman Miller for speaking on the Human Rights Commission. Mayor Sickel is has a few more appointments she needs to make, and they should be completed by February. The website will be updated on members and agendas shortly.

Clerk Report

Cassidy Swanson – Ms. Swanson congratulated the newly elected officials, Mayor Sickel, Councilman Miller and Councilwoman Moore. She also congratulated Councilwoman Miller on her re-election and Councilman Hagerty for being named Council President.

Department Reports

John Leech – Code Enforcement – Mr. Leech went through the December 2020 Property Maintenance report. 10 notices of orders sent out, compared to 13 in 2019, 12 court summons sent, compared to 10 in 2019; 59 housing inspections, compared to 77 in 2019; 4 vehicles removed from private property, compared to 6 in 2019; 44 total number of calls, compared to 37 in 2019.

Erika Covely – Engineer – Ms. Covely explained that the 2020 Local Roads and the Water Main goes out to bid on February 17 and will get awarded on February 24. The Damn submittals are ongoing, and the mark out and survey are almost completed.

Bob Law – Finance – Mr. Law said he attend the Bowman and Company budget seminar and it was informative. Mr. Law explained that our Joint Insurance Fund has an elected official seminar and for every elected official that attends the seminar the City receives a \$250 credit off our premium cost.

Chief Ryan – Police – Tomorrow, Chief Ryan will be sitting in on a round table with the Greater Woodbury Chamber of Commerce and stakeholders from our Community. On February 1st Officer Corinne will be doing an Instagram takeover for Woodbury Heart and Soul during her Patrol Shift. Chief Ryan said it was a great choice to pick Officer Corrine to represent the City.

Michelle Yeager – Library – Ms. Yeager explained that next Monday the Library Board of Trustees will be holding their January meeting at 5 pm, and their Reorganization meeting will immediately follow. Information on how to logon is on the Library's website. The Library is currently filing out for State Aid and the Annual 2020 report. The Library has a new section to trade paperback romance titles and February's spotlight is Black Authors, Historical Figures and more. The Adult genealogy classes and story times will be geared towards Valentines' Day.

Frank Brown – Administrator – Mr. Brown explained that the last year we discussed about the Fire Department moving over to the County's record management platform, and now we will be. The fire department will have more access to records at a better rate. The Police Department has a retirement letter in hand for Kathy Forsman and Mr. Brown asked for a motion to accept resignation with regrets during the New Business portion. Mr. Brown said that the open position will be posted tomorrow, and all resumes will go to Captain Marro. The City is starting to have issues with our key fob system, and we are looking into repairs. Mr. Brown spoke to PSE&G today about the substation, and possibly improving lights throughout the City. Mr. Brown said the finance committee is working on the budget.

Unfinished Business

No Unfinished Business at this time.

New Business

Councilman Merinuk made a motion to accept the retirement letter of Kathy Forsman with regret, seconded by Councilwoman Parker. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Open to the Public

Council President Hagerty restated housekeeping rules and that per our Reorganization meeting

there is a 5-minute limit. Councilwoman Parker made a motion to open to the public, seconded by Councilwoman O'Connor. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Jared hunter – 23 N Drexel St. – Mr. Hunter thanked Chief Ryan for mentioning Heart and Soul takeover and asked everyone to head to their Instagram page on Monday. Heart and Soul is hoping to have monthly guests to connect people to unique places in the City. Mr. Hunter thanked Mayor Sickel for her enthusiasm and efforts to the City. Mr. Hunter asked if Resolution 21-55 will be amended. Mr. Scaffidi responded. Mr. Hunter asked for an explanation on what listed vouchers are. Councilman Fleming responded as Mr. Law experienced technical difficulties. Mr. Hunter asked is committee lists will be made Public. Councilman Hagerty responded and explained that they will be.

Charles Hughes – 31 N. Childs St. – Mr. Hughes expressed his concern for their being no Open to the Public for Agenda Item portion during the Re-Organization Meeting, and that there have been meetings where that hasn't had that portion. Mr. Hughes asked if meeting will have Open to the Public for Agenda Item portion. Mr. Hagerty and Ms. Swanson responded. Mr. Hughes asked if there will be a schedule posted of when the Board, Commission and Committee Meetings will be. Council President Hagerty responded.

Hearing no one, Councilwoman Parker made a motion to close to the public, seconded by Councilwoman Miller. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote

Adjournment

There being no further business, Councilwoman Parker made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Fleming. Motion approved by a unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cassidy L. Swanson, Acting City Clerk

NOTICE PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A 10:4-8(d)

The items listed on this tentative agenda of the Mayor and Council President of the City of Woodbury constitutes the agenda to the extent known at the time of posting. Since this agenda is tentative, items may be added and/or deleted prior to the commencement of the meeting. Formal action may or may not be taken regarding each item listed on the final agenda.