

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 February 21, 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: Can we have a moment of reflection in remembrance of the people suffering in other countries due to the natural disasters.

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: Howie Bauer, Lizbeth DeJesus, Sharon McAuliffe, Debbie Meehan, Viru Patel (left after all voting), Brian Small, Cory Spillar, Kyle Anderson, Gregg Ficarra,

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: John E. McCormac, Mayor
John Mitch, Municipal Clerk
Vito Cimilluca, Business Administrator
Marta Darden, Director of Planning and Development
Robert Hubner, Director of Police
George Brew, Director of Public Works
John Hagerty, Director of Communications
Casey Wagner, Deputy Business Administrator
Craig J. Coughlin, Esq. (left at 6:30 p.m.)
Brian Bontempo, Esq.

The Municipal Clerk: Can I get a motion to approve the minutes from February 7, 2023 Council Meeting and the February 16 2023 Green Acres Meeting?

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

Council Meeting:	February 7, 2023
Green Acres Meeting:	February 16, 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 AUTHORIZING THE RECORDING OF A REVISED SUBDIVISION DEED FOR FORMER LOT 35 WITHIN BLOCK 590, SUBDIVIDING SAID LOT 35 INTO LOTS 35.01, 35.02 AND LOT 35.03, AND THE RECORDING OF A CORRECTED DEED CONVEYING LOTS 35.01 AND 35.02 WITHIN BLOCK 590 TO THE AMERICAN IRISH ASSOCIATION OF WOODBRIDGE, INC. (2023-12)

John Mitch, Municipal Clerk: Beginning with the Second Reading of the Ordinances this evening, we will take Letter A which is an Ordinance Authorizing the Recording of a Revised Subdivision. This is with regards to the American Irish Association of Woodbridge located at the Acacia Center. 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 Mitch, Municipal Clerk: Hearing no comment from the public, 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 OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY ADOPTING THE “430-432 NEW BRUNSWICK AVENUE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN”, PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING LAW, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 et seq. (2023-13)

John Mitch, Municipal Clerk: Letter B is an Ordinance of the Council of the Township of Woodbridge Adopting the 430-432 New Brunswick Avenue 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 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 which particular properties on New Brunswick Avenue.

Council President Ficarra: There are the Olsen Towers which I think is 357 if I'm not mistaken. And this is the old Fords Theater. So, this is referring to the theater.

Councilman Bauer: Excuse me Council President. The Olsen Towers is the 500 block. This is the 400 block. If you remember, the old Villa Borghese, which now is Dolce, it is that property. He is looking to expand the upstairs for a banquet hall and outside dining and add a few apartments.

John Mitch, Municipal Clerk: Are there any other comments from the public on Letter B? Hearing no other comments from the public, 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 Anderson made a motion, seconded by Councilman Spillar and carried unanimously.

C. AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A 25 MPH SPEED LIMIT ON MAIN STREET (CR 514) DURING THE TERM OF CONSTRUCTION FROM ROUTE 9 TO MARY AVENUE. (2023-14)

John Mitch, Municipal Clerk: We'll take Letter C. An Ordinance to Establish a 25 MPH on Main Street between Route 9 and Mary Avenue, for the duration of the construction project. 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 C.

John Vrtaric, Woodbridge: Suggested that signs be put up on Main Street and Route 35, making drivers aware of the construction and congestion.

Council President Ficarra: I believe when the project is in full motion, there will be signs. Thank you, we noted that.

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

D. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION FROM THE WOODBRIDGE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION OF REAL PROPERTY DESIGNATED AS BLOCK 1079, LOT 2, KNOWN AS SPRUCE STREET PARK AND LOCATED IN THE PORT READING SECTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE.

E. AN ORDINANCE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY ADOPTING THE “535-537 & 555 NEW BRUNSWICK AVENUE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN”, PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING LAW, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 *et seq.*

F. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 7 ENTITLED “TRAFFIC”, SECTION 7-17 OF THE REVISED ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE – TO ADD – VARIOUS STREETS.

G. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 7 ENTITLED “TRAFFIC”, SECTION 7-38.1 OF THE REVISED ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE – TO ADD – LOCKWOOD AVENUE.

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, February 24, 2023 with Notice of Public Hearing to be held on March 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 authorizes the Chief Financial Officer to issue a refund check for a Tax Court Judgement.
- (2) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Chief Financial Officer to issue a tax refund for a 100% Disabled Veteran, Julius Andrew Madden.
- (3) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Chief Financial Officer to issue a tax refund for a 100% Disabled Veteran, Cesar & Lenore M. Roige.
- (4) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby re-establishes a Creative Team Committee comprised of residents, business owners, employees or other artists or art contributors of Woodbridge Township.
- (5) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the payment of Pharmaceutical Rebates in aggregate value not to exceed \$100,000 with Independent Local Pharmacies, for filling prescription for covered Township employees, retirees, and their dependents.
- (6) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Mayor and the Municipal Clerk to endorse the submission of a Municipal Recycling Tonnage Grant Application to the Department of Environmental Protection and Energy and designates Audrey Rozger, Recycling Coordinator, to ensure that the aforesaid application is properly filed.
- (7) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes he Mayor or his designee to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency.
- (8) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the execution of the Final Change Order on the contract with Underground Utilities Corp for the Amboy Avenue Sanitary Sewer Extension Project in the amount of (\$447,353.74) decreasing the contract amount of \$1,398,988.00 to a total of \$951,634.26.
- (9) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the execution of Change Order #1 on the contract with MTB, LLC for the Henry Inman Library Roof Replacement and Exterior Repairs in the amount of \$18,317.53 increasing the contract amount of \$250,000.00 to a total of \$268,317.53.
- (10) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Mayor or his designee and the Municipal Clerk to enter into an agreement with H2M Architects+

Engineers, for professional environmental services for the Mount Carmel School Building at 267 E. Smith Street, Woodbridge in an amount not to exceed \$46,700.00.

- (11) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Mayor or his designee and the Municipal Clerk to enter into an agreement with H2M Architects+ engineers, for professional environmental services for the proposed alteration to Mount Carmel School Building at 267 E. Smith Street, Woodbridge in an amount not to exceed \$12,500.00.
- (12) **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 two Street Hockey Rinks for Cypress Park Phase 2 from Athletica Sport Systems in an amount not to exceed \$242,350.00.
- (13) **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 for Cypress Park Phase 2 from BCI Burke Company in an amount not to exceed \$163,136.10.
- (14) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Mayor or his designee and the Municipal Clerk to enter into an agreement with Two Brothers Contracting for the demolition, disposal and compaction of the Rectory Building at Mount Carmel Church.
- (15) **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 cameras for the Woodbridge Health Department from ESS, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$44,498.83.
- (16) **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 BID received from Ciocca FMFL Inc. for One (1) Super Cab 4x4 Pick Up in the amount of \$39,531.00.
- (17) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Mayor or his designee, Municipal Clerk and Municipal Purchaser to execute any documents necessary for the BID received from Mid Atlantic Production Services for Concert Sound and Lighting Services on an as needed basis for a (24) month period with an optional twelve (12) month renewal.
- (18) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Mayor or his designee and the Municipal Clerk to enter into an agreement with Colliers Engineering & Design, Inc. for professional engineering services for Stafford Road Sanitary Sewer Grinder Pump Installation in an amount not to exceed \$146,330.00.

- (19) **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 making or completing of the contract for the lowest responsive and responsible BID awarded to Messercola Excavating Inc. for the Township Wide Stormwater Improvements in the amount of \$624,423.00.
- (20) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Purchasing Agent to re-bid the contract for Police Tow Truck due to the bid being unresponsive.
- (21) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Purchasing Agent to re-bid the contract for The Club at Woodbridge Basketball Insulation Project due to the bid being unresponsive.
- (22) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby directs the Municipal Clerk to endorse the Change of Corporate Structure of McLoone Holdings Company LLC t/a Favorites at Woodbridge, effective February 21, 2023 to change the generation number of the license to 1225-33-014-008 and advise the New Jersey Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control.
- (23) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Planning Board to review and make recommendation as to the proposed redevelopment plan entitled the “535-537 & 555 New Brunswick Avenue Redevelopment Plan” and shall prepare a report regarding its recommendations as to the Redevelopment Plan and submit same to the Municipal Council within 45 days after referral as required by the Redevelopment Law.
- (24) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the insertion of a Special Item of revenue into the SFY 2023 Budget for funding provided by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for a NJ Equipment Modernization Program grant to purchase two electric shuttle buses and three electric refuse trucks in the amount of \$2,491,880.00.
- (25) **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 February 21, 2023 and the Supplemental Bill List dated February 4, 2023 through February 17, 2023.
- (26) **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 making or completing of the contract for the lowest responsive and responsible BID for the Parkside Pump Station Improvements, awarded to P & A Construction in the amount of \$508,532.73.
- (27) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Mayor or his designee and the Municipal Clerk to enter into an agreement with Whirl Construction for playground equipment installation services for the Springwood Swim Club in an amount not to exceed \$50,510.00.

(28) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Mayor or his designee and the Municipal Clerk to enter into an agreement with Dennis Estis, Esq. of Greenbaum Rose Smith & Davis for professional legal services as Special Counsel for the Township of Woodbridge and Michael Gelin, individually, in connection with the matter entitled Carteret Business Partnership Inc. v Township of Woodbridge, Michael Gelin, and Middlesex County Utilities Authority in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.00
Councilwoman McAuliffe abstained from Resolution #4.

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 will now go to the public comments portion of our 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.

John Mitch, Municipal Clerk: Are there any comments this evening?

Scott Gawrych, Woodbridge: Presented a spreadsheet to Council that he created to reflect a 15 year PILOT vs. a 30 year PILOT for the Woodmont and will follow up with an email to further discuss.

Ed Sofield, Fords: Spoke in favor of the new Keasbey Power Plant because we have more people in town, more buildings and apartments in town. Spoke about the Governor mandating that all cars be electric by 2035 and that now there is a shortage of electricity and the only way to get it is through the natural gas plant that is EPA approved, 3 year project and give jobs to 1000 construction workers that need the work. Spoke about Woodbridge taking the lead and that there has to be power for the grid, Hurricane Sandy shut the whole area down and Woodbridge would be independent with their energy source.

Carol Dobos, Fords: Concerned about the additional pollution that a second power plant will contribute to the environment, the Environmental Justice Law, read an article that the energy is not going to be used by Woodbridge but will be sourced out to serve New York and Pennsylvania. Has lung carcinoma and never smoked. Said that Mayor McCormac is the best Mayor we have ever had and asked that he stop the construction of the new power plant.

Jimmy Debrowski, Woodbridge: Thanked everyone that came outside tonight and stood in the cold to stand against a new power plant in Keasbey. Believes that the Keasbey area can be cleaned

up without putting a new power plant there and that it is a Brownsfields area and the Mayor isn't making any money off of it. Mentioned the loss of Councilwoman Dwumfour.

Charlie Kratovil, New Brunswick: Stands against a gas fired power plant and asked the Mayor why the public did not know in advance that two power plants were going to be there.

John E. McCormac, Mayor: It was nothing formal or official that is why it was not shared.

Colleen Kott, New Jersey: Also spoke against an additional power plant being built in Keasbey. Worried about the quality of the air in New Jersey, pollution being exacerbated by it and concerned about everyone's overall well-being, the waterfront park area continues to be radioactive. Spoke about 223 schools being within a 10 mile radius of the proposed plant and how it will increase health risks.

Pranita Bijlani, Rahway: Also spoke against an additional power plant and that people in other municipalities are in fact concerned as it effect their quality of life also.

John Sidote, Woodbridge: Spoke about growing up in Woodbridge, being a new parent and that his child should be able to grow up in Woodbridge like he did and the child should be able to grow up in a healthy environment.

Reverend Donna Stewart: NAACP: Also spoke against the additional power plant. Spoke about the National NAACP office commending Jimmy Debrowski on his work and that New Jersey must move away from fossil fuels and CVP. Also spoke about the Pan African flag flying in Woodbridge and George Floyd.

Sheila Mazar: Spoke against a second power plant in Keasbey, concerned how far the pollution will spread.

Frank Trombattore, Woodbridge: Spoke about racism against Catholics as there have been recent attacks on places of worship in Los Angeles and Philly and that people should be able to go to church in peace and believes that other religions will be attacked as well. Wants Council to stand up for the Catholics. Made mention of a law that requires parental permission to get a tattoo if under the age of 18. Yet if the child is 11 years old the child can get gender reassignment services without parental consent.

Tom Maras, Fords: Acknowledged the Police Officers that received awards this evening and their dedication. In favor of pairing police with medical health professionals, constraint without use of force and believes Woodbridge is at the forefront of building our police department. After a lot of consideration, now supports the second power plant as there is only speculation and no studies on a link between the plant and illness in the people in town. Backs the Mayor on the new Keasbey Power Plant and the PILOT programs.

John Vrtaric, Woodbridge: Suggested that the Mayor listen to the people once in a while, asked why pick Woodbridge for a new power plant when it is already polluted. Spoke about several

sewage plants providing water to power the Keasbey Power Plant. Addressed Councilwoman McAuliffe about the Dog Park and Green Acres.

Council President Ficarra: We have the land already, we own it. I would be happy to speak with you about it after the meeting.

Daniel Jimenez, Avenel: Spoke about the health consequences of a second power plant in Keasbey and that New Jersey tied for 5th in the Nation with New York for the highest cancer rates in the nation and that most cancers are either a result of genetics or environmental factors. Said that the entire Northeast Region is industrialized. If we don't have the lives we deserve, what do we have?

Kyle Lawrence, Woodbridge: Objects to an additional Power Plant in Keasbey. Spoke about being a member of Voter Choice New Jersey and how this organization does something called Rank the Restaurants. Which gets the local restaurants and businesses involved and teaching people about voting and where to vote. Interested in talking with the Council about using Rank Choice Voting as a way to vote.

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.

Council President Ficarra: I'd like to recognize Mayor McCormac.

John E. McCormac, Mayor: Council President, I would like to make a statement on this issue tonight. In 2008 the State of New Jersey initiated a process to select three locations for construction of power plants and there were approximately 20 interested parties competing to be one of those sites. The State wanted these plants.

Competitive Power Ventures was one of the interested parties and they searched all over the State for sites before approaching Woodbridge Township later that year to inform us that they were interested in purchasing land in Keasbey which was the former home of Epic Polymers to construct one of the three power plants.

This property was the most highly contaminated site in Woodbridge Township and one of the worst in the entire area with toxins encased in concrete following decades of operation as a chemical manufacturing plant. The odors emanating from the plant were so noxious that residents near the plant could not be outside their homes when the plant was in operation which was usually on Sunday nights. They literally had to keep windows closed on hot summer nights to avoid these odors.

The Township administration was in favor of this project when we were presented with the concept knowing that there was very little chance of this property ever being remediated without the promise of a redevelopment project that would provide a return on investment to the purchaser that justified the investment in the purchase and cleanup.

We also were thrilled that the cleanup effort would restore dozens of acres of wetlands and permit public access to the Raritan River which did not exist anywhere else in Woodbridge Township. When complete the area would include walking trails, nature exhibits, fishing and boating opportunities and a boardwalk. The project was the perfect combination of economic development and waterfront wetlands preservation.

We also were very aware that CPV had long term interest in constructing another power plant alongside the original plant depending on market conditions in the future and that this was part of the reason for their excessive environmental cleanup of the site.

On December 16, 2008 the Woodbridge Township Council designated this property as an area in need of redevelopment and on July 10, 2012 the Council adopted the Redevelopment Plan for the site. On April 17, 2013 the Woodbridge Planning Board approved the power plant site plan and on August 6, 2013 the Township Council approved the financial agreement which included a provision for a Payment in Lieu of Taxes. On August 8, 2017 the redevelopment plan was amended with a minor change regarding the height of power transmission lines. No objections were raised by members of the public at any of these meetings.

On September 26, 2018 the Planning Board approved the second power plant with only two non-resident members of the public objecting before the Board attorney ruled that they had no standing and therefore could not comment on the issue. One of the objectors, a member of the local media, filed a lawsuit on November 9, 2018 challenging the Board's decision and that suit was dismissed in New Jersey Superior Court on June 10, 2019.

The Township Council approved the second financial agreement, also including a Payment in Lieu of Taxes, on November 20, 2018 - nearly 4 ½ years ago – with once again no comment from any members of the public. Contracts have been signed with CPV based on these approvals.

May 4, 2021 was the first time a member of the public brought up the issue of CPV power plants at a Township Council meeting which was nearly three years after this Township Council took action on this issue.

The cleanup of the site has been significantly more extensive and costly than was ever imagined at the beginning of the process primarily because of the extent and toxicity of the contamination. To date the amount expended on this cleanup has exceeded \$200 million dollars. The magnitude of this amount is validation of the Township's decision to have this property's contamination completely remediated.

Because of the massive contamination, plans for the recreational aspect of the project were put on hold. Nobody renege on their commitment to provide these amenities and portions of the public park are expected to open later this year.

The State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the Federal government's Environmental Protection Agency are the entities charged with approving the permit applications for this site with an eye toward protecting the public. The Township has no jurisdiction over any environmental issue connected to this project.

The majority of the concerns raised tonight are best brought to the attention of these entities because of their technical nature.

The Township has already received over \$20 million in PILOT payments in the last nine years and will ultimately garner over \$100 million at the end of the 30 year period of the first PILOT agreement. This

funding comes to our annual budget outside of the limit on property tax increases and because it is dedicated toward debt service on Township and Board of Education bonds and notes it is outside of the limit on annual appropriation increases.

The PILOT agreement helped fund major improvements to the athletic fields at our public schools. We now have turf baseball, softball and football/soccer fields at each of our three high schools as well as other improvements like new tennis courts, new tracks and playgrounds. The cost of these improvements which helped improve property values in Woodbridge was borne by CPV and not by our everyday taxpayers.

The PILOT for the second power plant is expected to be similar in size to the first plant and will again provide for significant infrastructure improvements for both the Township and the Board of Education.

There are negligible costs in the expenditure side of the Township's operating budget resulting from this project.

At the peak of the two year construction period the CPV power plant project produced over 700 trade union jobs and there are approximately 25 steady full time jobs involved in the operation of the plant. The second power plant will produce similar employment opportunities.

Once again, the Township is not advocating for this economic development based on any environmental issues which are clearly outside of our area of expertise. Those decisions lie with State and Federal entities and the Township will abide by any decisions they make. The first power plant was approved and if anything the technology has gotten better regarding emissions so the second plant will clearly be cleaner than the first.

It should be noted that there are no ordinances or resolutions before this Township Council and there have not been for nearly five years.

In summary, Woodbridge Township supported two power plants on this land in Keasbey because of the elimination of the worst polluted site in our town, because of the development of an incredible recreational facility with access to our waterfront and because of the financial windfall that this provides to our annual budget to keep property taxes stable in Woodbridge.

Simply put, our actions have supported environmental justice by improving the quality of life for our residents that live near the site.

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

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

There is pickle ball throughout February, lunches for seniors on Thursdays and different types of activities going on. Womens Recreation Volleyball is available and a spring kickball week.

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
13. Mobile Health Unit.
HOLD
The Township is in the process of completing the graphic design phase of our new mobile health unit. That will be delivered to us in the coming months. We are very excited about this new public health service initiative by the Mayor and the Chief of Staff. We will be announcing more about this in the future.
14. Senior Services Directory.
HOLD
15. Human Rights Commission.
HOLD

16. Concerts.
HOLD

The Health Department will be holding a rabies vaccination clinic on Tuesday, February 28th from 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. The Health Center is located at 2 George Frederick Plaza. This service is free for Township residents who have a 2023 license for their dog or cat. There is a \$10.00 charge for non-residents. If you have not licensed your dog or cat yet for this year, this is a good opportunity to do so and get your rabies vaccination for free.

The Acacia, Evergreen and Highland Grove Youth Centers are up and running.

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

Council President Ficarra: Council President Anderson.

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

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

The Independent Club of Colonia will be celebrating Black History Month this Sunday from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. at the Acacia Center on Port Reading Avenue. There you will see a lot of spoken words, song and recognition of a lot of our local leaders. There will also be food there and hopefully some soul food so that you can take in the culture as well.

11. Tooling Around Program.
HOLD
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 thank all of those that came out tonight. Whether you were outside protesting or came in to voice your opinion. Public discourse is a big part of our government. We do listen to all of our constituents and I appreciate everyone's comments tonight. I would also like to thank the Township for acknowledging our local black leaders on our vignettes. Most recently, Mr. Donald Green. Tonight during the proclamation period, we recognized retired Master Sergeant, Robert Wilkins, who is a 1982 graduate of JFK High School, for his work on the Presidents Council and sports fitness and nutrition. He is most recently nominated Woodbridge Township's as a National Youth Strategy Champion. This is based on his commitment to youth, recreation proper nutrition were going to be working very closely with. We'll be the first municipality in the United States to achieve this champion status on the National Youth Sports Strategy. We also had 14 police officers recognized after Mr. Wilkins and I know there will be others that will be mentioning that. But it was nice to see lifesaving efforts they made in the line of their duty. I'm sure that the families and the community appreciate their efforts. For Black History Month I'd like to bring up one story. It's a story of Robert Smalls of South Carolina. He was a slave who lost his family to being sold away and he wanted to get his family back. He didn't have enough money. He wanted to buy their freedom. He worked on ships and he wanted to buy their freedom. He had \$200.00 and they wanted \$800.00 and \$800.00 was the equivalent to \$23,000.00 today. What he did do is was stole a confederate ship. He stole a confederate ship and he captained it and along the way, he picked up his family and many other slaves and sailed them to freedom. He stole it from a confederate captain who was basically and probably asleep on his job. I just want

to salute Mr. Smalls and his heroism and what he did to get his family back and to get his group to freedom. I think that is worthy of a great Black History moment.

HOWIE BAUER, 2nd WARD COUNCILMAN:

Council President Ficarra: Thank you. Councilman Bauer.

Councilman Bauer: Thank you Council President. My Agenda is in order. I have no announcements tonight. Thank you.

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. 988 LIFE LINE.
HOLD

BRIAN SMALL, COUNCILMAN-AT-LARGE:

Council President Ficarra: Thank you. Councilman Small.

Councilman Small: Thank you Council President. I have a few things on my Agenda.

1. Woodbridge News.
HOLD
2. Woodbridge Fire Fighters Local #290.
HOLD
The Muscular Dystrophy Association Bowl-a-thon, sponsored by Woodbridge Township Professional Firefighters #290 is on Saturday, March 4th at Woodbridge Bowling Center from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. It is \$11.00 to bowl unlimited games and there is a \$9.00 donation to the MDA. If you are interested in participating, please contact 732-882-3447. Everyone that contributes will get a t-shirt.
3. Port Reading Fire and Township First Aid Squads.
HOLD
4. Woodbridge P.B.A. / S.O.A. #38.
HOLD
This Saturday is the Annual Polar Bear Plunge. It's not too late to make a donation. This benefits the Special Olympics. If you would like to make a donation, you can visit the Woodbridge P.B.A. Local #38 Facebook page.
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
15. Light Parade (11/25/23).
HOLD
16. American Irish Association of Woodbridge.
HOLD
The parade will take place on March 12th at 1:30 p.m. and will leave from Woodbridge High. I would like to congratulate Grand Marshall Ken Egan, Irish Man of The Year, Jim McFadden, Irish Lady of The Year, Mary Natale, Miss American Irish, Victoria Gomez and Lady in Waiting, Brittany Bader.
17. Woodbridge B.P.O.E. Elks 2116.
HOLD
18. Autograph Signings
HOLD

A special congratulations goes out to Councilman Howie Bauer and his wife Ingrid and Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin and his wife Tish for becoming grandparents recently. That’s all I have this evening. 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
I would like to congratulate our Woodbridge Police Department Administration and our police officers that were acknowledged today in their actions that results in saving lives.
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
Registration is open for March computer classes at the Woodbridge Main Library. Classes will begin with basic computer skills and will include Office and database searching. Also on March 7th at the Woodbridge Main Library at 1 p.m., there will be a Registered Dietitian, Annmarie Mcdade from Hackensack Health, teaching about how a Mediterranean diet can help reduce risk factors in heart disease. You can register online for this event at woodbridgelibrary.org or call 732-634-4450. Also, the Woodbridge Environmental Commission will host a program with speaker Sylvia Kay of the Sierra club at the Fords Branch Library on March 9th at 6 p.m. Registration is not required for that.
11. Veteran's Tax Deduction.
HOLD

12. Girls Sports.
HOLD
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
Women’s History Month is March and we will be raising the flag to acknowledge that on March 7th.
19. Mentoring Programs.
HOLD

CORY S. SPILLAR, 3rd WARD COUNCILMAN

Council President Ficarra: Thank you. Councilman Spillar.

Councilman Spillar: Thank you Council President. One quick announcement.

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
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/Fire Prevention Week Open House (10/14/23).
HOLD
9. Social Clubs – Avenel Knights of Columbus/Columbian Club, Avenel V.F.W.
HOLD
Curbside dinners are back at The Avenel Knights of Columbus/Columbian Club starting this Friday for lentin dinners. You can contact 732-636-9696 for more information.
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

The rest of my Agenda is in order. Thank you Council President.

DEBBIE MEEHAN, 5TH WARD COUNCILWOMAN

Council President Ficarra: Thank you. 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:
 - 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

5. Food Pantry.
HOLD

This week we will be finishing up our 2023 Have A Heart Food Drive. As of February 17th, with the help of businesses, schools, many different organizations throughout Woodbridge and our residents, we have collected \$61,768.00 in donations. And we have collected 16,695 pounds of food. These donations will be divided between our 11 food pantries located within the Township.

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

I have one announcement about the New Jersey Anchor Program. Residents are reminded to complete and submit your New Jersey Anchor Property Tax Relief Application by Tuesday, February 28th. You can apply online at anchor.nj.gov or you can call 1-877-658-2972. I would also like to congratulate our officers. We have wonderful officers in this town and their reward tonight was well deserved.

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 Ficarra: Thank you. 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

Relay for Life registration is open for this year's walk that will be held on June 10th at Woodbridge High School. You can set up your team by logging on to www.relay07095.org.

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

3. Chamber of Commerce.
HOLD

The Chamber of Commerce will be holding an unplugged event on March 15th at Blue Ale House from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. This will be a multi-chamber event with the WAG and the Clark Business Alliance. For more information on any of the Chamber events, you can contact 732-636-4040.

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
The Gallery on Main has two exciting events scheduled for next month. The Spring Artist Reception will be held on March 23rd from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. On March 29th from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. The Gallery and the Chamber of Commerce are teaming up for the meet and greet of local artists.
11. PACE.
HOLD
12. Woodbridge Fire Department.
HOLD
13. Coast Guard.
HOLD
14. Sewaren Library Programs.
HOLD
The library will be having a Leprechaun decorating contest starting February 27th through March 17th. Voting will take place online from March 20th through March 26th and the winner will be announced on March 27th. On March 10th In conjunction with Comfort and Balance, the library will be hosting two free early morning yoga classes for individual 14 years of age and older. For further information and to reserve your space, please call 732-634-7571.
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

The Top Chef competition will be held at Bahama Breeze on February 28th at from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. This event will be a fundraiser the will benefit We Feed Woodbridge. For tickets please contact 732-726-8951.

Council President Ficarra: Council, I just wanted to mention that I just opened a thank you letter from Peter Barcellona, Director of We Feed, for our \$221.00 contribution to the Have a Heart Food Drive. I wanted to share that with you and also point out that somehow we made a mistake adding because it was supposed to be \$214.00. Thank you for your efforts.

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 Applications under review.
List below does not represent approval of application(s) being considered.

- 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).

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.

There is a Special School District Election on March 14, 2023 between 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Anyone that is looking for details can contact the Board of Education or look in the newspaper. That's all I have. Thank you.

MAYOR:

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE:

Council President Ficarra: Mr. Cimilluca.

Business Administrator Cimilluca: Thank you Council President. I have a few items. I have an overpayment of sewer taxes. For add ons tonight, I have a Menlo Avenue sewer emergency repair and I have PF Connor Davies preliminary official statement.

POLICE:

Council President Ficarra: Thank you. Director Hubner.
Director Hubner: Nothing tonight. Thank you.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT:

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

PUBLIC WORKS/ENGINEERING:

Council President Ficarra: Thank you. Director Brew.
Director Brew: Thank you Council President.

LEGAL:

Council President Ficarra: Thank you. Legal.
Craig Coughlin, Esq.: Nothing this evening.

HEALTH:

RECREATION:

On a motion made by Council Vice President Anderson seconded by Councilman Small and carried unanimously, Council President Ficarra adjourned the meeting at 7:37 P.M.