

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
BOROUGH OF WOODBURY HEIGHTS
500 ELM AVENUE, WOODBURY HEIGHTS, NJ 08097
JULY 15, 2015 7:30 P.M.**

Mayor Robbie Conley called the meeting to order with the following note: Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by adopting a schedule of meetings for 2015 which was faxed to the South Jersey Times and Courier Post on January 5, 2015 and posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building conforming to the directives of the "Open Public Meetings Act".

Mayor Conley led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The call of roll showed the following to be present: Councilman William Packer, Councilwoman Cara Witasick, Councilman Harold "HAP" Pye, Councilman Duane Pheasant, Councilman Richard Gambale and Councilman Eshia "Jake" Jacob. Also in attendance were Borough Solicitor Barry Lozuke, Borough Engineer Mark Brunermer and Borough Clerk/Administrator Janet Pizzi.

A motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting June 17, 2015 was made by Councilman Pye and seconded by Councilman Packer. A roll call vote in favor was unanimous. The minutes were approved.

CLERK'S REPORT: The Borough Clerk reported total receipts in the amount of \$9,940.54. Of this amount, \$9,783.94 turned over to the Treasurer and \$116.00 was deposited into the Dog Fund.

PUBLIC PORTION: Mayor Conley opened the public portion of the meeting for questions or comments.

Susan Blanchard, Third Street: Mrs. Blanchard stated she is concerned about the two letters she received from the "Concerned Citizens of Woodbury Heights" pertaining to allegations about a Councilperson and the Police Department. Mrs. Blanchard was advised by Mayor Conley that the Borough has received the letters and due to the fact that they pertain to personnel issues, he is not at liberty to discuss them at this time. Solicitor Lozuke added that the Borough has taken appropriate steps to deal with such matters and he has recommended that no comments be made regarding employee issues. Appropriate steps have been taken to investigate the separate allegations against a Councilperson and they were found to be false. Mayor Conley stated that he is available for complaints and that he has a hard time acting on an anonymous letter.

Bill Sykes, Clement Avenue: Mr. Sykes asked when the debris and brush from the storm will be picked up. Councilman Pye explained that during the same week of the storm, the large truck went down. The truck should be back in service soon and the new trash truck is being delivered next week.

Cheryl Mull, Maple Avenue: Mrs. Mull stated her concern regarding the dilapidated speed hump and the poor condition of her street. Councilman Pye will take a look at it. Mrs. Mull asked why the two fire hydrants on Barlow did not provide water to the fire on that street. Mayor Conley explained that it wasn't that they didn't provide water, the fire department just wanted to get additional water.

Maryanne Wurst, Glassboro Road: Mrs. Wurst stated that there was a County response truck on Glassboro Road picking up debris.

Debbie Truhan, Alliance Street: Mrs. Truhan stated that she also received the anonymous letters of complaint and thinks they should be trashed since they were not signed.

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Public Portion (continued)

Rose Yerka, Stratford Avenue: Mrs. Yerka clarified that the "Concerned Citizens of Woodbury Heights" who sent out the letter of complaint were not the same as her Concerned Citizens group of four years ago. She further stated that her group's letters were always signed and that whoever generated the letters should stand up because without a name there is no voice.

Bill Sykes, Clement Road: Mr. Sykes stated that the anonymous letters should not be trashed, but put on the side. He also commended Chief George Lindsay for the good work in apprehending the person who broke into his home.

Rose Yerka, Stratford Avenue: Mrs. Yerka also commended Chief Lindsay for his work with the town watch program for the drug problem at the Lake.

Beth Lukas, Glassboro Road: Mrs. Lukas stated that the potholes need repair at Brooklawn and Academy. Councilman Pye advised that public works will be able to do pothole repairs after the storm debris is collected. Mrs. Lukas asked if the tax bills went out and if there is a breakdown of the tax rate increase. Mrs. Lukas was informed that the tax bills just went out and was provided a chart of the tax rate comparison for 2015, which was also included in the tax billing.

Terry Gilbert, Second Street: Mrs. Gilbert publicly thanked Public Works employee Steve Clark for finding and returning property belonging to her son.

Ed Gilbert, Second Street: Mr. Gilbert stated that the pool cover and gate have not yet been repaired at the vacant property next door to him. He was advised that the Property Maintenance Official in Deptford was notified. The Borough Clerk will follow up tomorrow. Mr. Gilbert stated he is concerned for children who may enter the property and fall through the holes in the pool cover.

Steve Brooks, Glenwood Court, Mr. Brooks stated that there is a problem with an above ground pool in the abandoned property next door to him. He also stated there is a tree on Borough property about to fall and take down the transformer. On a final note, Mr. Brooks commented that he moved to Glenwood Court in November 1984 and the street has never been repaved.

Richard Mull, Maple Avenue: Mr. Mull stated that there is a homeless man sleeping on Barlow Avenue near the bridge. Chief Lindsay stated that he stopped this kid a couple of days ago and asked the public to call the Police Department if anyone sees him again.

Mike McCabe, Elm Avenue: Mr. McCabe stated that a tree fell on the vacant house next to his property and asked if the Borough can go onto the property to clean it up. Solicitor Lozuke advised no, but that there is an Ordinance on the agenda this evening for introduction which amends the Borough Code which will facilitate the shared service agreement with the County of Gloucester for abandoned property registration.

Joe Getsinger, Elm Avenue: Mr. Getsinger asked how long it takes before a property goes to tax sale. He was informed that it is after one year of subsequent charges.

Mike McCabe, Elm Avenue: Mr. McCabe asked if West Jersey Avenue was going to be repaved. Councilman Pye replied that he is trying to get a DOT grant for road reconstruction.

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Public Portion (continued)

Rose Yerka, Stratford Avenue: Mrs. Yerka asked if the Eagle Scouts will be recognized by Mayor and Council. Councilman Jacob informed her that the Borough did not receive any information on the Eagle Scout recipients. Mrs. Yerka stated that the Lake Association, along with the Municipal Alliance Committee, will have craft activities and a bon fire at the October 17 Fall Festival.

Upon hearing no additional questions or comments, a motion to close the public portion of the meeting was made by Councilman Pye and seconded by Councilwoman Witasick. All of Council agreed.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Mark Brunermer reported that bids were received for the CDGB project (Reconstruction of 4th & Oak) and both came in over budget. A resolution to reject bids and authorization to go back out to bid is on the agenda this evening. The bid opening for the Central Avenue Pump Station Improvement Project is scheduled for July 30, with Special Meeting to award the contract on August 5.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

ORDINANCES

FIRST READING/INTRODUCTION

ORDINANCE 9-2015

ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING ORDINANCE 7-2014 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF WOODBURY HEIGHTS AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF WOODBURY HEIGHTS TO ESTABLISH A SECTION ENTITLED 'VACANT AND ABANDONED RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES', AND ESTABLISHING STANDARDS FOR THE CARE, MAINTENANCE, SECURITY AND UPKEEP OF SUCH PROPERTIES"

Solicitor Lozuke read Ordinance 9-2015 by title only. A motion to approve this ordinance on first reading was made by Councilman Pheasant and seconded by Councilman Pye. A roll call vote in favor was unanimous. Ordinance 9-2015 was approved on introduction.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 73-2015

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SALE OF ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLES
(Riehl's Towing)

Solicitor Lozuke read Resolution 73-2015 by title only. A motion to approve this resolution was made by Councilman Pheasant and seconded by Councilman Pye. A roll call vote in favor was unanimous. Resolution 73-2015 was approved.

RESOLUTION 74-2015

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SALE OF ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLES
(L.J. Wurst & Sons Towing)

Solicitor Lozuke read Resolution 74-2015 by title only. A motion to approve this resolution was made by Councilman Pheasant and seconded by Councilman Packer. A roll call vote in favor was unanimous. Resolution 74-2015 was approved.

RESOLUTIONS (continued)

RESOLUTION 75-2015

RESOLUTION APPROVING RENEWAL OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION
LICENSE OF HOLLYWOOD CAFÉ DINER, INC.

Solicitor Lozuke read Resolution 75-2015 by title only. A motion to approve this resolution was made by Councilman Pye and seconded by Councilman Jacob. A roll call vote in favor was unanimous. Resolution 75-2015 was approved.

RESOLUTION 76-2015

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PUBLIC BIDDING THRESHOLD PURSUANT TO
THE AUTHORITY OF N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3

Solicitor Lozuke read Resolution 76-2015 by title only. A motion to approve this resolution was made by Councilman Packer and seconded by Councilwoman Witasick. A roll call vote in favor was unanimous. Resolution 76-2015 was approved.

RESOLUTION 77-2015

RESOLUTION REJECTING BIDS FOR THE FOURTH STREET & OAK AVENUE
INTERSECTION RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Solicitor Lozuke read Resolution 77-2015 by title only. A motion to approve this resolution was made by Councilman Pye and seconded by Councilwoman Witasick. A roll call vote in favor was unanimous. Resolution 77-2015 was approved.

RESOLUTION 78 – 2015 (ADDED TO AGENDA)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT
(PBA LOCAL #122)

Solicitor Lozuke read Resolution 78-2015 by title only. A motion to approve this resolution was made by Councilman Pheasant and seconded by Councilman Packer. A roll call vote went as follows:

Packer	Yes
Witasick	Yes
Pye	Yes
Pheasant	Yes
Gambale	Abstain
Jacob	Yes

Resolution 78-2015 was approved.

A motion to approve the following NJ STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS was made by Councilman Pheasant and seconded by Councilwoman Witasick. A roll call vote in favor was unanimous.

SAMANTHA A. BEATTY
HEATHER L. HALL
IAN W. NORCROSS
CAITLYN E. PIPOLO
EDWARD J. RODIG

The membership applications were approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION: Councilman Packer reported that the Borough will be refinancing most of its short term financing (Bond Anticipation Notes) and adding the new bond ordinance for the sewer pump stations through a note sale in August in the amount of \$1,307,250. The Borough obtained an interest rate of .75% on the last issue at \$719,250 and anticipates a similar rate at this sale due to the Borough's bond rating. The Borough received its 2015 certified tax rate from Gloucester County. The average home will experience overall a 4.5% tax increase. The storm has impacted our budget and the CFO is requesting that department heads be diligent with their expenditures. Additionally, a memo will be going out to department heads that are over their anticipated levels to avoid a total freeze implementation.

WATER & SEWER: Councilwoman Witasick reported that tax sale is scheduled August 20. Third quarter water/sewer bills are due on August 3.

STREETS & ROADS: Councilman Pye reported that the large truck is back from repair and the new trash truck is on its way.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Councilman Pheasant reported that the fire association building has received its CO. The new fire department pickup truck should be in next week. Councilman Pheasant presented the Police Department report. A copy of this report will be on file in the Clerk's office.

Mayor Conley read a letter from Ptl. Richard Gambale commending Chief George Lindsay for his timely response and assistance during a burglary at 608 Clement Avenue in Woodbury Heights on June 16, 2015. The suspect was apprehended and the stolen property was returned. Chief Lindsay stated that Ptl. Gambale would be receiving a commendation from him for his work that evening. Additional commendations from Chief Lindsay would be going to Deptford, Mantua and Glassboro police officers.

PROPERTY, INSURANCE & ENVIRONMENTAL: Councilman Gambale reported that the Athletic Association building repairs are just about complete. This Friday from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. there will be "coffee with a cop" at Summit Bakery. Councilman Gambale commended the police, fire and public works department for the excellent job during the recent storm.

RECREATION & CIVIC: Councilman Jacob reported that movie night was a big success. Eighty-eight adults and children were in attendance. Gloucester County provides free wills for veterans.

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

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

Rose Yerka, Stratford Avenue: Mrs. Yerka asked for explanation of Resolution 77. Councilwoman Witasick explained that all of the bids came in over budget.

Upon hearing no additional questions or comments, a motion to close the public portion of the meeting was made by Councilman Pheasant and seconded by Councilman Pye. All of Council agreed. The public portion was closed.

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Mayor Conley stated that this is Solicitor Lozuke's final Council meeting as he is retiring. He thanked Solicitor Lozuke for his many years of service. Solicitor Lozuke was congratulated by all.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Pye and seconded by Councilwoman Witasick. All of Council agreed. The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Pizzi, Clerk/Administrator