

**WOODSTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 8, 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), Ryan DeFalco (Police Chief), Jud Moore (CFO), Frank Mitchell (P/W), Wesley “Buster” Burden (Resident), Andy Ware (Business Owner), Tom Barney (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. Mr. Barney from “Barney Loves Books” and Mr. Ware discussed with the Council about starting up a monthly promotion on a Saturday to promote the downtown businesses during the lunch hours. They felt that enough of the downtown businesses were open during this time and people may be more likely to come out on a Saturday afternoon than a Friday evening. They also discussed doing an annual craft fair in June near the lake. “Locals on the Lake” was their title for it. Clerk Dalessio informed them that the Glasstown Antique Fire Brigade typically has a gathering during the first weekend in June. Keeping that in mind, the Council was encouraging of the idea. Solicitor DiNicola recommended getting a certificate of insurance for the event. Chief DeFalco requested to be informed so No Parking signs may be placed and also stated that as the event grew they may need to have an officer present.

Minutes:

Mr. Hiles made a motion to approve the 1/25/2022 regular meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Ms. Bobbitt and the motion carries with a unanimous vote; 4-0 with Mr. Hackett and Mrs. Nixon abstaining.

Solicitor’s Report:

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

Finance:

ORDINANCE 2022-02

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

The Mayor opened for public discussion on Ordinance 2022-02. Being as no members of the public wished to speak on it, the Mayor closed the public portion.

Mr. Hiles makes a motion to introduce the CAP ordinance. Motion is seconded by Mr. Hackett and approved 6-0 with a roll call vote.

RESOLUTION 2022-26

Mr. Hiles makes a motion to approve the transfer resolution. Motion is seconded by Mrs. Hyman and approved 6-0 with a roll call vote.

Council reviews the tax collector’s report.

*Mr. Hiles makes a motion to approve the bill list totaling **\$973,593.91** as submitted by the CFO. Mr. Merkle seconds the motion and motion carries 6-0.*

Public Safety:

Council discusses that there will be a meeting for the ambulance services on 2/10/2022. There is also discussion about the interviews for the Deputy Court Clerk next week.

Chief DeFalco reviews his report with Council. Lettering will commence next week on the new police vehicle. He states that officers will be receiving a CPR refresher course. He makes Council aware that one of the officers will be out on medical leave for 6-8 weeks. Arrangements have been made so that there is no disruption in services to the Borough.

Mr. Merkle makes Council aware of the successes of Chief DeFalco in managing the overtime for the department during COVID to the fiscal benefit of the Borough.

Utilities:

Council reviews the water report provided by the superintendent.

Engineer Biermann updates the Council on the Marlton Rd and East Grant Street projects.

Council discusses the Howard Ave Project proposal. Engineer Biermann states it will take a couple months to complete the studies. He informs Council that the NJDEP states that it is a municipal storm water line and they have a legal obligation to get easements and maintain it. Solicitor DiNicola informs Council of their options if there are issues with accessing the line on private property. Council discusses ways to pay for major improvements and directs CFO Moore to research their options for next meeting. Engineer Biermann lets Council know that there may be ways to reduce stress on the line by reducing the flow from upstream. Options like this would be part of the study.

Streets and Roads:

Engineer Biermann reviews his report with Council. Survey will be done next week for the Cedar Way project. Mrs. Hyman states she will deliver the notices to the neighbors who have abutting properties.

General Government:

ORDINANCE 2022-01

Mayor Dietrich opens the meeting for public discussion on Ordinance 2022-01. Being as no members of the public wished to speak, the Mayor closes the public portion.

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

Health, Recreation, and Open Space:

The rabies clinic is rescheduled for Saturday, March 5, 2022. The Borough is in need of 2 adult volunteers.

There was a meeting with school representatives to donate to them the property on East Millbrook. Council agrees that this is a good plan and that it will honor Earl Walker for his donation to the community.

General Discussion:

None

RESOLUTION 2022-27

Mr. Merkle makes a motion to approve Resolution 2022-27 entering into executive session. Motion is seconded by Mrs. Hyman and approve 6-0.

[Council enters executive session at 7:40 pm]

[Council exits executive session at 8:15 pm]

Mr. Merkle makes a motion to hire Melody Reese as a temporary position as secretary for the police department at a rate of \$17.86 and not to exceed 29 hours a week. Motion is seconded by Mrs. Nixon and approved 4-0 with Mr. Hackett and Mr. Hiles abstaining.

Mr. Merkle makes a motion to approve the Police Chief's 4-year contract beginning in 2022. Motion is seconded by Mr. Hiles and approved 5-1 with Mr. Hackett voting against.

Motion to Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Hiles at 8:25 pm. Motion is seconded by Mr. Hackett and approved 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

John H. Hitchner III, Borough Deputy Clerk