

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

The meeting of December 8, 2021 was called to order by Council President Hagerty at 6:31 pm. 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: Councilwoman Carter, Councilman Fleming, Councilwoman Harwell, Councilman Merinuk, Councilwoman Miller, Councilwoman O'Connor, Councilwoman Parker, Council President Hagerty, Mayor Sickel

Absent: Councilman Miller

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

Presentations and Discussions

RESOLUTION NO. 21-161 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY HIRING A FULL-TIME PATROL OFFICER FOR THE WOODBURY CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT Councilman Fleming made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 21-161, seconded by Councilwoman Parker. Motion approved via roll call vote resulting in the following;

Ayes 8 Councilwoman Carter, Councilman Fleming, Councilwoman Harwell, Councilman Merinuk, Councilwoman Miller, Councilwoman O'Connor, Councilwoman Parker, Council President Hagerty

Nays 0

Absent 1 Councilman Miller

Abstain 0

Mayor Sickel introduced Joshua Blackiston and read his biography. Mayor Sickel swore in Full-Time Patrol Officer Blackiston. Full-Time Patrol Officer Blackiston was accompanied by his mother and father.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-167 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY HIRING A SLEO II FOR THE WOODBURY CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
Councilman Fleming made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 21-167, seconded by Councilwoman Harwell. Motion approved via roll call vote resulting in the following;

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

Mayor Sickel introduced Justin Gehring and read his biography. Mayor Sickel swore in SLEO II Gehring. SLEO II Gehring was accompanied by his mother and father.

Chief Ryan thanked Mayor and Council for their support and the ability to add additional officers to the Woodbury City Police Department. Chief Ryan gave high remarks for Full-Time Patrol Officer Blackiston and SLEO II Gehring and that the City of Woodbury is lucky to have them serving our community. Chief Ryan also thanked all the family members, friends and fellow officers who came to show support for Full-Time Patrol Officer Blackiston and SLEO II Gehring.

Council President Hagerty announced a 5 minute recess.
Recess began at 6:44 pm
Recess ended at 6:48 pm

Approval of Minutes

Councilman Fleming made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the June 9th, seconded by Councilwoman O'Connor. Motion approved via voice vote resulting in the following;

Ayes 6 Councilwoman Carter, Councilman Fleming, Councilman Merinuk, Councilwoman Miller, Councilwoman O'Connor, Council President Hagerty
Nays 0
Absent 1 Councilman Miller
Abstain 2 Councilwoman Harwell, Councilwoman Parker

Councilman Fleming made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the August 18, seconded by Councilman Merinuk. Motion approved via voice vote resulting in the following;

Ayes 7 Councilwoman Carter, Councilman Fleming, Councilwoman Harwell, Councilman Merinuk, Councilwoman Miller, Councilwoman O'Connor, Councilwoman Parker, Council President Hagerty
Nays 0
Absent 1 Councilman Miller
Abstain 1 Councilwoman Harwell

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. Councilwoman Parker made a motion to open to the public, seconded by Councilman Fleming. 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.

Jared Hunter – 23 N. Drexel St. – Mr. Hunter asked what amendments are being made to chapters 126 and 190 specifically. Mr. Scaffidi responded. Mr. Hunter asked in regard to Resolution 21-160, what the intended outcome is of the housing market study. Council President Hagerty responded. Mr. Hunter asked in regard to Resolution 21-165, what is an operations efficiency and preliminary management plan and why is it needed. Council President Hagerty responded.

Mary Colleen Bailey Seeburg - 157 Leona Ave. – Mrs. Seeburg asked about the specific costs with relation to the legal fees mentioned in Resolution 21-162. Councilman Merinuk responded.

John Traeckner – 123 Spring St. – Mr. Traeckner asked in regard to Ordinance 2351-21, how the overnight sleeping in City parking lots will be addressed. Solicitor Scaffidi answered.

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

Ordinances

ORDINANCE NO. 2351-21 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 190, VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, OF THE CODE BOOK OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY Councilman Fleming presented the above titled ordinance. Ms. Swanson read the title of the ordinance. Councilman Fleming made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2351-21 on second reading, seconded by Councilwoman Parker. Motion approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Ayes 8 Councilwoman Carter, Councilman Fleming, Councilwoman Harwell, Councilman Merinuk, Councilwoman Miller, Councilwoman O'Connor, Councilwoman Parker, Council President Hagerty

Nays 0

Absent 1 Councilman Miller

Abstain 0

ORDINANCE NO. 2352-21 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 162, SOLID WASTE, OF THE CODE BOOK OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY

Councilman Fleming presented the above titled ordinance. Ms. Swanson read the title of the ordinance. Councilman Fleming made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2352-21 on second reading, seconded by Councilwoman Harwell. Motion approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Ayes 8 Councilwoman Carter, Councilman Fleming, Councilwoman Harwell, Councilman Merinuk, Councilwoman Miller, Councilwoman O'Connor, Councilwoman Parker, Council President Hagerty

Nays 0

Absent 1 Councilman Miller

Abstain 0

Resolutions

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. 21-160 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY APPOINTING A HOUSING MARKET STUDY

RESOLUTION NO. 21-162 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 YEAR 2021

RESOLUTION NO. 21-163 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY AWARDED CONTRACT TO ENTERPRISE FLEET MANAGEMENT FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF AN OPEN ENDED VEHICLE LEASE FOR CITY VEHICLES

RESOLUTION NO. 21-164 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY AUTHORIZING A MASTER EQUITY LEASE AGREEMENT WITH ENTERPRISE FLEET MANAGEMENT

RESOLUTION NO. 21-165 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A OPERATIONS EFFICIENCY & PRELIMINARY MANAGEMENT PLAN

RESOLUTION NO. 21-166 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY AWARDED A CONTRACT TO VORTEX SERVICES, LLC FOR THE FY 2021 SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT WOOD STREET SEWER LINING

END CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Merinul made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as read at the beginning of the meeting, seconded by, Councilwoman O'Connor.

Motion approved via roll call vote resulting in the following;

Ayes 8 Councilwoman Carter, Councilman Fleming, Councilwoman Harwell, Councilman

Merinuk, Councilwoman Miller, Councilwoman O'Connor, Councilwoman Parker, Council President Hagerty
Nays 0
Absent 1 Councilman Miller
Abstain 0

Committee Reports

Councilman Fleming – Finance – Councilman Fleming reported the finance committee met on Monday. They are preparing for the audit and the 2022 budget. The Finance Committee is looking at the capital improvement budget, including the necessary improvements to the fire house. The American Rescue Plan funds are being discussed as well, and the Finance Committee is looking at the best way to budget them inside the parameters set by the funds.

Councilwoman Carter - Parks and Recreation - The Woodbury Steelers played a tournament in Florida over the weekend and won. They will be playing in a championship game and additional details will be available. The youth basketball league will be starting up in January at the YMCA; sign-ups will be available there.

Report of the Mayor

Mayor Sickel reported the success of the Festival of Lights event on Saturday, December 4. She expressed how all of the different community groups and members, came together to put on the event and how well attended it was. She thanked Public Works, the Firefighters and the Woodbury City Hall employees for contributing to the success of the event. She then thanked Council President Hagerty and John Leech for assisting with the re-opening of Charlie Browns and provided further details about the projected opening to be in the first quarter of 2022. She explained that you will begin to see enhancements on the exterior of the building. Additionally, owners will be acquiring grant funding for the restaurant, and plan to incorporate Councilwoman O'Connor's historical write up about the building as an attribute to the restaurant. Mayor Sickel then announced that on December 18th from 1PM-4PM at Woodbury High School in the Cap Pain Gym they will be collecting donations for Toys for Tots. She recognized and thanked school resource officer Allcot, and Liz McIlvaine for organizing the event.

Report of the Clerk

Ms. Swanson reminded everyone that the 2022 request for proposals are due tomorrow, December 9 by 10 am and that all City buildings will be closed on Friday, December 24 and Friday, December 31. She also corrected for the record that the Ordinances Numbers are 2351-21 and 2352-21

Department Announcements

Chief Ryan – Police Department – School Resource Officer Allcot put a lot of effort into the toy drive. They had an overwhelming response and with all the contributions, they will be able to supply numerous families with toys for the holidays. He highlighted that with Officer Allcot being bilingual; and sitting on the advisory board for the South Jersey Family Success Center, this has improved their outreach and engagement with more families in our community. He reported his attendance to a training today, with the Prosecutors office and Police Chief Association. He reported a large attendance to the training, as it focused on mental health for police officers. He expressed the training was very helpful and well received.

Unfinished Business

No Unfinished Business.

New Business

Council President Hagerty explained that a residence on Leona Avenue is trying to convert from oil to gas heat. Leona Avenue was recently resurfaced which results in a 5- year moratorium, before the road opening can happen. Because this resident has a heating system that will not sustain through the winter, Council President Hagerty explained that this circumstance qualifies as an emergency and is brought before Council to allow for the necessary conversion. Council President Hagerty conferred with Mr. Scaffidi on the process to approve a motion. Councilman Merinuk asked if there was a survey needed. Mr. Brier answered

Councilman Merinuk made a motion to accept the street opening on Leona Avenue for the referenced address to convert from oil to gas heat. The motion was seconded by Councilman Fleming. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Open to the Public

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

Ray Angelini – 74 Lineman Ave – Mr. Angelini explained that Lineman Ave. and Golf Dr. had water mains recently installed. He explained that with the substantial amount of dredging done on this project, Mr. Angelini and other residents on these streets are not satisfied with the patchwork that was done and would like repairs made to the street and curbs. Councilman Fleming, Mr. Brier and Council President Hagerty responded and expressed plans to meet with the contractor to resolve the issues.

Tony Alevorio – 522 Delaware St. – Mr. Alevorio announced that he and Charlie Hughes are doing a coat drive for children next Tuesday 10AM at the church on Jackson Street. He welcomed families to come and provide information on sizes needed to be able to receive a coat.

Jared Hunter – 23 N. Drexel St. – Mr. Hunter announced his resignation as the Director of Heart and Soul. Mr. Hunter thanked Council for their support for the Heart and Soul Program and said he will still be involved in the City of Woodbury. Councilwoman O'Connor and Council President Hagerty thanked Mr. Hunter.

Gary Peirce – 333 Glover Street – Mr. Peirce expressed his displeasure and concern over the current coverage with the Fire Department. Mr. Peirce is disappointed in the Council's failure to take action, get the proper coverage as well as and the legal fees associated with the decisions made. He explained that with the lack of coverage the risk we are taking as a city. Mr. Peirce asked if there are any plans, or budgets for staffing. Mr. Peirce asked if it is true that the firefighters were told not to take vacation or sick days, and that all scheduled trainings have been canceled. He then expressed the severity of this issue if these things were true. Council President Hagerty responded and explained Council is working on solution and will provide updates at future meetings.

Art Barry – 32 Lineman Ave. – Mr. Barry echoed Mr. Angelini's concerns in regard to the patchwork on Lineman Avenue and Golf Drive. He expressed the immediate need for these roads to be fixed.

Mary Colleen Bailey Seeburg – 157 Leona Ave – Mrs. Seeburg asked when Leona Ave was resurfaced. Engineer Mr. Brier clarified. She asked if it was Leona Court, or Avenue which will need to be resurfaced for the property converting from gas to electric heat. Council President Hagerty clarified. She then introduced herself as the secretary of the soccer club and thanked Mayor Sickel and Public Works for their support, as their participation number have nearly doubled. She expressed her agreeance with the concerns surrounding coverage at the Firehouse as her neighbor had a house fire around this time last year. She then expressed that the signage as you enter Woodbury isn't welcoming like other towns, and she feels that there is an emphasis on the "targeted enforcement area" signs which takes away from the city's personality. She asked that we consider adding new welcome signage throughout the City as visitors come in. Mrs. Seeburg then addressed the corners of Lupton, Glover and West Centre as they have potholes that need to be fixed. She also addressed the old laundry mat on Morris Street that has visibly been neglected and asked for the building to be maintained. Lastly she reported that the school board is in the strategic planning phase and would like to see more members of Council involved with the process and attending these meetings.

Chuck Rose – 306 W. Center St. – Mr. Rose said that the council has tried to get more involved with the school board and the board has made it difficult for council to participate due to a lack of communication. Councilwoman Parker was in attendance to the meeting. He also announced that the YMCA basketball league is back, and is sponsoring it in partnership with the city and Red Eagle. He expressed how great this is for the youth and gave praise to the new executives of the YMCA. Councilwoman O'Connor echoed Mr. Roses praise for the YMCA.

Patrick Duff – 148 S. Broad St. – Mr. Duff explained him and his business partners are interested in opening a cannabis dispensary at the address and wanted to introduce themselves to Council.

Mr. Duff explained his background in the cannabis industry along with the businesses he has operated across the country as well as the upside to having a dispensary in the City. Mr. Duff would like Council to consider a resolution in support to include their application to the State of New Jersey. Councilwoman Harwell and Council President Hagerty responded, and introduced the Council's new Cannabis Committee and that the Committee will look into this. Mr. Duff asked to clarify if Ordinance 2342-21 and if it will be amended to limit the number of dispensaries allowed in the City. Solicitor Scaffidi responded. Mr. Duff asked how he could obtain a resolution like 21-126. Solicitor Scaffidi responded.

Susan Anderson – 220 S. Jackson St. – Mrs. Anderson believes that Best Buds is very knowledgeable and is excited for their business in Woodbury.

Hearing no one, Councilwoman Parker made a motion to close to the public, seconded by Councilwoman Harwell. 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 7:57p.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.