

**City of Woodbury
City Council Meeting
December 28, 2022
33 Delaware Street, Woodbury, NJ 08096
6:30 p.m.**

The meeting of December 28, 2022, was called to order by Council President Merinuk at 6:31pm. Council President Merinuk then led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a Moment of Reflection.

Open Public Meeting Statement

Ms. Crawford read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement. This is a regular public meeting of the City Council of the City of Woodbury. Due notice of this meeting was provided to the newspaper and public by posting and publication of Resolution No. 22-04 adopted at the 2022 Reorganization Meeting on January 5, 2022. Also, notice of the public meeting was provided to the newspaper and posted on the City web page for the public.

Roll Call:

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

Absent: Councilman Pisarcik

Others Present: Deputy Clerk, Kay Crawford; Solicitor, Tim Scaffidi; Police Chief, Tom Ryan; Engineer, Paul Brier; City Administrator John Leech; Deputy Administrator, Bradley Pennypacker

Councilman Fleming arrived at 6:33PM after roll call.

Proclamations

Mayor Sickel introduced Liz McIlvaine and read her proclamation for her volunteer effort in the City of Woodbury. Liz McIlvaine thanked Mayor and Council.

Mayor Sickel introduced Patrolman William Sheehan and read the retirement proclamation for K-9 Evo. Chief Ryan presented officer Sheehan and K9 Evo with a plaque in honor of their service. Patrolman William Sheehan thanked Mayor Sickel, Council, Chief Ryan and his family for the ongoing support.

Promotions

RESOLUTION NO. 22-207 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY AUTHORIZING THE WOODBURY CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT TO ENTER INTO AN ADOPTION AGREEMENT WITH PATROLMAN WILLIAM SHEEHAN FOR THE ADOPTION OF A RETIRED POLICE CANINE EVO Councilman Hagerty presented the above titled resolution. Ms. Crawford read the title of the resolution Councilman Hagerty made a motion to adopt Resolution 22-207 seconded by Councilman Fleming.

Motion approved via roll call vote resulting in the following;

Ayes 8 Councilwoman Carter, Councilman Fleming, Councilman Hagerty, Councilwoman

Harwell, Councilwoman Miller, Councilman Miller, Councilwoman O'Connor,
Council President Merinuk

Nays 0

Absent 1 Councilman Pisarcik

Abstain 0

Council President Merinuk stated for the record that Councilman Fleming is now in attendance.

Recess began at 6:45pm

Recess ended at 6:48pm

Approval of the Minutes

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 9th and December 14th City Council meetings, seconded by Councilwoman Miller. Motion approved by the following voice vote.

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

Nays 0

Absent 1 Councilman Pisarcik

Abstain 0

Open to the Public for Agenda Items

Council President Merinuk stated the meeting will be opened to the public for agenda items only. Council President Merinuk reminds everyone that each agenda item does have to get read aloud. Councilman Fleming made a motion to open to the public, seconded by Councilwoman O'Connor. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Ms. Crawford then read the titles of the Resolutions. Ms. Crawford 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 Hagerty made a motion to close to the public, seconded by Councilwoman O'Connor. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Resolutions

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. 22-208 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY ESTABLISHING DATE FOR REORGANIZATION MEETING FOR 2023

RESOLUTION NO. 22-209 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY OPPOSING THE PROPOSED RATE INCREASES TO THE STATE HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM

RESOLUTION NO. 22-210 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY CANCELLING AND REFUNDING TAXES FOR ZIRBSER, DENNIS J, A 100% DISABLED VETERAN, BLOCK 174.01 LOT 1 A.K.A. 450 HUNTER ST

RESOLUTION NO. 22-211 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY AUTHORIZING CANCELATION OF BALANCES AND CREDITS UNDER TEN DOLLARS (\$10.00) ON 2022 WATER/SEWER AND TAX ACCOUNTS IN THE CITY OF WOODBURY

RESOLUTION NO. 22-212 A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 21-169 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 FY2022 SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM (P-22-0822)

RESOLUTION NO. 22-213 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODBURY AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN AWARD EXTENSION REQUEST FOR LA-2021 MA WOODBURY CITY PROGRESS AVENUE-08 TO THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

END CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Hagerty made a motion to approve the consent agenda as read at the beginning of the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Harwell.

Motion approved via roll call vote resulting in the following;

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

Nays 0

Absent 1 Councilman Pisarcik

Abstain 0

Councilman Fleming made a motion to approve the list of bills and vouchers, seconded by Councilman Miller. Motion approved via a unanimous voice vote.

Council President Merinuk asked Mayor Elect, Councilman Miller to do the Proclamation for Mayor Sickel and Councilwoman O'Connor. Councilman Miller thanked Councilwoman O'Connor for her 6 years of dedicated service to the City.

Council President Merinuk said great words attributing to Councilwoman O'Connor's dedication to the City of Woodbury and being an advocate for her Ward.

Councilwoman Harwell thanked Councilwoman O'Connor for her service in Ward 2 and the continued support she hopes to have moving into the future initiatives.

Councilman Fleming thanked Councilwoman O'Connor for her service in Ward 2 together as well as their work together on the Finance Committee as they have pushed through some tough years and have had a substantial impact.

Mayor Sickel thanked Councilwoman O'Connor and spoke to her character as being an example for people to follow and stated it has been an honor and pleasure to work with her.

Councilwoman Carter thanked for Councilwoman O'Connor's guidance through event planning, and she hopes to still see her at future events in support of Council.

Councilwoman Miller referenced the history she and O'Connor had going back to the Oral History Group (meaning the African American Oral History Program) Miller said that when she heard O'Connor was going to be on City Council, Councilwoman Miller thought O'Connor was a good choice to represent Ward 2.

Councilman Hagerty reflected on his time with Councilwoman O'Connor on the Planning and Zoning Board and going on to serve on Council together. He expressed his appreciation for Councilwoman O'Connor's perspective even in times of conflict to best represent the people of Woodbury.

Councilwoman O'Connor thanked all of Council for their kind words and well wishes, and expressed being happy to serve her home town.

Mayor Elect, Councilman Miller, thanked Mayor Sickel for her amazing leadership, and expressed being proud to follow in her footsteps. Councilman Miller expressed appreciation for her guidance in assuming this new role and presented her with a plaque dedicated to her two years of service as the Mayor of Woodbury City.

Council President Merinuk spoke to Mayor Sickel's character as being the most tenacious in executing initiatives and getting things done. He continued with more kind words specific to Mayor Sickel's thoroughness and attention to detail in holding people accountable and making sure everything was getting done in the best interest of the City.

Councilwoman O'Connor thanked Mayor Sickel for her commitment and attributed to her family's legacy and all of the progress she has made as Mayor maintaining a standard of excellence.

Councilwoman Harwell thanked Mayor Sickel for her commitment and dedication to all her accomplishments over the two years and obtaining financing for some large initiatives leaving a substantial impact on the community.

Councilman Fleming commended Mayor Sickel for her energy, dedication and devotion she has throughout her term. Councilman Fleming stated how impressed he was with Mayor Sickel and thanked her for all she was able to accomplish over her time serving as the Mayor of Woodbury.

Councilwoman Carter thanked Mayor Sickel for her guidance, all she's accomplished and the ideas she has brought to the City of Woodbury.

Committee Reports

Councilman Hagerty – Economic Development – Councilman Hagerty reported receiving some competitive proposals in developing the downtown area, Block 75. We did receive a promising response for proposed plans on the Old Police Station., Block 100. He also reported that the State is proceeding with their process and the three applicants for commercial cannabis should be moving forward come 2023. The next steps will take place through the planning and zoning board.

Report of the Mayor

Mayor Sickel – Mayor Sickel reported that Jeff Buller, second in charge of the Department of Community Affairs approved to amend the NPP budget to add \$18,000 to attribute to the pickle ball and tennis courts at Wing-Dickerson Park. With an initial contribution of \$30,000 towards Wing-Dickerson Park, we have a total of \$48,000 to see the project to completion. The project has been extended until March 31st of 2023 and has to coordinate with Gerald, of Main Street Woodbury, CFO, Robert Law and City Clerk, Cassidy Swanson to ensure the proper reports are filed. Potential delays would be directly dependent on the weather. Mayor Sickel emphasized that this project will be a total rehab of the courts. She also reported that she received a call from Attorney Mike Romano and she was informed that the Woodbury Community Pride is donating \$6,948.00 for economic development for the Human Rights Commission under the stipulation that the funds will be allocated towards promoting economic growth and prosperity in the LGBTQ community in the City of Woodbury. She expressed the hardships of obtaining funding for this committee which is what makes this donation very special. Mayor Sickel then thanked everyone for having her as our Mayor and mentioned the pleasure it has been to serve and work with everyone.

Report of the Clerk

Ms. Crawford reported that there was no report at this time.

Department Reports

Mr. Pennypacker - No report. Mr. Pennypacker thanked Councilwoman O'Connor and Mayor Peg Sickel for their service, and their short time together as he begins his new role with the City.

Mr. Breier – Engineer Report – Mr. Breier reported that there is not much happening due to the winter season. The contractor for the project on South Maple revisited the areas where the pavement was messed up, and made the proper repairs. The contractors working on Wing-Dickerson Park have started the foundation of the basketball court and are currently working on plans for the pickle ball and tennis courts. There was a bid opening for Progress Ave was on the 21st and the lowest bid was \$299K and the grant was \$305K so we are in good standing. They are scheduled to get started with a completion projection in March. West Centre Street, the 2022 DOT Project is up for review, there were some comments, so revisions will be made in January or February and the project should have a start date come spring. Council President Merinuk asked which section of West Centre Street is to go under construction. Mr. Brier answered from Broad to South Jackson. Council President Merinuk asked if we have RFQ's that are coming out that are going to directly affect that area between Broad and Lupton, is there something that we should be cautious with. Councilman Hagerty then asked for confirmation in terms of compliance and requirements of a 5 year moratorium for pavements. Mr. Brier explained special circumstances where a 5 year moratorium would not be mandated. Councilman Hagerty

proposed modifying the scope of the project to so there is no conflict with the other projects in progress. Mr. Brier recommended moving forward with the project on West Centre and explained that because of previous delays we are getting backed up with projects which could hinder the chances of approval for future projects. Council President Merinuk expressed his concerns about the construction on Centre and South Broad and questioned the damage that will be done to West Centre Street. He then also proposed revised plans that would be more cost effective and avoid construction on the top of West Centre. Council President closed by asking Mr. Brier to review the plans for effectiveness and further discuss with Council. Mr. Brier also expressed his concerns surrounding West Centre and the church on Broad being affected by the construction's vibrations. Mr. Brier expressed current issues on West Barber with the utilities and agreed to look over the plans to determine a better recommendation. Mr. Brier asked Councilman Hargety for a prospective timeline on the project referenced. Councilman Hagerty confirmed less than 5 years and explained the process for Mr. Brier understands. Councilman Hagerty suggested Mr. Brier do an alteration of the scope without additional DOT damage and coordinate with City Administrator John Leech and Deputy Administrator Bradley Pennypacker. Council President Merinuk asked that Mr. Brier revisit the plan to see if we can substitute the project or extend the dates for that project in particular. The 2022 Water Main job is coming to a close, and they will be proceeding with a few bid openings in January and February to begin construction. Councilwoman O'Connor asked since the Pickle ball court was going to require additional funding, will this affect the date of completion. Mr. Brier mentioned that the date of completion will be weather dependent.

Chief Ryan – No report. Chief thanked Mayor Sickel and Councilwoman O'Connor for their service.

Unfinished Business

No Unfinished Business

New Business

Council President Merinuk and Councilman Miller presented Mayor Sickel and Councilwoman O'Connor with certificates honoring their service during their term served.

Open to the Public

Councilman Hagerty made a motion to open to the public, seconded by Councilwoman O'Connor. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Anthony Alveario 522 Delaware Street – Mr. Alveario thanked Council, Councilwoman O'Connor, and Mayor Sickel for their service and progress made over the year. He hopes those that are leaving are going to stay in tune and remain active in the community. Mr. Alveario informed Council that the score on GCL is 3 to 2 with 3 Resolutions of towns involved opposed to the GCL and 2 in favor. He expressed that Woodbury was one of two towns in favor of the GCL. He explained a few conflicting matters that we will encounter as a City by allowing the GCL to stop in Woodbury. Mr. Alveario then detailed the hit that Woodbury will take financially by the purchase of insurance to cover identified quiet zones being 200K totaling in 600K annually with 3 quiet zones in the city. They have had discussions with neighboring towns like Wenonah and Mantua to discuss the negative impact the GCL will have on their towns. Mr. Alveario closed by asking if Council would consider featuring the name of each sponsor for each

Resolution. Council President Merinuk responded.

John Fulmer 548 Hunter Street – Mr. Fulmer addressed Stewart Lake wild life as there is currently no ducks, or double crested cormorants because the Lake is currently frozen. He explained that January is approaching and this is when the common mergansers start showing up, and explained their physical traits and characteristics. Mr. Fulmer thanked Mayor Sickel for the discussions surrounding Stewart Lake Park and the path. He then asked for an updates on signage disclosing park regulations. Mayor Sickel answered. He then asked Mr. Brier about the regulatory signs specifically for the park. Mr. Brier and Councilman Fleming answered.

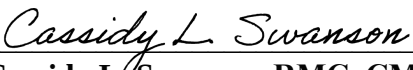
Hearing no one, Councilman Hagerty made a motion to close to the public, seconded by Councilman Fleming. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned 7:27p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Cassidy L. Swanson, RMC, CMR
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.