

**WOODSTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 11, 2022**

Sunshine Statement:

“The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Woodstown, County of Salem was held at 7:00 PM in the Borough Hall in accordance by noticing the South Jersey Times and the Daily Journal and posting on the Borough Website in compliance with the Sunshine Law NJSA 10:4-5 to 10:4-21.”

- **Roll Call – Bobbitt, Hackett, Hiles, Hyman, Merkle, Nixon, Mayor Dietrich**
- **Absent – None**
- **Others Present – Joe DiNicola (Solicitor), Cynthia Dalessio (Clerk), John Hitchner (Deputy Clerk), Erik Biermann (Engineer), Jud Moore (CFO), Frank Mitchell (P/W)**

Flag Salute:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm and Mayor Dietrich led Council in the flag salute.

Public Comments:

The meeting was opened for public comment. Being as no members of the public wished to speak, the public portion of the meeting was closed.

Minutes:

Mr. Hackett made a motion to approve the 12/28/2021 regular meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Mr. Hiles and the motion carries 5-0 with Mrs. Nixon abstaining.

Mr. Merkle made a motion to approve the 12/28/2021 executive meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Hyman and the motion carries 4-0 with Mrs. Nixon abstaining. Mr. Hiles had recused from this meeting and did not vote.

Mr. Hiles made a motion to approve the 1/3/2022 reorganization meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Mr. Merkle and the motion carries 6-0.

Solicitor’s Report:

Solicitor DiNicola informs Council that he has nothing new to report during open session.

Finance:

CFO Moore discusses the 2022 budget. Due to increasing expenses the Borough was over CAP. Discussions will be held with various departments in the upcoming week to talk about 2022 department budgets. The budget will likely be introduced during the second meeting in March. Council discusses having budget workshops on February 8th and March 8th.

RESOLUTION 2022-19

Mr. Hiles makes a motion to approve the resolution for 2.5% increases for non-union employees. Motion is seconded by Mrs. Hyman and approved by a 5-1 roll call vote with Mr. Hiles voting against.

RESOLUTION 2022-20

Mr. Hiles makes a motion to approve the resolution for transfers. Motion is seconded by Ms. Bobbitt and approved with a 6-0 roll call vote.

*Mr. Hiles makes a motion to approve the bill list totaling **\$71,439.21** as submitted by the CFO. Mr. Merkle seconds the motion and motion carries 6-0.*

Public Safety:

RESOLUTION 2022-21

Mr. Merkle makes a motion to approve the resolution for authorizing a shared service contract for EMS service. Motion is seconded by Mrs. Nixon and approved with a 6-0 roll call vote.

Solicitor Di Nicola informs Council that a clause was added the agreement to adjust the pricing if new municipalities join. Mayor Dietrich informs Council that the County and the State assisted in getting the EMS services funded and accomplished. This will be a great for the residents of Woodstown. He thanks Mr. Merkle for his efforts in this project.

Mr. Merkle makes a motion to approve Casey Ryne Bray of Auburn as a new member of Reliance Fire Company. Motion is seconded by Mrs. Hyman and motion carries 5-0 with Mr. Hiles abstaining.

Utilities:

There is discussion about permitting the Fire Company to place blue reflective rings on existing fire hydrants. This would assist in finding them during inclement weather and also assist outside fire companies to find them if needed. This would be done at no cost to the Borough.

Mr. Hackett makes a motion to approve the reflective rings for the hydrants. Motion is seconded by Mr. Merkle and approved 6-0.

Engineer Biermann discusses the maintenance bond for Liberty and Spring Garden. It will be expiring soon and the bond company may need to be noticed. There is no update on the brewery.

Council discusses a PILOT for the brewery. Nothing may be discussed with the PILOT until the paving estimate and water/sewer plans have been submitted.

Streets and Roads:

Mrs. Hyman makes a motion to move forward on the Engineer's proposal for Cedar Way. Mr. Hiles seconds the motion and it's approved unanimously.

Council discusses waiting to move forward on the Howard Ave proposal until the budget is finalized.

General Government:

ORDINANCE 2022-01

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE WOODSTOWN BOROUGH CODE LAND DEVELOPMENT CHAPTER TO REVISE AND CLARIFY THE APPLICATION FEES AND REVIEW ESCROW REQUIREMENTS FOR PLANNING BOARD APPLICATIONS.

Mrs. Nixon makes a motion to Introduce the ordinance to update escrow amounts and regulations. Motion is seconded by Mrs. Hyman and approved 6-0 with a roll call vote.

RESOLUTION 2022-22

Mrs. Nixon makes a motion to approve the resolution declaring completion of the Tier #1 cybersecurity measures for the JIF. Motion is seconded by Mr. Hiles and approved 6-0.

Council discusses the recent update to the COVID policy. It is determined that the policy should read that it mirrors the most recent guidance from the Center for Disease Control and include web links directing employees for their review.

Health, Recreation, and Open Space:

Council discusses the Bailey Street property which is going up for sale. It is determined that fliers should be made for neighboring residents and the advertisement should include a link to the Borough website with additional information.

General Discussion:

RESOLUTION 2022-23

Mr. Hackett makes a motion to pass the resolution going into executive session for personnel. Motion is seconded by Mrs. Hyman and approved 6-0.

[Council enters executive session at 7:45 pm to discuss personnel matters]

[Council leaves executive session at 8:10 pm]

Motion to Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Merkle at 8:10 pm. Motion is seconded by Mrs. Hyman and approved 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

John H. Hitchner III, Borough Deputy Clerk