

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
BOROUGH OF WOODBURY HEIGHTS,
500 ELM AVENUE, WOODBURY HEIGHTS, NJ 08097
FEBRUARY 15, 2023 7:30 P.M.**

MINUTES

Mayor Packer called the meeting to order with the following note: Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by adopting a schedule of meetings for 2023 which was sent to the South Jersey Times and Courier Post on January 9, 2023 and posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building conforming to the directives of the “Open Public Meetings Act”. (7:30 pm)

Mayor Packer led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor William C. Packer, Councilman Joseph Getsinger, Councilman Robert Morison, Councilman Harold “Hap” Pye, Councilwoman Cara Witasick.

Not in Attendance: Councilman Richard Gambale, Councilman Jeffrey Pitzo

Also, in attendance were Sub Borough Solicitor, Albert Olizi Jr., Borough Engineer, Mark Brunermer and Municipal Clerk, Shannon Elton.

MINUTES: A motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting on January 18, 2023 was made by Councilwoman Witasick and seconded by Councilman Getsinger. A roll call vote in favor was unanimous. Councilman Morison & Councilwoman Witasick Abstained. The minutes were approved.

CLERK’S REPORT: The clerk requested an extension for the due date for animal licensing through February 28th.

**Motion: Councilwoman Witasick
Second: Councilman Morison**

All in favor-Ayes

PUBLIC PORTION:

Mayor Packer opened the public portion for questions or comments

Maureen McCabe, 454 Elm Ave. – They spoke in regard to the proposed GCL rail line. They acknowledged the resolution passed by Mayor & Council in opposition of the GCL Line Project. They requested a referendum to be placed on the ballot for the next election. They requested it be placed on the next agenda and inquired about the prospect of a town hall, citing the town hall meeting held in Wenonah. They suggested the proposed line does not need to come through Woodbury Heights.

Mayor Packer stated Mayor and Council would take the comments under advisement. He also noted, Woodbury Heights was the first to declare via a resolution.

Mary Ortner, 748 Second St. – They inquired if a piece of land had been sold to Woodbury. The Engineer clarified that a business on West Jersey Ave., was purchasing a piece of land from the City of Woodbury in conjunction with their Planning Board approval. They inquired about the funding and the planning of the GCL rail line. Discussion ensued.

Sean Dougherty, 300 Poplar- They introduced themselves as a teacher at Woodbury Heights Elementary School. They informed Mayor and Council that the fire sirens from the WHFD are a distraction for the school and a disruption to learning. They stated that horn blasts every seven minutes is a distraction. They expressed concerns about adding distractions to learning, such as the train. Additionally, they are concerned that students

may be unemployable due to their distracted learning environment. He expressed that his opinion is shared by many of his colleagues.

Nothing from the Public-Close Public Portion

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Mr. Brunermer reviewed his report by reviewing the status of the Walnut Phase II DOT application and anticipated going out to bid shortly, with an update at the March meeting. The Engineer confirmed that bids for the "Candidus Pump Station" were received and are being reviewed with the CFO, anticipating the recommendation for the next meeting. Mr. Brunermer is additionally working on the update for the "Road-Opening Ordinance". Discussion ensued.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Albert Olizi Jr. reviewed the Solicitor's Report in the absence of Solicitor Lozuke

ORDINANCES

First Reading/Introduction

ORDINANCE 5-2023

ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF WOODBURY HEIGHTS, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, NEW JERSEY CANCELING CERTAIN FUNDED APPROPRIATION BALANCES HERETOFORE PROVIDED FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND REAPPROPRIATING SUCH FUNDED APPROPRIATION BALANCES FOR OTHER

Sub-Solicitor Olizi read Ordinance 5-2023 by title only. A motion to approve this ordinance on first reading/introduction was made by Councilman Getsinger and seconded by Councilman Pye. A roll call vote in favor was unanimous. Ordinance 5-2023 was approved on introduction.

Final Reading/Public Hearing

ORDINANCE 1-2023

ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SALARIES AND COMPENSATION OF VARIOUS BOROUGH OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF WOODBURY HEIGHTS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2023

Sub-Solicitor Olizi read Ordinance 1-2023 by title only. Mayor Packer opened the public hearing for this ordinance. Upon hearing no questions or comments, Mayor Packer closed the public hearing. A motion to adopt Ordinance 1-2023 was made by Councilman Getsinger and seconded by Councilman Pye. A roll call vote in favor was unanimous. Ordinance 1-2023 was approved.

ORDINANCE 2-2023

ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF WOODBURY HEIGHTS, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, NEW JERSEY CANCELING CERTAIN FUNDED APPROPRIATION BALANCES HERETOFORE PROVIDED FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND REAPPROPRIATING SUCH FUNDED APPROPRIATION BALANCES FOR OTHER CAPITAL PROJECTS

Sub-Solicitor Olizi read Ordinance 2-2023 by title only.

Mayor Packer opened the public hearing for this ordinance.

Mary Ortner, 748 Second St. – They asked for a review of the Ordinance. Mayor Packer reviewed said Ordinance. They inquired about the original allocation of the funds. They also requested that the agenda include explanations of what is being voted on. They further expressed discontent and alleged lack of transparency on the agenda.

Upon hearing no further questions or comments, Mayor Packer closed the public hearing. A motion to adopt Ordinance 2-2023 was made by Councilwoman Witasick and seconded by Councilman Getsinger. A roll call vote in favor was unanimous. Ordinance 2-2023 was approved.

ORDINANCE 3-2023

**AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$ 65,000
TO BE USED FOR THE IMPROVEMENTS AND UPGRADES TO THE WATER AND
SEWER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF WOODBURY
HEIGHTS, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

Sub-Solicitor Olizi read Ordinance 3-2023 by title only.

Mayor Packer opened the public hearing for this ordinance.

Mary Ortner, 748 Second St. – They inquired as to the age of the generator being replaced in correlation with the ordinance. Ryan Wells, PPWM, responded that the generator was over 30 years old. They inquired as to who was receiving the contract to replace said generator. Mayor Packer explained it would have to go out to bid. They further inquired as to the Engineer's role in the replacement, specifically inquiring if a study would be needed. Mr. Brunermer reviewed the process and the Engineer's role. They additionally noted that residents on Second Street have been having plumbing issues since gas main work was done the previous year. Mayor Packer assured the comments were noted by PPWM and the Engineer.

Upon hearing no questions or comments, Mayor Packer closed the public hearing. A motion to adopt Ordinance 3-2023 was made by Councilwoman Witasick and seconded by Councilman Morison. A roll call vote in favor was unanimous. Ordinance 3-2023 was approved.

ORDINANCE 4-2023

**AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$ 30,000
TO BE USED FOR THE ACQUISITION OF VARIOUS PUBLIC WORKS EQUIPMENT
WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF WOODBURY HEIGHTS,
COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

Sub-Solicitor Olizi read Ordinance 4-2023 by title only. Mayor Packer opened the public hearing for this ordinance. Upon hearing no questions or comments, Mayor Packer closed the public hearing. A motion to adopt Ordinance 4-2023 was made by Councilman Morison and seconded by Councilwoman Witasick. A roll call vote in favor was unanimous. Ordinance 4-2023 was approved.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 40-2023

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF MAINTENANCE BOND FOR
THE CDBG ALLIANCE STREET PROJECT**

A motion to approve Resolution 40-2023 was made by Councilman Morison and seconded by Councilwoman Witasick. A roll call vote in favor was unanimous. Resolution was approved.

RESOLUTION 41 -2023

**A RESOLUTION EXEMPTING TAXES FOR
DISABLED VETERAN AND REFUNDING OVERPAYMENT**

A motion to approve Resolution 41-2023 was made by Councilwoman Witasick and seconded by Councilman Morison. A roll call vote in favor was unanimous. Resolution was approved.

RESOLUTION 42 -2023

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ON-LINE
AUCTION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY**

A motion to approve Resolution 42-2023 was made by Councilwoman Witasick and seconded by Councilman Getsinger. A roll call vote in favor was unanimous. Resolution was approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 43-2023

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF WOODBURY HEIGHTS AUTHORIZING
EXTENSION OF THE TEMPORARY SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE CITY OF WOODBURY AND THE BOROUGH OF WOODBURY HEIGHTS
REGARDING TEMPORARY POLICE DEPARTMENT SERVICES**

A motion to approve Resolution 43-2023 was made by Councilman Getsinger and seconded by Councilman Morison. A roll call vote in favor was unanimous. Resolution was approved.

RESOLUTION 44 -2023

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTIAL WAIVER FOR CURBING AND
SIDEWALK INSTALLATION FOR 1004 SUNSIDE AVE., A/K/A BLOCK 105, LOT 1**

A motion to approve Resolution 44-2023 was made by Councilman Morison and seconded by Councilwoman Witasick. A roll call vote in favor was unanimous. Resolution was approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 45-2023

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING SUBMISSION OF
LEAP IMPLEMENTATION GRANT**

A motion to approve Resolution 45-2023 was made by Councilwoman Witasick and seconded by Councilman Pye. A roll call vote in favor was unanimous. Resolution was approved.

The Solicitor concluded his report.

BILL LIST: A motion to approve the bill list as presented this evening was made by Councilwoman Witasick and seconded by Councilman Morison. A roll call vote in favor was unanimous. The bill list was approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Getsinger, Public Safety: Councilman Getsinger reviewed the Public Safety reports from the WHFD & WHPD. Reports on file. Councilman Getsinger commended Lt. Boucher for his work for the Borough and specifically for answering a call regarding an incident at the school.

Councilman Morison, Water & Sewer: In Councilman Morison's absence the Water & Sewer reports were submitted for the record. The reports are on file. Councilman Morison acknowledged the hard work of the Public works Department.

Councilman Pye, Streets & Roads: Councilman Pye reviewed the Streets and Roads Report. Reports are on File.

Councilwoman Witasick, Finance & Administration: In the absence of Councilwoman Witasick the Finance report was submitted for the record. Report is on file.

Councilman Gambale, Property: In the absence of Councilman Gambale report is on file.

Councilman Pitzo, Recreation: In the absence of Councilman Pitzo report is on file

PUBLIC PORTION: Mayor Packer opened the public portion for questions or comments.

Ed Majewski, 210 Central Ave: They inquired if a police presence is required when gas work is being done in the road, specifically citing an incident where a vehicle cut through a property to avoid the work. The Engineer assured them that they will be required moving forward due to the excessive traffic in that location. They also inquired about Resolution 41 regarding a TDV deduction. The Clerk offered to provide information regarding the legislation after the meeting.

Faye Triantofillou, 108 Vanderbilt Ave: They asked for clarification regarding the GCL as far as the process. They asked when the residents of Woodbury Heights would be able to voice their opinions. Mayor Packer explained that the project will not be decided by the municipalities. Discussion ensued. They expressed concern regarding the noise impact. Councilman Morison pointed them towards the literature available for the public. Discussion ensued further. They additionally inquired about the planning board application regarding the cannabis retailer. Mayor Packer responded that the application had been postponed to March's meeting.

Harry Wrigley, 314 Poplar Ave: They inquired about the potential of a Turnpike expansion. Mayor Packer responded that he and the Borough Engineer had already met with the NJDOT/Turnpike Authority and relayed his concerns pertaining to Woodbury Heights, specifically about walls to prevent debris. Mayor Packer assured that notice would be provided to the residents.

Bob Seibert, 350 Poplar Ave: They expressed concern about the safety of pedestrians in correlation with the proposed GCL rail line.

Maureen McCabe, 454 Elm: They addressed the public and reminded them of the Facebook page established in opposition of the GCL. They announced their plans for events such as town hall meetings, and other public events in opposition of the GCL.

Mary Ortner, Second St: They spoke on the funding and planning of the GCL project. They stressed the involvement of various entities such as the State, the Regional Planning Board, RPA, the Cooper expansion and a transit center in Camden. They discussed the limitations one person and even one small town has in stopping projects such as the GCL. They asked the public to learn about all the aspects of the project.

They asked for clarification on Resolution 45-2023. They asked about the various shared services currently held within the Borough. They specifically asked if studies were done for said service agreements.

Mayor Packer reviewed the process of establishing a shared service within the Borough.

They inquired further about the funding of the grant referred to in Resolution 45-2023. They also expressed dissatisfaction with their idea of the current spending practices of the Borough, specifically bonding for projects.

They further inquired about the Police Agreement. Mayor and Council clarified that the agreement is temporary.

They continued to ask about Shared Services, specifically what services are left to share. Mayor Packer responded with examples and discussion ensued.

They asked about the savings with various shared services. Mayor Packer stressed that every decision to share services within the Borough, in his years of service, has saved the town money.

Jim Carelli, Mantua: They introduced themselves as the administrator of a Facebook group in opposition to the GCL. They inquired as to why Mayor and Council was not in attendance at a meeting in Wenonah regarding the same.

Councilman Morison stressed that he have received information first hand, despite not attending the Wenonah meeting. Discussion ensued.

They inquired about the lack of documentation in the lobby of Borough Hall. Mayor Packer ensured that the literature would be made available if provided. He instructed them to provide the literature to the Municipal Clerk.

They continued to speak on the GCL and its potential effects on the Borough.

They spoke on Shared Services, and the shared service with the Salem County Jail.

Sean Dougherty, 300 Poplar: They inquired about the Cannabis application coming before the Planning Board. They inquired specifically about committing funds towards funding projects to benefit children specifically. Mayor Packer stated that the benefits received through the revenue, will benefit the town and potentially improve roads, parks etc.

Councilwoman Witasick spoke on the financial questions raised during the public portion. She praised the Borough's CFO for her work to keep the town going without placing the burden on the Tax Payer. She specifically cited the shared services and stressed that shared services are intended to keep the town functioning as it is. She reiterated that the shared services save money, and further stressed that if a service does not save money, Mayor and Council do not do it. She spoke on potential revenue generated by the cannabis tax. She stressed that revenue for the town will benefit everyone in the town.

Mary Ortner, Second St: They inquired about the cannabis dispensary pursuing Planning Board approval. Mayor Packer encouraged them to attend the Planning Board meeting for information. They further expressed concern about the Boroughs practice of bonding, borrowing etc.

Mayor Packer echoed the comments from Councilwoman Witasick.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned. (8:52 pm)

Respectfully Submitted,

Shannon Elton, Municipal Clerk