

**City of Woodbury
City Council Meeting Agenda
Virtual Meeting**

Link:

May 12, 2021

Virtual Waiting Room Opens 6:00 p.m.

Meeting starts 6:30 p.m.

The meeting of May 12, 2021 was called to order by Council President Hagerty at 6:30 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; Housing Official, John Leech; CFO, Robert Law; Police Chief, Thomas Ryan; Engineer, Erika Covely,

Approval of the Minutes

Councilman Fleming made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 10th and 24th meetings, seconded by Councilwoman O'Connor. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

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 Ordinances and Resolutions. Ms. Swanson 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 Parker. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Jared Hunter – 23 N. Drexel St. – Mr. Hunter asked for clarifications on the exemptions in

section 134:39 of Ordinance 2338-2. He also asked in reference to Resolution No. 21-85 what nunc pro tunc means. Mr. Scaffidi responded.

Charles Hughes – 31 N. Childs St. – Mr. Hughes expressed his displeasure and confusion in regard to the letter Mayor Sickel sent to the volunteer firefighters. Mr. Hughes does not agree with Resolution No. 21-85 and will be sending a letter to the Department of Community Affairs.

Kaylyn Roger – 244 Delaware St. – Mrs. Roger is displeased with City Council not involving the public in the decision to suspend the volunteer firefighters. Mrs. Rogers inquired about the roll and responsibilities of Fire Marshal, Joe Buono, and if the suspension of the Volunteer Firefighters benefits him directly. Mr. Scaffidi responded.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2338-21 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY AMENDING CHAPTER 144, PROPERTY MAINTENANCE, OF THE CODE BOOK OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY TO ADD A NEW ARTICLE IV TO BE ENTITLED “MAINTENANCE OF VACANT PROPERTY” Ms. Swanson read the title of the ordinance. Councilman Fleming made a motion to open to the public, seconded by, Councilman Merinuk. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Ms. Swanson again gave instructions on how the public could be heard at this time.

Kaylyn Roger – 244 Delaware St. – Mrs. Roger asked if the City is planning to maintain their vacant properties. Council President Hagerty answered.

Aaron Weber – 48 Hess Ave. – Mr. Weber asked if there were any plans for the Sketch Club Building, what the plans are, and if the building safe to use. Council President Hagerty answered

Hearing no one, Councilman Fleming made a motion to close to the public, seconded by Councilman Merinuk. Councilman Fleming made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2338-21, seconded by Councilman Merinuk. Motion approved by a 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

ORDINANCE NO. 2339-21 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY AMENDING THE CODE BOOK OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY TO ADOPT A NEW CHAPTER TO BE ENTITLED “COMMERICAL BUILDING STANDARDS” Ms. Swanson read the title of the ordinance. Councilman Fleming made a motion to open to the public, seconded by, Councilman Merinuk. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Ms. Swanson again gave instructions on how the public could be heard at this time.

Jared Hunter – 23 N. Drexel St. – Mr. Hunter asked if there are any commercial building standards to be incorporated for cannabis dispensary's. Council President Hagerty responded.

Hearing no one, Councilman Fleming made a motion to close to the public, seconded by Councilman Merinuk. Councilman Fleming made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2339-21, seconded by Councilwoman Parker. Motion approved by a 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

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. 21-84 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL OF AN INACTIVE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE PURSUANT TO *N.J.S.A. 33:1-12.39* FOR PB WOODBURY LIQUOR LICENSE, LLC

RESOLUTION NO. 21-85 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY APPOINTING PEG SICKEL, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY AS ACTING FIRE ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE CITY OF WOODBURY NUNC PRO TUNC

END CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

Committee Reports

Councilman Fleming – Finance Committee – Councilman Fleming informed everyone that the Budget is almost complete. The Finance Committee is hoping to introduce the budget at the next Council Meeting.

Report of the Mayor

Mayor Sickel – Mayor Sickel informed everyone that the next lake cleanup will be June 13th from 11AM-2PM.

Report of the City Clerk

Ms. Swanson - Ms. Swanson reminded everyone that unlike the general election in November, everyone will not be receiving a vote-by-mail ballot this upcoming election and you will only receive one if requested. You can request one by mail up to 7 days prior to the election, and in person until 3PM the day prior.

Department Announcements

Mrs. Covely - Engineer – Mrs. Covely explained that the Local Roads project is supposed to start next week with concrete. The sidewalk near the dam, on Broad Street, is closed due to concerns with the railing. The New Jersey Department of Transportation is looking into the issue.

Unfinished Business

No unfinished business at this time.

New Business

No new business at this time.

Public Discussion – Opt-In or Opt-Out of Cannabis

Council President Hagerty went on to discuss details surrounding the discussion to come for recreational selling of marijuana and encouraged those in attendance to the meeting to voice their concerns.

Councilman Fleming made a motion to open to the public, seconded by Councilman Merinuk. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Aaron Weber – 48 Hess Ave. - Mr. Weber inquired about solicited research done on economic impact of Cannabis Commerce in downtown Woodbury. Council President Hagerty responded.

Janet Argentina – 27 Progress Ave. –Ms. Argentina inquired about a timeline for this process, and when the discussions as well as the voting will take place. Council President Hagerty and Ms. Swanson answered.

Ted Johnson – 249 E. Barber Ave – Mr. Johnson asked about the voting results specific to Woodbury allowing cannabis commerce in the city. His opinion is yes, based on the results of how Woodbury residents voted. Council President Hagerty answered.

Charles Hughes – 31 N. Childs St. – Mr. Hughes asked why Durand Academy and the Woodbury Child Development Center were not included in the map as school zones. In reference to the 1000 ft. radius he inquired if this would mean there could be no cannabis commerce in the Route 45 area. Solicitor Scaffidi answered. Mr. Hughes then expressed his concern to Council about the area surrounding the child development center and maintaining drug free school zones.

Jared Hunter – 23 N. Drexel St. – Mr. Hunter thanked council for opening up this discussion. He urged council to include the Racial Equity Impact Assessment in how the policy is developed for cannabis commerce. Mr. Hunter then asked if the conversation surrounding cannabis commerce is being held outside of city council meetings, to make sure everyone is heard and not just people able to attend meetings. Council President Hagerty answered.

Gary Pierce – 333 Glover St. – Mr. Pierce voiced his opposition to bringing cannabis commerce to Woodbury, and asked council to consider dispensary and the smell that the dispensary can carry.

Kaylyn Roger – 224 Delaware St. – Ms. Roger thanked council for the discussion on cannabis commerce being open to public. She then expressed her concerns about it being near the schools and in residential areas.

Jamilah Damiani – 234 S. Columbia St. – Ms. Damiani asked if anyone on city council been to a dispensary. Council President Hagerty and Councilman Merinuk answered.

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

Open to the Public

Councilman Merinuk made a motion to open to the public, seconded by Councilman Miller. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Aaron Weber – 48 Hess Ave. – Mr. Weber thanked Council for the discussion on cannabis commerce. Mr. Weber then announced a Broad Street clean up, on the upcoming Sunday at 11AM starting in front of GATHER. He encouraged Council and community members to attend. Mr. Weber then asked for any statements in regard to the Volunteer Fire Department. Solicitor Scaffidi answered. Mr. Weber then asked about the mayor's qualifications for the fire administrator role, and if there were generic qualifications for who may assume the position. Solicitor Scaffidi and Mr. DiPiero answered.

Chris LaCroix – 456 Princeton Blvd., Deptford – Mr. LaCroix addressed the council looking for a statement for the next steps in regards to the Volunteer Fire Department. Solicitor Scaffidi

answered.

Charles Hughes – 31 N. Childs St. – Mr. Hughes informed council that he was in attendance to 3 NJ Port Authority presentations, and noticed a slide stating that the City of Woodbury was in support of the GCL. He asked who authorized the statement of us being in support of the GCL. Council President Hagerty and Ms. Swanson answered. He then informed everyone about his participation in the petition against the GCL.

Jared Hunter – 23 N. Derexel St. – Mr. Hunter questioned why all of the City Council meeting minutes are not currently up to date. Ms. Swanson and Council President Hagerty answered. He then asked about the council committees being up on the website. Ms. Swanson answered.

Kaylyn Roger – 224 Delaware St – Ms. Roger questioned why the public was not included on updates regarding the Volunteer Fire Department. She then inquired about Joe Buono's role and if he benefitted from the new switch in roles. Zoning Officer John Leech answered. She then asked for dates that the Mayor was notified of the Fire Departments credentials, and how much money is spent on outsourcing from local fire departments for coverage. Ms. Roger then inquired about Solicitor Scaffidi's qualifications to perform this investigation, and about Franklin Brown's departure.

Jamilah Damiani – 324 S. Colombia St. – Ms. Damiani voiced that she is disappointed in the communication to the public regarding the Volunteer Fire Department, and emphasized that people don't feel safe. She inquired about where is the fire administrator salary is going. Solicitor Scaffidi answered.

Ted Johnson – 249 East Barber Ave. – Mr. Johnson voiced his concern about the Volunteer Fire Department department was being addressed.

Gary Pierce – 333 Glover St. – Mr. Pierce stated that he read the letter addressing the events within the Volunteer Fire Department and stated his concerns with underqualified people getting on the fire truck and responding to calls.

Kelly Gehring – 143 Delaware St. – Ms. Gehring voiced her opinion stating she agrees with the suspension and thanked Council for their service.

John Belko – 53 N. Childs St. – Mr. Belko questioned Solicitor Scaffidi on if there will be a written report that will be released to the public in regards to the Volunteer Fire Department. Solicitor Scaffidi answered.

Liz McIlvaine – 23 Hess Ave. – Ms. McIlvaine expressed how she is a mother to two firefighters, and would want them to be accompanied by qualified individuals on the job. She

believes and trusts that the council is doing the right thing and wants to know the outcome.

Bill Volk – 2 Buttonwood Dr., Pilesgrove – Mr. Volk expressed that the Volunteer Fire Department should be in the know regarding the charges that are being given and the firehouse shouldn't be shut down on a rumor. Mr. Volk expressed that he disagrees with the actions taken on behalf of the Mayor.

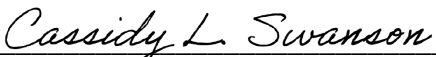
Colleen Seeburg – 157 Leona Ave. – Ms. Seeburg thanked Councilwoman Moore for getting back to her on the trees. She stated that the trees in the city need help; we should look to getting assistance or grants to have dead trees removed. Ms. Seeburg also questioned if the format for future council meetings will return in-person or if council can show the screens of those speaking during public portions. Ms. Swanson answered. She also voiced her displeasure in how the Volunteer Fire Department is being handled.

Hearing no one, Councilman Merinuk made a motion to close to the public, seconded by Councilwoman Parker. 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 8:20p.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.