

**WOODSTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 27, 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), Joe DiNicola (Solicitor), Erik Biermann (Engineer), Jud Moore (CFO), Lois Yarrington (Assistant CFO), Fred Caltabiano (Auditor)**

Flag Salute:

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

Public Comments:

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

Minutes:

Mr. Hiles makes a motion to approve the 12/13/2022 regular meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Ms. Bobbitt and the motion carries with a unanimous vote; 6-0

Finance:

ORDINANCE 2022-14

Mayor Dietrich opens Ordinance 2022-14 to the public. Being as no members of the public wished to speak, Mayor Dietrich closes the public portion.

Mr. Hiles makes a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-14 with language to include “2022-2023”. Ms. Nixon seconds and it is approved with a 6-0 roll call vote.

Mr. Caltabiano addresses the Council. He discusses the finding and explains what they mean. He suggests that the budget be introduced by a least the first week of April as the State has already extended the deadline for adoption in 2023.

RESOLUTION 2022-122

Mr. Hiles makes a motion to approve Resolution 2022-122 approving the audit and recommendations. Motion is seconded by Ms. Bobbitt and approved 6-0.

RESOLUTION 2022-123

Mr. Hiles makes a motion to approve Resolution 2022-123 approving tax exempt status for a Totally Disabled Veteran (Thibault). Motion is seconded by Mr. Hackett and approved 6-0.

RESOLUTION 2022-124

Mr. Hiles makes a motion to approve Resolution 2022-124 approving budget transfers. Motion is seconded by Mr. Hackett and approved 6-0.

Mr. Hiles makes a motion to approve the bills as presented. Mrs. Hyman seconds and the motion is approved 6-0.

Mr. Hiles discusses researching a new company for payroll services. He plans to present more information in the future.

Council discusses permitting the incoming CFO to attend one meeting a month in person. After discussion everyone agrees that it is acceptable, the prior month’s information should be presented at the first meeting of the month, and the new CFO may be called in to attend the second meeting as deemed required.

Public Safety:

Mr. Merkle makes a motion to approve Patrick Wayne Massey as a JR Firefighter for Reliance Fire Company effective January 2, 2023 and a full member effective January 22, 2023. Motion is seconded by Ms. Bobbitt and approved 5-0 with Mr. Hiles abstaining.

Utilities:

Mr. Hackett discusses his meeting with Environmental Technical Services (ETS). Mr. Hackett describes the meeting as positive and states that a follow-up meeting is scheduled for the middle of February.

Council discusses holding off on advertising for a new water superintendent until a later date.

Streets and Roads:

Solicitor DiNicola states he is waiting on the Engineer's report to conclude the vacating of Cedar Way.

Health, Recreation, and Open Space:

Council discusses options for the Local Recreation Improvement Grant. Lighting and security are preferred options.

General Discussion:

RESOLUTION 2022-125

Mr. Merkle makes a motion to approve Resolution 2022-125 entering into executive session. Motion is seconded by Ms. Nixon and approved 6-0.

[Council enters into executive session at 7:45 pm]

[Council exits executive session at 7:55 pm]

[Councilwoman Nixon excuses herself from the meeting at 7:55pm]

Budget Workshop:

Council proceeds with a budget workshop discussing the following topics: salaries, healthcare costs, pension costs, dispatch costs, Friends Home, Freedom Village, Bailey Corner, EMS, the Fire Company, and various shared services.

Motion to Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Hackett at 9:25 pm. Motion is seconded by Mr. Merkle and approved 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

John H. Hitchner III, Borough Deputy Clerk