

# **BOROUGH OF WESTVILLE**

Regular Council Meeting

165 Broadway

November 4, 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, Charles D. Murtaugh, Bruce Nordaby and Fritz H. Sims, Jr., Deputy Clerk Kathleen Carroll, Administrator/Clerk Ryan J. Giles, Acting Public Works Manager Martin Finger, Engineer Erika Vardaxis, Lt. Michael Packer and Solicitor Timothy Scaffidi.

Late Arrival: Council Member Donna Moan

## **MEETING MINUTES**

A motion to approve the Regular and Executive minutes of October 7, 2019 was made by Council President Ledrich and seconded by Councilman Mailley. *Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.*

## **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

- ❖ Joyce Lovell, 328 Summit Avenue inquired about Resolution No. 124-2019 entitled "Directing the Distribution of the Borough of Westville net returned surplus funds held in trust by the Gloucester, Salem Cumberland County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund" by asking how the funds were deposited.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR SEPTEMBER:**

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

**PROCLAMATION** presented to Arianna Scott from the 5<sup>th</sup> Legislative District elected officials, Nilsa Cruz-Perez, Patricia Egan Jones and William Spearman

**PROCLAMATION** presented to Madison Welsh from the 5<sup>th</sup> Legislative District elected officials, Nilsa Cruz-Perez, Patricia Egan Jones and William Spearman

## Meeting Minutes

### OLD BUSINESS:

#### **Public Hearing:**

*(2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – Introduced October 7, 2019)*

- ❖ **ORDINANCE No. 7-2019** – Amending Chapter 79, Alcoholic beverages, Article 1, licensed premises; public consumption, Section 3, hours of sale, closing of premises of the Code Book of the Borough of Westville

A motion to open the meeting to the public was made by Councilman Mailley and seconded by Councilman Murtaugh. *The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.*

Hearing no comments from the public, a motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Councilman Murtaugh and seconded by Councilman Nordaby. *The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.*

A motion to adopt Ordinance No. 7-2019 was made by Councilman Murtaugh and seconded by Councilman Sims. *The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.*

### NEW BUSINESS:

- ❖ **RESOLUTION No. 123-2019** – Approving renewal of a Plenary Retail Consumption License for a 2017-2018, 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 Liquor license for Acquired Capital

A motion to approve Resolution No. 123-2019 was made by Council President Ledrich and seconded by Councilman Sims. *The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.*

- ❖ **RESOLUTION No. 124-2019** – Directing the Distribution of the Borough of Westville net returned surplus funds held in trust by the Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund

A motion to approve Resolution No. 124-2019 was made by Councilman Nordaby and seconded by Councilman Sims. *The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.*

- ❖ **RESOLUTION No. 125-2019** – Approving Appropriations for Emergency Resolution for payment of Gloucester County Utilities Authority Sewerage Disposal fees *(Administrator Giles and Acting Public Works Manager Finger provided reasons for the increase in fees.)*

A motion to approve Resolution No. 125-2019 was made by Council President Ledrich and seconded by Councilman Murtaugh. *The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.*

- ❖ **LETTER** of retirement from Public Works employee Joseph Baumiester effective November 1, 2019

A motion to approve Mr. Baumiester's letter of retirement was made by Councilman Murtaugh and seconded by Councilman Sims. *The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.*

**NEW BUSINESS:** (continued)

- ❖ **DISCUSSION** led by Administrator Giles regarding adding Stop Signs at Chestnut and Elm Streets and Hazel Avenue

Mayor Welsh prefaced the discussion by stating Council advised they would look into adding stop signs to other streets after stop signs were added to W. Olive Street because speeding now occurs on Chestnut, Elm and Hazel. Administrator Giles advised Council with the new Department of Transportation (DOT) project on Hazel Avenue, two speed bumps are scheduled to be installed and have been approved by DOT. Discussion took place regarding the feasibility of installing speed bumps on Hazel and other Westville streets and the possibility of not adding speed bumps to Hazel and using the funds for other speeding deterrents. Administrator Giles advised Ordinance No. 8-2019, allows for 3 way stop signs at Cleveland & Folsom and Elm & Chestnut.

***Introduction of:***

- ❖ **ORDINANCE No. 8-2019** – Amending Chapter 373. Vehicles and Traffic, Article XI. Schedules, Section 373-37.1 Schedule IXA: Three-Way Stop Intersections of the Borough of Westville Code Book

A motion to Introduce Ordinance No. 8-2019 was made by Councilman Nordaby and seconded by Councilman Mailley. *The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.*

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

1. Ordinance No. 16-2017 that addresses no parking on W. Olive Street

Mayor Welsh stated based on his conversation with two Fire Officials at the scene of an accident on W. Olive Street, he was reminded that there is a no parking Ordinance for W. Olive Street that is currently not being enforced. Councilman Sims advised he had a conversation with the Fire Chief that day who requested the discussion be tabled until certain members of the Fire Department have an opportunity to conduct a door-to-door survey with the residents of W. Olive Street to determine their parking needs (e.g. do some residents have driveways or do some rely on street parking). Mayor Welsh agreed to table the discussion.

2. (1) moving the December 2, 2019 council meeting to a date in mid-December and (2) setting a date for the 2020 Reorganization meeting

Council decided to reschedule the December 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting to Monday, December 23, 2019 at 7 p.m. and that the Reorganization and Regular January Council Meeting be held on Monday, January 6, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

3. Painting the ends of streets to identify legal parking distances from the intersection as well as enforcement thereafter

Mayor Welsh asked if there is a plan to paint the curbs and Acting Public Works Manager Martin Finger advised he is working with the Police Department and will resume the activity when the weather gets warmer.

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

## Meeting Minutes

### **BILLS & VOUCHERS:**

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

A motion to dispense with reading of the bills was made by Council President Ledrich and seconded by Councilman Mailley. *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 Mailley. *Motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.*

### **COMMUNICATIONS:** None

### **PUBLIC PORTION:**

- ❖ Marie Goddard, 303 Summit Avenue, discussed parking on her street and parking too close to the corner. Ms. Goddard also discussed the heavy traffic at the school and provided suggestions for reducing the congestion. Councilman Murtaugh talked about the Borough's plans for eliminating the traffic jams at the school if the Borough receives a grant from the State.
- ❖ Joyce Lovell, 328 Summit Avenue, complimented the Police Department because on Halloween they were stopping children and giving out candy.
- ❖ Harry Blaschke, 44 Walnut Street, followed up on his complaint about the problem with his driveway apron and Engineer Vardaxis reminded Mr. Blaschke that the contractor still has items to be completed and that the job is not finished. Mr. Blaschke also discussed the individual who is not stopping at stop signs in the area of Walnut Street.
- ❖ Stacey Murphy, 320 Highland Avenue, stated there are a lot of distressed properties in the Borough that include rental and commercial buildings and she asked "what is going on" with the properties. Ms. Murphy made several comments and offered advise on how to fix up properties in the Borough.
- ❖ Marie Goddard, 303 Summit Avenue, responded to comments made by Stacey Murphy on the types of housing in the Borough.
- ❖ Mark Reisenbach, 126 Stanley Avenue, talked about the vacant property next to his home located at 133 Stanley and the fact that the people moved out, the house was gutted and the grass hasn't been mowed all summer and the house is in disrepair. *(Administrator Giles advised the house is under COAH (State of NJ Affordable Housing) and that the property is facing foreclosure.)*

Meeting Minutes

**COMMENTS FROM MAYOR/COUNCIL/DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

- ❖ Councilman Nordaby reminded meeting attendees about the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony scheduled for December 6<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ Acting Public Works Manager Martin Finger advised his is working with the Department of Transportation regarding the flood gates at “Lake Martha” that are not closing as designed.
- ❖ Engineer Vardaxis advised Pioneer Pipe is continuing to work on the services for Delsea Drive and will work on High Street after Delsea is completed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

The Deputy Clerk read **RESOLUTION No. 126-2019** - Authorizing an Executive Session to discuss Economic Redevelopment and Police Matters.

A motion to approve Resolution No. 126-2019 was made by Councilman Mailley and seconded by Councilman Murtaugh. *Motion unanimously approved by voice vote.*

<i>Time In: 7:55 p.m.</i>
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<i>Time Out: 8:45 p.m.</i>
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Solicitor Scaffidi noted for the record that Councilwoman Moan arrived at the meeting.

- ❖ Motion to rescind Resolution No. 121-2019, “Authorizing the Sale of 235 Edgewater Avenue (Block 59/Lot 16)” and to demolish the house as a safety and imminent hazard was made by Councilman Murtaugh and seconded by Council President Ledrich. *Motion approved by majority voice vote with Councilwoman Moan abstaining.*

Administrator Giles will proceed with the necessary steps to have the structure demolished.

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

*The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.*

*Respectively Submitted,*

***Kathleen Carroll***

*Kathleen Carroll*

*Deputy Municipal Clerk*

*Next Council meeting scheduled for Monday, December 23, 2019  
Reorganization & First Regular Council Meeting in 2020 scheduled for Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.*