

BOROUGH OF WESTVILLE

Regular Council Meeting

165 Broadway

April 1, 2019

Meeting Minutes

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

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

Mayor Russell W. Welsh, Jr., Council President Michael O. Ledrich, Council Members: Paul C. Mailley, Donna Moan, Charles D. Murtaugh, Bruce Nordaby and Fritz H. Sims, Jr., Deputy Clerk Kathleen Carroll, Administrator/Clerk Ryan J. Giles, Public Works Manager Donna Domico, Engineer Erika Vardaxis, Police Chief William Whinna, Lt. Michael Packer and Solicitor Timothy Scaffidi

A motion to approve the Regular and Executive minutes of March 4, 2019 was made by Councilman Murtaugh and seconded by Councilman Nordaby. *Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.*

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

- ❖ Joyce Lovell, 328 Summit Avenue asked for the Line Item number that related to the Environmental Commission and inquired about Resolution No. 60-2019, "Resolution referring a proposed Rehabilitation Area Designation for the Borough of Westville to the Borough of Westville Land Use Board" and asked if the entire town was being designated as an area in need of rehabilitation. Administrator Giles advised the question would be addressed later in the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR FEBRUARY 2019:

A motion to approve the reports, as submitted, was made by Councilman Murtaugh and seconded by Councilman Mailley. *The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.*

NEW BUSINESS

Proclamation Honoring the 100th Birthday of Herbert Souder. Members of the Rolling Badges congratulated Mr. Souder on his 100th birthday by presenting him with a leather vest making him an honorary Club President.

Mayor Welsh read a Proclamation to Mr. Souder and presented him with a "Key to the Borough" and a letter from the Phillie Phanatic organization inviting him to attend the May 28th Phillies game so that he could be honored along with other Veterans.

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Introduction of:

- ❖ **ORDINANCE No. 4-2019** – Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank (N.J.S.A.40A:4-45.14)

Administrator Giles advised the Borough had increased costs associated with gas bills, recycling fees and sewer charges as well as normal salary increases. Mayor Welsh reminded residents that the Borough did not raise taxes last year and thanked the members of the Finance Committee, CFO Bruno and Administrator Giles for their work on keeping increases to a minimum.

A motion to introduce Ordinance No. 4-2019 was made by Council President Ledrich and seconded by Councilwoman Moan. *The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.*

- ❖ **RESOLUTION No. 55-2019** – Allowing for Self-Examination of the 2019 Budget

A motion to introduce Resolution No. 55-2019 was made by Council President Ledrich and seconded by Councilwoman Moan. *The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.*

- ❖ **INTRODUCTION OF: 2019 MUNICIPAL BUDGET** (*In Title Only*)

General discussion took place specific to the budget.

A motion to introduce the 2019 Municipal Budget was made by Council President Ledrich and seconded by Councilman Murtaugh. *The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.*

CONSENT AGENDA

The items listed below are considered to be routine by the Borough of Westville and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no formal discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, this item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

(Motion to approve/deny all Resolutions listed under the Consent Agenda by Roll Call Vote)

RESOLUTION No. 56-2019 – Issuance of Duplicate Tax Sale certificates pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:5-52.1

RESOLUTION No. 57-2019 – Authorizing a property tax exemption for totally disabled veteran, Joseph C. Morris located at 148 Cedar Avenue, block 79, lot 10, crediting the 2nd quarter of his 2019 taxes in the amount of \$1150.46

A motion to approve Resolutions No. 56-27, 2019 was made by Councilwoman Moan and seconded by Councilman Nordaby. *The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.*

END CONSENT AGENDA

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NEW BUSINESS: *(Continued)*

- ❖ **RESOLUTION No. 58-2019** – Authorizing the Tax Collector to issue a refund in the amount of \$1,255.90 to Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC, for a payment paid in error for a Lien Redemption for Block 86, Lot 6, 38 Walnut Street

A motion to approve Resolution No. 58-2019 was made by Councilman Mailley and seconded by Councilman Sims. *The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.*

- ❖ **RESOLUTION No. 59-2019** – Appointing Jason Cassel to the position of full time Laborer I with the Public Works Department effective April 1, 2019

Councilman Sims advised the Committee met and supported the decision to hire Mr. Cassel

A motion to approve Resolution No. 59-2019 was made by Council President Ledrich and seconded by Councilwoman Moan. *The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.*

- ❖ **RESOLUTION No. 60-2019** – Resolution referring a proposed Rehabilitation Area Designation for the Borough of Westville to the Borough of Westville Land Use Board

Emily Givens of Maley & Givens provided additional details on the Resolution and confirmed that this Resolutions does not give the Borough the authority to exercise eminent domain but rather allows the Borough to adopt a Redevelopment Plan that will encourage homeowners and business owners to take steps to improve their properties that would then make them eligible for a Tax Abatement on the improvements. Ms. Givens advised Resolution No. 60-2019 will be referred to the Land Use Board to be sure the criteria for Rehabilitation is met. Ms. Givens provided additional information on the approval process.

Mayor Welsh opened the meeting to the public:

Joyce Lovell, 328 Summit Avenue asked if the intent was to make improvements on properties to generate additional tax revenue.

Mayor Welsh responded by saying he didn't have a response to her statement but would keep that question in mind for future consideration.

A motion to approve Resolution No. 60-2019 was made by Councilman Nordaby and seconded by Council President Ledrich. *The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.*

NEW BUSINESS: (Continued)

- ❖ **REQUEST** from Nina Robinson, homeowner at 305 Woodbine Avenue for a handicap parking sign in front of her residence.

Police Chief Whinna advised Ms. Robinson is extremely handicap. Discussion took place regarding handicap parking in the Borough. Police Chief Whinna confirmed he would advise Ms. Robinson that designated handicap parking would be open to any handicap identified vehicle. Police Chief Whinna volunteered to stop at Ms. Robinson's residence to discuss her parking needs and then report back to Council at the next meeting.

Request was tabled to allow Chief Whinna to meeting with Ms. Robinson.

-----**CONCLUSION OF NEW BUSINESS**-----

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

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

A motion to pay all bills and vouchers that were in order, was made by Council President Ledrich and seconded by Councilman Sims. *Motion unanimously approved by roll call vote. (Councilman Nordaby abstained from approving check #27433.)*

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Letter from the State of New Jersey, Department of Transportation regarding I-295/Route 42 Missing Moves
- Letter from the State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection regarding the distribution of potable purposes

PUBLIC PORTION: (Individuals must state their name and address for the record and respect the five minute time limit while addressing the Governing Body. In order to be heard, individuals must go to the podium and speak into the microphone.)

- ❖ Public Works Donna Domico, 333 Woodbine Avenue, stepped to the microphone and addressed Mayor and Council as a taxpayer in the Borough. Ms. Domico expressed her concern about the property located at 329 Woodbine (next to her residence) that has been vacant for approximately 25 years and which she has complained about on numerous occasions. Ms. Domico stated based on information she requested through OPRA, the property was condemned on two separate occasions (2014 and 2018) but was recently purchased and the current owner is in the process of fixing up the property. Ms. Domico questioned why a property could sell when it had been condemned and stated that it was hard to live at her residence when she had two boarded up properties on either side of her.

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Councilman Sims ask Ms. Domico what she wanted to happen to the property, did she want it demolished. Ms. Domico stated that since it had been vacant for approximately 25 years and condemned that yes, she was under the impression the property would be demolished. Ms. Domico stated she felt that if the property were anywhere else in town that it would already have been knocked down. Ms. Domico also advised that based on her understanding, the new owner is required to submit a certificate from a structural engineer certifying that the structure is sound before the homeowner can proceed with repairs.

- ❖ Mike Cerrato, Esquire, of 109 Broadway discussed his concerns about the New Jersey Department of Transportation (DOT) meeting that was held on March 6, 2019 regarding the Route 47 Bridge over Big Timber Creek Project and asked if Mayor and Council had received any new additional information about the project that will affect his property because of the road being raised. Mayor Welsh advised the Borough has not received any additional information. Administrator Giles advised he placed a call to Kimberlee Nance at the DOT to see if she has any additional information specific to the project. Administrator Giles also confirmed that he was not aware of any plans to demolish Mr. Cerrato's property as well as the Gateway Diner until the March 6th meeting. Councilman Murtaugh advised he contacted the 5th Legislative District representatives after the meeting to express his displeasure that the Borough did not receive any information in advance of the meeting concerning properties that would be demolished. Ms. Patricia Antonelli, wife to Mr. Cerrato also expressed her concern about the future of her property.
- ❖ Joyce Lovell, 328 Summit Avenue, advised she was at the March 6th meeting regarding the Route 47 Bridge over Big Timber Creek Project and she spoke with a project representative about the Borough's loss of ratables for two business and she stated the gentleman said "not my problem, I don't live here".
- ❖ Jay Jaroslawicz, Property Manager of the 712 Broadway Apartments expressed his concern about the high cost of his water bills at his apartment complex. Mayor and Council listened to Mr. Jaroslawicz's concerns and decided to schedule a meeting with the Water Committee, Public Works Manager Domico and Administrator Giles to further review the issue. Mayor Welsh advised Mr. Jaroslawicz that the Water Committee will provide their recommendation at a future council meeting.

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR/COUNCIL/DEPARTMENT HEADS:

- ❖ Administrator Giles confirmed the migration of Office 365 is in the process of being completed and that everyone should be able to access their email.
- ❖ Councilwoman Moan thanked Administrator Giles for the smooth transition of the new email and congratulated Mr. Souder on his 100th birthday.

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR/COUNCIL/DEPARTMENT HEADS:

- ❖ Councilman Nordaby wished Mr. Souder a Happy Birthday and thanked Linda Sims for organizing a Happy Birthday celebration at Mr. Souder's residence.
- ❖ Council President Ledrich wished Mr. Souder a Happy Birthday
- ❖ Deputy Clerk Carroll, Solicitor Scaffidi, Councilman Sims, Councilman Murtaugh and Councilman Mailley wished Mr. Souder a Happy Birthday
- ❖ Public Works Manager Domico wished Mr. Souder a Happy Birthday and advised that on April, 23-26, the leaf vac will be out picking up leaves and that she's still working on the Pond Cleaning project and that the Westville Shredding Event was scheduled for Saturday, April 6, 2019. Public Works Manager Domico stated rain barrels are available for residents.
- ❖ Erika Vardaxis, Engineer provided updates on Borough projects and wished Mr. Souder a Happy Birthday.
- ❖ Mayor Welsh wished Mr. Souder a Happy Birthday.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Deputy Clerk read **RESOLUTION No. 61-2019** - Authorizing an Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters within the Public Works Department and Purchase and Lease of Property

A motion to approve Resolution No. 61-2019 was made by Councilwoman Moan and seconded by Councilman Nordaby. *Motion unanimously approved by voice vote.*

Time In: 8:10 p.m. Time Out: 8:59 p.m.

- ❖ A motion to authorize Administrator Giles to increase Rod Gandy of the Public Works Water Department yearly salary \$1,000 starting immediately was approved by Council President Ledrich and seconded by Councilman Nordaby. *Motion unanimously approved by roll call vote.*
- ❖ A motion from the Governing Body to sub-divide 114 Crown Point Road and to authorize Administrator Giles to work with the Borough Engineer to prepare a minor sub-division plan application plan for submission to the Planning Board was made by Councilman Mailley and seconded by Councilman Nordaby. *Motion unanimously approved by roll voice vote.*

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A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Mailley and seconded by Councilman Sims. *Motion unanimously approved by voice vote.*

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectively Submitted,

Kathleen Carroll

Kathleen Carroll
Deputy Municipal Clerk

*Next Council meeting scheduled for Monday, May 6, 2019
(Youth in Government)*