

**City of Woodbury
City Council Meeting Agenda
Virtual Meeting
December 22, 2021
Council Chambers Open at 6:00 p.m.
Meeting starts 6:30 p.m.**

The meeting of December 22, 2021 was called to order by Council President Hagerty at 6:30 pm. Council President Hagerty then led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a Moment of Reflection.

Open Public Meeting Statement

Ms. Swanson read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement. This is a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Woodbury. Due notice of this regular meeting provided to the press and public by posting and publication of Resolution #21-05 adopted at the 2021 Reorganization Meeting on January 6, 2021. Also, notice of the public meeting was advertised in the newspaper and posted on the City web page for the public.

Roll Call:

Present: Councilwoman Carter, Councilwoman Harwell, Councilman Merinuk, Councilwoman Miller, Councilman Miller, Councilwoman O'Connor, Councilwoman Parker, Council President Hagerty, Mayor Sickel

Absent: Councilman Fleming

Others Present: Acting City Clerk, Cassidy Swanson; Solicitor, Tim Scaffidi; Police Chief, Thomas Ryan; Engineer, Paul Brier, Chief Financial Officer, Robert Law; Interim City Administrator, Len Sossamon

Proclamations

Mayor Sickel presented Cheryl Slack a proclamation honoring her 25 years of service as a Woodbury Public Library Board of Trustee member. After serving several roles, most recently Treasure, Mrs. Slack is retiring. Mayor Sickel and Council thank Mrs. Slack for service to the City of Woodbury.

Mayor Sickel presented Michelle Yeager a proclamation honoring her 5 years of service as the Library Director of the Woodbury Public Library. Mayor Sickel and Council thank Ms. Yeager for service to the City of Woodbury

Mayor Sickel presented a certificate to Councilwoman Tracey Parker, honoring her 9 years of service as a Ward 1 Councilwoman for the City of Woodbury. Councilwoman Parker's term is up on December 31, 2021 and did not run for re-election in the 2021 General Election. Mayor Sickel and Council thank Councilwoman Parker for service to the City of Woodbury.

Council President Hagerty thanked Councilwoman Parker for her service on council, as well as serving as council president for a number of years. He acknowledged the huge improvement Councilwoman Parker was able to make within the public works department and thanked her for

all of her efforts.

Approval of Minutes

Councilman Merinuk made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the July 21, seconded by Councilman Miller. Motion approved via voice vote resulting in the following;

Ayes 7 Councilwoman Carter, Councilman Merinuk, Councilwoman Miller, Councilman Miller, Councilwoman O'Connor, Council President Hagerty

Nays 0

Absent 1 Councilman Fleming

Abstain 1 Councilwoman Harwell, Councilwoman Parker

Councilman Merinuk made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the September 8, seconded by Councilman Miller. Motion approved via voice vote resulting in the following;

Ayes 7 Councilwoman Carter, Councilman Merinuk, Councilwoman Miller, Councilman Miller, Councilwoman O'Connor, Councilwoman Parker, Council President Hagerty

Nays 0

Absent 1 Councilman Fleming

Abstain 1 Councilwoman Harwell, Councilwoman Parker

Open to the Public for Agenda Items

Council President Hagerty stated the meeting will be opened to the public for agenda items only. Council President Hagerty reminds everyone that each agenda item does have to get read aloud. Councilwoman Parker made a motion to open to the public, seconded by Councilman Merinuk. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Ms. Swanson then read the titles of the Ordinances and Resolutions. Ms. Swanson went on to inform the public that at this time they can come up to the podium to be heard at this time.

Hearing no one, Councilman Merinuk made a motion to close to the public, seconded by Councilwoman Parker. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Ordinances

ORDINANCE NO. 2351-21 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 190, VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, OF THE CODE BOOK OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY Councilman presented the above titled ordinance. Ms. Swanson read the title of the Ordinance. Councilman Merinuk moved to open to the public on Ordinance 2351-21, seconded by Councilman Miller.

Hearing no one, Councilman Merinuk made a motion to close to the public on Ordinance 2351-21, seconded by Councilwoman Parker.

Councilman Merinuk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2351-21, seconded by Councilwoman Harwell.

Motion approved via roll call vote resulting in the following;

Ayes 8 Councilwoman Carter, Councilwoman Harwell, Councilman Merinuk, Councilwoman Miller, Councilman Miller, Councilwoman O'Connor, Councilwoman Parker, Council President Hagerty

Nays 0

Absent 1 Councilman Fleming

ORDINANCE NO. 2352-21 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 162, SOLID WASTE, OF THE CODE BOOK OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY
Councilman presented the above titled ordinance. Ms. Swanson read the title of the Ordinance. Councilman Merinuk moved to open to the public on Ordinance 2350-21, seconded by Councilman Miller.

Hearing no one, Councilman Merinuk made a motion to close to the public on Ordinance 2350-21, seconded by Councilwoman Parker.

Councilman Merinuk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2350-21, seconded by Councilwoman Parker.

Motion approved via roll call vote resulting in the following;

Ayes 8 Councilwoman Carter, Councilwoman Harwell, Councilman Merinuk, Councilwoman Miller, Councilman Miller, Councilwoman O'Connor, Councilwoman Parker, Council President Hagerty

Nays 0

Absent 1 Councilman Fleming

Resolutions

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. 21-168 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF SPECIAL ITEMS OF REVENUE IN THE BUDGET OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY PURSUANT TO N.J.S. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948)

RESOLUTION NO. 21-169 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY FOR THE FY2021 SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM (P-22-0822)

RESOLUTION NO. 21-170 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY AUTHORIZING CANCELATION OF BALANCES AND CREDITS UNDER TEN DOLLARS (\$10.00) ON 2021 WATER/SEWER AND TAX ACCOUNTS IN THE CITY OF WOODBURY

RESOLUTION NO. 21-171 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY APPOINTING SPECIAL COUNSEL ENVIRONMENTAL AND TOXIC TORT LITIGATION ATTORNEY RELATED TO MUNICIPAL WELL FIELD CONTAMINATION

END CONSENT AGENDA

Councilwoman Parker made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as read at the beginning of the meeting, seconded by, Councilman Merinuk.

Motion approved via roll call vote resulting in the following;

Ayes 8 Councilwoman Carter, Councilwoman Harwell, Councilman Merinuk, Councilwoman Miller, Councilman Miller, Councilwoman O'Connor, Councilwoman Parker, Council President Hagerty

Nays 0

Absent 1 Councilman Fleming

Councilman Merinuk made a motion to adopt the bills and vouchers list, seconded by Councilwoman Parker. Motion approved via a roll call vote.

Committee Reports

Report of the Mayor

Mayor Sickel – Mayor Sickel asked about the date and time for the reorganization meeting. She mentioned that she has had a lot of people contacting here about cannabis commerce in the city, and recognizes that applications are due soon. She informed council that a committee will need to be organized surrounding this, as well as a meeting to get back to properly address these individuals and questions that may come up. Mayor Sickel then publicly recognized the Woodbury Police Department, Officer Alcott and Liz Mcillvaine for Toys for Tots event, and thanked them for their efforts in hosting a successful event that will allow for a lot of children to have a good Christmas holiday. Council President Hagerty responded to Mayor Sickel's questions.

Report of the Clerk

Ms. Swanson reminded everyone that City Hall is closed Friday, December 24 and Friday, December 31. She asked all Councilmembers to please take any mail or papers they may have at

their seat with them. Ms. Swanson thanked Councilwoman Parker for all of the work she put in as a councilmember and congratulated and wished her good luck as a School Board Member.

Department Announcements

Paul Brier – Engineer – Mr. Brier announced that the Wood Street project was awarded last meeting, and they are hoping to start in February. The rebid process has started for the pedestrian path, with alterations; the bid opening will be on the 18th and awarded at next meeting. The work on Green Street and Barber Avenue will begin in January. All other projects are currently in progress.

Chief Ryan – Woodbury Police Department – Chief Ryan thanked Officer Alcott, the Woodbury Police Department, Liz McIlvaine, Woodbury Schools, Hispanic Family Success Center, PATH and Toys for Tots for all of their hard work in collecting and providing toys for 400 children. Chief Ryan thanked Councilwoman Parker for her work on council for the City and wished her good luck as a member of the School Board.

Unfinished Business

No Unfinished Business.

New Business

No New Business

Open to the Public

Councilwoman Parker made a motion to open to the public, seconded by Councilwoman Harwell. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Kathy Lavery – 1035 Moore Rd. – Mrs. Lavery asked if there was any update on the Volunteer Fire Department. Council President Hagerty responded. Mrs. Lavery asked if the Volunteers will be brought back. Council President Hagerty responded, and said it is a possibility.

Lester Theodore – 1337 Raphael Pl – Mr. Theodore asked who brought the allegations against him, in regard to the Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Scaffidi responded. Mr. Theodore expressed his displeasure in the investigation and Council not responding to his questions. Council President Hagerty addressed his concern.

Fred Vergarrio – 23 Brook Lane, Sewell– Mr. Vergarrio expressed his displeasure in the responses received from Mr. Leech, Mayor and Council in regard to him purchasing and operating a Cannabis business. Mr. Scaffidi responded. Mr. Vergarrio asked when he will be able to receive answers. Council President Hagerty responded.

Jessica Floyd – 445 W. Centre St. – Mrs. Floyd expressed her gratitude for the service Councilwoman Parker has put into the City. Councilwoman Parker thanked her.

Nancy LaCroix – 302 Edith Ave – Mrs. LaCroix thanked the Public Works Department for fixing the flooding issue on Edith and Deptford Avenues. Mrs. LaCroix expressed her displeasure and concern over the Volunteer Fire Department investigation and the current fire coverage in the City of Woodbury. Mr. Scaffidi responded. As the Fire Chief's mother, she explained her understanding of the situation. Mrs. LaCroix asked if anyone has reached out to the Volunteer Firefighters as they would like to speak with Mayor and Council. Mrs. LaCroix expressed her frustration over the length of time the investigation taking. Council President Hagerty responded.

Donna Theodore – 1337 Raphael Pl – Mrs. Theodore expressed her displeasure of the Volunteer Fire Department investigation, the treatment of the Volunteers Firefighters, her husband Lester Theodore, as well as the current lack of fire coverage for the City. Mrs. Theodore expressed she would like a response from Mayor and Council and a finite resolution to the situation.

Shawn Anderson – 610 W. Center St – Mr. Anderson was a former with the Volunteer Fire Fighter since 2006. He provided context to his work with the City's Fire Department and thanked council for the opportunity to have serviced the city, as well as for the trainings budgeted for the volunteers and the opportunity to become a career firefighter with his experience. He expressed that during his time with Woodbury, there were issues of which he has observed and have been brought to management, and he is disheartened to see the direction this took and current lack of communication to fix the issues. He explained that he currently works in a municipality that has adopted a shared service agreement to ensure 24 hour coverage, and expressed the success of doing so. Within the shared service agreement, they are able to still find creative ways to allow for a Volunteer department to serve and secure additional coverage. He encouraged council to look at the history of the volunteer fire department, communicate and take effective action in getting this resolved. Councilman Merinuk, Councilman Miller and Councilwoman Parker thanked Mr. Anderson.

Hearing no one, Councilwoman Harwell made a motion to close to the public, seconded by Councilwoman Parker. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-172 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY AUTHORIZING A CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS MATTERS PERTAINING TO A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH FMBA LOCAL 62
Ms. Swanson read the above-titled resolution. Councilwoman Parker made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 21-172, second by Councilwoman Harwell.

Motion approved via roll call vote resulting in the following;

Ayes 8 Councilwoman Carter, Councilwoman Harwell, Councilman Merinuk, Councilwoman

Miller, Councilman Miller, Councilwoman O'Connor, Councilwoman Parker, Council President Hagerty

Nays 0

Absent 1 Councilman Fleming

Closed Session began at 7:19 pm

Closed Session ended at 7:52 pm

Councilwoman Parker made a motion to allow the paid firefighters to carry over their 2021 vacation and sick time to the 2022, seconded by Councilwoman Harwell.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Councilwoman Parker made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Harwell. Motion approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Meeting adjourned 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cassidy L. Swanson,
Acting City Clerk

NOTICE PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A 10:4-8(d)

The items listed on this tentative agenda of the Mayor and Council President of the City of Woodbury constitutes the agenda to the extent known at the time of posting. Since this agenda is tentative, items may be added and/or deleted prior to the commencement of the meeting. Formal action may or may not be taken regarding each item listed on the final agenda.