

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 January 24, 2023 at the Municipal Building, 1 Main Street, Woodbridge, NJ 07095.

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

Greg Ficarra, Council President: Please take A moment of silence for those protecting our freedoms and for anybody that's been mistreated around the world, we've had some rough goes the last few days.

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 November 25, 2022. 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, Debbie Meehan, Kyle Anderson, Lizbeth DeJesus
Brian Small, Sharon McAuliffe, Gregg Ficarra, Howie Bauer

MEMBERS ABSENT: Viru Patel

ALSO PRESENT: John E. McCormac, Mayor
John Mitch, Municipal Clerk
Vito Cimilluca, Business Administrator
Marta Darden, Director of Planning and Development
Joseph Nisky, Deputy Director of Police
George Brew, Director of Public Works
Phil Bujalski, Director of Department of Health & Human Services
Casey Wagner, Deputy Business Administrator
Craig J. Coughlin, Esq.
Gary Clemente, Esq.

The Municipal Clerk: Can I get a motion to approve the minutes from January 3, 2023?

Council Vice President Anderson moved the adoption of the following minutes seconded by Councilman Spillar and carried unanimously.

Council Meeting:	January 3, 2023
Board of Health Meeting:	January 3, 2023

The Municipal Clerk read the following Ordinances by Title on Second Reading as Consent stating that copies of these Ordinances were posted on the Municipal bulletin board.

A. AN ORDINANCE DEDICATING A PERMANENT EASEMENT OVER A PORTION OF BLOCK 544, LOT 77 NOT NEEDED FOR A PUBLIC PURPOSE. (2023-01)

John Mitch, Municipal Clerk: Beginning with the Second Reading of the Ordinances this evening, we will take Letter A first. 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 Anderson made a motion, seconded by Councilman Spillar and carried unanimously.

John Mitch, Municipal Clerk: The public hearing is now open on Letter A.

John Vrtaric, Woodbridge: Asked for clarification of the easement.

Council President Ficarra: The easement is for ADA access to a building. American Disabilities Act. It's for people that need a ramp to get into the building. It's a small easement that is not really displacing any parking or anything else. So, it makes perfect sense to make it accessible to people with disabilities.

John Vrtaric, Woodbridge: Asked what the adjoining property is next to the easement.

John E. McCormac, Mayor: There is a building on Main Street and right outside the building is a very tiny little alley way that the Township owns. For some reason we own and the building needs to have an exit for handicapped accessibility and they want to be able to use our easement to get people out that are handicapped. It's about a 100 square foot piece of property that people would need to get out if they are in a wheelchair. The piece we own fronts on North James Street.

John Mitch, Municipal Clerk: If there are no other questions, can I get a motion that the public comment portion be closed, the Ordinance be adopted and submitted to the Mayor for approval as required by law?

Council Vice President Anderson made a motion, seconded by Councilman Spillar and carried unanimously.

B. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THAT TITLE AND POSSESSION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS 535-537 NEW BRUNSWICK AVENUE, FORDS BE CONVEYED TO THE WOODBRIDGE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY. (2023-02)

John Mitch, Municipal Clerk: Letter B is an Ordinance Directing That Title and Possession of Certain Real Property Be Conveyed to the Redevelopment Agency, Property Know as 535-537 New Brunswick Avenue. 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 Anderson made a motion, seconded by Councilman Spillar and carried unanimously.

John Mitch, Municipal Clerk: The public hearing is now open on Letter B.

Tom Maras, Fords: Asked from whom the title is being conveyed and what the purpose of the conveyance to the Redevelopment Agency is.

John E. McCormac, Mayor: The Township purchased it several months ago and we are turning it over to the Redevelopment Agency so that they can work with the selected redeveloper and the Woodbridge Housing Authority to knock down the Fords Theater property. It's going to be knocked down to build brand new housing for the people next door at Olsen Towers. And then when they move in, Olsen Towers is going to be raised for market rate housing. It's exactly the model we used Downtown where we wanted to give the residents of Stern Tower better housing. We got the land next to the Sycamore Senior Center and we built Red Oak apartments there and the people moved out of the Stern Tower into brand new beautiful apartments and we knocked down the Stern Tower for the Park luxury apartment complex. The exact same thing is happening here with the same redeveloper and all we are doing is getting the land we had in the hands of the redeveloper agency as we usually do to facilitate that redevelopment.

John Mitch, Municipal Clerk: Are there any other comments under Letter B? 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?

Councilman Vice President Anderson made a motion, seconded by Councilman Spillar and carried unanimously.

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

C. A BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION OF VARIOUS EASEMENTS AND THE RELOCATION OF FIBER OPTIC CABLES IN CONNECTION WITH THE ROUTE 9, MAIN STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN, BY AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE, IN THE

COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$660,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS. (2023-03)

- D. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 3, POLICE REGULATIONS, OF THE WOODBRIDGE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES (TOBACCO). (2023-04)**

- E. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR A LONG-TERM TAX EXEMPTION AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A FINANCIAL AGREEMENT WITH WOODMONT METROPARK RESIDENTIAL URBAN RENEWAL, LLC. (2023-05)**

- F. AN ORDINANCE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION BY PURCHASE OR EMINENT DOMANIN OF EASEMENTS IN FURTHERANCE OF ROUTE 9 AND MAIN STREET (C.R. 514) ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT. (2023-06)**

- G. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 7 ENTITLED “TRAFFIC”, SECTION 7-10.1 OF THE REVISED ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE-TO ADD-CORREJA AVENUE. (2023-07)**

- H. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 7 ENTITLED “TRAFFIC”, SECTION 7-12 OF THE REVISED ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE – TO ADD – MARCONI AVENUE. (2023-08)**

- I. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 7 ENTITLED “TRAFFIC”, SECTION 7-39 “CONTROL FOR THE MOVEMENT AND THE PARKING OF TRAFFIC ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY” OF THE REVISED ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE – TO ADD – 29/31 MARCONI AVENUE, ISELIN. (2023-09)**

- J. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 7 ENTITLED “TRAFFIC”, SECTION 7-38.1 OF THE REVISED ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE – TO ADD – CLINTON AVENUE AND ELLIS PLACE. (2023-10)**

- K. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 7 ENTITLED “TRAFFIC”, SECTION 7-38.5 OF THE REVISED ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE – TO ADD – HARROWSGATE CONDOMINIUM. (2023-11)**

Council Vice President Anderson made a motion, seconded by Councilman Spillar and carried unanimously that these Ordinances be passed on First Reading, to be published in the Home News Tribune on Friday, January 27, 2023 with Notice of Public Hearing to be held on February 7, 2023 at 6:00 P.M.

The Municipal Clerk introduced the following Resolutions as Consent.

- (1) BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby consents to the Mayor’s appointment of Rayees Pawaskar to serve as a member of the Human Rights Commission for a three (3) year term commencing January 24, 2023 and terminating January 23, 2026.

- (2) BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby consents to the Mayor’s reappointment of Chris Kosty and Mahesh Rajan to serve as members of the Oak Tree Road Special Improvement District for a three (3) year term commencing January 1, 2023 and terminating December 31, 2025

- (3) BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby approves the request from the Woodbridge Metro Chamber of Commerce to host a “Street fair” on Saturday, May 20, 2023 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., closing Main Street between Amboy Avenue, School Street, Williams Street and Pearl Street between Main Street and Pearl Street.

- (4) BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby grants permission to St. John Vianney Parish, Colonia to hold a Fair on their grounds (church parking lot) located at 420 Inman Avenue, Colonia, from Tuesday, July 11, 2023 through Saturday, July 15, 2023.

- (5) BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Municipal Comptroller to issue refund checks to various vendors in the amount of \$500.00 each for Christmas Tree selling licenses in 2022.

- (6) BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Municipal Comptroller to issue a refund in the amount of \$100.00 to Hightech Amusements.

- (7) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Municipal Comptroller to issue a check for current account in the amount of \$260.00 for permit fees.
- (8) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Chief Financial Officer to issue a refund for overpaid taxes in the amount of \$250.00.
- (9) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the refund of overpaid taxes for 100% Disabled Veteran Donald Arace.
- (10) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the refund of overpaid taxes for 100% Disabled Veteran Barbara Chirico.
- (11) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the refund of overpaid taxes for 100% Disabled Veteran Barbara Chirico.
- (12) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Surety Bond Release in the amount of \$107,816.51 to Brook Street Associate, LLC.
- (13) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Change of Corporate Structure of Retail Consumption License No. 1225-32-007-008, WB 489 Beverages LLC t/a Joe Canal's Discount Liquor Outlet and authorizes the Municipal Clerk to change the generation number of the license to 1225-32-007-009.
- (14) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to sign the grant agreement on behalf of Woodbridge Township for the grant contract with the New Jersey Department of transportation for the Route 9 and Main Street/Signal Improvement Design Project.
- (15) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby accepts the adoption of Central Jersey Joint Insurance Fund's 2023 Safety Incentive Program.
- (16) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the insertion of a Special Item of Revenue into the SFY 2023 Budget for the Body Armor Replacement Grant in the amount of \$11,565.75.
- (17) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the insertion of a Special Item of Revenue into the SFY 2023 Budget for the 2023 Middlesex County Office of Aging & Disabled Services - Assistive Technology Services Grant in the sum of \$30,000.00.
- (18) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the insertion of a Special Item of Revenue into the SFY 2023 Budget for the 2023 Middlesex County Office of Aging & Disabled Services-Care Management Services Grant in the sum of \$36, 000.00.

- (19) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the insertion of a Special Item of Revenue into the SFY 2023 Budget for the 2023 Middlesex County Office of Aging & Disabled Services – Education Services Grant in the amount of \$6,000.00.
- (20) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Mayor or his designee, Municipal Clerk and Municipal Purchaser to execute any and all documents necessary for the contract awarded to Trench Technologies, LLC for the Intersection Improvements and Traffic Signal Installation at New Dover Road and Colonia Boulevard.
- (21) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Mayor or his designee and the Municipal Clerk to purchase annual maintenance for software programs utilized by the Township, including but not limited to Finance, Tax, Police and Personnel from Edmunds & Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$52,761.75.
- (22) **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 four (4) Chevrolet Tahoes for the Police Department from Mall Chevrolet, in an amount not to exceed \$180,827.96.
- (23) **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 fiber network from JCT Solutions in an amount not to exceed \$113,985.00.
- (24) **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 and installation of cell-enabled security cameras in twelve locations within the Township in an amount not to exceed \$64,385.00.
- (25) **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 a 5-year Maintenance Contract for cell-enabled security cameras in twelve locations within the Township in an amount not to exceed \$52,692.00.
- (26) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Mayor and the Municipal Clerk to execute any and all documents necessary for the purchase and replacement of two (2) Medium Voltage Variable Frequency Drives for the main wastewater pumping station from Rapid Pump and Meter Service Co., in an amount not to exceed \$742,400.00.
- (27) **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 two (2) new Galion 433T-11 Stainless Steel Dump Bodies from Cliffside Body Corporation in an amount not to exceed \$201,450.00.
- (28) **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 Labrie Automizer 33 Cubic Yard Right Hand Sideloaders from Sanitation Equipment Corp. in an amount not to exceed \$196,052.17.

- (29) **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 a Felling Trailer from Jesco, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$129,754.20.
- (30) **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 Playground Equipment from BCI Burke Company, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$75,922.70.
- (31) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Mayor or his designee and the Municipal Clerk to execute a proposal for professional services with Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, for Woodbridge Township Green Infrastructure Demonstration Project Site Design – Living Shoreline Project in Captain Carlsen Park, in an amount not to exceed \$20,240.00.
- (32) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Mayor or his designee to execute a contract with NELA Carpentry & Masonry LLC for home improvement repairs at the home located on Block 848.026, Lot 5 in the Township of Woodbridge, in an amount not to exceed \$22,000.00.
- (33) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Mayor or his designee and the Municipal Clerk to execute a Police Department Paid Detail Agreement between the Township of Woodbridge and Fed Ex Ground Package System, Inc. for the period February 1, 2023 through January 31, 2026.
- (34) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby approves the revision of an incorrect account number listed in a prior Resolution #73, adopted on December 13, 2022. Whereas the correct number should have read Account #C-04-000-2172-0051-8000 (\$80,000) and Account #C-04-000-2267-0029-8000 (\$124,938.06).
- (35) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby approves the rescission of Resolution #53 adopted on December 13, 2022.
- (36) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby approves of the execution of a Hold Harmless Agreement By and Between the Township of Woodbridge and C.J. Hesse, Inc.
- (37) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby approves all claims and bills presented to it by the Chief Financial Officer of the Current Bill List dated January 24, 2023 and the Supplemental Bill List dated December 31, 2022 through January 20, 2023.

Council Vice President Anderson moved the adoption of the foregoing Resolutions. The motion was seconded by Councilman Spillar and carried unanimously.

Public Meeting:

Council President Ficarra: We are going to move to the public portion of the meeting. When approaching the microphone, please state your name and the section of the Town or State that you live in. You will have a one-time opportunity to speak, for up to a five minute period. All videotaping must be taken from the rear of the room in the designated area. There will be no shouting from your seats. Please be respectful to each other and please make sure that nothing is blocking the aisles. The bottom line is just be kind to each other. The floor is open.

Scott Gawrych, Woodbridge: Not in favor of 30 year PILOT programs, recommends 10-15 year PILOT programs. Asked for detailed breakdown on the financial justifications for a 30 year PILOT as opposed to a 10-15 year PILOT. Concerned about total tax bills and school budgets and that after 30 years are complete, aid will be pulled from schools and all of the PILOTS don't contribute to that.

Gregg Ficarra, Council President: We are certainly not going to do it not because as you pointed out it's rather detailed. But the short answer to it is that our financial people that are pretty well equipped themselves, have looked it over and it fits well for what we're trying to accomplish. As I said to you it would take a lot longer time to define fit by way of example, you've done a very good job of sharing with the Council various situations with Bayonne I believe was the last one but every town is different. I think you're making a point, it's just that our financial people the key work in the Bayonne is that the folks were using the term regularly throughout that article scrutinizing everyone and not rubber stamping it and just pushing it through. 10-15 years worked for them, my point is that we scrutinize this and feel that it works best for us for 30 years to be able to attract them and the finances work. That is a general answer. The money that we received from the State for our schools was very low for a long period of time and just recently they got it back to where it should be.

Kathy Kuchie, Woodbridge: Spoke about the electronic speed sign being put up on Cutters Dock Road but wasn't working all week and then it was taken down. Also spoke about random cars parking in the neighborhood overnight, traffic from trucks and the martial arts place and believes it's unsafe as the road is very narrow.

Gregg Ficarra, Council President: I will tell you what I know and then I'll kick it over to Administration. I do know that the State sent us an email that the limit of weight to go over that bridge has changed and not every vehicle can go over that bridge. There is some serious discussion about re-routing. I don't know if it started and then there's a change because remember that's not necessarily just us, it's a coordination between us and the State. That's what I know.

Joe Nisky, Deputy Police Director: I know that sign was put up to address the complaint and we got a follow up complaint that the sign wasn't working. The Traffic Enforcement Unit went out

there to check the sign and it was working. I was not aware that the sign was moved and would have to check and see if it was moved and why. There may be a reason why it is not there anymore. But as far as the sign not working, we got that complain, checked the sign and the sign was working.

John E. McCormac, Mayor: If you are not speeding, it won't work.

Joe Nisky, Deputy Police Director: If you have a complaint, call us at the time you have the complaint so we can address it immediately. Telling us after the fact makes it very hard for us to do anything. If you notice a parked car out there for several days, we can investigate if that is an Ordinance violation and take the appropriated action. It's just a matter of calling the non-emergency number and reporting these complaints and will you will get the service that you need.

Gregg Ficarra, Council President: Kathy, while my comments about the bridge are correct, they were irrelevant to your question. That sign had nothing to do with that and I didn't realize it. Thank you.

John Vrtaric, Woodbridge: Regarding Resolution #26, asked what the "blower" will do at the Woodbridge Community Center.

Gregg Ficarra, Council President: I believe its air exchange. Mr. Cimilluca?

Vito Cimilluca, Business Administrator: At the community centers, it's to evacuate the gases that are underneath the building. And there is a pump. There is actually three of them that sit on the roof top and one needed to be replaced.

John Vrtaric, Woodbridge: Asked if it was methane gas and asked how many blowers the Woodbridge Community Center has.

Vito Cimilluca, Business Administrator: It is a closed landfill. It is well noted. There are three blowers. It's a redundancy.

John Vrtaric, Woodbridge: Spoke about the traffic on Main Street and asked if the street will be widened. Asked why we are spending money if it is a State and County road.

Gregg Ficarra, Council President: If you are referring to Main Street and Route 9, by Wegmans, is that what you are referring to?

John Vrtaric, Woodbridge: I am referring to traffic on Main Street and Route 9.

Gregg Ficarra, Council President: Traffic on Main Street is affected by that intersection. If you've been up there, you know there is significant work going on. It is cooperation between the State, the County and Woodbridge because it is our town and it's going to affect us. So I don't understand what your question is. Is it why are we spending money?

John Vrtaric, Woodbridge: Stated that the Mayor said in a previous meeting that it is not our problem and it's not our road.

Gregg Ficarra, Council President: I don't recall that. Mayor, would you care to respond to that?

John E. McCormac, Mayor: That is not what I said. I don't recall you even asking about widening Main Street. We are certainly widening Main Street as soon as you get up towards Route 9 on the right, we have to widen it because that is part of the problem with the log jam there is that jam there is that if one car is making a left and the second car queues up behind it, no one can get by. So we are definitely widening Main Street, so I didn't say that. We are the responsible party for a \$12 million dollar grant from the State to do the entire Main Street Route 9 Project. That means we have to enter into the contracts because we are the granting entity and we are authorizing the contracts. You are looking at one of those contracts from a \$12 million dollar ramp. Coming from Route 9, the ramp is going to be enhanced and improved but it is not going to be a new ramp. It's not costing us \$12 million dollars. It's funding provided by the State, through the County, to the Town. Not one penny of that \$12 million dollars is ours. There is other ancillary things that we might have to pay as part of it. But acquiring easements if it's related to upper Main Street, not by Route 9. But the \$12 million dollar grant came from the State. It is not our money. We are however running the project. There is a traffic light being installed at the entrance to the Lowes, Wegmans and Wells Fargo strip there. It will be a four way intersection and the people who come out of there will now be able to make a left and the people who go in there from the other side of Main Street by the Club will come down and they will be able to make a left. It will be a complete 4 way intersection which I think is desperately needed there.

Paul Lund, Hopelawn: Spoke about sex and race being the main topics in the schools, K-12. Spoke about a bill passed by Ron DeSantis that children grades Kindergarten through third grade should not be not having to be taught gender identity and they should not be concerned about gender at that age. Asked the Council to examine their conscience and rethink allowing these teachings in the schools. Spoke about at time when local politics were different than national politics and what is being pushed on a local level these days. Spoke about not being able to vote on whether a baby born surviving a failed abortion would be refused care.

James Debrowski, Woodbridge: Mentioned the East Brunswick Township Council becoming the 12th governing body to formally oppose the proposed third fossil fuel plant in Woodbridge Township. Referenced a speech given by Eric Holder on Martin Luther King Jr. day back in 2011 and how he praised Martin Luther King, Jr., for paving the way for our nation now thriving in environmental justice movement, environmental degradation falls disproportionately on low income communities of color and most often on the youngest residents. Hopes that our Country becomes the global example of environmental justice. Spoke about wanting to be able to have frank conversations with one another about racial matters that continue to divide us. Mentioned that during the January 3, 2023 Council meeting a person that recently ran for the Board of Education, is one who attacks black people with racist insults and speaks about being in the St. James minstrel shows many years ago, and that particular person stands with Proud Boys, and makes homophobic comments. Spoke about the Mayor saying that he recently met with this man and said he is looking forward to working with him and his team. Asked Council President Ficarra if the Administration would agree to meet and work with the Executive Committee of the Perth Amboy Branch NAACP.

Gregg Ficarra, Council President: We have attended meetings in the past. We certainly will in the future. I can't speak for the Mayor but I'm the Council President and I am saying that I would be

happy to attend a meeting which I have in the past. I will start by attending your meetings. Thank you.

Tom Maras, Fords: Spoke about working for Civil Rights Groups as a young Marine, being stationed in Memphis Tennessee and how he was outraged because the same men he went through training with and were giving their lives, were not permitted to enter in to the same restrooms and restaurants as he was and is still haunted by that to this day. Spoke about how he does in fact support the NAACP and any organization that looks to unite our Country. Complimented the McCormac Administration for deciding that the Ross Street School Project and building a 94 unit apartment building was not in the best interest of the community. Spoke about the Council meetings becoming more diverse thanks to Mr. Debrowski.

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

Council Vice President Anderson made a motion to close the public portion of the meeting which was seconded by Councilman Spillar and carried unanimously.

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

Council President Ficarra: We are going to go into our Agendas.

1. WCC (Woodbridge Community Center).
(A) Senior Recreation and programming.
(B) Youth Recreation and programming.
HOLD

Both the Club and the Woodbridge Community Center have their winter flyers out. There are a lot of great activities there. Some of the current trends are TRX and kettlebell training. Zumba classes to raise money for Have a Heart, ice skating lessons, winter leagues in various sports. The joiner's fee is waived until the end of this month. There is a lecture at the Evergreen Senior Center on Tuesday, February 7, 2023 called The Healing Power of Music.

2. Youth Month – April.
Senior Month – May.
HOLD
3. Mayor's Fitness / Wellness Initiatives.
HOLD
4. Fireworks.
HOLD
5. Heroes & Cool Kids / Strengthening Families.
HOLD

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

In speaking with our Health Director and working with our community partner, Hackensack Meridian, there is a lot of education going on and the trend is going down as far as COVID, RSV and the flu are concerned. Hackensack Meridian gave our Health Department digital thermometers and those will be distributed at a future date at some of our vaccine clinics. Our Health Department does a phenomenal job of keeping our people healthy even during the Pandemic. Please extend that to the Health Department.

13. Mobile Health Unit.
HOLD
14. Senior Services Directory.
HOLD

The chili cook off is coming up on March 5, 2023, at the Woodbridge Brewery.

KYLE ANDERSON, COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT / COUNCILMAN-AT-LARGE

Council President Ficarra: Council President Anderson.
Councilman Anderson: Thank you Council President.

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

Our recreation basketball is in full swing as we enter into week three of competition. Teams are practicing and playing almost every night of the week. That is the great part

about our recreation. We want to make sure that the Rec kids are using the gyms and they are learning the game of basketball. Indoor recreational soccer starts this weekend with close to 40 teams playing at multiple middle schools and at the Woodbridge Community Center. The registration is open for spring Soccer, baseball and softball. Please go to the Department of Recreation website and register with the Community Pass. Please contact the Department of Recreation with any questions at 732-596-4048.

2. Job Bank.
HOLD

3. Mayor's Trophy.
HOLD

4. Woodbridge Hall of Fame.
HOLD

On behalf of the Hall of Fame, I would like to congratulate Colonia Patriot, Madison Chiara. She became a 1000 point scorer last year but this year she became the all-time leading scorer, a record that was held by Tiffany McDaniel back in 2007.

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

Last week we all attended a wonderful event. The MLK event was held at the Acacia Center. It was a packed house and we saw a lot of kids there and some great speakers. We had our key note speaker, Reverend Lawson from The First Baptist Church of Sewaren. We also heard a great speech from the principal of Ford's Middle School, Miss Murphy. Glenn Morgan from our HRC and Phil Hall from the Independent Club of Colonia all gave great and very unique speeches to add to that event. I thought it was a great idea, on behalf of our Administration to hold it at the Acacia Center. We are trying to keep the youth in there and while we are doing that we want to make sure that they are learning about the great things that are going on here.

10. Independent Club of Colonia.
HOLD

There will be a Black History Month event on February 26, 2023 at The Acacia Youth Center at 3 p.m. and the doors open at 2:30 p.m. We are asking for a donation of a non-perishable item for our Woodbridge Food Bank. Our local Girl Scout troops will also be there selling their cookies. We do have some local people who are going to be honored there. Reverend Lawson from First Baptist Church, Detective Mark Zeno, and also Councilwoman Meehan- Fifth Ward, as she has been very supportive of the Independent Club of Colonia.

11. Tooling Around Program.

HOLD

We haven't had this event in the last two years. This is where people that are in need of repairs to their home, reach out to the Township and apply to get assistance with projects that have been put off for a very long period of time. It's been a great event that we do every April. It is back on for this year. We realize that there is a two year back log of homes so we're just asking for the families to be patient that have applied in the past. You can find the application online or in the Mayor's office.

12. Boy Scouts/Camping.

HOLD

13. League Consolidation.

HOLD

14. Middlesex College.

HOLD

15. Woodbridge Organization of Neighbors Advocating Change.

HOLD

16. Geo Baker Clinics.

HOLD

I would like to mention an event coming up at the Baron Arts Center, "All That Jazz NJ". We'll have a concert on March 31, 2023 which is the Jazz Lobsters that will be held at Woodbridge High School and then there will be Forbidden Tropics Afro Peruvian Jazz Ensemble on May 12, 2023. And on September 29, 2023 there will be the Diane Perry Jazz Ensemble at the Barron Arts Center all starting at 7:30 p.m. There will be Jazz Poetry Coffee House Series and that date is to be determined. For more information, you can contact 732-634-0413. If you are looking for any baseball or basketball training, you can find it at the Woodbridge Club with Geo Baker from Rutgers University who is offering basketball training. Also Justin Silva, who recently graduated from Montclair State University. He is a great baseball pitcher and homegrown here in Woodbridge and they are at the Club.

HOWIE BAUER, 2nd WARD COUNCILMAN:

Council President Ficarra: Councilman Bauer.

Councilman Bauer: Thank you Council President. My Agenda is in order.

1. 2nd Ward Road Projects.
HOLD
2. County Greenway.
HOLD
3. Downtown Parking on New Brunswick Avenue.
HOLD
4. Woodbridge Waterfront Park/Keasbey.
HOLD
5. Hometown Hero Banners.
HOLD
6. Fords Business Community.
A. Cruise Night/Trunk or Treat
HOLD
7. Fords/Hopelawn/Keasbey Fire Companies.
HOLD
8. Fords V.F.W.
HOLD
9. Troop 53 Boy Scouts of America.
HOLD
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
17. Concerts.
HOLD
18. 988 LIFE LINE.
HOLD

I have two announcements. Tonight at the Barron Center from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m., there will be a lecture on Lionel Trains. Also at the Barron Arts Center on February 3, 2023 at 8 p.m., there will be the All Season Chamber Players Musical call 732-634-0413 to make a reservation. The suggested donation is \$5. That is all I have. Thank you.

BRIAN SMALL, COUNCILMAN-AT-LARGE

Council President Ficarra: Thank you. Councilman Small.

Councilman Small: Thank you Council President.

1. Woodbridge News.
HOLD
2. Woodbridge Fire Fighters Local #290.
HOLD
The Annual Muscular Dystrophy Bowl—a–thon, sponsored by The Woodbridge Township Professional Fire Fighters IAFF Local #290, will be Saturday, March 4, 2023 at the Woodbridge Bowling Center at 346 Main Street, from 1 p.m.–4 p.m. It’s \$11 for unlimited games and a \$9 minimum donation to the MDA. If you are interested, please contact Michael at 732-882-3447. Also you get a t-shirt with your donation.
3. Port Reading Fire and Township First Aid Squads.
HOLD
4. Woodbridge P.B.A. / S.O.A. #38.
HOLD
Woodbridge P.B.A. will continue its tradition, participating in the Polar Plunge for Special Olympics on Saturday, February 25, 2023 in Seaside Heights. This year the goal is to

raise \$2 million dollars. If you would like to donate individually for the cause, you can go to www.plungeseaside.org or you can check out the Woodbridge P.B.A. Facebook page to make a donation.

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. 2-3-8 Marine Fire Rescue.
HOLD

14. Mayor Mac Café.
HOLD

If you are looking for a delicious breakfast or lunch, Mayor Mac’s Café is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

15. Light Parade (11/25/23).
HOLD

16. American Irish Association of Woodbridge.
HOLD

Just a reminder, the 49th Annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade will be held on March 12, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

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

On February 11, 2023, we have “An Evening with Frank”, sung by a local Woodbridge resident and Woodbridge Career Firefighter Chris Jago. It’s a spaghetti dinner, tricky tray and 50/50. It will be at the Woodbridge Elks, located at 665 Rahway Avenue. Please contact Keith for tickets, which are \$35, at 732-887-2484.

Also, there Spaghetti dinner fundraiser to benefit the DeVito Valentine family. Sunday, Feb 5, 2023 from 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. and it is \$12 per ticket for adults and \$8 for children ages 5-10. For advanced tickets you can contact Chris at 732-634-7452 or you can buy them at the Elks on that day, after 5 p.m.

I want to thank all of our First Responders, Township Employees and God Bless America. Thank you Mr. President.

LIZBETH DEJESUS, COUNCILWOMAN-AT-LARGE

Council President Ficarra: 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

Our Free Public Library of Woodbridge has English language classes, computer computer classes and beginning English classes. Call 732-906-5456 for more information on dates and times. There will also be training for new literacy tutors on Feb 1, 2023 and for more information on that you can call 908-436-1777 ext. 400. On Wed Feb 1, 2023 at 1 p.m. the Main Library will have information on Income Tax Issues for Retirees, what to expect, how to plan, and learn about social security and pensions, inside jobs and home sales income taxes for descendants and beneficiaries. For more information, please visit woodbridgelibrary.org or you call 732-634-4450.

11. Veteran’s Tax Deduction.
HOLD

12. Girls Sports.
HOLD

I would like to congratulate the Fords Middle School Girls Basketball Team for winning the Middle School Championship. It is my belief that girls work just as hard as boys and are as dedicated as boys. So, we should be more supportive of girls in sports. With that in mind we are talking to the Recreation Department. Council President and I have been talking about a recreation runners program and our class started this spring and it would be for girls in grades 5, 6, 7, and 8, to introduce them to running. I will follow up with more information as I get it.

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

14. Youth Leadership Council.
HOLD

15. Community Backpacks.
HOLD

16. Donation of Winter Coats for School Students.
HOLD

17. Safe Place.
HOLD

18. Women’s Month
HOLD

19. Mentoring Programs.
HOLD

CORY S. SPILLAR, 3rd WARD COUNCILMAN

Council President Ficarra: Thank you. Councilman Spillar.

Councilman Spillar: Thank you Council President Ficarra.

1. Avenel's Very Merry Holiday Lighting (11/26/23) / Port Reading Day.
HOLD
2. Avenel Arts Village/Train Station/Eric LeGrand Believe Park.
HOLD
Comedian Judy Gold will perform at APAC on February 4, 2023 at 8 p.m.
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
Mr. Mitch, can you please add Fire Prevention Week Open House for October 14, 2023 to my Agenda?
9. Social Clubs – Avenel Knights of Columbus/Columbian Club, Avenel V.F.W.
HOLD
10. Woodbridge Developmental Center Property.
HOLD

11. Cable Commission/Renewal.
HOLD

Woodbridge Township Television is happy to announce the launch of our video channel TV-35 in high definition on channel 1077 on the Comcast Cable System. The HD channel is a result of years of negotiations between Comcast and the Woodbridge Cable Commission. The Bulletin Board, Channel 36, will cease operation on March 20, 2023. Bulletin Board notices will be incorporated into the Channel 35/Channel 1077 line up. Our TV-35 crew is fantastic. We are the only municipality that has their local programming in HD.

12. School 4 & 5.
HOLD

13. Mileed Way Army Corps of Engineers Project.
HOLD

14. Maple Tree Senior Center.
HOLD

Again I want to wish Avenel's Phil Svoboda a Happy 100th Birthday. The Mayor and I presented Phil with Phil January 9th Phil Svoboda Day at the Avenel Golden Senior Circle meeting. On a side note Maple Tree Senior Center is located at the Avenel Knights of Columbus and Phil was one of the founding members more than 50 years ago along with the rest of the members who put notes on their houses so they could buy the Knights property and build that building.

The rest of my Agenda is in order. Thank you to all of our Emergency Responders, Fire, EMS, WPD, CERT and all of our Public Works and Township employees. God Bless America. Thank you.

Congratulations to the Fords Middle School girls and Avenel Middle School boys on their great seasons and taking the middle school championship for basketball.

DEBBIE MEEHAN, 5TH WARD COUNCILWOMAN

Council President Bauer: Thank you. Councilwoman Meehan.

Councilwoman Meehan: Thank you Council President. My Agenda is in order.

1. Inman Avenue Business District Improvements.
HOLD

I would like to thank the Administration, especially our Township Engineer, Mr. Gellin for all of their hard work, which they put in to make Downtown Colonia shine a little brighter this year. We have installed 24 new light towers along Inman Avenue. And we'll be installing another eight light towers to complete the avenue. We have also installed a

clock tower by Walgreens which will illuminate at light from dusk to dawn once PSE&G powers the meter cable cabinet.

2. Green Houses – Colonia Middle and Colonia High Schools.
HOLD

3. Evergreen Senior and Youth Center / Senior Services.
HOLD

4. Events: A. Taste of Colonia.
 B. Have a Heart Food Drive.
 C. Colonia Easter Bonnet Parade & Egg Hunt.
 D. Colonia 5K/Chris Jantas Run.
 E. Colonia Annual Wiffle Ball Tournament.
 F. Support the Troops Rally.
 G. Colonia Pride Day.
 H. Colonia Clean Up.
 I. Colonia Christmas Tree Lighting.
 J. Cookies and Can for the Troops and Food Bank.
 K. Toys for Tots Run.
 L. Breast Cancer Walk.

HOLD

Have a Heart Food Drive kicked off this month. It is the most important community and business based food collection program undertaken throughout the entire year and we are asking local businesses, schools and organizations to take the challenge this year by donating either 214 pounds of food or \$214. During the holidays so many people think of those that don't have enough food and we kind of forget about it during the winter months and we don't have as much food that comes in, but the need is still great. So we appreciate any donations. The Have a Heart Food Drive is coordinated by Peter Barcellona. All you need to do is call Peter at 732-855-0600 extension 5034 and tell him where to pick up your donation. You can also drop off at the Health Center which is located at 2 George Fredrick Plaza anytime between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and anybody that can donate.

Also on February 11, 2023 students from Colonia Middle School and myself will be holding our own challenge, challenging Colonia residents to help us to collect 214 pounds of food to donate to the Have a Heart. We will be at the Evergreen Center on Inman Avenue in Colonia from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. There will also be Girl Scouts there so you can buy some cookies or donate some cookies to the food drive.

Thank you to everyone that donates throughout there year. It really does matter and you're helping your neighbors throughout the community. That is all I have this evening.

5. Food Pantry.
HOLD

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. Volunteer Directory.
HOLD
 13. Domestic Violence Response Team.
HOLD
 14. AED Program.
HOLD
 15. Springwood
HOLD

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

Council President Bauer: Thank you. Councilman Patel is excused. Councilwoman McAuliffe.
Councilwoman McAuliffe: Thank you Council President. My Agenda is in order.

1. Events:
 - A. Relay for Life.
 - B. Fishing Derby.
 - C. Parker Press Concerts.
 - D. Woodbridge Wednesdays and Local Band Thursdays.
 - E. Saint James Street Fair.

HOLD

2. Main Street SID (Special Improvement District).
HOLD

Regarding Main Street and Route 9, I just want everyone to know that information regarding the detours can be found on the website. Detours will begin on January 30, 2023 for the widening of Main Street area near Wegmans.

3. Chamber of Commerce.
HOLD
4. Buy Local Program.
HOLD
5. Transit Village.
HOLD
6. Blue Acres/F.E.M.A.
HOLD
7. Main Street and Route 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
19. Earth Day Event.
HOLD
20. Green Infrastructure
HOLD

JOHN M. MITCH, MUNICIPAL CLERK

Council President Ficarra: Thank you. Mr. Mitch.

Mr. Mitch: Thank you Mr. President. My Agenda is in order.

1. Liquor License Transfer(s) / Change of Corporate Structure.
 - A. Person-To-Person / Place-To-Place Transfer of Liquor License # 1225-33-052-005 from Maria De La Rosa to Angelina’s Woodbridge Liquor License, LLC t/a Angelina’s Kitchen, Inc., 6000 Vermella Way, Building G, Woodbridge, NJ 07095.
 - B. Place-To-Place Transfer (Expansion of Premises) of Liquor License #1225-33-057-004 Sewaren Associates LLC t/a Moby Dick’s 351 West Ave., Sewaren, NJ 07077.
 - C. Person-to-Person Transfer of Liquor License #1225-33-44-003 Liberty Tavern of Fords, Inc. to Jolly Rogers Bar & Grill, LLC 631-633 King Georges Rd., Fords, NJ 08863.
 - D. Change of Corporate Structure for MSK Holdings, LLC t/a Woodbridge Brewing Co., 33 Main St., Woodbridge, NJ 07095 (1225-33-069).
 - E. Change of Corporate Structure for McLoone Holding LLC t/a Favorites at Woodbridge, 3 Lafayette Rd., Fords, NJ 08863 (1225-33-014).
2. Liquor License Incident(s) / Hearing(s).
3. Liquor License Renewals.
4. Street Closings / Special Events (Block parties, street fairs, carnivals, etc.).
5. Elections.
 - A. 2023 Primary: Election: June 6, 2023
Early Voting: June 2 – June 4
 - B. 2023 General Election: November 7, 2023
Early Voting: October 28-November 5
6. Best Practices Inventory.

MAYOR:

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE:

Council President Ficarra: Thank you. Mr. Cimilluca.

Business Administrator Cimilluca: Thank you Council President.

Under Administration and Finance I have a tax assessor overpayment. I have a tax court judgement and I am pulling the last one because we moved it tonight. Thank you.

POLICE:

Council President Ficarra: Thank you. Deputy Directory Nisky.

Deputy Director Nisky: Thank you Council President.

I have five Traffic and Parking Ordinance proposals and three handicapped parking additions.

HEALTH:

Council President Ficarra: Thank you. Mr. Bujalski.

Director Bujalski: Thank you Council President.

Thank you for requesting Council's approval to secure the noted grant for our Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT:

Council President Ficarra: Thank you. Director Darden.

Director Darden: Thank you Council President. Nothing this evening.

PUBLIC WORKS/ENGINEERING:

Council President Ficarra: Thank you. Director Brew.

Director Brew: Thank you Council President. My Agenda is in order.

LEGAL:

Council President Ficarra: Thank you. Legal.

Gary Clemente, Esq.: Nothing this evening.

RECREATION:

On a motion made by Council Vice President Anderson seconded by Councilman Spillar and carried unanimously, Council President Ficarra adjourned the meeting at 7:00 P.M.