

**BOROUGH OF WESTVILLE  
REORGANIZATION MEETING  
Wednesday, January 6, 2010  
Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Welsh at 7 p.m. and the Salute and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag 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.

The Invocation was given by Reverend Frederick Link, St. Anne's Catholic Church.

Mayor Welsh acknowledged some of the distinguished guests that were in the audience; Assemblyman Angel Fuentes, County Freeholder Frank DeMarco and also former Mayor William Packer.

Mayor Welsh presented the Oath of Office to Councilmen Michael O. Ledrich and William C. Rebel.

Mayor Welsh read a Proclamation honoring Councilman Charles D. Murtaugh for his 31 years of service to the Westville Fire Department and noted that 21 of the 31 years, Councilman Murtaugh served as the Fire Chief. As of January 1, 2010, Councilman/Fire Chief Murtaugh was retiring as Westville's Fire Chief.

Councilman Murtaugh stated he was truly surprised and thanked everyone for coming. He further stated he was privileged to work for a Printing Company in town and the owner, the late Seven Marcus, allowed him to run every fire call while he was working. Councilman Murtaugh confirmed that Eric Farley is the new Fire Chief and the Borough is in good hands under Eric's leadership.

Mayor Welsh announced to the audience that refreshments would be served after the meeting.

**ROLL CALL**

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

*Absent:* None

*Also Present:* Solicitor John Alice, Administrator William J. Bittner, Jr., Police Chief Fred Lederer, Public Works Manager Donna Domico, Housing Inspector Bruce Wasson, Clerk/Tax Collector Christine Helder

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Councilman Murtaugh made a motion to nominate Councilman Ledrich as Council President. Councilman Pennington seconded the motion that was approved by a roll call vote.**  
**Vote: 6-0**  
**Yes: Councilman Baker, Ledrich, Muhlbaier, Murtaugh, Pennington and Rebel.**  
*Motion unanimously passed by roll call vote.*
2. **Motion to approve all 2010 Appointments and Resolutions was made by Council President Ledrich and seconded by Councilman Rebel.**  
**Vote: 6-0**  
**Yes: Council President Ledrich, Councilman Baker, Muhlbaier, Murtaugh, Pennington and Rebel.** *Motion unanimously passed by roll call vote*
3. **RESOLUTION OF CONSENT. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Muhlbaier with a second by Councilman Baker. (Allows approval/denial of all Resolutions as a whole, at the end.)**  
**Vote: 6-0**  
**Yes: Council President Ledrich, Councilman Baker, Muhlbaier, Murtaugh, Pennington and Rebel.** *Motion unanimously passed by roll call vote*
4. **RESOLUTION NO. 1-2010 ~ ADOPTING A TEMPORARY BUDGET FOR 2010**
5. **RESOLUTION NO. 2-2010 ~ NAMING DEPOSITORIES FOR 2010**
6. **RESOLUTION NO. 3-2010 ~ AUTHORIZING A PETTY CASH FUND FOR 2010**
7. **RESOLUTION NO. 4-2010 ~ FIXING PENALTIES FOR DELINQUENT TAXES, ASSESSMENTS, SEWER CHARGES, WATER CHARGES FOR 2010**
8. **RESOLUTION NO. 5-2010 ~ DESIGNATING LEGAL PUBLICATIONS FOR 2010**
9. **RESOLUTION NO. 6-2010 ~ ADOPTING "ROBERTS RULE OF ORDER"**
10. **RESOLUTION NO. 7-2010 ~ EXECUTING PROFESSIONAL AGREEMENTS**
11. **RESOLUTION NO. 8-2010 ~ RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT**
12. **RESOLUTION NO. 9-2010 ~ CONFIRMING PRIMARY PHYSICIAN**

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**NEW BUSINESS: (continued)**

- 13. RESOLUTION NO. 10-2010 ~ DESIGNATING REGULAR MEETING DATES**
- 14. RESOLUTION NO. 11-2010 ~ CHARGING PENALTIES ON TAXES, WATER OR SEWER THAT ARE DELINQUENT**
- 15. RESOLUTION NO. 12-2010 ~ CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR 2010**
- 16. RESOLUTION NO. 13-2010 ~ DESIGNATING MANAGERIAL INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE TELEPHONE ACCESS TO EPL HOTLINE**
- 17. RESOLUTION NO. 14-2010 ~ DESIGNATING TAX SEARCH/ASSESSMENT SEARCH OFFICER**
- 18. RESOLUTION NO. 15-2010 ~ OMIT FROM TAX SALE REAL PROPERTY EQUAL MONTHLY INSTALLMENTS**
- 19. RESOLUTION NO. 16-2010 ~ ISSUANCE OF DUPLICATE TAX SALE CERTIFICATE.**
- 20. RESOLUTION NO. 17-2010 ~ AUTHORIZING SERVICE CHARGE FOR RETURNED CHECK**
- 21. RESOLUTION NO. 18-2010 ~ BIDDING BY MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AT TAX SALE**
- 22. RESOLUTION NO. 19-2010 ~ IN REM FORECLOSURE**
- 23. RESOLUTION NO. 20-2010 ~ AUTHORIZING PURCHASING UNDER STATE CONTRACTS**
- 24. RESOLUTION NO. 21-2010 ~ AUTHORIZING OFFICIALS TO FILE PROOF OF CLAIMS FORMS WITH THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT**
- 25. RESOLUTION NO. 22-2010 ~ AUTHORIZING A TAX SALE PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 54:5-19**
- 26. RESOLUTION NO. 23-2010 ~ APPROVING A \$25.00 FEE FOR ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES OF REDEMPTION**

**NEW BUSINESS:** (continued)

**27. RESOLUTION NO. 24-2010 ~ APPROVING RESOLUTIONS OF CONSENT FOR 2010.**

*A motion to approve was made by Councilman Muhlbaier with a second by Councilman Baker.*

**Vote:** 6-0

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

Mayor Welsh diverted the meeting to acknowledge the presence of the future Senate President Stephen A. Sweeney. Senator Sweeney wished everyone a Happy New Year and indicated the County was going to have a very difficult year but he was looking forward to working with the Mayor and Council. Senator Sweeney acknowledged that Westville was a great town with a lot hard working, honest people. Senator Sweeney also recognized Councilman Murtaugh's new position as the County's Deputy Fire Commissioner and wished him good luck.

**28. RESOLUTION NO. 25-2010 ~ APPOINTING A FUND COMMISSIONER AND ALTERNATE FUND COMMISSIONER FOR THE TRICO JIF.**

*A motion to approve the Resolution was made by Councilman Muhlbaier and seconded by Councilman Baker.*

**Vote:** 6-0

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

**29. AUTHORIZATION for Mayor and Clerk to sign contracts with Krisanna Construction Inc. for Roadway Improvements to Woodbine Avenue**

*A motion to approve was made by Councilman Baker and seconded by Councilman Pennington.*

**Vote:** 6-0

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

**BILLS & VOUCHERS**

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

*A motion to pay all bills and vouchers was made by Councilman Baker and seconded by Councilman Pennington. Vote: 6-0 Motion unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Bill Packer (former Mayor), 530 River Drive personally thanked Chuck Murtaugh for his years of service as Fire Chief and a lot of other jobs he held in the Fire Department. Mayor Packer wished Councilman Murtaugh the best of luck and looked forward to his help on the Fire Commission.

**COMMENTS FROM GOVERNING BODY AND DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

1. Housing Inspector Wasson wished everyone a safe and prosperous New Year. He also wished Council President Ledrich and Councilman Rebel good luck on their appointments and congratulated Councilman Murtaugh on his new position.
2. Public Works Manager Donna Domico echoed Housing Inspector Wasson's comments and further stated she will miss Councilman Murtaugh as Fire Chief and wished him good luck.
3. Councilman Pennington wished everyone a happy and healthy New Year. Councilman Pennington offered his congratulations and good wishes to Councilman Murtaugh, Council President Ledrich and Councilman Rebel and stated he was looking forward to working with them.
4. Councilman Baker offered his congratulations to Council President Ledrich, Councilman Rebel and Councilman Murtaugh.
5. Council President Ledrich wishes everyone a Happy New Year and congratulated Councilman Murtaugh and thanked everyone for their support.
6. Municipal Clerk/Tax Collector Helder welcomed back Council President Ledrich and Councilman Rebel. As a resident, she thanked Councilman Murtaugh for his work as Fire Chief.
7. Councilman Muhlbaier echoed everyone's sentiments and congratulated Council President Ledrich and Councilman Rebel and wished Councilman Murtaugh good luck.
8. Councilman Rebel congratulated Councilman Murtaugh and said he was looking forward to 2010 and felt that it was going to be a good year for Westville. He further indicated that he had a lot of ideas for Downtown Revitalization efforts and is considering adding celebrations in possibly the Spring or Fall.

COMMENTS FROM GOVERNING BODY AND DEPARTMENT HEADS: (continued)

9. Councilman Murtaugh stated he believed Westville was one of the first in the County to “go green” - paperless with the council meetings. He also thanked everyone for their support.
10. Administrator Bittner congratulated everyone and stated it was sad to see Councilman Murtaugh go as Fire Chief but understood he would still be involved with the Fire Company and other town activities. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for providing support throughout the year. He declared the town wasn't in bad shape but was unsure what the new Governor would do about aid this year. Administrator Bittner advised he had official business to discuss. He stated that Mr. Matt Pellegrino came into the office today asking for a required signature so he can have an inspection station at his car dealership as part of his business. Mayor Welsh asked if it would be a full State Inspection or just an Emissions inspection station and Administrator Bittner confirmed it would be a full State inspection station.

*A motion to approve was made by Councilman Murtaugh and seconded by Councilman Pennington.*

**Vote: 6-0**

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

Mr. Bittner added that he would also like to be part of the Revitalization efforts.

11. Police Chief Lederer congratulated Council President Ledrich, Councilman Rebel and Councilman Murtaugh and agreed the town would be in good hands with Eric Farley.
12. Mayor Welsh thanked the Elected Officials in the audience and acknowledged they are there when the Borough needs them. Mayor Welsh also acknowledged Eric Farley and stated he had assumed all the responsibilities of Fire Chief. Mayor Welsh also delivered a brief “Mayor’s Message” which addressed the past year and that he was pleased with the progress the Department Heads and Council has accomplished. Accomplishments included:
  - The ability to “hold” the Local Purpose Tax which meant there was no increase to Westville residents and no services were cut. Mayor Welsh commented this action was directly attributable to the hard work of Department Heads and Council who worked very hard to manage their budgets;

**COMMENTS FROM GOVERNING BODY AND DEPARTMENT HEADS: (continued)**

- Through the efforts of the Borough Administrator, Council Members and Elected Officials who help support Westville throughout the year - a grant was received from New Jersey's Division of Consumer Affairs to help continue with the support of the merger of the National Park/Westville Police services for \$90,000.
- Westville also obtained discretionary aid from the Department of Transportation for the resurfacing of Woodbine Avenue and part of Hillside Avenue that will be completed in the Spring.
- Maintained the cooperative agreements with surrounding municipalities for the Regional Water Lab.
- The Borough continued the cooperative agreement for the Shuttle Bus service with Brooklawn.
- Continued the agreement for services for Police and Fire Dispatching for salt storage and some other functions of Emergency Management within Gloucester County.
- On August 20<sup>th</sup>, Westville celebrated its one year Anniversary of providing contracted police service to National Park.
- Through the efforts of the Police Chief and Borough Administrator, the Police Department received a grant for "Live Scan". "Live Scan" is a computer aided system for taking fingerprints of applicants for criminal arrests. The data is transferred by computer directly to the State and eliminates mailing the documents. The system costs thousands of dollars; however through the efforts of Administrator Bittner and Police Chief Lederer, Westville received the equipment free through a State grant.
- Westville has an active Town Watch Program that fosters an exchange of information between residents, the Council liaison and the Police Department. Some of the information obtained from Town Watch members regarding suspicious activities has resulted in several arrests.
- Two more officers graduated from the DARE program which increases the number of officers eligible to teach the program in both the Westville and National Park Elementary schools.
- Westville is in the process of finalizing a grant through FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), the New Jersey Department of Homeland Security and the Gloucester County Prosecutor's office for equipment to address public safety needs. This grant will allow the Police Department to secure new equipment rather than have to budget the expense through the Local Purpose Tax.

**COMMENTS FROM GOVERNING BODY AND DEPARTMENT HEADS: (continued)**

- Additional police officers were added to provide better service to the residents of Westville as well as National Park.
- 14 new businesses moved into Westville. They are: Brown's Shop Rite Corporate Office, T-Mobile (cell tower to be erected); Envy (new salon); American Fence; Cheer Tropics; Kelly Industrial Floors; Always Affordable Taxi; Torres Treasurers; Dances by Diane; the administrative offices of SODAT; Legends Extreme; Delancey and American Auto World.

Mayor Welsh addressed some of the issues that are being looked at this year:

- At the urging of Councilman Murtaugh, the Borough will instigate the "going green" concept.
- Meetings to discuss the condition of all the municipal buildings will take place in January.
- Redevelopment needs to be addressed - whether a small or large scale project in order to keep the tax base stable.
- The Mayor would like to revisit the issue of the basketball courts at the park near the Lion's Club. Additionally, consideration can be given to constructing a pavilion for Lion's Club events and then possibly relocating the basketball courts.
- The Mayor acknowledged that crime is up, not only in Westville but other areas as well. To help with crime prevention, the Borough will be investing in portable cameras that will be strategically placed throughout the town. Police officers will be challenged to be more visible on the street (e.g. foot and bike patrol); more visibility of the canine officer and the Prosecutor will be challenged to prosecute to the letter of the law.

**MEETING MINUTES**

A motion to approve the meeting minutes from November 10<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and December 9<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009 was made by Councilman Rebel and seconded by Councilman Pennington. (Councilman Muhlbaier did not read the minutes electronically so abstained from the vote.)

*A motion to approve was made by Councilman Murtaugh and seconded by Councilman Pennington.*

**Vote:** 5-0

**Abstain:** Councilman Muhlbaier

**Yes:** Council President Ledrich, Councilman Baker, Murtaugh, Pennington and Rebel

*Motion passed by roll call vote.*

## Meeting Minutes

The Benediction was given by Pastor Gary Brennan. Pastor Gary thanked the Mayor and Council for the flowers he received during his hospital stay and proceeded with the Benediction.

**RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.** A *motion* to approve the Resolution was made by Councilman Pennington and seconded by Councilman Baker. *Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.*

Time in Executive Session was 8:14 pm and Time Out was 9:00 pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:01 pm.

Respectively Submitted,

Christine A. Helder  
Municipal Clerk