

**BOROUGH OF WESTVILLE
Mayor & Council Regular Meeting
114 Crown Point Road
Wednesday, January 9, 2008**

A regular meeting was called to order by Council President Welsh at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting was opened with the salute and pledge of allegiance to the flag.

The Clerk read the opening statement.

Roll Call – Present

Councilman Welsh, Councilman Baker, Councilman Ledrich, Councilman Muhlbaier, Councilman Pennington and Councilwoman Rodgers.

Absent

Mayor Galbraith who is ill.

Also Present were:

Administrator Bittner, Clerk & Tax Collector Helder, Police Chief Lederer and John Alice, representing Solicitor Chell.

Meeting Minutes of Reorganization Meeting

Motion by Councilman Pennington was made to approve the meeting minutes of January 2, 2008, as written. Second motion was made by Councilwoman Rodgers.

Roll Call Vote – In Favor

Councilman Welsh, Councilman Baker, Councilman Ledrich, Councilman Muhlbaier, Councilman Pennington and Councilwoman Rodgers – Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Public Comment on Agenda

No comment from the public.

OLD BUSINESS:

A discussion was held on the library expansion. Councilwoman Rodgers advised that Dan Rodier could do the job for \$17,400. Kimberly Winifred advised that her engineering firm could do the job for \$19,000 that would be incorporated into her final price. They both can work within budget. This matter was discussed at length.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Rodgers to award the bid for new drawings to Kimberly Winifred. A second motion was made by Councilman Baker.

Roll Call Vote – In Favor

Councilman Welsh, Councilman Baker, Councilman Ledrich, Councilman Muhlbaier, Councilman Pennington and Councilwoman Rodgers. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilman Welsh discussed the passing of Auditor Robert Jones. He advised that the Personnel Committee met this evening and Petroni & Associates have agreed to do the yearly audit at the same price as that of Mr. Jones. The Personnel Committee recommended that Petroni & Associates be appointed as Auditor for 2008. On motion by Councilman Welsh, seconded by Councilman Ledrich, Petroni & Associates was appointed as Auditor for 2008 by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION #26-08 Crediting Certain Water Accounts due to Water Meter Reading Errors for Accounts #131-0, #677-0 and #886-0. (Res. Bk. 18)

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Councilman Pennington and a second by Councilwoman Rodgers.

Roll Call Vote – In Favor

Councilman Welsh, Councilman Baker, Councilman Ledrich, Councilman Muhlbaier, Councilman Pennington and Councilwoman Rodgers. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION #27-08 Crediting Water Account #2022-0 due to a Bill Generated in Error. (Res. Bk. 18)

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Councilman Ledrich and a second by Councilman Welsh.

Roll Call Vote – In Favor

Councilman Welsh, Councilman Baker, Councilman Ledrich, Councilman Muhlbaier, Councilman Pennington and Councilwoman Rodgers. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION #28-08 Crediting Sewer Account for Joseph Judd #486-0 for \$200.00, Water Account for \$291.81 and Refunding Account #486-0 for \$251.33 due to an Overpayment of Taxes. (Res. Bk. 18)

A motion was made by Councilman Pennington to approve the resolution and a second by Councilman Baker

NEW BUSINESS (Continued)Roll Call Vote – In Favor

Councilman Welsh, Councilman Baker, Councilman Ledrich, Councilman Muhlbaier, Councilman Pennington and Councilwoman Rodgers. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Cindy Burkett was appointed as Part-time Crossing Guard on the recommendation of Police Chief Lederer.

A motion to approve the appointment was made by Councilman Pennington and a second by Councilman Ledrich.

Roll Call Vote – In Favor

Councilman Welsh, Councilman Baker, Councilman Ledrich, Councilman Muhlbaier, Council Pennington and Councilwoman Rodgers. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. A request from a resident at 41 Lehigh Ave. for a street light was received. Councilman Pennington advised that the Street Light Committee would investigate her request and get back to her.
2. A letter from the State of N.J. Council on Affordable Housing regarding COAH's Revised Third Round Rules was received.
3. A letter from the Gloucester County Board of Chosen Freeholders regarding the Gloucester County Emergency Medical Services was received. Mr. Sims advised that the Fire Department still feels it is not necessary for Westville to join their service.
4. A Notice from Exelon Generation regarding Downstream Notification was received.
5. A letter from Wheelabrator regarding an increase in tipping fees was received.
6. A letter from the NJDOT regarding the Fiscal Year 2008 Municipal Aid Program was received.
7. A letter from NJDOT regarding funding for Burr Avenue in the amount Of \$144,000.00 was received.
8. A letter from Congressman Andrews regarding a meeting on 1/22/08 at Rowan University from 11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. was discussed. The Administrator will attend this meeting.

9. A letter from Elaine Brunkel advising that Robert A. Jones, RMA, passed away on December 26, 2007 was received.

MONIES COLLECTED BY THE CLERK:

Rent	\$780.00
Police Reports	95.25
Xerox Copies	13.75
Notary Fees	1.00
Street Openings	10.00
Interest	<u>20.71</u>
Total	\$920.71

The foregoing monies were ordered turned over to the Chief Finance Officer.

BILLS & VOUCHERS:

A motion was made by Councilman Baker and a second by Councilman Ledrich to dispense with the reading of the bills. Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

A motion was made by Councilman Baker and a second by Councilman Ledrich to pay the bills.

Roll Call Vote – In Favor

Councilman Welsh, Councilman Baker, Councilman Ledrich, Councilman Muhlbaier, Councilman Pennington and Councilwoman Rodgers. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Repetti, 144 Maple Avenue, advised that there are a number of tractor trailer trucks on Delsea Drive, going down Center Street on their way to Harte-Hanks as there is no room for them to turn. Last week a truck took out a fire hydrant. The drivers advised that they use the GPS system and this is the way it tells them to go. The Police Chief advised that the trucking companies have been contacted and told to re-program their GPS's to use Almonesson Avenue but some drivers still use the side streets. The Administrator advised that signs are posted at every entrance stating that trucks should use the truck route, and that alleviates the need to post a sign at every street. He suggested posting several signs on Snyder Avenue and Center Avenue. The Police Chief and Public Works Manager are looking into this matter.

A motion was made by Councilman Baker and a second by Councilman Pennington to close the public comment section. Motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS:

Councilman Baker asked if a job description has been done yet for an intern from a local college. This matter is being looked into, as it is a major undertaking. He then asked if anything has been done regarding a "neighborhood watch" program. The Police Chief advised that the Police Department can only give direction to a group. Councilman Baker suggested that documentation requiring signatures be obtained from the "watch" group as to how they should behave and that they clearly understand that they are not agents of the Borough of Westville. They are strictly volunteers to try and help the community. The Solicitor advised that informational packages can be given out by the Police Department. He feels that volunteer should not be required to sign anything. Councilman Welsh suggested identifying the communities that have a successful program to see if they can offer any guidance.

Councilman Pennington commented on a rental property on his Street. The Housing Official looked into this matter, offering several suggestions. He suggested that the Ordinance Committee and Code Enforcement Committee ride around town looking for properties in disrepair.

Councilwoman Rodgers asked for a list of properties that are in disrepair. The Administrator advised that we have a new rental of dwellings ordinance and it is only in its second year.

Councilwoman Rodgers discussed storage for library books when the renovations are started. Library Director Carotenuto advised that several churches have offered the use of space while the renovations are being done.

Police Chief Lederer advised that a grant for in excess of \$950 has been received for a vest replacement. A check for \$1,577.00 from a drug arrest was also received from the County Prosecutor.

Councilman Ledrich advised that Gateway Athletic Varsity would like to use the Park Avenue baseball field as a fall-back field in case their field is rain saturated.

A motion to approve the request was made by Councilman Ledrich, seconded by Councilman Welsh.

Roll Call Vote – In Favor

Councilman Welsh, Councilman Baker, Councilman Ledrich, Councilman Muhlbaier, Councilman Pennington and Councilwoman Rodgers. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS: (Continued)

Councilman Welsh requested that insurance certificate and hold harmless agreement be obtained from Gateway.

Council President Welsh stated that he failed to recognize the previous mayors who were in the audience, Mayor Packer and Mayor Owens, at the Reorganization Meeting, and he publicly apologizes for not recognizing them as it was an oversight on his part. He also apologized for not recognizing Police Chief Lederer and Public Works Manager Domico who were sitting on the left side of the room at the Reorganization Meeting as flowers had blocked his view. He also stated that the paperwork in the hardware store needs to be placed elsewhere. The Public Buildings & Grounds Committee will look into this matter.

RESOLUTION #29-08 for an Executive Session to Discuss Certain Personnel Matters and Sale of Borough owned property.

A motion was made to approve the resolution by Councilman Welsh and a second by Councilman Baker.

Roll Call Vote – In favor:

Councilman Welsh, Councilman Baker, Councilman Ledrich, Councilman Muhlbaier, Councilman Pennington and Councilwoman Rodgers.
(Res. Bk. 18) Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

The meeting was recessed at 8:23 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:30 p.m.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Welsh, second by Councilwoman Rodgers, having no further business to discuss. Motion to adjourn carried by unanimous voice vote at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine A. Helder,
Municipal Clerk