

## WOODSTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 14, 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), Harry Vanaman (P/W Foreman), Erik Biermann (Engineer), Wesley “Buster” Burden (Resident), Jesse Wilson (WCFD representative), Mary Wilson (WCFD Representative), Thomas Glah (Resident), Anwar Golden (375 Bailey Street Owner), Nelson Carney (Resident), Ruth Jones (WCFD Representative), Numerous members of the public supporting Woodstown Community Fun Day**

#### 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.*

*Mr. Jesse Wilson addresses the Council to answer questions regarding Woodstown Community Fun Day. He goes over the history of the event and informs Council they plan on having it at Watson Park on Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. Council and Mr. Wilson discuss insurance requirements for having the event and the number of people they plan on having attend. Solicitor DiNicola advises that Council should inform JIF with regards to the insurance requirements.*

*Anwar Golden requests a 3 to 4 month extension on the timeframe to demolish the house on his property of 375 Bailey Street. Council discusses the grass height. Mr. Golden informs Council that he has had it cut and it is contracted to be cut every 14 days moving forward. Council will discuss Mr. Golden’s request in closed session.*

*Ms. Ruth Jones of 320 Bailey Street discusses a property on Bacon Lane with Council. She says that mosquitos are a serious problem and asks if Council can speak to the County Mosquito Control about spraying the area. She also informs Council that there is a tree on the property next to hers which looks as if it is going to fall on her house. Councilman Hiles states he will talk to the Mosquito Commission. Council agrees to have Frank inspect the tree.*

*Mr. Nelson Carney asks what Council is doing to honor Juneteenth. Council President Merkle states that it is planned to be a topic during the next round of contract negotiations.*

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

#### Minutes:

*Mr. Hackett makes a motion to approve the 5/24/2022 regular meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Ms. Bobbitt and the motion carries with a unanimous vote; 6-0*

#### Solicitor’s Report:

*Solicitor DiNicola discusses the status of the Green Acres property on Alloway Road. He suggests possibly moving the fence. The property currently has horses on it and it would be a liability to just take the fence down altogether. There are also loose dogs on the property. Council discusses possibly placing a lien on the property as they have a reciprocal agreement with Pilesgrove Township.*

#### Finance:

##### **RESOLUTION 2022-64**

*Mr. Hiles makes a motion to approve Resolution 2022-64 (Chapter 159) inserting Clean Communities funding into the budget. Motion is seconded by Mrs. Hyman and approved with a 6-0 vote.*

##### **RESOLUTION 2022-65 – Varga**

*Mr. Hiles makes a motion to approve Resolution 2022-65 cancelling taxes for a 100% disabled veteran. Motion is seconded by Ms. Bobbitt and approved with a 6-0 vote.*

**RESOLUTION 2022-66 - Strom**

*Mr. Hiles makes a motion to approve Resolution 2022-66 cancelling taxes for a 100% fully disabled veteran. Motion is seconded by Mr. Hackett and approved with a 6-0 vote.*

*The Tax Collector had suggested that Council pass an ordinance limiting the length of time which tax exempt status may go back. Council instructs Solicitor DiNicola to research this and draft an ordinance.*

*Council reviews the Tax Collector's report.*

*Mr. Hiles makes a motion to approve the bills as provided by the CFO in an amount of \$76,919.82. Motion is seconded by Ms. Bobbitt and approved 6-0.*

**Public Safety:**

*Council is informed that the coin drop for the Fire Company was successful and that the Memorial Day Celebration at the lake went well.*

*Chief DeFalco reviews his report with Council.*

**Utilities:**

*Council reviews the water department report.*

*Engineer Biermann addresses a complaint about a pothole on North Main. After inspecting it, they will contact the NJ DOT in case there is a void under the surface which could cause greater problems. He states that there has been no progress on the damaged sewer lateral on East Grant. Advises that the Solicitor should send a letter stating that the Borough will call in the bond. The paving on Dickenson is complete. The NJ DOT has stated that they will do something to address the deteriorating sidewalk on East Ave. The Howard Ave drainage study is more than halfway completed. One point of note so far is that removing pipes with back pitch would drastically increase flow.*

**Streets and Roads:**

*Council reviews the Public Works report.*

**General Government:**

**ORDINANCE 2022-06**

*Mrs. Nixon makes a motion to open discussion of Ordinance 2022-06 (amending sidewalk regulations) to the public. Motion is seconded by Mr. Hiles and approved 6-0.*

*Being as no members of the public wished to speak, Mrs. Nixon makes a motion to close public discussion of the ordinance. Motion is seconded by Mr. Hiles and approved 6-0.*

*Mrs. Nixon makes a motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-06. Motion is seconded by Ms. Bobbitt and approved on second reading with a roll call vote 6-0.*

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

**ORDINANCE 2022-08**

*Ms. Bobbitt makes a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-08 bonding for the improvements at Watson Park. Mrs. Hyman seconds the motion and the ordinance is approved with a 6-0 roll call vote on first reading.*

*Mr. Hackett suggests that the ordinance be amended to include verbiage that the funding for the park be paid out of Open Space funding prior to second reading.*

**General Discussion:**

**RESOLUTION 2022-67**

*Mr. Hiles makes a motion to approve Resolution 2022-67 entering into executive session for contracts and potential litigation. Motion is seconded by Mrs. Hyman and approved with a 6-0 vote. [Council enters executive session at 8:05 pm] [Council exits executive session at 8:30 pm]*

*Mr. Merkle makes a motion to advertise for a Class II officer for the police department. Ms. Bobbitt seconds the motion. Motion carries with a 5-0 vote with Mr. Hiles abstaining.*

**Motion to Adjourn:**

*A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Hiles at 8:35 pm. Motion is seconded by Ms. Bobbitt and approved 6-0.*

**Respectfully submitted,**

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