

**WOODSTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
May 24, 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**
- **Absent – Dietrich**
- **Others Present – Joe DiNicola Jr (Solicitor), Cynthia Dalessio (Clerk), John Hitchner (Deputy Clerk), Ryan DeFalco (Police Chief), Frank Mitchell (CPWM), Harry Vanamen (P/W Foreman), Valerie Lacy (Resident)**

**Flag Salute:**

*The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm and Council President Merkle led everyone in the flag salute.*

**Public Comments:**

*The meeting was opened for public comment by Council President Merkle.*

*Ms. Lacy asks the Council about the neglected house on Bailey Street. She states that the door is open and it's an eyesore. Mr. Mitchell states that they have repeatedly closed the door. He has sent repeated high grass letters and the house is on their radar but it takes time. The house was meant to be demolished at the transfer of title. Solicitor DiNicola suggests going out for RPF's for the demolition. The Borough could also go to court for a violation of the CO.*

*Being as no more members of the public wished to speak, Council President Merkle closed the public portion.*

**Minutes:**

*Mr. Hiles made a motion to approve the 5/10/2022 regular meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Mr. Hackett and the motion carries with a unanimous vote; 5-0*

**Finance:**

**RESOLUTION 2022-65 - Varga**

**RESOLUTION 2022-66 - Strom**

*Council agrees to table Resolutions 2022-XX-Varga and 2022-XX-Strom until next meeting in order to further research the regulations on Disabled Veteran tax deductions.*

*Council reviews the Tax report.*

*Mr. Hiles makes a motion to approve the bills as provided by the CFO in an amount of \$55,508.98. Motion is seconded by Mr. Hackett and approved 6-0.*

*Mr. Hiles requests that the signature cards on the accounts be looked into and updated if needed.*

**Public Safety:**

**RESOLUTION 2022-61**

*Mr. Merkle makes a motion to approve Resolution 2022-61 approving the Mutual Aid Agreement for Emergency Services. Motion is seconded by Mrs. Hyman and approved with a 6-0 vote.*

*Council discusses adding storage units to the dumpster ordinance with regards to placing them in the street.*

**Utilities:**

*Engineer Biermann discusses a damage sewer lateral at 18 E Grant Street from an old South Jersey Gas (SJG) project. He is continuing to follow up with SJG to get it repaired. He recommends that as there is still a performance bond for the project and that maybe the Solicitor should write a letter threatening to pull the bond.*

*Council discusses a proposal to have the water system evaluated by the Engineer. Engineer Biermann states it may take 4 months to complete the study.*

*Mr. Hackett makes a motion to approve the proposal. Motion is seconded by Mrs. Hyman and approved 4-2 with Mrs. Nixon and Ms. Bobbitt voting against.*

*Engineer Biermann gives Council an update on the Howard Ave study.*

**Streets and Roads:**

**RESOLUTION 2022-62**

*Mrs. Hyman makes a motion to approve Resolution 2022-62 approving the NJDOT Municipal Aid Grant for Borton Drive. Motion is seconded by Mr. Hiles and approved with a 6-0 vote.*

*Council reviews the Public Works report.*

*Mr. Mitchell requests approval of overtime to clean up the area around the lake. Council agrees. He also requests permission to advertise for summer help. Council approves. He informs Council that the paint which he ordered at the beginning of the year to paint the crosswalks has still not arrived.*

**General Government: NONE**

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

*Watson Park is being reviewed for what need to be done and purchased. Council requests that a bond Ordinance be drawn up for next meeting.*

**General Discussion:**

**RESOLUTION 2022-63**

*Mr. Hiles makes a motion to approve Resolution 2022-63 entering into executive session for contracts. Motion is seconded by Mrs. Nixon and approved with a 6-0 vote.*

*[Council enters executive session at 7:50 pm]*

*[Council exits executive session at 8:15 pm]*

**ORDINANCE 2022-07**

*Mrs. Hyman makes a motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-07 vacating Cedar Way. Motion is seconded by Ms. Bobbit and approved on first reading by title only with a roll call vote 6-0.*

**Motion to Adjourn:**

*A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Hyman at 8:20 pm. Motion is seconded by Mr. Hiles and approved 6-0.*

**Respectfully submitted,**

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