

**WOODSTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
November 22, 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 – John Hitchner (Deputy Clerk), Erik Biermann (Engineer), Lois Yarrington (Assistant CFO), Harry Vanaman (Public Works), Brian Facemyer (Fire Chief), Dina Murray (HIF), John “Jack” Leddon (Veteran of the Year) & family, Reliance Fire Company and families, Wesley “Buster” Burden (Resident)**

**Flag Salute:**

*Mayor Dietrich opens the meeting at 7:00 pm and leads everyone in the flag salute.*

**Presentation: Veteran of the Year**

*Mayor Dietrich reads to all those in attendance the proclamation honoring John “Jack” Leddon as the 2022 Veteran of the Year.*

**Public Comments:**

*Mayor Dietrich opened the meeting for public comment. Ms. Dina Murray of Allen Associates discusses the health insurance coverage rates for 2023. Rates are expected to increase more than 13%. Council requests that Allen and Associates have a meeting with Borough employees on Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm in order to discuss plan options. Council requests that information regarding plans be distributed to all employees prior to the meeting.*

*Being as no other members of the public wished to speak, Mayor Dietrich closed the public portion.*

**Minutes:**

*Mr. Hiles makes a motion to approve the 11/09/2022 regular meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Ms. Nixon and the motion carries with a unanimous vote; 6-0*

**Finance:**

*Mr. Hiles makes a motion to approve the bills as provided by the CFO in an amount of **\$493,009.82**. Motion is seconded by Mr. Merkle and approved 6-0.*

*Mr. Hiles makes a motion to allow Ms. Yarrington to purchase a laptop for the finance department up to \$800.00. Motion is seconded by Ms. Bobbitt and approved 6-0.*

**Public Safety:**

*Council discusses court regionalization within Salem County. Currently 3 of the 5 municipalities who participate in the Mid-Salem Court are a “no” for regionalization with the other two being undecided at this time. Council discusses the pros and cons. Council agrees to have the Mayor write an email to Judge Telsey with Council’s questions.*

*Mr. Merkle discusses the resignation of the Deputy Court Clerk, Ms. Halter, and the need to search for a replacement.*

**ORDINANCE 2022-11**

*Mayor Dietrich opens to the public for discussion on Ordinance 2022-11. Being as no members of the public wish to speak, Mayor Dietrich closes the public portion.*

*Mr. Merkle makes a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-11 regulating the placement of dumpsters and portable storage units on second reading. Mr. Hackett seconds and it is approved with a 6-0 roll call vote.*

**ORDINANCE 2022-12**

*Mayor Dietrich opens to the public for discussion on Ordinance 2022-12. Being as no members of the public wish to speak, Mayor Dietrich closes the public portion.*

*Mr. Merkle makes a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-12 regulating disorderly conduct on second reading. Ms. Bobbitt seconds and it is approved with a 6-0 roll call vote.*

**ORDINANCE 2022-13**

*Mayor Dietrich opens to the public for discussion on Ordinance 2022-13. Being as no members of the public wish to speak, Mayor Dietrich closes the public portion.*

*Mr. Merkle makes a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-13 regulating Special Law Enforcement Officers on second reading. Mr. Bobbitt seconds and it is approved with a 6-0 roll call vote.*

*Mr. Merkle makes a motion to accept the application for Brian Foote to join Reliance Fire Company. Motion is seconded by Mrs. Hyman and approve 4-0 with Mr. Hiles and Ms. Bobbitt abstaining.*

*Mr. Merkle suggests to Council that Mr. Dan Evans would be interested in the position of Emergency Management Coordinator with Mr. Joseph Gebly as the Deputy Coordinator.*

#### **Utilities:**

*Council discusses the emergency sewer repair bill from Pioneer Pipe. Engineer Biermann states it is comparable to other invoices for this type of service.*

*Mr. Hackett makes a motion to pay the bill for Pioneer Pipe's emergency repair. Mr. Hiles seconds and it is approved 5-0 with Mrs. Hyman abstaining.*

*Council reviews the water report.*

*Engineer Biermann recommends releasing bonds on 3 concluded projects and holding one until further notice.*

#### **Streets and Roads:**

*Council discusses the barrier between the Woodstown Greens and Candlelight developments on Kingsberry Lane. Engineer Biermann states he had spoken to the developer about their concerns regarding signage, street sweeping, construction traffic, and emergency vehicles. Mr. Biermann was awaiting a response from Pierson. Council agrees that the Mayor and Mrs. Hyman should pass out notices on Borough letterhead to residents within the Candlelight development.*

#### **RESOLUTION 2022-112**

*Mrs. Hyman makes a motion to Resolution 2022-112 by title only, hiring Larry Kaufman as a full-time public works laborer with a CDL at a rate of \$24 per hour as per the CWA contract. Motion is seconded by Mr. Merkle and approved 6-0.*

#### **RESOLUTION 2022-113**

*Mrs. Hyman makes a motion to Resolution 2022-113 by title only, hiring Brian Foote as a part-time public works laborer at a rate as per the CWA contract. Motion is seconded by Mr. Hackett and approved 5-0 with Ms. Bobbitt abstaining.*

#### **Health, Recreation, and Open Space:**

#### **ORDINANCE 2022-10**

*Mayor Dietrich opens to the public for discussion on Ordinance 2022-10. Being as no members of the public wish to speak, Mayor Dietrich closes the public portion. Mr. Merkle suggests that the section regarding "no fires" be amended as to permit grilling.*

*Ms. Bobbitt makes a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-10 regulating "Parks" within the Borough on second reading. Mr. Merkle seconds and it is approved with a 6-0 roll call vote.*

#### **General Discussion:**

#### **RESOLUTION 2022-114**

*Mr. Merkle makes a motion to approve Resolution 2022-114 entering into executive session regarding personnel and contracts. Ms. Nixon seconds and it is approved 6-0.*

*[Council enters executive session at 8:00 pm]*

*[Council exits executive session at 9:15 pm]*

*Mr. Merkle makes a motion to advertise for the position of full-time police clerk. Motion is seconded by Ms. Bobbitt and approved 5-1 with Mr. Hackett voting against.*

*Mr. Merkle makes a motion to advertise for the position of Class II police officer. Motion is seconded by Ms. Nixon and approved 6-0.*

*Mr. Merkle makes a motion to advertise for the position of full-time police officer. Motion is seconded by Mrs. Hyman and approved 6-0*

#### **Motion to Adjourn:**

*A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Bobbitt at 9:25 pm. Motion is seconded by Ms. Nixon and approved 6-0.*

**Respectfully submitted,**

**John H. Hitchner III, Borough Deputy Clerk**