

Minutes of the Council Meeting of the Municipal Council of the Township of Woodbridge, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey held on March 1, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. at the Municipal Building, 1 Main Street, Woodbridge, NJ 07095.

Council President, Howie Bauer: Please rise for our Pledge to the Flag and remain standing for a moment of silence for all our Military personnel serving here and abroad and all those suffering from the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic.

Members of the Council and all those present gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

Notice Requirements of the Open Public Meetings Law have been satisfied concerning this meeting. The Home News Tribune and The Star Ledger published the Annual Notice Schedule on December 10, 2021. A copy of the Schedule was posted on the Municipal bulletin board. It should be so noted in the minutes of this meeting.

The Municipal Clerk took the Municipal Council attendance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cory Spillar, Gregg Ficarra, Debbie Meehan, Lizbeth DeJesus, Howie Bauer, Brian Small, Kyle Anderson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sharon McAuliffe, Virbhadra N. Patel

ALSO PRESENT: John E. McCormac, Mayor
John Mitch, Municipal Clerk
Vito Cimilluca, Business Administrator
Marta Darden, Director of Planning and Development
George Brew, Director of Public Works
John Hagerty, Communications Director
Casey Wagner, Assistant Business Administrator
Robert Hubner, Director of Police
Brian Bontempo, Esq.
Craig J. Coughlin, Esq.

The Municipal Clerk: Can I get a motion to approve the minutes from February 15, 2022?

Council Vice President Ficarra moved the adoption of the following minutes seconded by Councilwoman Meehan and carried unanimously.

Council Meeting: February 15, 2022

The Municipal Clerk called for a Second Reading of the following Ordinances as consent:

A. AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE “KEASBEY 10 SMITH STREET AND CROWS MILL ROAD REDEVELOPMENT PLAN” PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING LAW. N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 et seq. (2022-10)

John Mitch, Municipal Clerk: Beginning with the Second Reading of the Ordinances this evening you have one which is the adoption of the Keasbey 10 Smith Street and Crows Mill Road Redevelopment Plan. Can I get a motion that this Ordinance be taken up on Second and Third Reading and the public hearing be opened?

Council Vice President Ficarra made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Meehan and carried unanimously that the public hearing be opened.

John Mitch, Municipal Clerk: The Public Hearing is now open on Letter A only.

Tom Maras, Fords: Requested explanation as to what the Ordinance covers and if there is housing involved and what exactly is involved.

Council President Bauer: There is no housing involved. It is a piece of property off of Smith Street, so there is old Smith Street that comes off of Smith Street it's a one way. Remember the old luncheonette that used to be there? There is a piece of tear drop property there that we own. Houses on Smith Street and the Fire House is part of the plan of our redevelopment but there are no houses going in there. It will be a warehouse.

John E. McCormac, Mayor: I don't recall the exact number but it's not the biggest one we have had. It's large. We can get it to you.

John Mitch, Municipal Clerk: Any other comments on Letter A? Hearing no other comments, can I get a motion that the public hearing be closed, the Ordinance be adopted and submitted to the Mayor for approval as required by law?

Council Vice President Ficarra made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Meehan and carried unanimously.

The Municipal Clerk called for a First Reading of the following Ordinances as consent:

B. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE INSTALLATION OF A PEDESTRIAN FLASHING BEACON AT GREEN STREET NEAR THE NEW JERSEY TRANSIT TRAIN STATION AND AMENDING CHAPTER 7 ENTITLED: TRAFFIC: OF THE REVISED ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE.

Council Vice President Ficarra made a motion, seconded by Councilman Meehan and carried unanimously that these Ordinances be passed on First Reading, to be published in the Home News Tribune on Friday, March 4, 2022 with Notice of Public Hearing to be held on March 15, 2022 at 6:00 P.M.

The Municipal Clerk introduced the following Resolutions as Consent.

- (1) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby grants permission to Tom and Janna Perry to temporarily close Grove Avenue to Dunham Place, the connecting streets from Linden Avenue, for a Block Party on 4/3/2022 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- (2) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby approves road closures at South Brook Street; New Brunswick Avenue to end f South Brook Street for The Fords Business Community sponsored Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 2, 2022 (rain date April9, 2022) from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- (3) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby approves the request of the Woodbridge Metro Chamber of Commerce to host their “Street Fair” and close off a portion of Main Street between Amboy Avenue, Pearl Street, and School Street, from Main Street to North James Street on Saturday, May 14, 2022 from approximately 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- (4) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby approves the request of the Iselin Volunteer Fire Co. #1, for the closing of Worth Street, Green Street and Middlesex Turnpike from approximately 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. for the 100th Anniversary Parade on Saturday, June 11, 2022.
- (5) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the chief Financial Officer to issue refunds for overpaid taxes to Eleanor Barrera, Danny J. Balon, Jimmy Wang, Holding, LLC, Investments, LLC, Sidney F. Dossantos.
- (6) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Chief Financial Officer to issue a refund to Saima Sharif for overpaid Sewer Utility fees.
- (7) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Municipal Comptroller to issue a refund to Martell Investments, LLC.
- (8) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby approves the refund eligibility of the Developers Review Fund Account; Martell Investments, LLC, autumn Hills, LLC, ADI Marketing, Inc., Plaza 440, LLC., Leesville Auto, Iselin Property Management, MIMAT Realty, Inc.

- (9) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby approves the Township of Woodbridge to apply for and obtain a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for approximately \$1,000,000.00 to carry out a project to construct Cypress Park Phase II.
- (10) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby approves the adoption of the Central Jersey Joint Insurance Fund's 2022 Safety Incentive Program.
- (11) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby accepts the bid from Underground Utilities, 711 Commerce Road, Linden, NJ 07036, for the Amboy Avenue Sanitary Sewer Extension Project in an amount not to exceed \$1,398,988.00.
- (12) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Mayor or his designee to execute an Indemnification Agreement with the New Jersey Turnpike Authority.
- (13) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Mayor and the Municipal Clerk to execute an Asset Purchase Agreement between the Township of Woodbridge and Silent Companion Services, LLC.
- (14) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Mayor of his designee and the Municipal Clerk to execute a Shared Services Agreement between the Township of Woodbridge and the Avenel Board of Fire Commissioners for the provision of Accounting Services.
- (15) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby approves T&M Associates, 11 Tindal Road, Middletown, New Jersey 07748 for professional engineering services for Phase I Repairs to the Woodbridge Municipal Parking Deck in an amount not to exceed \$12,000.00
- (16) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Mayor of his designee and the Municipal Clerk to enter into an agreement with T&M Associates, 11 Tindall Road, Middletown, New Jersey 07748 for professional engineering services for WCC Ice Rink Dehumidification Unit Replacement Project in an amount not to exceed \$30,700.00.
- (17) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Mayor of his designee and the Municipal Clerk to enter into an agreement with T&M Associates, 11 Tindall Road, Middletown, New Jersey 07748 for professional engineering services for the Woodbridge Community Center Annual Landfill Compliance-2022 in an amount not to exceed \$65,750.00.
- (18) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Mayor of his designee and the Municipal Clerk to enter into an agreement with USA Architects, 20 N. Doughty Avenue, Somerville, NJ 08876, for the professional architectural services for the Toilet Alterations at the Acacia Center in an amount not to exceed \$6,520.00.

- (19) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes that the Mayor and the Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to contract with BRT Technologies, 22 Birchwood Lane, Mantua, New Jersey 08051 in the amount of \$625.00 per month for an Annual support and License Agreement for the Tax Assessor’s Reporting Software.
- (20) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Mayor or his designee and the Municipal Clerk to execute any documents necessary for the purchase of one (1) new Single Axle Hook Loader Container Body from Tony Sanchez, Ltd. Through ESCNJ Cooperative Pricing System in an amount not to exceed \$145,157.00.
- (21) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby waives all fees for the rental of the Township’s portable stages for the Iselin Fire Company’s 100th Anniversary Celebration scheduled for June 11, 2022.
- (22) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the support of the application for a “New” 31 type Liquor License and waiver of N.J.A.C. 13:2-8.4.
- (23) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby approves and authorizes the Place-To-Place transfer of Liquor License No. 1225-33-066-008 from Badwals Enterprises II, LLC t/a Mideastro to 505 Avenel Street, Avenel, NJ 07001 effective March 2, 2022.
- (24) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby approves and authorizes the Person-To-Person/Place-To-Place transfer of Liquor License No. 1225-33-040-012 from Bertucci’s Restaurants, LLC to Velhur, LLC t/a Noches de Colombia 676 Route 1 South, Suite 8A, Iselin, NJ 08830 effective March 1, 2022.
- (25) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby awards the bid for the Keasbey Complex Pumping Station in an amount not to exceed \$1,064,740.00 to Allied Construction Group, Inc. 499 Washington Road, Parlin, NJ 08859.
- (26) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Township to waive all Township application fees associated with the building of a new two story detached garage and renovation to the existing building at Block 548 Lot 6 Woodbridge section of town.
- (27) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby approves all claims and bills presented by the Chief Financial Offer.

Councilwoman Meehan abstained from #27

Council Vice President Ficarra moved the adoption of the foregoing Resolutions. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Meehan and carried unanimously.

Public Meeting:

Council President Bauer: At this time we'll go to the public portion of our meeting. Please state your name, part of the Township or State you are from. You have a one time, five minute time period. All videotaping must be taken within a designated area in the rear of the room and there will be no shouting out from your seat. Please respect each other and please make sure all signs or posters do not block walkways or aisles. Thank you.

John Mitch, Municipal Clerk: Anybody this evening have any comment?

Ken Gardner, Woodbridge: Congratulated Jay Barcellona and Bob Minkler on winning the fire election.

James Dabrowski, Woodbridge: Recited an article published by the NAACP Perth Amboy Area Branch acknowledging NJ leaders denouncing the Proud Boys in Woodbridge, specifically Senator Joe Vitale, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, and Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez in a joint statement denouncing the presence of the Prod Boys in Woodbridge Township. Referenced an article posted on the Woodbridge Patch.

Tom Maras, Fords: Spoke about the frightening events going on overseas and how it could happen here, our citizens would be disarmed and unable to protect our freedom, hopes that our Nation will help in any way possible. Spoke about funds regarding APAC literature, monies owed by APAC have been waived as well as the parking facility fees for APAC. Will completed another OPRA for a full accounting of how much is spent on the Avenel Arts Performing Center.

Frank Trombattore, Woodbridge: Spoke about residents charging their electric vehicles from their homes and power cords dangerously being laid out on sidewalks from their windows to their cars. Concerned about rising energy costs, the poor and the senior community. Are there programs for these people?

Council Vice President Ficarra: Our senior services throughout COVID delivered food to seniors that were shut in. I know that some of us were part of the delivery so I just wanted to point that out Mr. Trombattore, we don't go around bragging about it. The other thing is very interesting, senior services just came out with a beautiful thick directory of all different services and products that are open to the seniors and I know they are figuring out the best way to distribute that. I will make sure you get a copy since you have expressed an interest in the area.

Paul Lund, Hopelawn: Mentioned that the stop sign on the top of Lee Avenue is now vertical again, thank you. Asked if the Community Center has been net profitable during the COVID period of time of has it cost the taxpayers money.

John E. McCormac, Mayor: It has not been profitable but it has been profitable the entire time it was open until COVID started so it built up enough reserves to handle the decline due to the Pandemic. Overall the Community Center has been profitable.

Paul Lund, Hopelawn: Leading up to COVID, has it been profitable enough on its own revenue and not tax payers subsidies to be able to cover the costs during this period of time?

John E. McCormac, Mayor: Operational costs absolutely yes.

Paul Lund, Hopelawn: Is there a business plan in place to turn profit in the other holdings of the tax payers of Woodbridge, i.e., the Avenel Arts Center and the Club?

John E. McCormac, Mayor: The Avenel Arts Center we don't own so I can't answer that. The Club, there is no formal plan. It was very profitable and there's really no need for a plan. Short of COVID also from the time we bought it on October 1, 2018 until March of 2020. It was also incredibly profitable so we don't think it was purely pandemic driven and once things get completely back to normal, which is hopefully soon, we are not really worried that they won't be profitable again.

Paul Lund, Hopelawn: My parting comment is that I am concerned that Governments are notoriously not very good at running businesses because of political patronage and the profit motive may not be kept in sight.

John E. McCormac, Mayor: I can assure you that all four businesses that we run and other businesses that we are going to be running, all four were very profitable through early March of 2020. The Club, Community Center, Avenel Performing Arts Center and Curtains Restaurant were all very profitable. I understand our concern but I think we've done well running it mostly through the Recreation Department under their leadership and the people we've hired. I think the people we've hired do a very good job.

John Vrtaric, Woodbridge: People like the Proud Boys are the ones that fight for freedom, talked about what is happening in Europe at this time, if you experience freedom you don't want to lose it. Spoke about the OPRA report for the Avenel Arts Center and what would happen if it went out of business, what happens to the improvements you put on it and does the landlord pay tax and how much do you give back to the owner. Spoke about going against the people of the town, no one helped them to stay in business and business constituents should not be competing.

John E. McCormac, Mayor: The Avenel Arts Center and Curtains Restaurant were a nine million dollar investment in which the County banks have paid six. The developer paid one and we paid two. We own the building, we don't own the land of pay for the land and the Arts Alliance does not pay us for it so we're right in the middle. We don't pay it and we don't charge it. There is a commitment on the Town to the Arts. We are very committed to that and this is the focal point of our arts effort. I see nothing wrong with the Township investing something in the arts. The same way we invest in our Recreation Council. We give a lot of money to the little leagues and sports leagues. We invest in our senior clubs, Cypress Recreation Center and in all kinds of things for our kids, families, and seniors. The arts is one of the, the art gallery on Main Street is one of them. They are sensible investments for the success of the Town. And I would submit that the art center in Avenel has done wonders for that area of town. Since it has opened up, we've seen five other restaurants open up and Rout One has exploded with positive development, none of which I think would have happened if we had not invested that money in Avenel or if NJ Transit would have not added 38 stops as they said they would once we built it. We've got medical

offices, dentists, restaurants up and down Route One and up and down Avenel Street that's all worked because of our investment in the Avenel Performing Arts Center. We built the Community Center, we built an ice rink there is no other ice rink in the town. We built a pool and indoor track and there is none of them elsewhere in town. We bought the Club, indoor tennis courts, and racquetball courts and there is none of them anywhere else in the town. So, who are we competing with? Who are we hurting by these businesses that are great for our residents, our families, our kids and our seniors?

John Mitch, Municipal Clerk: Are there any other comments this evening from the public? Hearing no other comment, can I get a motion that the public comment portion be closed?

Council Vice President Ficarra made a motion to close the public portion of the meeting which was seconded by Councilwoman Meehan and carried unanimously.

HOWIE BAUER, COUNCIL PRESIDENT / 2nd WARD COUNCILMAN:

Council President Bauer: At this time we'll go to into our Agendas.

1. 2nd Ward Road Projects.
HOLD

Our 2022 road paving programs have several streets in the second ward being upgraded. Each and every ward has roads updated and are chosen after a site visit from Engineering. I'd like to thank the Administration for their ongoing support with this program.

2. County Greenway
HOLD
3. Downtown Parking on New Brunswick Ave.
HOLD

We have acquired a piece of property on New Brunswick Avenue for more downtown parking that's beneficial to our residents and our local business owners. We are waiting on better weather so we can improve and pave this lot.

4. Woodbridge Waterfront Park / Keasbey.
HOLD
5. Hometown Hero banners.
HOLD
6. Fords Business Community.

- A. Cruise Night
- B. Trunk of Treat

HOLD

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, April 2, 2022 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event starts at Siperstein's Paint at 372 New Brunswick Avenue. Meet the Eater Bunny and pick up a map of the participating merchants and visit their shops for free goodies.

7. Fords / Hopelawn / Keasbey Fire Companies.

HOLD

8. Fords V.F.W.

HOLD

9. Troop 53 Boy Scouts of America.

HOLD

Troop 53 will be holding their Annual Blue and Gold Banquet on March 19, 2022. This event marks the founding anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America and the Arrow of Light Ceremony where Cub Scouts cross over to a troop; the first step on the path to becoming an Eagle Scout. We'd like to congratulate all those receiving awards that day. For more information contact me at 732-887-9796.

10. Pathmark Property.

HOLD

11. Brownfields.

HOLD

12. Hickory Senior Center.

HOLD

13. Greenway Family Success Center.

HOLD

14. Highland Grove Swim Pool

HOLD

15. Little Libraries

HOLD

16. Human Rights Commission

HOLD

I would like to wish everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day. This past Saturday I had the opportunity to participate in Annual New Jersey State PBA Polar Plunge in Seaside Heights with our own Woodbridge Police Department. Over 6,000 people participated in this frigid

event to bring awareness and raise money for the New Jersey Special Olympics. New Jersey is the only state that the athletes do not pay for participation in the Special Olympics program. This is mostly due to the New Jersey Law Enforcement community exceeding their goal of nearly 2 million dollars was raised in one day and will go toward programming for thousands of athletes statewide. I would like to thank all of those that participated that day for this great event. God Bless our First Responders, all our Essential Workers and God Bless America. Council Vice President Ficarra.

GREGG FICARRA, COUNCIL VICE-PRESIDENT / COUNCILMAN-AT-LARGE:

Council President Bauer: Council Vice President Ficarra.

Council Vice President Ficarra: Thank you Council President.

1. WCC (Woodbridge Community Center).

- A. Senior Recreation and programming.
 - B. Youth Recreation and programming.
- HOLD

Saturday, March 5, 2022, is a Have a Heart Zoom-A-Thon it's an opportunity to have some good healthy recreation and there is no fee for this event. This is a community program. A lot of our facilities are not just for profit, they're out there for the betterment of the community. If you bring a non-perishable food item, you can participate in the Have a Heart Zoom-A-Thon at the Community Center this Saturday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Open public roller skating Wednesday evening from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Friday 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Saturday 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Sunday 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. We also have learning to roller skate and inline skate and open public ice skating on Saturday 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and you can also learn to ice skate with your hockey skills. All of this can be found on NJWCC.com.

2. Youth Month – April.
Senior Month – May.
HOLD

3. Mentoring Programs.
HOLD

4. Mayor's Fitness / Wellness Initiatives.
HOLD

5. Fireworks.
HOLD

6. Heroes & Cool Kids / Strengthening Families.
HOLD

7. Pedestrian Safeway's / East Coast Greenway.
HOLD
8. Annual Pizza Run.
HOLD
9. Jacob's Landing.
HOLD
10. The Club at Woodbridge Upgrades.
HOLD
11. Crossroad's Race.
HOLD
12. Mental Health / Wellness.
HOLD
13. COVID-19 Efforts.
HOLD

We know that things are going in the right direction, we have a couple of clinics coming up this Thursday, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. for adults and appointments are recommended. Also March 8, 2022 From 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. for ages 5-11 and appointments are recommended. Most of us know by now that the NJ Department of Health mask mandate in schools K-12 and in childcare centers will end on March 7, 2022. Also the CDC has dropped the mask mandate for public transportation on buses and trains. That is all I have.

14. Mobile Health Unit.
HOLD

BRIAN SMALL, COUNCILMAN-AT-LARGE

Council President Bauer: Thank you. Councilman Small.
Councilman Small: Thank you Council President Bauer.

1. Woodbridge News.
HOLD
2. Mayor's Advisory Council on Education (Mac-E).
HOLD
3. Port Reading Fire and Township First Aid Squads.

HOLD

4. Website E-Government.
HOLD
5. Bicycle Lanes/ Bicycle Share/ Bicycle Paths.
HOLD
6. Electric Vehicle Car Share/ Car Charging Stations.
HOLD
7. School Projects.
HOLD
8. S.T.O.W. (Register @ 732-726-2394 for Client Transport ID#).
HOLD
9. Level Playing Field @ Cypress Recreation Center/Our House.
HOLD
10. Property Fraud (www.middlesexcounty.nj.gov search for “Property Alert” to Register).
HOLD
11. Inspections at Hotels/Motels.
HOLD
12. National Public Lands Day (9/24/22).
HOLD
13. Marine Eight.
HOLD
14. Mayor Mac Café.
HOLD
15. Jazz Festival.
HOLD
16. Concerts.
HOLD
17. Light Parade (11/26/22).
HOLD
18. American Irish Association of Woodbridge.
HOLD

The 48th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade will take place on March 13, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. Honorees this year are Charles Kenny-Grand Marshal, Karen Devlin-Irish Woman of the Year, Jim Leathem-Irish Man of the Year, Sarah Olexa- Miss American Irish, and Victoria Gomez-Lady-in-Waiting.

19. Woodbridge B.P.O.E. Elks 2116.
HOLD

I want to congratulate all the Fire Districts on passing their budgets and all the re-elected and newly elected Fire Commissioners. Thank you to all of our First Responders, Township employees, God Bless America and say a prayer for the folks in Ukraine. That's all I have, Thank you.

LIZBETH DEJESUS, COUNCILWOMAN-AT-LARGE

Council President Bauer. Thank you. Councilwoman Dejesus.
Councilwoman Dejesus: Thank you Council President.

1. Housing Authority.
HOLD
2. Affordable Housing Corporation.
HOLD
3. Youth and Government Day.
HOLD
4. History Museum.
HOLD
5. Police Community Relations.
HOLD
6. Youth Employment / Job Fair.
HOLD
7. Township Parks and Playgrounds.
HOLD
8. Hispanic Heritage Month.
HOLD
9. Barron Arts Center.

HOLD

10. Free Public Library of Woodbridge.
HOLD

The Free Public Library of Woodbridge will offer New Jersey Makers Day programs all month both in person and as a take and make event for all ages. Michael Norris of the Cloisters Museum and the Metropolitan Museum of Art will present The World of St. Patrick at the Main Library on March 10, 2022 at 7 p.m. You can register for all library programs online or call 732-634-4450 ext. 5.

11. Veteran's Tax Deduction.
HOLD

12. Green Infrastructure.
HOLD

13. Girls' Sports.
HOLD

14. Girl Scouts / Scouts Pavilion and Camp; E. William St. Park.
HOLD

15. Youth Leadership Council.
HOLD

16. Community Backpacks.
HOLD

17. Donation of Winter Coats for School Students.
HOLD

18. Safe Place.
HOLD

19. Women's Month.
HOLD

Today is March 1, 2022 which is the beginning of Women's History Month. I am happy to announce that this month we will be featuring on social media profiles of influential women in our township. We will also have a flag raising for Women's History Month on March 8, 2022 in front of Town hall at 5 p.m. Please feel free to bring all of the women in your life and the girls in your life to celebrate Women's History Month. The Gallery on Main will showcase women artists on social media periodically throughout the month as well. I am also very happy to announce that if Councilman Ficarra doesn't mind, Girls on the Run will soon take place in Woodbridge. That is a great program that introduces girls to running. My daughter participated

when she was in the second grade and that developed her love for running and we will be giving you guys more details as they become available.

Councilwoman DeJesus: That is all I have. Please don't forget March 8th for the flag raising for the Women's History Month. Our first profile was of our council mate, Nancy Drumm and I am very proud of that. One other thing, we are doing a virtual Women's History Month Celebration, "Meet the Trailblazing Women of Woodbridge" and I had the privilege of interviewing women in education, government, police and businesses. They were Sergeant Stephanie Anderson, Dr. Maria Giancarelli, Chief of Staff-Caroline Erlich, and General Manager of Woodbridge Center Amy Belisano, my council mate Debbie Meehan and the Vice Chair of the Human Rights Commission, Patricia Osborne. That is all that I have. Thank you.

CORY S. SPILLAR, 3rd WARD COUNCILMAN

Council President Bauer: Thank you. Councilman Spillar.

Councilman Spillar: Thank you Council President Bauer.

1. Avenel's Very Merry Holiday Lighting (**11/27/22**) / Port Reading Day (TBD).
HOLD
2. Avenel Arts Village/Train Station/Eric LeGrand Believe Park.
HOLD

Check out APAC's Website at www.avenelarts.com or you can stop by the theater for their programs for all the great shows that are upcoming. Colonia native a comedian actor Jimmy Palumbo visits Avenel Performing Arts Center on Friday April 1, 2022. Jimmy has been in several movies including the movie Beer League and The Family with Robert De Niro, numerous TV shows including Boardwalk Empire. I think most of us know him or seen his show it's very funny. There's only 10 seats available before they sell out for April 1, 2022 so they've added a second show on Saturday, April 2, 2022. I just want to comment on the theater and curtains. Obviously it's everyone's constitutional right to ask questions and God-given right. Everybody keeps talking about the theater and Curtains and the fees up until COVID, it was rocking it out and hitting it out of the park and unfortunately just like every other municipality and entity they suffered the setback of COVID. I live four houses away from LeGrand Park and I couldn't even take my kids to the park. Because everybody wants to talk about Curtains and APAC, well it's more than that. Its 27 acres and we have Station Village and there's 496 townhouses and apartments and all residents that weren't here back in 2016 as the Mayor eluded to. Hank in Avenel pharmacy doesn't do what he does, we don't get Jersey Boys, and we don't get any of that without that project. It will be back. People love to look at the ticket sales online six months to a year ago and say oh there's only 50 tickets well I really wish they would look at it now because some of our shows are sold out 187, 160, 154 I can go on but it's coming back and I talked to the residents and neighbors every day and they're there all the time. The mayor visited my house in 2007 and said this is our vision so just a little comment on that.

3. Woodbridge River Watch/ Oros Nature Preserve.
HOLD
4. Port Reading Saints/ Saints Complex Improvements.
HOLD
5. Avenel Middle School Community Service Club and School Improvements.
HOLD
6. Port Reading Knights/Sycamore Senior Center/Red Oak.
HOLD
7. Route 1 Redevelopment.
 - A. Star / City Motels.
 - B. Americana / Avenel Motels.
 - C. Rt. 1 @ So. Inman Ave.
 - D. Bud's Hut.
 - E. Big Top property.
 - F. Holiday Inn Express expansion.
 - G. Pier I Imports property.HOLD
8. Avenel Fire Department.
HOLD

Two weeks ago we experienced a huge fire and loss at Avenel Pools which brought in mutual aid from surrounding fire districts. Everyone knows Avenel Pools has been a staple and the ski shop has been a staple in Avenel Woodbridge Township for almost 50 years. About 12 hours later we had another fire where a female victim was found inside and was taken to St. Barnabas Burn Center. I just want to thank all of the First Responders that assisted us at both fires all of the mutual aid departments and please keep the victim in your prayers.

9. Social Clubs – Avenel Knights of Columbus/Columbian Club, Avenel V.F.W.
HOLD

Fish Fry Fridays return at the Avenel Knight of Columbus, Columbian Club this Friday, March 4, 2022. Please come and enjoy all of the dishes that are offered. This year will be curb side again. You can call 732-636-9615 to make your reservations. Dinner is between 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

10. Woodbridge Developmental Center Property.
HOLD
11. Cable Commission / Renewal.
HOLD

12. School 4 & 5.
HOLD
13. Mileed Way Army Corps of Engineers Project.
HOLD
14. Maple Tree Senior Center.
HOLD

Councilman Spillar: The rest of my agenda is in order. Council President, thank you. Thank you to all of our Emergency Responders, Fire, EMS, Woodbridge Police Department, CERT and all of our Public Works and Township employees. God Bless America. Thank you Council President Bauer.

DEBBIE MEEHAN, 5TH WARD COUNCILWOMAN

Council President Bauer: Thank you Councilman Spillar. Councilwoman Meehan.
Councilwoman Meehan: Thank you Council President.

1. Inman Avenue Business District Improvements.
HOLD
2. Green Houses – Colonia Middle and Colonia High Schools.
HOLD
3. Evergreen Senior and Youth Center / Senior Services.
HOLD
4. Events: Taste of Colonia.
Have a Heart Food Drive.
Colonia Easter Bonnet Parade & Egg Hunt.
Colonia 5K/Chris Jantas Run.
Colonia Annual Wiffle Ball Tournament.
Support the Troops Rally.
Colonia Pride Day.
Colonia Clean Up.
Colonia Christmas Tree Lighting.
Cookies and Can for the Troops and Food Bank.
Toys for Tots Run.
Breast Cancer Walk.

HOLD
5. Food Pantry.
HOLD

Mr. Trombattore I just wanted to address your concern about the seniors and their need for food.

St. James has a great pantry and you can reach out to Peter Barcellona at the Health Department. We're just concluding our Have A Heart Food Drive. We've collected a lot of food so there is a lot of food available. I'm going to tell you the information. There's always stuff available. We have a great senior service and after the meeting I would be happy to give you my email address and I'll give you my contact if you have any seniors that need help. I would be happy to help them.

6. Reinhard Manor.
HOLD
7. Colonia Fire Department/First Aid Squad.
HOLD
8. Colonia American Legion/V.F.W./Elks.
HOLD
9. Veteran's Issues.
HOLD
10. Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority.
HOLD
11. Cpl. Kevin Reinhard Marine Corps League.
HOLD
12. Municipal Alliance + Addiction Task Force.
HOLD
13. Volunteer Directory.
HOLD
14. Domestic Violence Response Team.
HOLD

The Woodbridge Township Domestic Violence Response Team is in need of volunteers to advocate for victims of domestic violence due to the additional stresses associate with the COVID Pandemic, this instances of domestic violence has increased in the past two years. Volunteer requirements are a valid driver's license, completion of a 40 hour training course, one year of service consisting of two 12 hour on-call shifts per month and to attend monthly meetings and refresher courses. If you're interested in volunteering you can reach out to them they have a website at www.woodbridgedvrt.org or you can reach them at 732-636-4500. And as always if you or one of your loved ones is involved in a domestic violence or is in trouble please call 9-1-1 don't wait or reach out to one of our trained volunteers. They are available 24/7 and you can reach them at 732-636-4500 extension 2902.

15. AED Program.

HOLD

Lastly this Sunday our 15th annual Woodbridge charity chili cook off. You can sample the best chili Woodbridge has to offer it costs \$10 dollars held right here on main street at JJ Bittings from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. All proceeds will go to Jessica Barretta a Woodbridge Township resident and high school senior who was in a very bad car accident so all our donations will be given to her. That's all I have.

KYLE ANDERSON, COUNCILMAN-AT-LARGE

Council President Bauer: Thank you. Councilman Anderson.

Councilman Anderson: Thank you Council President. I apologize for my tardiness this is a very busy time of the year for me as we are doing mid-year budget reviews and as a result I have missed the last two meetings also for some personal reasons.

1. W.T.Y.R.C.
HOLD

I do want to thank Mr. Bobby Timinski who is a new employee in our Rec Department and he gave me a nice report regarding all of our sports so regarding our Winter Rec Basketball, we're midway through the season and we had over 850 kids playing basketball boys and girl in grades K-12. In addition to the weekly games, all games have been able to conduct weekly practices giving the kids a chance to play and learn more than we have in the past. Another outstanding aspect of this year's leagues is that games that were played in the lower rims over at Ross Street School and Woodbridge Middle School so the students have a fair chance of making the shots. Regarding Winter Indoor Rec Soccer we're running an indoor soccer league in our middle schools and at Woodbridge Community Center on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. The league consists of boys and girls ages 3-15 and we have over 300 kids playing. We have the Spring Rec Softball and registration is currently open until March 1, 2022 which is today. We have over 200 girls registered. Practices will begin at the end of March and league play on the second week of April. The league will run until the first week of June. Spring Rec Soccer registration is open until March 1st and we have over 430 boys and girls registered and practice is beginning at the end of March and play till the second week in April and the league will run until the first week in June so that includes the playoffs. Spring Rec Baseball our first season of consolidated season is going as planned.

2. Job Bank.
HOLD
3. Mayor's Trophy.
HOLD
4. Woodbridge Hall of Fame.
HOLD
5. Taste of Woodbridge.
HOLD

6. Charity Raffle.
HOLD
7. Drive-In Movies.
HOLD
8. N.A.A.C.P. (*NAACP.org*).
HOLD
9. Dr. Martin Luther King Annual Program.
HOLD
10. Independent Club of Colonia.
HOLD
11. Tooling Around Program.
HOLD
12. Boy Scouts / Camping.
HOLD
13. League Consolidation.
HOLD

We met with all four leagues that are very supportive of our new league and are actively working with us for the upcoming season in various capacities Hopelawn and its coaches are merging with Perth Amboy as well as over 90 % of the league and last year was were Amboy athletes. It's an easier move or all and it was amicable split and we have close to 400 kids registered as of today. Registration also closes on March 1, 2022. Spring Rec Volleyball – were putting plans together to bring back Rec Volleyball for our Township kids. I will also be for boys and girls ages are going to be determined based on the demand and Spring Rec Basketball are highly popular outdoor Rec League will be back again at the Acacia Center open to boys and girls grades 3 through high school. The league will run May through June.

14. Middlesex College.
HOLD
15. Woodbridge Organization of Neighbors Advocating Change.
HOLD

When I was in high school I remember complaining to our Principal or Vice Principal about not doing anything for Black History Month and I remember I was going up the stairs and I saw a number of students that were not black putting together a Black History Month billboard. After that I never complained, I got involved. I want to say that I was very proud of the Human Rights Commission who put a very nice display in the hall out here for the entire month of February.

Two Fridays ago I was invited by the Human Rights Commission which was consisted of Ms. Patricia Osborne, my wife Denise Anderson, Gary White and Chairman Glen Morgan. And we had a Girl Scout Troop from Colonia who came out. There were at least 20 girl scouts with their parents and we held a tour and educational environment for these students. They took a Friday night and came out and it was really nice and we got a lot of nice thank you from them and then the next day I bumped into them and I had to buy some Girl Scout cookies. I want to congratulate our Woodbridge Township Hockey Team, they won the County championship in fine fashion they were 8-3 over Monroe and its shows that our public schools can compete against the privates in some sports. I want the congratulate Mattison Chiera she was a thousand point scorer for Colonia High School. And I want to congratulate all of the high school basketball teams but I want to wish Colonia High School boys and girls luck in their state playoff quest.

As a part of my roll, two weeks ago in conjunction with the Middlesex County Prosecutors office, we held a youth bias task force and that was held at Middlesex County College. We had students and faculty from South Plainfield. We also had two students from Avenel Middle School that came and offered their thoughts on youth bias itself. It went very well. We live streamed it and we had nice participation over the live stream and we got a lot of compliments from the parents and the faculty members that attended. It goes in a theme of what the Department of Education and the Prosecutor's Office have been working because last week we has a school safety symposium. We've also been working on anti-gun and mental health and this is for our students. I would like to thank the Woodbridge PD for attending the school safety symposium. It was well attended by over 17 superintendents throughout Middlesex County and we did have some officers from Woodbridge P.D.

I did prepare a statement regarding Mr. Dabrowski's statements. I've missed the last two council meeting because I was supporting family members that were doing something that they love. In doing so I missed something that I love to do and that is represent the people of Woodbridge Township, something I've done since 2011. Last week an organization that I happened to be a member of which is the NAACP, submitted a joint letter along with two other NAACP chapters and also a few local organizations endorsed that letter, that I along with my fellow council mates and other elected officials failed to denounce hate group The Proud Boys. This letter was also endorsed by two other local organizations. First let me start by saying that in becoming the first minority ever elected to office in this Township, I am often thrust into a precarious position when it comes to race. In fact the day after I was elected it caused quite a stir when a local reporter called my home to congratulate me and asked me what I intend to do for the black people of Woodbridge. I naively answered the question as it was asked. When it hit the papers I was quickly reminded by members of the community that I represent the entire township and not just the black residents. I thought this went without saying since I was an At Large Council person, but the point was made. Over the last ten years I have been outspoken in favor of equity for all, marched on behalf of black lives, proudly reflected on black history and founded a local organization focused on advocating change in our township. I also continue to push our township to advertise and seek diversity especially with our First Responders and our township school administrators. I've experienced racism and I've spoken out against it. I've put it all on the line when it comes to hatred; my job, my political professional and personal relations. Does hate have a home here? It absolutely does not have a home here but I have earned that right to

say it when I want to say it. And I don't want to speak for my council mates but I will say this; we've all made some mistakes at times and it has come at a cost. And though this may be an uncomfortable conversation I will say that I have had that uncomfortable conversation with every one of my council mates and we continue to do so because we're trying to understand and some are afraid to say the wrong thing and I know it's very easy for some to say when there's no repercussion. There have been in the past. It's nice to know that when you say something the people that are going to say something with you are going to be there with you when you deal with those repercussions. I want to thank all of you for having those conversations with me. I know that the public doesn't get to hear them but I know where your heart is and as far as the general public and as far as the organization, I wish Donna would have reached out to me because for that letter to go out knowing that I'm a member of that chapter, and not have anything to say about it, I was hurt by it. I was hurt that I am a member of that organization and that went out. When that question was being asked it wasn't being asked as a person who was representing the NAACP. So if the NAACP wanted to weigh in on it, I thought that they would have at least reached out to us. They did through the letter and many of us have responded. I know many of us have an opinion on it. But I just want to say that I know when I can say it and I don't have to be forced into saying it. I knew what those people were coming to say and they have a right to be at that microphone. I can't change that. If I come in and I say that I don't like that group and we make a decision down the road that impacts that group then of course there is litigation against us because we've already now set a precedent and said well we already don't like that group and something goes against them. But I just want to say that I have stood out and I have said that hate has no home here and I don't feel that I have to be pushed by one individual. I had bullies in my school growing up and when I see them today I don't look at them and say "hey, I'm not afraid of you anymore". Alright? Now I handle things strategically. I'm not going to get emotional, I'm going to handle things strategically, I'm going to do things smart and I will act on it. I worked very hard to be in this position, very very hard to be in this position and I know that I have been helpful to our community and I know that I've fought for our community. I know I fight against hatred, I know that I do. And to have my name put in a letter saying that I'm afraid to say anything or I'm not willful in saying anything, knowing that I have said things in the past. So, it's hurtful when you belong to an organization and that organization comes out and it's people I know that are trying. So, that's all I have to say on that.

Council President Bauer: Thank you. Councilman Patel and Councilwoman McAuliffe are excused.

(VIRU) VIRBHADRA N. PATEL, 4th WARD COUNCILMAN

1. American Legion (T. Nulty Post).
HOLD
2. Oak Tree Road Special Improvement District (SID).
HOLD
3. JFK High School Field and Building Improvements.
HOLD

4. Sucker's Brook Bank Stabilization.
HOLD
5. 4th Ward Road Projects.
HOLD
6. Magnolia/ Willow/ Walnut Area Commuter Parking.
HOLD
7. Sign Ordinance.
HOLD
8. Cooper Field.
HOLD

SHARON MCAULIFFE, 1st WARD COUNCILWOMAN

1. Events:
Relay for Life.
Fishing Derby.
Parker Press Concerts.
Woodbridge Wednesdays and Local Band Thursdays.
Saint James Street Fair.

HOLD
2. Main Street SID (Special Improvement District).
HOLD
3. Chamber of Commerce.
HOLD
4. Buy Local program.
HOLD
5. Transit Village.
HOLD
6. Blue Acres / F.E.M.A.
HOLD
7. Main St. & Rt. 9.
HOLD
8. Animal Shelter.
HOLD

9. Dog Park.
HOLD
10. Arts.
 - A. Woodbridge Train Station Mural Project.
 - B. Gallery on Main.HOLD
11. PACE.
HOLD
12. Woodbridge Fire Department.
HOLD
13. Coast Guard.
HOLD
14. Sewaren Library Programs.
HOLD
15. Acacia Center.
HOLD
16. RISE Program.
HOLD
17. Sewaren Marina.
HOLD
18. First Presbyterian Church of Woodbridge.
HOLD

JOHN M. MITCH, MUNICIPAL CLERK

Council President Bauer: Mr. Mitch.

Mr. Mitch: Thank you Council President.

1. Liquor License Transfer(s) / Change of Corporate Structure.
 - A. Change of Corporate Structure of Liquor License # 1225-33-064-005
Viswasha Foods LLC, t/a The Yellow Chili, 1477 Oak Tree Rd., Iselin
 - B. Person-To-Person & Place-To-Place Transfer of Liquor License # 1225-33-040-012
from Bertucci's Restaurants, LLC to Velhur, LLC t/a Noches de Colombia, 675 Rt. 1
So., Iselin, NJ 08830.

- C. Application for a “New” Club ‘31’ Type Liquor License for American Irish Association of Woodbridge, Inc.
 - D. Place-to-Place Transfer of Liquor License # 1225-33-066-008 Badwals Enterprises II, LLC t/a Mideastro, 505 Avenel St., Avenel, NJ 07001.
 - E. Person-To-Person Transfer of Liquor License #1225-33-002-011 Daryl, LLC to COLTS NB, LLC 55 Brook St., Woodbridge, NJ 07095.
- 2. Liquor License Incident(s) / Hearing(s).
 - 3. Liquor License Renewals.
 - A. Annual Retail Licensee Meeting.
 - 4. Street Closings / Special Events (Block parties, street fairs, carnivals, etc.).
 - 5. Elections.
 - 2022 Primary: (6/7/22) Early Voting: (6/3/22 – 6/5/22)
 - 2022 General Election: (11/8/22) Early Voting: (10/29/22 – 11/6/22)

John Mitch, Municipal Clerk: Just a couple of quick comments. Under Number 1, Letter B, I’m noting that on my agenda you approved the new ownership of their license this evening. Letter C, I’m going to continue to maintain that but you did take a step on that this evening also. Thank you for supporting the application and the waiver one of the requirements and Letter D finally you’ll be noting that as well yet another ownership change and a liquor license. That’s all I have this evening.

Council President Bauer: Thank you. Back to Councilman Spillar.

Councilman Spillar: Thank you Council President. I forgot to mention that we got a great magician at APAC this weekend. There are only a few tickets left. Also, they have a great Irish show, When Irish Eyes are Dying. It’s a dinner show that is Thursday, St. Patrick’s Day the 17th, 18th and 19th. You can go on the website and check all these things. Thank you.

MAYOR:

Council President Bauer: Thank you. Mayor.

John E. McCormac, Mayor: Thank you Council President.

Annie the musical is being played this weekend on Thursday, Friday and Saturday 8 and Sunday at 12 at John F. Kennedy High School by their drama club. Councilman Small mentioned the

Irish Parade but once again, they started this last year, all of your nine firehouses are receptacles for food donations for the next 10 days through March 11th, which is Friday. Saturday morning The Club will get in vans and go to each firehouse and pick up the food and bring it to the health center. They started that last year when they didn't have the parade but they wanted to do something for the community so they are doing that. The chili cook off is this Sunday from 12 pm to 2 pm at J.J. Bitting.

The last thing is that Saturday, March 12, 2022, the Angel Claus has a fundraiser at APAC with a band called Decibels. The band is being paid for by donation and they're going to make all the money themselves and use it for that cause. This is another example of APAC donating it's facility for the benefit of the town. So every time we pay a bill for them it doesn't mean we have to expect them to cover it. It's a great relationship and they've made their facility available for camps, the State of the Township address twice that day in January and multiple other times school functions and poetry readings, you name it. They're great so the fact that we trade all these things to us is ok. And I just want to say Lizbeth, Councilwoman DeJesus, if your Woman's History Month is going to be as good as your kickoff today and all you accomplished today with your interviews and your posting, you go girl, it was great congratulations.

Council President Bauer: Thank you. Back to Councilman Anderson.

Councilman Anderson: Thank you I just want to thank Mr. Haggerty and Megan Kushpa for Black History Month and yes I thought they were really well done. And I also appreciate that the township reached out to the public for them to submit names so it wasn't just coming from us. That there were people that were being made an opportunity to be featured so hopefully we continue that and we get more submissions in the following year. Very well done. Thank you.

POLICE:

Council President Bauer: Thank you. Director Hubner.

Police Director Hubner: Thank you Council President. I have a number of traffic ordinance amendments. Thank you.

Council President Bauer: Back to Councilwoman Meehan.

Councilwoman Meehan: Thank you. I just want to acknowledge Councilman Small received numerous awards for his 22 years of service to Port Reading Fire Department and he's now retiring. He's done a lot for this community and I just want to make sure that everybody knew that. Congratulations.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT:

Council President Bauer: Thank you. Director Darden.
Thank you Council President. Just our standard bi-weekly refunds.

PUBLIC WORKS/ENGINEERING:

Council President Bauer: Thank you. Director Brew.
Public Works Director Brew: Thank you Council President.

I have a few items for resolution. First one is the release of a maintenance bond contract 2019-009. The second one is a proposal for engineering and design drainage improvement for Arthur Avenue, Jordan Road, and Temple Way and that's with the NYAC group. The next one is the purchase of a new 2022 auto car chassis with options sanitation truck. The next one is a 2023, that's for two vehicles another auto car side loader truck for Sanitation. Next two are also Sanitation related are the bodies for the two auto cars and the front load container truck. And the last one I have the purchase of a new track type loader dozer. That's all I have.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE:

Council President Bauer: Thank you. Business Administrator Cimilluca.
Business Administrator Cimilluca: Thank you Council President.

I have a 100% disabled veteran and a vacation of Park street in Avenel. And under Health, I have a Shared Service Agreement with Helmetta for Animal Control Services. Thank you Council President.

LEGAL:

Council President Bauer: Thank you. Legal.
Craig Coughlin, Municipal Counselor: Nothing this evening Council President.
Council President Bauer: Thank you.

RECREATION:

HEALTH:

Council President Bauer: Before I make a motion for adjournment, I think I can talk for all of us up here on the dais and Administration. This is coming from me and I know my council mates are behind me 100% regarding this ongoing hate issue. There is no room for hate here in America. Hate divides us and history has shown that incites violence. I quote “No one is born to hate, hate is learned”. Teaching our society to respect differences and celebrate diversity is essential to prevent the development of presidential attitudes. The First Amendment of the Constitution protects the freedom of speech, religion and press. It also protects the right to peaceful protests and petition the government. Rulings by the Supreme Court have decided that speech is free unless it incites eminent criminal activity or consists of specific threats of violence targeted against a person or group. No one, I state, no one on this Council or Administration endorses hate or hate groups. Each person is different from the other. Remember one thing we have in common that we are all different. If we can just respect each other, don’t judge people based on gender, race or sexual orientation, this world would be a better place to live. We as a Township are demonstrating our commitment to all aspects of diversity with a collective effort to build on an inclusive environment for all. So judge less and accept more. Thank you, motion for adjournment.

On a motion made by Council Vice President Ficarra seconded by Councilwoman Meehan and carried unanimously, Council President Bauer adjourned the meeting at 6:59 P.M.