

**WOODSTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 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 – Joe DiNicola (Solicitor), Cynthia Dalessio (Clerk), John Hitchner (Deputy Clerk), Erik Biermann (Engineer), Ryan DeFalco (Police Chief), Jud Moore (CFO), Frank Mitchell (CPWM), Wesley “Buster” Burden (Resident), Harry Vanaman (Public Works), George Lacy (OEM)**

Flag Salute:

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

Council observed a moment of silence for the passing of former Councilman Paul Langley and for Brenda Hall.

Public Comments:

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

Minutes:

Mr. Hiles made a motion to approve the 2/08/2022 regular meeting minutes with corrections. Motion was seconded by Ms. Bobbitt and the motion carries with a unanimous vote; 6-0

Solicitor’s Report:

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

Finance:

RESOLUTION 2022-28

Mr. Hiles makes a motion to approve Resolution 2022-28 transferring funds. Motion is seconded by Mr. Merkle and approve 6-0 with a roll call vote.

Council discusses the method of payment for the Howard Ave project.

RESOLUTION 2022-29

Mr. Hiles makes a motion to approve Resolution 2022-29 allocating \$40,000 to cover the Howard Ave proposal costs out of capital. Motion is seconded by Mr. Hackett and approved 6-0 by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION 2022-30

Mr. Hackett makes a motion to approve Resolution 2022-30 approving the Howard Ave proposal from Sickels & Associates.. Motion is seconded by Mr. Hiles and approve 6-0 with a roll call vote.

Mr. Hiles makes a motion to approve the bill list totaling \$493,917.14. Mr. Merkle seconds the motion and motion carries 6-0.

Public Safety:

Emergency Management Coordinator George Lacy gave Council an update on various OEM past and present projects. He informs Council of an upcoming training exercise at the football stadium. He also informs Council about training requirements for elected officials. Mr. Lacy discusses the benefits of Woodstown being part of the Radioactive Emergency Response (RER) Program. This program has provided us with various grants for emergency personnel.

RESOLUTION 2022-31

Mr. Merkle makes a motion to approve Resolution 2022-31 approving the hiring of Melody Reese as temporary Police Clerk. Motion is seconded by Mrs. Nixon and approved with a 4-0 with a roll call vote with Mr. Hiles and Mr. Hackett abstaining

Mr. Merkle makes a motion to approve the request of the Glasstown Antique Fire Brigade's annual Muster at Memorial Lake on Sunday, June 5, 2022 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Motion is seconded by Mrs. Hyman and approved 6-0.

Mr. Merkle informs council of a drop in meeting attendance at the Fire Hall.

Chief DeFalco informs the Council that he has been in contact with the appropriate parties and is prepared to take part in the exercise Mr. Lacy referred to.

Joint Court:

RESOLUTION 2022-32

Mr. Merkle makes a motion to approve Resolution 2022-32 memorializing the hiring of the Alexandria Halter. Motion is seconded by Mr. Hackett and approve 6-0 with a roll call vote.

Mayor Dietrich discusses the 100th Anniversary of Memorial Lake with Council.

Utilities:

Mr. Hackett had a meeting with the Sewer Authority Chairman and directed the CFO to look for their agreement.

Engineer Biermann informs Council that the survey was completed for Cedar Way. He is still working on the water main projects at East Grant and Marlton Roads. He updates Council on the sewer overflow issues at Kingsberry. A "plug" was left in by the contractor. The problem has been resolved.

Mr. Biermann inquires if OEM funding may be available to assist with flooding issues. These issues may need to be added to the plan in order to acquire the funding.

Streets and Roads:

RESOLUTION 2022-33

Mrs. Hyman makes a motion to approve Resolution 2022-33 authorizing the agreement with the DOT for flashing beacons at the intersection of Route 45 and East Grant. Motion is seconded by Ms. Bobbitt and approve 6-0 with a roll call vote.

Council discusses that the County still intends to install the crosswalks at Elm and South Main Street.

General Government:

Council discusses the need for special counsel with regards to affordable housing for the Bailey Street Project. It is determined that counsel expense should come out of the applicant's escrow.

RESOLUTION 2022-34

Mrs. Nixon makes a motion to approve Resolution 2022-34 to hire Jeffery Surenian as special counsel for affordable housing on the Bailey Street Development Project. Motion is seconded by Mr. Merkle and approved 6-0 with a roll call vote.

Council forms a consensus that given current circumstances and guidelines that masks should now be recommended and not mandatory in Borough Hall.

Mayor Dietrich appoints Frank Mitchell as Housing Officer until June 30, 2022.

Health, Recreation, and Open Space:

RESOLUTION 2022-35

Ms. Bobbitt makes a motion to approve Resolution 2022-35 approving the amendment to the Omni Group contract for marketing of recyclables. Motion is seconded by Mrs. Hyman and approve 6-0 with a roll call vote.

The rabies clinic will take place on Saturday, March 5, 2022 from 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm.

General Discussion:

None

RESOLUTION 2022-36

Mr. Hackett makes a motion to approve Resolution 2022-36 entering into executive session for contract negotiations. Motion is seconded by Mr. Hiles and approve 6-0.

[Council enters executive session at 8:10 pm]

[Council exits executive session at 9:20 pm]

Motion to Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Hackett at 9:20 pm. Motion is seconded by Mr. Hiles and approved 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

John H. Hitchner III, Borough Deputy Clerk