

BOROUGH OF WESTVILLE

Regular Council Meeting

165 Broadway

April 14, 2014~ 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Mayor Welsh called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Welsh advised those in attendance that if they would like to speak during the meeting to come up to the microphone

The Clerk read the public notice and roll call was taken, with the following persons in attendance:

Present: Mayor Russell W. Welsh, Jr., Council President Michael O. Ledrich, Council Members: Donna Moan, Charles Murtaugh, William C. Packer, III and Councilman Sims

Absent: William C. Rebel

Also Present: Administrator William J. Bittner, Jr., Municipal Clerk/Tax Collector Christine A. Helder, Police Chief William Whinna and Solicitor Timothy Scaffidi

Motion to approve the March 17, 2014 meeting minutes after updating the records to reflect Solicitor Shannon Corneilius attended the meeting in place of Solicitor Timothy Scaffidi was made by Councilman Packer and seconded by Councilwoman Moan. *Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.*

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES FOR MARCH

A motion to approve the reports, as submitted, was made by Councilman Murtaugh and seconded by Council President Ledrich. *Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.*

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY: No comments received from the Public

OLD BUSINESS: No old business

NEW BUSINESS:

- ❖ INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 4-2014 ~ PROVIDING FOR THE VACATION OF PUBLIC STREET RIGHTS IN PROPERTY IDENTIFIED FORMERLY AS RAILROAD AND/OR STATION AVENUE IN THE BOROUGH OF WESTVILLE AND LOCATED BETWEEN GATEWAY BOULEVARD AND BLOCK 46, LOT 1 TO THE WEST AND BLOCK 13, LOT 3 TO THE EAST AS IDENTIFIED ON THE BOROUGH OF WESTVILLE TAX MAP

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NEW BUSINESS: (Continued)

Mayor Welsh questioned if PSE&G supplied the information on the Ordinance and Administrator Bittner confirmed they did and that the Ordinance has nothing to do with the crossing but rather the towers being erected along the railroad tracks. Administrator Bittner advised this Ordinance corrects a mistake from a 1930 Ordinance that vacated Railroad Avenue that failed to vacate 30 feet of that street and this Ordinance corrects the mistake. Additional discussion took place on the project and Solicitor Scaffidi suggested language be added to the Ordinance that he will supply to Administrator Bittner.

Motion to Introduce Ordinance No. 4-2014 was approved by Councilman Murtaugh and seconded by Councilman Packer. *Motion unanimously approved by roll call vote.*

❖ INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 5-2014 - 2014 SALARY ORDINANCE

Administrator Bittner commented the Ordinance reflects a 2% increase to current employees and also addition of the Construction office and a Lieutenant in the Police Department.

It was noted for the record that Councilmen Sims and Murtaugh excused themselves from the record and left Council Chambers.

Motion to Introduce Ordinance No. 5-2014 was approved by Council President Ledrich and seconded by Councilwoman Moan. *Motion approved by roll call vote. Councilman Packer approved the increase for current employees and addition of the Construction Office but abstained from voting on the salary increase for the Lieutenant's position in the Police Department.*

❖ RESOLUTION NO. 61-2014 ~ APPOINTING NICOLE MURTAUGH TO THE PART-TIME POSITION OF OFFICE CLERK EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2014

Motion to approve Resolution No. 61-2014 was approved by Council President Ledrich and seconded by Councilwoman Moan. *Motion approved by majority roll call vote, Council President Ledrich, Councilman Packer and Councilwoman Moan.*

❖ RESOLUTION NO. 62-2014 ~ APPOINTING LINDA SIMS TO THE PART-TIME POSITION OF OFFICE CLERK EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2014

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Motion to approve Resolution No. 62-2014 was approved by Councilwoman Moan and seconded by Council President Ledrich. *Motion approved by majority roll call vote, Council President Ledrich, Councilman Packer and Councilwoman Moan.*

Councilman Sims and Murtaugh returned to Council Chambers and are back on the record

NEW BUSINESS: (Continued)

❖ Gloucester County 2014-2015 CDBG Municipal Project Program.

Administrator Bittner advised on March 28, 2014 the Borough was notified that the CDBG Program was going to be available this year. Administrator Bittner commented in 2013 the Borough was awarded and received a \$50,000 CDBG Grant for the elevator and approved for another \$50,000 for the traffic light which was initially declined but then was told the award could be extended if additional information was provided; however, when it came time for the extension, the grant was declined. Administrator Bittner commented he would again like to apply for a CDBG Grant for the traffic light and confirmed the information is ready to be submitted. Administrator Bittner provided additional details on the requirements and documentation needed to submit the grant and asked for permission to submit for CDBG funds and confirmed the deadline to submit the application is April 28, 2014.

❖ RESOLUTION NO. 63-2014 ~ AUTHORIZING WILLIAM J. BITNER, JR. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR, TO SUBMIT APPLICATION TO THE GLOUCESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

Motion to approve Resolution No. 63-2014 was made by Councilman Packer and seconded by Councilman Sims. *Motion unanimously approved by roll call vote.*

❖ APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL PERMIT FOR SOCIAL AFFAIR FOR MAY 10, 2014 for the Westville Power Boat Association

Motion to approve was made by Councilman Sims and seconded by Council President Ledrich. *Motion unanimously approved by roll call vote.*

❖ Request from resident George Baker, 29 Edgewater Avenue, to discuss the Water and Sewer bills for 13 Edgewater Avenue

George Baker, 29 Edgewater, asked if Mayor and Council would consider not charging him commercial water and sewer rates for a business (Bait Shop) that has been closed for many years. He advised he could have a plumber connect both apartments to one water meter and then have the Bait shop on a separate meter and then request the water service be turned off at the Bait shop; therefore, ending the commercial rate. Mr. Baker provided water records to confirm water is not being used at the Bait shop and confirmed it would not be in his best interest to re-zone the property. Discussion took place on water usage at the property and his previous requests regarding this issue.

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Councilman Packer advised the Water, Sewer, Highway, Street, Lighting & Recycling Committee would meet with Public Works Manager Domico and report back to Mayor and Council on their recommendation.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- ❖ Signed petition from Pam Mastrando supporting the Block Party on May 10 at Locust

Councilman Murtaugh stated as long as there is ingress and egress it should be alright. Mayor Welsh asked Municipal Clerk Helder to notify Ms. Mastrando that the Governing Body approved the request.

PUBLIC PORTION:

- ❖ Joyce Lovell, 328 Summit advised the Environmental Commission completed their clean-up project at River Drive and commented the volunteers filled up 18 bags with recyclables and 9 bags with trash. Ms. Lovell also stated that perhaps the dead reeds could be pulled up. Ms. Lovell advised there will be another clean-up in Paulsboro on the 9th of May and that Parkview School students raised \$429. for their trees. Ms. Lovell also commented on the surveys that are being taken in order to plant the tree and advised the school asked if there will be some kind of assembly so that the children can present their check to the Borough. Mayor Welsh suggested the Youth in Government meeting on May 12th or the April 28th meeting.
- ❖ Ginger Horn, 111 Twedell thanked Councilmen Rebel and Packer for their help in participating in the River Drive clean-up project (beach area along Delaware View and the point at River Drive). Ms. Horn advised she worked along Delaware View and commented people are dumping yard debris onto the beach area and hoped Public Works Manager Domico could send a letter to residents of all waterfront properties reminding them the beach is public land and they cannot dump private materials in this area. Ms. Horn noted trees and branches are being cut down along the waterfront and advised Chief Whinna of all the little plastic baggies she discovered.
- ❖ John Sheahan, from the Westville Power Boat Association, advised he doesn't have that many boats for the Parade of Lights scheduled for May 17 but will contact member of both his and other organizations. Additional discussion took place about the Parade of Lights.

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COMMENTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS:

- ❖ Councilman Murtaugh advised the Little League season opens Saturday, April 12 and the parade will be held on Saturday, April 19th beginning at 9 a.m. at the Park and concluding at the fields on Almonesson.
- ❖ Councilman Murtaugh advised the Fire House and the Lions Club were installing new electronic signs at their facilities and that the signs were purchased together for better pricing. Councilman Murtaugh also advised they will co-advertise all their activities as well as Borough events. Additional discussion took place regarding the new and old signs.
- ❖ Councilman Murtaugh asked if reeds can be pulled out in wetlands. Ms. Lovell's comments were inaudible.
- ❖ Councilman Moan advised the Memorial Day ceremonies will be held at Thomas West Park on May 26, 2014 at 10 a.m.
- ❖ Councilwoman Moan asked Chief Whinna if foot patrols can be started at Thomas West Park because of the vandalism.
- ❖ Councilman Packer advised with the 100th Anniversary Celebrations about 3 weeks away, Parade and activity notices were mailed.
- ❖ Councilman Sims thanked the Environmental Commission for all the work they do in the Borough.
- ❖ Councilman Sims addressed a comment to Councilman Murtaugh regarding an agreement with the Lions Club. Councilman Murtaugh added the Lions club would like an agreement verifying they can keep their sign on Borough property. The issue will be placed on a future agenda.
- ❖ Administrator Bittner advised he interviewed all the inspectors from Woodbury's Construction Office, currently working with Westville and they all agreed to accept a position should it be offered to them at salaries based upon what was collected last year. For example, \$4000.00 for plumbing and \$2000.00 for fire which is in line with fees collected last year. Administrator Bittner added he would like to make the appointments at the April 28th meeting.
- ❖ Mayor Welsh advised letters would be sent to State and Local Elected Officials inviting them to participate and attend the Celebration activities.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Murtaugh and seconded by Councilman Sims.

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MEETING ADJOURNMENT at 8:36 p.m.

Respectively Submitted,

*Christine A. Helder
CMC/Municipal Clerk*

*Next meeting scheduled for April 28, 2014 @ 7:00 p.m.
www.westville-nj.com*