

BOROUGH OF WESTVILLE
Regular Council Meeting
114 Crown Point Road
June 8, 2011 ~ 7:00 p.m.
MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Council President Ledrich at 7:00 p.m. and the Salute and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag then took place.

The Clerk read the notice that 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.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Council President Michael O. Ledrich, Council Members: Colleen T. Archer, Charles D. Murtaugh, William C. Packer, III, James A. Pennington and William C. Rebel

Also Present: Administrator William J Bittner, Jr., Municipal Clerk/Tax Collector Christine A. Helder, Chief of Police Frederick A. Lederer, III, Public Works Manager Donna Domico and Shannon Cornelius, Esq.

Absent: Mayor Russell W. Welsh, Jr.,

The meeting minutes of May 25, 2011 were approved on a motion made by Councilwoman Archer and seconded by Councilman Rebel. *Motion unanimously approved by voice vote.*

Council President Ledrich presented the Oath of Office to SLEO II John (Jake) Massing for his promotion as full time Patrolman. Patrolman Massing thanked the Borough Officials for giving him the opportunity and his family and friends for their support.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY: A motion to open the meeting to the public was made by Councilman Rebel and seconded by Councilman Pennington. No comment received from the public. Motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Councilman Murtaugh and seconded by Councilwoman Archer.

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES FOR MAY: Councilman Packer asked about the Sewer report and was informed by Public Works Manager Domico that she had not received the information from the Gloucester County Utilities Authority at the time her report was due for the meeting. A motion to approve Reports of the Committees was made by Councilwoman Archer and seconded by Councilman Pennington. *Motion unanimously approved by voice vote.*

AGENDA

OLD BUSINESS:

Municipal Building

Administrator Bittner requested an Executive Session to discuss new developments

NEW BUSINESS:

Public Hearing on:

❖ **ORDINANCE NO. 5-2011 ~ 2011 SALARY ORDINANCE**

A motion to open the meeting to the public was made by Councilman Packer and seconded by Councilman Pennington. No comment received from the Public. Motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Councilman Pennington and seconded by Councilman Murtaugh.

ORDINANCE NO. 5-2011 ~ 2011 SALARY ORDINANCE

A motion to approve Ordinance No. 5-2011 was made by Councilman Packer and seconded by Councilman Pennington. Motion unanimously approved by *roll call vote*.

❖ **RESOLUTION NO. 70-2011 ~ APPROVING RENEWAL OF LIQUOR LICENSES FOR 2011-2012 FOR SCHILEEN'S PUB, GRABBES, WESTVILLE LIQUOR GROUP, LLC, COUSINS, GANT ASSOCIATES, AND WESTVILLE POWER BOAT ASSOCIATION**

A motion to approve Resolution No. 70-2011 was made by Councilman Rebel and seconded by Councilman Pennington. Motion unanimously approved by *roll call vote*.

❖ **RESOLUTION NO. 71-2011 ~ AUTHORIZING PROPERTY MAINTENANCE LIEN ON Block 83, Lot 7.01, 147 East Olive Street in the amount of \$147.65**

A motion to approve Resolution No. 71-2011 was made by Councilman Packer and seconded by Councilman Pennington. Motion unanimously approved by *roll call vote*.

AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS: (Continued)

- ❖ **RESOLUTION NO. 72-2011 ~ URGING SWIFT PASSAGE OF A-3430, A-3431, A-3432 (To strengthen municipalities immunity from tort claims).**

A motion to approve Resolution No. 72-2011 was made by Councilman Pennington and seconded by Councilman Murtaugh. Motion unanimously approved by *roll call vote*.

- ❖ **RESOLUTION NO. 73-2011 ~ REAFFIRMING THE REDEVELOPMENT DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN LOTS WITHIN BLOCK 31 AND UN-DESIGNATING CERTAIN OTHER PROPERTY WITHIN BLOCK 31 IN THE DOWNTOWN PRESERVATION REDEVELOPMENT AREA AS AN AREA IN NEED OF REHABILITATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1, ET SEQ**

A motion to approve Resolution No. 73-2011 was made by Councilman Murtaugh and seconded by Councilman Pennington. Motion unanimously approved by *roll call vote*.

- ❖ **RESOLUTION NO. 74-2011 ~ REVOKING THE “AREA IN NEED OF REDEVELOPMENT” DESIGNATION FOR CERTAIN PROPERTIES WITHIN THE EDGEWATER AVENUE REDEVELOPMENT AREA ALONG TIMBER AVENUE AND EDGEWATER AVENUE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1, ET SEQ.**

A motion to approve Resolution No. 74-2011 was made by Councilman Packer and seconded by Councilman Murtaugh. Motion unanimously approved by *roll call vote*.

CORRESPONDENCE

- ❖ **Letter from Governor Christie confirming Thomas North’s appointment as the Judge of the Westville/National Park Municipal Court**
- ❖ **Letter from Public Works Manager Donna Domico regarding NJDEP Case 93-05-28-1511 (Municipal Garage). (Public Works Manager Domico confirmed this is a standard letter from the DEP that must go out to residents within the 200 feet of the Municipal garage.)**

AGENDA

CORRESPONDENCE: (Continued)

- ❖ Letter from Solicitor Scaffidi regarding the Batdorf v. Westville Settlement Stipulation
- ❖ Letter from Paul Witthohn of CES regarding the Borough's Water Treatment Facility, Media Modification
- ❖ Letter and Public Notice from New Jersey American Water regarding Petition for Approval to Change the Level of Its Purchased Water Adjustment Clause and Purchased Wastewater (Sewerage) Treatment Adjustment Clause.
- ❖ Letter from Langan Engineering & Environmental Services regarding remediation at the former Harte-Hanks Print Facility
- ❖ Thank You card from Councilman Packer
- ❖ Thank You card from Glen and Donna Cook for honoring John McKeown
- ❖ Thank You card from Mary McKeown for honoring her husband John and for the flowers
- ❖ Meeting Minutes - GCUA-April 13, 2011
- ❖ Meeting Minutes - GCIA-April 21, 2011

MONEY COLLECTED BY THE CLERK (MAY):

Police Reports	\$35.45
Liquor Licenses	\$4959.00
Notary	\$2.50
Marriage License	\$28.00
Certified Marriage	\$20.00
Certified Death Certificates	\$20.00
TOTAL	\$5064.95

AGENDA

BILLS

The Clerk advised that the list of bills was posted in the foyer.

A motion to dispense with reading of the bills was made by Councilwoman Archer and seconded by Councilman Murtaugh. *Motion unanimously approved by voice vote.*

A motion to pay all bills and vouchers that were in order was made by Councilwoman Archer and seconded by Councilman Murtaugh. *Motion unanimously approved by roll call vote.*

PUBLIC COMMENT: (5 Minute Time Limit)

A motion to open the meeting for public comment was made by Councilwoman Archer and seconded by Councilman Murtaugh.

- ❖ Wendy Baxter of 10 Third Avenue questioned the eviction process for 6 Third Avenue. Ms. Baxter stated she had been in contact with Housing and Code Official Wasson and also had copies of 18 police reports. Chief Lederer stated the police do not get involved in evictions other than delivering complaints to the Housing and Code Enforcement Department. Administrator Bittner stated the Borough does not get involved in the eviction process; however, if there are problems with a specific property, the Borough may sign complaints against the owner. Administrator Bittner stated he would have Housing and Code Official Wasson contact Ms. Baxter with an update on the situation. Ms. Baxter stated she spoke with Housing and Code Official Wasson who told her he spoke with the landlord (Mr. Shahrokh) who said he was working on it and Housing and Code Official Wasson told Ms. Baxter that he must give Mr. Shahrokh the benefit of the doubt. Ms. Baxter stated she doubted there was an eviction in progress because the individuals who leased the property at 6 Third Avenue were working on the new property at 500 Highland Avenue and stated it's a property with no permits. Councilman Rebel stated he spoke with Housing and Code Official Wasson about the property and was told by Mr. Wasson that he would investigate the issue and report back to Councilman Rebel. Discussion took place on the guidelines currently in place to revoke a Landlord license. Councilman Rebel stated that so far the property at 500 Highland Avenue has been only repair work.

AGENDA

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- ❖ Michael Miller of 4 Cypress Court asked if his letter regarding the bamboo in the back of his yard had been reviewed. Administrator Bittner stated the letter arrived after the agenda was completed and because the letter threatened legal action, it was forwarded to Solicitor Scaffidi for review. Administrator Bittner informed Mr. Miller that he could contact him before the next meeting to see if the issue will be discussed at the next council meeting. Councilman Pennington asked for a summary of the complaint and Mr. Miller stated that three years ago he sent letters about the bamboo growing behind his house. Administrator Bittner advised Council that because of impending litigation, he would prefer they refer from commenting on the issue.

Hearing no further comments from the public, a motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Councilwoman Archer and seconded by Councilman Rebel.

COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY AND DEPARTMENT HEADS:

- ❖ Public Works Manager Domico stated, as part of a school project, Gateway students would be working at the Thomas West Park on Monday, June 13 to help clean the pond.
- ❖ Public Works Manager Domico confirmed the Island located at Broadway and Delsea Drive was finished. Additionally, there were pre-bid meetings for the Water Tower meters and tank improvements scheduled for Thursday; however, there is an electrical issue, specific to a PSE&G transformer, that may delay the project. Public Works Manager Domico stated she would send additional information to the Committee after the pre-bid meetings.
- ❖ Councilman Packer stated after reviewing the grass recycling issue that was discussed at the May 25th meeting, it was determined that it's less expensive to trash the grass (\$64) rather than recycle (\$75). Residents will be told to put the grass out with trash; preferably in cans but green trash bags would be acceptable.
- ❖ Councilman Packer stated he received a memo from Public Works Manager Domico suggesting that the Borough use the funds received from the sale of the old Sewer Jetter to make a liquid salt tank which would eliminate the need to purchase rock salt. Administrator Bittner stated Public Works Manager Domico should consult with Chief Financial Officer Bruno to see if the funds are available to use for this purpose. Public Works Manager Domico suggested if they proceed with the liquid salt tank, all streets in the Borough could be treated at half the cost of using rock salt.

AGENDA

COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY AND DEPARTMENT HEADS: (Continued)

- ❖ Public Works Manager Domico distributed a letter at the beginning of tonight's meeting from the Township of West Deptford. The letter stated that West Deptford Township is in need of a seniors' bus and were asking if Westville would be willing to provide use of Westville's old bus. Administrator Bittner asked if this issue could be addressed in closed session.
- ❖ Councilman Rebel stated that the individuals who worked on the Island did a fantastic job.
- ❖ Councilman Rebel confirmed everything is ready to go for the June 25th Celebration. Public Works Manager Domico stated the Fireworks contract was approved and deferred to Police Chief Lederer about the closing of roads. Police Chief Lederer stated letters are delivered two days before the event. Public Works Manager Domico suggested perhaps a meeting should be scheduled with Public Works as well as the Fire and Police Departments specific to traffic control on June 25th.
- ❖ A resident asked why the boat parade was discontinued and Councilman Rebel confirmed it was a safety issue as well as a cost savings measure.
- ❖ Councilman Murtaugh thanked Public Works Manager Domico for all the projects she's completed and are still in progress.
- ❖ Chief Lederer thanked Council for filling the patrolman vacancy.

Municipal Clerk Helder read RESOLUTION NO. 75-2011 to go into a Closed Executive Session at 7:45 p.m. to discuss Municipal Building Negotiations and Shared Services Agreement.

Motion to go into a Closed Executive Session made by Councilman Pennington and seconded by Councilman Rebel. *The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.*

Time In: 7:45 p.m.

Time Out: 8:30 p.m.

A motion to authorize Administrator Bittner to begin non-binding negotiations on 165 Broadway for Municipal use was made by Councilman Packer and seconded by Councilman Rebel. *The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.*

AGENDA

A motion to authorize Administrator Bittner to negotiate with West Deptford Township regarding their request to use the Borough's old bus was made by Councilman Murtaugh and seconded by Councilwoman Archer. *The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.*

Meeting Adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine A. Helder
Municipal Clerk

Next meeting scheduled July 13, 2011