

BOROUGH OF WESTVILLE

114 Crown Point Road

November 10, 2009

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Council President Ledrich at 7:31 p.m. and the Salute and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag then took place.

The Clerk advised that notice of this meeting had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of the "Open Public Meetings Act" by sending notice to the Gloucester County Times of Woodbury, NJ and the Courier Post of Camden, NJ.

Present: Council President Michael O. Ledrich, Council Members: George K. Baker, Ronald S. Muhlbaier, Charles D. Murtaugh, James A. Pennington, Jr. and William C. Rebel

Absent: Mayor Russell W. Welsh, Jr.

Also Present: Administrator William J. Bittner, Public Works Manager Donna Domico, Clerk & Tax Collector Christine Helder, Police Chief Fred Lederer and Housing Inspector Bruce Wasson.

MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the meeting minutes from October 28, 2009 was made by Councilman Baker and seconded by Councilman Pennington. *Minutes unanimously approved by voice vote.*

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

1. Joyce Lovell, 328 Summit Avenue, asked if the letter received from the DEP about Wheelabrator's Waste Facility permit renewal was a standard approval advisement. Council President Ledrich confirmed it was.
2. Matt Hart, Manager from West Park Apartments discussed the traffic signs installed at Chestnut Street. Mr. Hart stated the change is especially difficult for residents of West Park Apartments who make a right onto Chestnut Street from Route 130 because the new traffic pattern does not permit them to go all the way down Chestnut to the Apartments. The new change also causes difficulties for the Seniors' bus. Councilman Murtaugh stated the citizens concerns can be addressed and Council President Ledrich advised that if the Ordinance is amended, it will have to be re-introduced, advertised and another public hearing held.

MEETING MINUTES

OLD BUSINESS:

1. *Public Hearing* was held on Bond Ordinance No 14-2009 ~ For the Reconstruction of Woodbine Avenue.

A motion to open the meeting up to the public was made by Councilman Pennington with a second by Councilman Rebel. *Motion unanimously approved by voice vote.*

Hearing no comment from the public, a motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Councilman Pennington with a second by Councilman Murtaugh. *Motion unanimously approved by voice vote.*

ORDINANCE NO. 14-2009 ~ FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF WOODBINE AVENUE

A motion to approve the Ordinance was made by Councilman Muhlbaier with a second by Councilman Murtaugh.

Vote: 6-0

Yes: Council President Ledrich, Councilman Baker, Muhlbaier, Pennington, Murtaugh and Rebel *Motion unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

2. *Public Hearing* was held on Ordinance 16-2009 ~ To Amend Chapter 47 Commercial Property, as it pertains to inspectors and inspection procedures of Commercial Properties of the Borough of Westville.

A motion to open the meeting up to the public made by Councilman Rebel with a second by Councilman Pennington. *Motion unanimously approved by voice vote.*

Hearing no comment from the public, a motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Councilman Baker with a second by Councilman Pennington. *Motion unanimously approved by voice vote.*

ORDINANCE NO. 16-2009 ~ TO AMEND CHAPTER 47, COMMERCIAL PROPERTY, AS IT PERTAINS TO INSPECTORS AND INSPECTION PROCEDURES OF COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES OF THE BOROUGH OF WESTVILLE

A motion to approve the Ordinance was made by Councilman Baker with a second by Councilman Pennington. (Question was raised by Councilman Murtaugh asking if this Ordinance would allow Westville's Code Official to do inspections. Administrator Bittner confirmed yes and that the Code Official would also be able to issue tickets.)

Vote: 6-0

Yes: Council President Ledrich, Councilman Baker, Muhlbaier, Pennington, Murtaugh and Rebel *Motion unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

MEETING MINUTES

OLD BUSINESS: (continued)

3. RESOLUTION ~ AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO FORECLOSE BY IN REM FOR 36 EDGEWATER.

Council President Ledrich asked Administrator Bittner if he had an opportunity to investigate the possibility of Westville obtaining grant money for this project (i.e. demolition of the structure). Administrator Bittner stated he was unable to obtain this information but will follow up. Council President Ledrich asked Public Works Manager Domico if she obtained a quote for demolition and she advised she did not get a quote because she did not have access to the site. Councilman Baker suggested she contact the owner to see if they would allow her access to the building and Councilman Murtaugh suggested instead of entering the building, Public Works Manager Domico use a ladder truck to inspect the building. The issue was tabled until more information can be obtained about a demolition grant and costs.

A motion to table the issue was made by Councilman Baker with a second by Councilman Muhlbaier. Motion unanimously passed by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Proclamation Declaring November 14, 2009 as World Diabetes Day

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Letter from Michael Hart concerning the traffic signs on Chestnut Street.
2. Letter from CES regarding re-codifying the Borough's Code Book.
3. Letter from the State of New Jersey/DEP concerning Wheelabrator's renewal permit.
4. Letter from Terri Eckel, Secretary on behalf of the Land Use Board, recommending the removal of "bump outs" on Broadway at various intersections.
5. Letter from the GCUA regarding their 2010 budget hearing.
6. Letter from Margaret Garner of 505 Highland Avenue requesting a tax refund of \$1206.29 (husband is a TDV), due to the mortgage company paying their taxes. Councilman Muhlbaier asked if this should be done by Resolution and voted upon. (Clerk Helder advised this item should not have been listed under Communications but rather New Business.)

MEETING MINUTES

COMMUNICATIONS: (continued)

A motion to approve the Resolution authorizing the money to be refunded was made by Councilman Baker with a second by Councilman Pennington

Vote: 6-0

Yes: Council President Ledrich, Councilman Baker, Muhlbaier, Pennington, Murtaugh and Rebel *Motion unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

7. Council President Ledrich commented on the correspondence regarding the Broadway bump outs and advised the Mayor requested this be discussed at a later date, when he will be in attendance.

BILLS & VOUCHERS:

List of bills were posted in foyer. *A motion to dispense with reading of the bills was made by Councilman Baker and seconded by Councilman Pennington. Motion unanimously approved by voice vote.*

A motion to pay all bills and vouchers was made by Councilman Baker and seconded by Councilman Murtaugh.

Vote: 6-0

Yes: Council President Ledrich, Councilman Baker, Muhlbaier, Pennington, Murtaugh and Rebel *Motion unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Joyce Lovell, 328 Summit Avenue, mentioned she asked Council President Ledrich, prior to tonight's meeting, to obtain free disc's from Rutgers on NJ Green Home Remodeling Guidelines Version 1.0 available at the League of Municipalities. Ms. Lovell wanted one for the Environmental Commission's and Library's computers.

Ms. Lovell was very distressed at the mural damage in the Thomas West Park. She stated someone damaged a 15 inch by 3 foot section of the mural that was painted by the children. Public Works Manager Domico confirmed Public Works would coat the bare wood to prevent damage. Ms. Lovell stated a young man had been identified as the culprit and suggested the Borough go after him for repairs. Chief Lederer advised the incident is under investigation. A possibility of installing solar cameras was discussed.

Discussion took place on money received by the Environmental Commission. Joyce Lovell and Virginia Horn of the Environmental Commission advised they had requested and received a \$1,000 donation from Wheelabrator for the Butterfly Garden and purchased items with the money. Administrator Bittner advised before spending money, the procedure is to request a Purchase Order for items or services that needs to be purchased.

MEETING MINUTES

COMMENTS FROM GOVERNING BODY & DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Housing Inspector Wasson congratulated Council President Ledrich and Councilman Rebel on their re-election.

Councilman Baker congratulated both Council President Ledrich and Councilman Rebel on their re-election.

Public Works Manager Domico advised the new trash truck was delivered. A trial run was conducted and it was determined that cans not designed for the new truck (e.g. large trash cans) are causing a problem for the workers who are lifting them manually. Currently, there are about a dozen of the large trash cans being used by residents and when filled, exceed the 50 lb. limit. Specifically, Article III, Chapter 59-16 of the General Code states *"The receptacle shall be of such a design and weight as to be able to be conveniently handled by one (1) person. No container shall exceed a weight of more than fifty (50) pounds when loaded. Commercial garbage receptacles, fifty-five-gallon drums and dumpsters are not acceptable as containers."* It was suggested by Councilman Pennington that residents be notified and issued a warning. Public Works Manager Domico commented Westville's JIF insurance representative advised employees should not be picking up the large trash containers.

Public Works Manager Domico advised she received an \$11,183 quote to put tippers on the #9 trash truck. She also stated her goal is to retrofit the #9 trash truck and hopefully pay for the tippers out of the recycle grant.

Councilman Muhlbaier congratulated both Council President Ledrich and Councilman Rebel on their re-election and stated he looked forward to working with them again next year.

Councilman Rebel discussed the upcoming Christmas celebration and thanked everyone for their help. Suggestions are needed for gifts. He also advised Santa was available, horse and buggy were booked and he hoped all members of Council will be attending.

Councilman Murtaugh congratulated Council President Ledrich and Councilman Rebel on their re-election. Councilman Murtaugh stated he received a phone call from a resident complaining about the lack of street lighting on Avon Avenue. The Street Lighting Committee discussed lights at the Lions Club Den and eliminating one or two of those lights and re-allocating to dark spots at the pond.

Discussion again took place on the Chestnut Street traffic and will be discussed at a future meeting.

MEETING MINUTES

COMMENTS FROM GOVERNING BODY & DEPARTMENT HEADS: (continued)

Chief Lederer congratulated Council President Ledrich and Councilman Rebel on their re-election and also discussed the resumes for the full time police officer position.

Council President Ledrich advised Mayor Welsh asked that it be announced he would like to grant the day after Thanksgiving off to all employees. *It was a unanimous consensus by voice vote to grant the day off.*

Council President Ledrich thanked Councilman Pennington and Councilman Murtaugh for their help during his re-election.

RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION was read and a motion was made by Councilman Pennington and seconded by Councilman Baker. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

Time In: 8:44 p.m. Time Out: 8:56 p.m.

Councilman Murtaugh commented on the Environmental Commission's \$1,000 bill and stated he would like to try and work out the reimbursement of funds due the Environmental Commission for flowers purchased, prior to obtaining a purchase order. Consensus of Council was the Environmental Commission must follow the same procedures as the Borough. Purchases cannot be made prior to a Purchase Order being processed and a bill must be presented prior to purchase.

Councilman Muhlbaier brought up purchasing security cameras in areas of town. One resident brought to his attention concerns for the safety of his home on Edgewater Avenue because rocks were being thrown at his house. The owner is interested in putting up a camera and will be contacted to see if something can be worked out.

Next meeting will be held on Monday, November 23, 2009 at 6:30 pm

Council President Ledrich suggested holding meetings at an earlier time.

Councilman Pennington made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 p.m. and Councilman Baker seconded the motion. *A motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.*

Meeting Adjourned: 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine A. Helder, Municipal Clerk