

**WOODSTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
July 26, 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, Hiles, Hyman, Merkle, Nixon, Dietrich**
- **Absent – Hackett**
- **Others Present – Joe DiNicola Jr (Solicitor), Cynthia Dalessio (Clerk), John Hitchner (Deputy Clerk), Erik Biermann (Engineer), Ryan DeFalco (Police Chief), Harry Vanaman (P/W Foreman), Wesley “Buster” Burden (Resident), Dave Strout and Paul Florenza (Tri-Co JIF representatives)**

**Flag Salute:**

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

**Public Comments:**

*Dave Strout and Paul Florenza give their presentation on the Borough’s insurance coverage. They discuss increased costs due to COVID, cyber liability, and social inflation.*

*Being as no other members of the public wished to speak, Mayor Dietrich closed the public portion.*

**Minutes:**

*Mr. Hiles makes a motion to approve the 7/12/2022 regular meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Nixon and the motion carries with a unanimous vote; 4-0 with Mr. Merkle abstaining.*

**Solicitor’s Report:** *Solicitor DiNicola has nothing to report in open session at this time.*

**Finance:**

**ORDINANCE 2022-09**

*Council opens the meeting for public discussion on Ordinance 2022-09.*

*As no members of the public wished to speak, the public portion was closed.*

*Mr. Hiles makes a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-09, setting policy regarding fully disabled veteran tax deductions, on final reading. Motion is seconded by Ms. Bobbitt and approved 5-0.*

**RESOLUTION 2022-84**

*Mr. Hiles makes a motion to approve Resolution 2022-84 extending the grace period for tax payments. Motion is seconded by Mrs. Nixon and approved with a 5-0 vote.*

*Council discusses the tax exempt status of the Friends Village expansion. They wish to consult with the Assessor about this.*

*Council reviews the bill list as there is a late fee from the County for their tax payment.*

*Mr. Hiles makes a motion to approve the bills as provided by the CFO in an amount of \$1,374,518.26. Motion is seconded by Ms. Bobbitt and approved 5-0.*

**Public Safety:**

**RESOLUTION 2022-85**

*Mr. Merkle makes a motion to approve Resolution 2022-85 approving the amended shared service agreement for ambulance services and the new bi-laws for the American Legion Ambulance Association. Motion is seconded by Mr. Hiles and approved with a 5-0 vote.*

*Chief DeFalco discusses a resident request to have a “block party” on Queensberry. The residents had discussed having the road closed. Chief advised them to come to the meeting to ask permission from Council and none came. Council agrees to not endorse it without consulting with the residents first.*

**Utilities:**

*Council reviews the water department report.*

*Engineer Biermann discusses the broken sewer lateral at 18 E. Grant Street which South Jersey Gas was going to fix. They should be out tomorrow.*

**Streets and Roads:**

*There are no items for open session in Streets and Roads.*

**General Government:**

*Council discusses the purchase of a new copier as the current one was 8 years old and stopped working this morning. Deputy Clerk Hitchner advises Council of options he was able to acquire today.*

*Mrs. Nixon makes a motion to purchase a new copier outright at a cost not to exceed \$6,500. Motion is seconded by Mr. Hiles and approved 5-0.*

*Council discusses vacant properties and the most current laws.*

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

**RESOLUTION 2022-86**

*Ms. Bobbitt makes a motion to approve Resolution 2022-86 requesting a road closure for the Fall Festival from the County. Motion is seconded by Mr. Hiles and approved with a 5-0 vote.*

**RESOLUTION 2022-87**

*Mr. Hyman makes a motion to approve Resolution 2022-87 thanking Berkholtz for assisting with the tree removal at Garrison Park at no cost. Motion is seconded by Mr. Merkle and approved with a 5-0 vote.*

**General Discussion:**

**RESOLUTION 2022-88**

*Mr. Hiles makes a motion to approve Resolution 2022-88 entering into executive session regarding contracts. Motion is seconded by Mrs. Hyman and approved with a 5-0 vote.*

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

*[Council exits executive session at 8:25 pm]*

*Mrs. Nixon makes a motion to cease leasing the timeclocks. Motion is seconded by Mrs. Hyman and approved with a 5-0 vote.*

**Motion to Adjourn:**

*A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Merkle at 8:30 pm. Motion is seconded by Ms. Bobbitt and approved 5-0.*

**Respectfully submitted,**

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