

**WOODSTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 25, 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, Hiles, Hyman, Merkle, Mayor Dietrich**
- **Absent – Hackett, Nixon**
- **Others Present – Joe DiNicola (Solicitor), Cynthia Dalessio (Clerk), John Hitchner (Deputy Clerk), Erik Biermann (Engineer), Ryan DeFalco (Police Chief), Frank Mitchell (P/W), Wesley “Buster” Burden (Resident)**

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. Hiles made a motion to approve the 1/11/2022 regular meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Ms. Bobbitt and the motion carries with a unanimous vote; 4-0.

Solicitor’s Report:

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

Finance:

CFO Moore discusses the 2022 budget. Budget workshops will be on February 8th and March 8th at 5:30 pm.

ORDINANCE 2022-02

**ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS
AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK**

Mr. Hiles makes a motion to introduce the CAP ordinance. Motion is seconded by Mr. Merkle and approved 4-0 with a roll call vote.

Mr. Hiles makes a motion to approve the bill list totaling \$562,939.99 as submitted by the CFO. Ms. Bobbitt seconds the motion and motion carries 4-0.

Public Safety:

Council discusses there are some fire hydrants that are low. Wells #4 and #6 are having pump issues. Extra tanker trucks have been brought in for the interim. Parts have been ordered.

Engineer Biermann has been in discussion with the engineer for Pilesgrove concerning the Firehouse property and flooding issues.

Chief DeFalco reviews his report with Council. A portion of the new body cameras are in. Costs will be submitted to the State for reimbursement. He states that the new vehicle which was ordered last year is in. He discusses hiring a temp at a starting rate of \$17.86 per hour.

Mr. Merkle states he will discuss the Chief’s contract with him.

Utilities:

Water overage letters were sent out. There was discussion about reconfiguring the parameters for sending the letters.

Engineer Biermann discusses inspections at the brewery and the water main projects on East Grant and Marlton Streets.

Streets and Roads:

Engineer Biermann states that the project at Liberty and Spring Garden still has a few punch list items to complete. As such he recommends that Council does NOT release their bonding until it is done. The term for the bonding is up soon and all parties involved should be noticed as such.

Mr. Hiles makes a motion to NOT release bond #107117876. Motion is seconded by Mrs. Hyman and approved unanimously; 4-0.

Council discusses taking the wires off of the trees which were acquired through NJDOT. Council requests that Mr. Mitchell look into accomplishing this in the spring.

General Government:

RESOLUTION 2022-24

Mr. Merkle makes a motion to proceed with the sale of 288 Bailey Street as discussed previously. Motion is seconded by Mr. Hiles and approved with a 4-0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTION 2022-25

Mr. Merkle makes a motion to refer Ordinance 2022-01 to the Planning Board for review for consistency with the Master Plan. Motion is seconded by Ms. Bobbitt and approved 4-0.

Council discusses broadband issues in the Borough, American Rescue Fund monies, and working with Salem County on various items. There is discussion about possibly upgrading the countywide emergency radio system. There are deficiencies, especially during the summer months.

Health, Recreation, and Open Space:

The rabies clinic is scheduled for Saturday, January 29, 2022. The Borough is in need of 2 adult volunteers.

The residence at 5 Lamplighter Dr had a house fire recently. They had requested free replacement trash and recycling carts. The borough will charge the regular fees and make sure they have payment receipts to submit for the insurance.

Ms. Bobbitt discusses the Environmental Commission meeting she attended. There was a lack of a quorum. Suggests discussing with Pilesgrove to make the joint commission smaller. There is discussion about making the meeting virtual.

Council discusses the tree removal in the parking lot.

Ms. Bobbitt makes a motion to hire Berkholz for the removal at a cost not to exceed \$5,000. Motion is seconded by Mr. Merkle and approved 4-0.

General Discussion:

None

Motion to Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Hiles at 7:55 pm. Motion is seconded by Mrs. Hyman and approved 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

John H. Hitchner III, Borough Deputy Clerk