

BOROUGH OF WESTVILLE
Regular Council Meeting
114 Crown Point Road
February 11, 2009

A regular meeting was called to order by Council President Michael Ledrich 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: Council Members Ledrich, Baker, Pennington, Muhlbaier, Rebel and Murtaugh.

Absent: Mayor Welsh

Also present were: Administrator Bittner, Solicitor Alice, Municipal Clerk Helder, Police Chief Lederer, Public Works Manager Domico and Housing Official Wasson.

The meeting minutes of January 28, 2009 were approved on motion by Councilman Pennington and a second by Councilman Baker. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

A Bond Ordinance (#1-2009) entitled **BOND ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF WESTVILLE, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING FUNDS TO BE UTILIZED FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINANCING REMEDIATION OF UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK ON BOROUGH OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 114 CROWN POINT ROAD, AND THE INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A REMEDIATION SYSTEM FOR THAT AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$313,485.00 IN BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH OF WESTVILLE TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF** was given final reading in title. On motion by Councilman Pennington and a second by Councilman Murtaugh, the public hearing was opened. With no comment being heard or received, the public hearing was closed on motion by Councilman Rebel and a second by Councilman Muhlbaier. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

On motion by Councilman Murtaugh and a second by Councilman Pennington, said ordinance was adopted by unanimous roll call vote. (Ord. Bk. 4, Pg. #1-2009)

An Ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 1-06 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF WESTVILLE, IN THE COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING THE REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION OF RENTAL PROPERTIES AND PROVIDING LANDLORD RESPONSIBILITY WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF WESTVILLE was given final reading in title. Councilman Pennington made a motion to open the public hearing and a second was made by Councilman Baker. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. With no comment being heard or received, Councilman Rebel made a motion to close the public hearing and a second was made by Councilman Muhlbaier. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

On motion by Councilman Baker and a second by Councilman Pennington, said Ordinance was adopted by unanimous roll call vote. (Ord. Bk. #4, Pg. #2-2009).

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION #34-2009 Appointing Theresa A. MacLardy and Violet E. Morris as part-time Crossing Guards effective immediately. (Res. Bk. #19)

On motion by Councilman Muhlbaier and a second by Councilman Baker, the resolution was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

A letter of resignation from Karen Caliva, Court Administrator, effective February 16, 2009 was accepted on motion by Councilman Pennington and a second by Councilman Murtaugh. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

RESOLUTION #35-2009 Appointing Laura Weatherby as Municipal Court Administrator effective February 17, 2009. (Res. Bk. #19)

On motion by Councilman Murtaugh and a second by Councilman Muhlbaier, the resolution was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

A letter of resignation from Therese DiFeterici, part-time Violations Clerk was accepted on motion by Councilman Rebel and a second by Councilman Murtaugh. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

RESOLUTION #36-2009 Supporting a Jobs Stimulus Bill that includes our Nation's Infrastructure. (Res. Bk. 19)

On motion by Councilman Pennington and a second by Councilman Murtaugh, the resolution was approved by a roll call vote of 4 ayes and 2 nays by Councilman Muhlbaier and Councilman Baker.

RESOLUTION #37-2009 Approving Tonnage Grant Application. (Res. Bk. 19)

On motion by Councilman Baker and a second by Councilman Pennington, the resolution was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

COMMUNICATIONS:

A letter from Freeholder Director Stephen M. Sweeney regarding Senate Bill 2356-Regionalized Tax Assessment Pilot Project was received. The Administrator expanded on the proposed bill, advising that it would consolidate 24 municipal assessors through the County Office. The Program would be paid for through County taxes and would provide an ongoing assessment of properties each year. The Borough is up for reassessment next year, and the cost would probably be around \$150,000.00. He further stated that he saw no down side to supporting this bill at the present time.

RESOLUTION #38-2009 Supporting Senate Bill #2356 – Regionalized Tax Assessment Pilot Program. (Res. Bk. 19)

On motion by Councilman Murtaugh and a second by Councilman Pennington, the resolution was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

MONEY COLLECTED BY THE CLERK:

Notary Fees	\$ 2.50
Rent	900.00
Police Reports	142.75
Amusement Games	10.00
Cat Licenses	47.00
Used Car Licenses	700.00
Gun Permits	16.00
Interest	<u>2.21</u>
Total	\$1,820.46

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

BILLS & VOUCHERS:

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

A motion to approve the List of Bills was made by Councilman Baker and a second was made by Councilman Rebel. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

COMMENTS FROM GOVERNING BODY & DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Councilman Ledrich inquired about what was happening at 800 Delsea Dr. The Housing Official advised that this matter is still in court.

The Public Works Manager and Administrator discussed fireworks.

Solicitor Alice and the Administrator discussed a tax appeal recently received. Installation of cameras in the park areas was also discussed. Solicitor Alice investigated this matter, and saw no problem installing cameras on Borough properties.

Councilman Muhlbaier discussed ordering signs for the Town Watch organization. The Public Works Manager will look into this matter. He then inquired if there is any constructive plan for the Town Watch Program.

Donna Carrelli, 139 Edgewater Ave., advised that another meeting is scheduled for the Town Watch. The Administrator advised that some type of structure should be completed for the Town Watch organization before signs are ordered. This matter was discussed.

Councilman Muhlbaier then complimented Sgt. John Grady for his contributions to the Town Watch Program.

Councilman Murtaugh suggested using florescent light bulbs throughout town. He discussed possibly obtaining doggie bags and dispensers. He advised that the County Emergency Dispatch does not accept letter addresses like Suite A, B, etc., and this causes a problem for emergency and fire vehicles. The Administrator will look into this matter.

The Administrator advised that a response was received from Federici & Akin regarding a final report for the reconstruction of Woodbine Ave. A meeting is scheduled regarding the Streetscape Project of \$795,000 for Delsea Drive. The flooding problem on Delsea Drive would be a State project. He then advised that he received estimates for cameras at the soccer fields, Broadway & Pine St., Thomas West Park and the baseball complex. Money is available from last year for cameras at two locations. This matter was discussed at length.

The Public Works Manager advised that the quote for the tree removal at Schileen's Pub was \$800.00. The Borough cannot reach the high branches of the trees. Councilman Murtaugh suggested splitting the cost with Schileen's. This will be looked into.

Councilman Ledrich advised that our request for consolidation of polling places has been approved by the County. He advised that the County made several recommendations for polling place consolidation; they would like a handicap curb cut be put in place, and one additional handicap parking place be added. The Administrator advised that the County would also like to consolidate voting districts from five to three for polling places.

Councilman Ledrich advised that the Library issued an invitation to Borough Officials for their Open House on March 1, 2009 at 1:00 p.m., and had requested an R.S.V.P. The Library will reopen on March 3, 2009. He then discussed the TRICOJIF breakfast on Thursday, February 26, 2009 at Nicolosi Caterers at 8:30 p.m.

RESOLUTION #39-2009 Approving an Executive Session for Employment Issues in the Municipal Court, Police Department and Administrative Offices. (Res. Bk. 19)

Councilman Baker made a motion to approve the resolution and a second was made by Councilman Rebel. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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The meeting was recessed at 8:25 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 9:24 p.m.

RESOLUTION #40-2009 Appointing Kathleen Carroll as Municipal Court/Violations Clerk Part-time effective February 13, 2009. (Res. Bk. 19)

Councilman Baker made a motion to approve the resolution and a second was made by Councilman Murtaugh. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Councilman Pennington discussed extra contributions made to the Library totaling almost \$36,045.00 for 2007 and 2008. The mill tax is mandated by the State. This matter was discussed at length. The Solicitor will look into this matter.

The Administrator advised that the surplus from last year is \$1,200,000.00. This is partly due to the increase in sewer charges and a decrease in debt service. He has requested all department heads to cut this year's budget by 5%.

Councilman Baker suggested putting money aside for a new Borough facility which will be needed sometime in the future.

Councilman Ledrich advised that he would like to go over the budget line by line.

With no further business to come before the meeting, a motion to adjourn carried at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine A. Helder
Municipal Clerk