

BOROUGH OF WESTVILLE

Regular Council Meeting

165 Broadway

August 19, 2021

Meeting Minutes

Mayor Fritz H. Sims, Jr. called the August 19, 2021 council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited

The Deputy Clerk read the notice. Adequate notice of this meeting has been given by notifying the South Jersey Times and the Courier Post and posting the meeting date on the official bulletin board of the Municipality and the municipal web site. Additional written Public Notice was given and printed in the South Jersey Times and uploaded to the Municipal web site.

Roll Call: Mayor Fritz H. Sims, Jr., Council Members: Travis R. Lawrence, Charles D. Murtaugh and Timothy Young. Administrator/Municipal Clerk Ryan J. Giles, Deputy Clerk Kathleen Carroll, Public Works Manager Marty Finger, Engineer Jon Bryson, Police Lt. Michael Packer and Solicitor Timothy Scaffidi. Absent: Council Members Donna Domico, Bruce Nordaby and Paul Mailley

2021 MEETING MINUTES: Meeting minutes from the July 15 Council Meeting and the August 3 Work session were approved by Councilman Young and seconded by Councilman Lawrence. *Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.*

OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY: Motion to open the meeting to the public for agenda items only was made by Council President Murtaugh, seconded by Councilman Lawrence and his motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

As no one chose to address the Governing Body, Council President Murtaugh motioned to close the meeting to the public, Councilman Young seconded and his motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR JULY 2021

A motion to approve the reports, as submitted, was made by Councilman Young and seconded by Councilman Lawrence and his motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS: No old Business

Meeting Minutes

NEW BUSINESS:

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES CONSENT AGENDA

ORDINANCE No. 10-2021 – No parking anytime on River Drive, between Crown Point Road (Route 130) and Delsea Drive (Route 47)

ORDINANCE No. 11-2021 – Amending Chapter 258 property maintenance of the Code of the Borough of Westville by adding a new Article III to control Invasive Plants

ORDINANCE No. 12-2021 – Amending Chapter 142, Section 5, Construction Code fees, of the Code of the Borough of Westville

ORDINANCE No. 13-2021 – Adopting revised Stormwater Management Control regulations for the Borough of Westville in accordance with the Tier A Municipal Stormwater Permit Requirements.

A motion to approve Introduction of Ordinances Nos. 10 through 13 was made by Councilman Lawrence seconded by Councilman Young and the vote was as follows:

*Roll Call: Ayes – Council Members: Lawrence, Murtaugh, Young
Nays – None
Motion Carried*

-----CONSENT AGENDA-----

RESOLUTION No. 94-2021 – Appointing Cody J. Eastlack to the position of full-time laborer within the Works Department effective August 11, 2021

RESOLUTION No. 95-2021 – Extending the Due Date for Tax Bills for the 3rd Quarter of 2021

RESOLUTION No. 96-2021 – Designating Block 71, Lots 21, 22.01 & 23 as a Non-Condemnation Area in need of Redevelopment

A motion to approve Resolution Nos. 94-96, 2021 was made by Council President Murtaugh and seconded by Councilman Lawrence and the vote was as follows:

*Roll Call: Ayes – Council Members: Lawrence, Murtaugh, Young
Nays – None
Motion Carried*

-----END OF CONSENT AGENDA-----

Meeting Minutes

NEW BUSINESS: *(continued)*

RESOLUTION No. 97-2021 - Adopting Personnel Policies and Procedures as directed by the Borough's insurance carrier Municipal Excess Liability Insurance Fund (MEL) as part of their Employment Practices Liability (EPL) program

A motion to approve Resolution No. 97-2021 was made by Councilman Lawrence and seconded by Councilman Young and the vote was as follows:

Roll Call: Ayes – Council Members: Lawrence, Murtaugh, Young
Nays – None
Motion Carried

RESOLUTION No. 98-2021 - Accepting request for waiver of Medical insurance coverage and for reimbursement of 25% of the single insurance rate, not to exceed \$5,000 from Zach Possoff

A motion to approve Resolution No. 98-2021 was made by Council President Murtaugh and seconded by Councilman Lawrence and the vote was as follows:

Roll Call: Ayes – Council Members: Lawrence, Murtaugh, Young
Nays – None
Motion Carried

RESOLUTION No. 99-2021 - Authorizing the Placement of Property Maintenance Liens

A motion to approve Resolution No. 99-2021 was made by Council President Murtaugh and seconded by Councilman Lawrence and the vote was as follows:

Roll Call: Ayes – Council Members: Lawrence, Murtaugh, Young
Nays – None
Motion Carried

RESOLUTION No. 100-2021 - Authorizing approval of the Bill List for August 19, 2021

A motion to approve Resolution No. 100-2021 was made by Councilman Lawrence and seconded by Councilman Young and the vote was as follows:

Roll Call: Ayes – Council Members: Lawrence, Murtaugh, Young
Nays – None
Motion Carried

Meeting Minutes

NEW BUSINESS: *(continued)*

REQUEST from the Westville Lions Club to hold a Coin Drop on Friday, October 15, 2021 from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Olive and Broadway. *(Request was sent to the Public Safety committee for review prior to the meeting. All necessary paperwork was submitted and the request was approved by the Gloucester County Highway Department.)*

A motion to approve the Coin Drop was made by Councilman Young and seconded by Councilman Lawrence and the vote was as follows:

*Roll Call: Ayes – Council Members: Lawrence, Murtaugh, Young
Nays – None
Motion Carried*

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

- Proposed Scope and Budget for the Westville Environmental Resource Inventory
Joyce Lovell made a detailed presentation on why the Borough should participate in an Environmental Resource Inventory. Allison Lucci, also a member of the Environmental Commission, expressed her support of the project and talked about possible grants.
- Hazard Mitigation Plan, In-Kind Tracker - no new business to report at this time.
- Downtown lamp posts and trees
Councilman Lawrence provided detailed information on the possibility of upgrading the downtown lamp posts and talked about trimming of the downtown trees and potential problems with the Ash trees. A lengthy discussion took place regarding tree trimming, replacement of certain trees, replacement of the current lamp posts and costs associated with the project. Councilman Lawrence also asked for Police traffic control while trees are being removed. Council President Murtaugh suggested the Borough be sure the new lights are not too bright so that they would affect the quality of life in residential homes and Lt. Packer advised about the lights affecting the traffic light at the corner of Broadway and Delsea Drive.

A motion to approve the Tree Trimming, along Broadway from Duncan Avenue to Delsea Drive, was made by Councilman Lawrence and seconded by Council President Murtaugh and the vote was as follows, the motion also included tabling any decisions on the Lamp Posts at this time:

*Roll Call: Ayes – Council Members: Lawrence, Murtaugh, Young
Nays – None
Motion Carried*

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Letter from West Deptford Township regarding their Ordinance 2021-13, Creation of a Cannabis Business Overlay Zone, etc.

Meeting Minutes

PUBLIC PORTION

Councilman Young motioned to open the meeting to the public, Council President Murtaugh seconded and his motion was approved by the entire Council.

- Joyce Lovell, 328 Summit Avenue, asked Council to expand their tree trimming project and advised the Environmental Commission will be visiting SUNOCO property to view the remediation progress in turning one area back into native vegetation . Ms. Lovell also inquired about the Cannabis deadline.

Council discussed the Cannabis program and Administrator Giles advised there was a Resolution ready to go that would permit the Borough to “opt-in”; however, it was suggested that this be delayed until all Council members were present at the meeting.

- Jamie Clayton, 100 Cedar Avenue. Ms. Clayton advised she lives on the corner of Cedar and High Streets and was concerned by the number of accidents in that area as well as the lack of stop signs. Ms. Clayton described her personal experiences with accidents and speeding in that area. Mayor Sims and Council President Murtaugh talked about stop signs in that area and a general discussion took place regarding the safety of children while walking to school. Lt. Packer provided information on obtaining driving speed information and that he would assign more patrols to that area.

Council President Murtaugh made a motion to make an amendment to Chapter 373, Vehicles and Traffic to add a four-way Stop Sign at Locust and Cedar Avenue, in Title Only and seconded by Councilman Young and the vote was as follows:

*Roll Call: Ayes – Council Members: Lawrence, Murtaugh, Young
Nays – None
Motion Carried*

- Jessica Bruck, 28 Cedar Avenue, added her concerns about the traffic at Cedar and High Streets.
- Bob McCullough, 133 Hunter Avenue, thanked Council and Department Heads for doing a good job and especially Public Works and acknowledged the Police Department for their good work.
- Ken Lee, 144 Oak Avenue, asked if Council would sign a get-well card for a member of the business community.

Hearing no other comments, Council President Murtaugh motioned to close the meeting to the public, Councilman Young seconded his motion that was approved by the entire Council.

Meeting Minutes

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR/COUNCIL/DEPARTMENT HEADS:

- Administrator Giles advised he will be scheduling a meeting shortly to discuss the Boundary Lane road project.
- Solicitor Scaffidi advised he is working on the abandoned property project with Administrator Giles.
- Lt. Packer advised now that the Olive Street truck route signs are up, his department can proceed with enforcement and that officers have been patrolling Hazel Avenue for truck traffic. Lt. Packer commented the Police Department will be receiving a \$3600 DUI grant for the period August 20 through September 6. Lt. Packer asked Council if the Police Department could recognize Detective Albert Mallen, Sr. by placing a blue light at the Thomas West Park Law Enforcement Memorial and a wreath at Police Headquarters.

A motion to approve Lt. Packer's request to honor Detective Albert Mallen, Sr. was made by Council President Murtaugh and seconded by Councilman Lawrence and the vote was as follows:

Roll Call: Ayes – Council Members: Lawrence, Murtaugh, Young
Nays – None
Motion Carried

Mayor Sims thanked Lt. Packer for the work the Police are doing on the truck traffic. Lt. Packer provided a brief update on the COPS Hiring Program sponsored by the Department of Justice.

- Public Works Superintendent Finger advised the flagpoles for the 9/11 Memorial will be installed this week and submitted a permit request to the NJDOT to have Delsea Drive closed for the Dedication Ceremony on September 11th. The cost of the permit is \$200. Public Works Superintendent Finger confirmed his department is replacing some of the old trash cans along Broadway as well as the parks.

A motion to approve the application for the NJDOT permit to close Delsea Drive for the 9/11 Memorial Dedication that includes the \$200 permit fee was made by Council President Murtaugh and seconded by Councilman Young and the vote was as follows:

Roll Call: Ayes – Council Members: Lawrence, Murtaugh, Young
Nays – None
Motion Carried

Mayor Sims confirmed with Public Works Superintendent Finger that the school crosswalks would be painted this year.

Meeting Minutes

- Councilman Lawrence asked Administrator Giles for an update on the rebranding project to which Administrator Giles advised a meeting is scheduled in October. Councilman Lawrence inquired about uploading email and phone number information to the web site for Borough Officials. A lengthy discussion took place regarding council's contact information on the web site and information getting to the Administrative staff.
- Council President Murtaugh provided an update on telephone/power poles in the area of Parkview School and that one pole will have a single light that will illuminate the front of the school building and costs that may be associated with moving the poles. Council President Murtaugh thanked Public Works for installing the Truck route signs and talked about installing a camera in the police deterrent car that can be moved around town.
- Mayor Sims discussed the replacement of two bus stop shelters at Delsea and Almonesson.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Lawrence and seconded by Council President Murtaugh and his motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectively Submitted,

Kathleen Carroll

Kathleen Carroll
Deputy Municipal Clerk

Next meeting
Tuesday, September 7, 2021
September 16, 2021 - *canceled*