

City of Woodbury
City Council Meeting Agenda
Virtual Meeting
November 23, 2021
Council Chambers Open at 6:00 p.m.
Meeting starts 6:30 p.m.

The meeting of November 23, 2021 was called to order by Council President Hagerty at 6:30pm. Council President Hagerty then 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. Also, notice of the public meeting was advertised in the newspaper and posted on the City web page for the public.

Roll Call:

Present: Councilman Fleming, Councilwoman Harwell, Councilman Merinuk, Councilwoman Miller, Councilman Miller, Councilwoman Parker, Council President Hagerty, Mayor Sickel

Absent: Councilwoman Carter, Councilwoman O'Connor

Others Present: Acting City Clerk, Cassidy Swanson; Solicitor, Tim Scaffidi; Police Chief, Thomas Ryan; Engineer, Paul Brier, Chief Financial Officer, Robert Law; Interim Administrator Len Sossamon

Open to the Public for Agenda Items

Council President Hagerty stated the meeting will be opened to the public for agenda items only. Council President Hagerty reminds everyone that each agenda item does have to get read aloud. Councilman Fleming made a motion to open to the public, seconded by Councilwoman Parker. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Ms. Swanson then read the titles of the Ordinances and Resolutions. Ms. Swanson went on to inform the public that at this time they can come up to the podium to be heard at this time.

Charles Hughes – 31 N. Childs St. – Mr. Hughes addressed Resolution No. 21-157, stating that he is a member of the Municipal Alliance Committee. He gave context to the resolution with regards to plans for the 2022 and 2023 year, and informed everyone that there will be a meeting with further discussion to iron out specific details on Monday. Mr. Hughes thanked Mayor Sickel for assisting in this regard and ensuring that things get done properly. Mr. Hughes then gave his opinion on the Municipal Alliance activity regarding drug and alcohol education and substance abuse prevention as an asset to the community. Mayor Sickel thanked Mr. Hughes for his involvement.

Hearing no one, Councilwoman Parker made a motion to close to the public, seconded by

Councilman Fleming. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Resolutions

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. 21-154 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER 27, 2021, AS “SMALL BUSNISS SATURDAY” AND SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF THE VALUE OF LOCALLY OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES

RESOLUTION NO. 21-155 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF SPECIAL ITEMS OF REVENUE IN THE BUDGET OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY PURSUANT TO N.J.S. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948)

RESOLUTION NO. 21-156 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF SPECIAL ITEMS OF REVENUE IN THE BUDGET OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948)

RESOLUTION NO. 21-157 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WOODBURY AND THE COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE JULY 1, 2022 TO JUNE 30, 2023

END CONSENT AGENDA

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

Motion approved via roll call vote resulting in the following;

Ayes 7 Councilman Fleming, Councilwoman Harwell, Councilman Merinuk, Councilwoman Miller Councilman Miller, Councilwoman Parker, Council President Hagerty

Nays 0

Absent 2 Councilwoman Carter, Councilwoman O’Connor

Abstain 0

Councilman Fleming moved to have the bills and voucher list approved, seconded by Councilwoman Harwell. Motion approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Committee Reports

Councilman Fleming – Finance – Councilman Fleming announced the discussion held at the November 15th meeting surrounding the 2022 increases on the water sewer rate. He also expressed that a few ideas are being discussed for the Stewart Lake Pedestrian Path. He informed Council that the next meeting will take place on December 6th 2021.

Report of the Mayor

Mayor Sickel – Mayor Sickel announced the 1st Annual Festival of Lights will be held on Saturday, December 4th from 6PM – 8PM. She informed the council that a few Woodbury High School groups including 21st Century, Civics and Photography clubs invited her to a meeting, proposing a few ideas on revamping the holiday tree lighting and making it more inclusive. As a result of this meeting, there will be Toys for Tots drive, a canned food drive, free cookies, hot chocolate, family photos, arts and crafts as well as pictures with Santa. Woodbury High School students have volunteered their time to run the event. Mayor Sickel then announced that the YMCA will be reopening on February 6, 2022.

Report of the Clerk

Ms. Swanson read the certified Election results which go as follows;

Woodbury Council Ward 1

Tom Pisarcik	- 409 votes
Brian C. Mattern	- 238 votes

Woodbury Council Ward 2

Bill Fleming	- 518 votes
John G. Elkins	- 219 votes

Woodbury Council Ward 2 Unexpired Term

Fran Harwell	- 507 votes
Lisa A Yacoub	- 234 votes

Woodbury Council Ward 3

Philip Hagerty	- 650 votes
George Wagoner	- 428 votes

Ms. Swanson announced that Fran Harwell was sworn in earlier today. She reminded everyone that all City buildings will be closed Thursday, November 25. City Hall will also be closed Friday, November 26. She announced that the 2022 Request for Professional Services are due at 10 am on December 9th and the RFP packets are available on our website. Ms. Swans wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving

Department Announcements

No department announcements

Unfinished Business

No Unfinished Business.

New Business

No New Business.

Open to the Public

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

David Steinberg – 825 E. Clements Bridge Rd., Runnemedede – Mr. Steinberg explained this is his third council meeting he has attended to address his concerns about the proposed liquefied nitrogen gas plant. He expressed that at the last meeting, Council stated that they did not have the time to discuss it, and asked why it was not an agenda item for tonight's meeting. Council President Hagerty responded and explained at this time Council does not have enough information to pass a resolution in this regard. Councilman Fleming, Councilman Merinuk, and Councilwoman Harwell concurred with Council President Hagerty. Mr. Steinberg asked if Council would like a safety data sheet from the Philadelphia Gas Company on liquefied nitrogen gas. Council President Hagerty granted Mr. Steinberg an additional minute of time. Mr. Steinberg then listed municipalities and organizations that have passed resolutions against the liquefied nitrogen gas plant. Council President Hagerty thanked Mr. Steinberg for the information given.

Jared Hunter – 23 N. Drexel St. – Mr. Hunter stated he has talked to Mr. Steinberg and is concerned as well. Mr. Hunter asked if anyone was willing to have an open discussion regarding this matter so the information gets relayed to the public, we can collectively become more informed on the subject and council will feel confident in making a decision. Councilman Miller said yes, and agreed to will follow up. Mr. Hunter reported his attendance to the school board meeting last week and stated that the discussion was thorough and effective. He mentioned although the discussion was lengthier, he felt as though the conversation was efficient and would like to see more efficient conversations held at City Council meetings. Mr. Hunter then asked Solicitor Scaffidi what is stopping individuals in attendance to council meetings from livestreaming the meeting for greater public accessibility to the discussions being held. Solicitor Scaffidi and Council President Hagerty answered.

John Fulmer – 548 Hunter St. – Thanked Council President Hagerty and Councilman Fleming for sharing the revised plans for the Stewart Lake Pedestrian Path. He shared that he was able to review the plans and talk with Councilman Fleming, and there are some positive changes to come. He did ask for clarity regarding the installation of park benches and fixed trash cans, and in the event that public works were to take on the project, that those fixtures would be placed in

the agreed-upon designated areas determined by Council President Hagerty. He also vocalized his opposition to the deletion of the interpretation signs, and would like to see them reinstated if possible. Council President Hagerty responded. Council President also addressed the trimming of the scope, and mentioned we may have to get creative to incorporate this or we can look into grants to increase the budget. Mr. Fulmer stated he would be happy to assist with grassroots efforts if needed. Councilman Fleming mentioned Paul is currently looking to add it as an alternate, and we are in the process of obtaining quotes.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 21-158 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY AUTHORIZING A CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS MATTERS RELATING TO LITIGATION, NEGOTIATIONS AND ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE; HUGHES VS. THE CITY OF WOODBURY ET AL

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

Motion approved via roll call vote resulting in the following;

Ayes 7 Councilman Fleming, Councilwoman Harwell, Councilman Merinuk, Councilwoman Miller Councilman Miller, Councilwoman Parker, Council President Hagerty

Nays 0

Absent 2 Councilwoman Carter, Councilwoman O'Connor

Abstain 0

Recess 7:07

Entered 7:18 pm

End 8:07 pm

Solicitor Scaffidi stated that a Closed Session took place in regard to pending litigation, Hughes vs. The City of Woodbury Et Al, and no action will be taking place at this time.

Ms. Swanson corrected the title of Resolution No. 21-156 to read as RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF SPECIAL ITEMS OF REVENUE IN THE BUDGET OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Councilwoman Parker made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Harwell. Motion approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Meeting adjourned 8:10PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cassidy L. Swanson
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.