

Woodbridge, New Jersey – February 4, 2020

**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 4, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. at the Municipal Building, 1 Main Street, Woodbridge, NJ 07095.**

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

Council President DeJesus: Please remain standing for a moment of silence for our troops serving overseas and for our former Mayor, Phil Cerria.

Notice Requirements of the Open Public Meetings Law have been satisfied concerning this meeting. The Home News Tribune and The Star Ledger published the Annual Notice Schedule on December 20, 2019. A copy of the Schedule was posted on the Municipal bulletin board. It should be so noted in the minutes of this meeting.

The Municipal Clerk took the Municipal Council attendance.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cory Spillar, Gregg Ficarra, Debbie Meehan, Nancy Drumm, Virbhadra N. Patel, Kyle Anderson, Howie Bauer, Brian Small, Lizbeth DeJesus

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**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, Public Works Director  
Dennis Green, Health Director  
John Hagerty, Communications Director  
Casey Wagner, Deputy Business Administrator  
Craig Coughlin, Esq, Municipal Counsel (Arrived 7:05 P.M.)  
Fred Rubenstein, Esq.

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

Council Meeting:

January 21, 2020

Council President DeJesus asked if there were any comments from the Council.

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

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

- A. A BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE PHASE ONE OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ICE RINK AT THE CLUB AT WOODBRIDGE IN, BY AND FOR THE RECREATION UTILITY OF THE TOWNSHIP TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$3,500,000.00 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BOND TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS. (20-11)**

Council Vice President Small made a motion that this Ordinance be taken up on Second and Third Readings and for the public hearing to be opened which was seconded by Councilman Bauer and carried unanimously.

Council President DeJesus moved the public hearing to be held on this Ordinance and carried unanimously.

Daryl Warner, Woodbridge Wolfpak Hockey Club: I just want to touch a little bit on the opportunity that we have in front of us with the growth of hockey that is taking place in the country right now. We currently are in a position where we can expand our existing program which is already one of the top programs in the state. By having this opportunity in front of us being able to bring our kids from across the street and train them in an updated facility as well as enhance them of our other programs that we have, we want to start somewhere, girl's programs, with the Wolfpak. We also want to enhance our Special Needs Hockey Program. There are also large revenue streams that are in place for the township. Hockey, like I mentioned earlier, is in a big boom. Adding a second rink will give us an opportunity to host National Tournaments where teams from all over the country will come over and take advantage of the new facilities and the current facilities that we have. What it's going to do with the location that we are at with Woodbridge being by all the major byways in the state, people within the state, people from all up and down the Northeast Corridor will be able to make their way to our special events. These events will be huge revenue streams not only for the Wolfpak organization but also for the township because it's going to bring people in to the hotel facilities, bring people into the restaurants and bring people into all the shopping facilities so this is a great opportunity. My son is a part of the Wolfpak Hockey Club; he's been a part of it for four years now and he loves it. All the kids are looking forward to the expansion, the opportunity to train and continue to develop at an able facility, thank you.

Council President DeJesus: Thank you.

Tom Maras, Fords: Before going into my questions I just want to take a moment to congratulate Council President DeJesus on her re-election and in fact everybody's re-election to the Council and also the elevation of the new President of the Council.

Council President DeJesus: Thank you.

Tom Maras: It was very nice to hear the gentleman speak and he touched on several of the things that came to mind when I was thinking about this as a business opportunity and that's how I'm looking at it. It's not the emotional side although I do know that we need activities for our children to keep them growing in both mind and bodies so I very much appreciate that. With that said it still gets down to a matter of dollars and cents; then again the projections were mentioned but I don't know what they are. So was a business plan actually showing the projected use of the rink prepared and if so by whom?

Council President DeJesus: Mayor.

Mayor John E. McCormac: No formal business plan was prepared. We have the experience we have with our rink which is enough to tell us what the second rink will do.

Council President DeJesus: Thank you.

Tom Maras: Well how do you then justify what are the costs verses what are the expenditures and what is your projected revenue stream?

Mayor John E. McCormac: We don't know the cost until we actually get in there and get the architecture work and the engineering work done. All we can say is for the last five years the rink at the Woodbridge Community Center has grossed an average of \$950,000.00 against the cost of less than \$500,000.00 so that's nearly a half a million dollars profit on a rink that is eighteen years old. I'm very confident that we will at least do that much and we've already just by virtue of the story being in the paper we've already gotten dozens of phone calls from entities that would like to use the rink when it's built which probably won't even be for another year and a half.

Tom Maras: Will this rink be the same size as the current one because it's set by a standard for play?

Mayor John E. McCormac: NHL sized rink.

Tom Maras: Okay, so how much more would you suspect? You're saying \$960,000.00 on the old rink, would the new one be approximately the same, greater than or not less than? And let me finish the question, you are also asking the Council tonight to approve \$3.5 million dollars that you said earlier you don't know what the cost is until you built it.

Mayor John E. McCormac: I don't know what it will cost until we do the engineering and the architecture. The money right now at \$3.5 million will get that started and it will be the first phase of construction and once we know more we will have a second ordinance to bring before the Council in several months.

Tom Maras: So that will go to preliminary engineering and then into some early phase of construction is that not?

Mayor John E. McCormac: Yes it is noted in the story this is money that is coming from the recreation

utility. It is not anything that is coming from property tax dollars in Woodbridge Township. That's accounted for in the Current Fund. They call it the Current Fund, some people call it the General Fund. This is all paid for by the Recreation Utility Fund which is primarily the operation of the Woodbridge Community Center. Not just the rink, the pool, the gym, the roller rink, everything upstairs and also The Club which is not just the future rink but racquetball and memberships and the Golf Den and the Sport Court and everything there. So we've done very, very well with The Club since we purchased it and in fact we thought maybe the Community Center would be impacted negatively. They both are up significantly. The Woodbridge Community Center had four thousand three hundred forty one members on October 1<sup>st</sup> when we bought The Club. Now it has four thousand eight hundred and eighty nine. It's up five hundred and forty eight members in sixteen months. The Club at Woodbridge had eighteen hundred and one on October 1<sup>st</sup> and now has twenty-four hundred and sixty-four, an increase of six hundred and sixty-three so that's twelve hundred members in sixteen months. We clearly are on an upward trend and as the gentleman said with hockey and the boom that is and what that means to the area we have no doubt that we can afford to borrow this money and pay it back with proceeds from the rink and The Club.

Tom Maras: Yes, and that touches on my next question when you say paying back what will this add to the total bond debt now under the Utility?

Mayor John E. McCormac: It will add \$3.5 million to the debt.

Tom Maras: Right, how much then does it become the grand total of total bond debt that the Utility is covering?

Mayor John E. McCormac: This is considered deductible debt. It's self-liquidating in the Rec Utility so it will not add at all to our net bond debt for the entire Township.

Tom Maras: So to be clear The Club as it now stands and the Woodbridge Community Center are totally self-funding and you don't need money from any other source because they can pay their own bills.

Mayor John E. McCormac: That's correct.

Tom Maras: Okay, then why are we bonding?

Mayor John E. McCormac: To pay for the construction.

Tom Maras: Then why are we borrowing money? If I don't need to go out and use my credit card...

Mayor John E. McCormac: No, no, no you don't understand; you clearly don't understand how this works.

Tom Maras: If I have a revenue stream coming in I don't need to go out and use a credit card and put myself into debt and you're going to have debt on this bond are you not?

Mayor John E. McCormac: We don't have \$3.5 million in debt.

Tom Maras: What is the length of time on the \$3.5 million bond?

Mayor John E. McCormac: It will be determined by Bond Council when we are ready to issue the bond.

Tom Maras: So you don't know that either?

Mayor John E. McCormac: We don't know that and you will never know that when you have a Bond Ordinance.

Tom Maras: So you are just approving \$3.5 million and then we'll figure out what we're going to do later.

Mayor John E. McCormac: It could be combined with several other ordinances and all the different projects have different useful life so we cannot say what it will be until the bonds are issued.

Amy Bellisano, General Manager Woodbridge Center Mall: I just wanted to lend my support for the additional rink. When you have families that come in to Woodbridge Township for things such as the Senior Olympics, the paranormal event, even our concerts, Woodbridge Center and our area businesses, restaurants and the hotels all see an increase in business. When we bring in the Cirque de Soleil and the water circus in the summer we see those families all through the mall and it really makes a big difference. We need to keep attracting business to Woodbridge Township to breathe life into the restaurants and the retail. It's a cycle and we can't stop so this is very helpful in making Woodbridge a destination and continuing on towards the future and really cementing that ability to draw people to this area so I thank the Township for considering this opportunity.

Council President DeJesus: Thank you.

Stacey Gregg, Rockaway: I was coming for something else but I looked at your agenda and I saw that you were spending three-quarters of a million dollars on Letter A which is your Bond Ordinance. You're looking at doing \$3.5 million on a bond regarding the construction of an ice skating rink. I just saw the other part on the agenda of the meeting that talked about the award of 350 K and then close to 340, similar, on the other agenda. I'd like to know that money that's going towards getting rid of four tennis courts to put up a roller skating rink. I'd like to know where that money is coming from and then on top of it you're asking for you know the bond and it's supposed to be a community for the entire area of the Town of Woodbridge and I called up to see, if I moved to Woodbridge, how much would it cost me to join and do any of you know how much the fees are over there? Are you members on the Board? Are you familiar how much it is verses other towns and what they charge for their YMCA and their programs for their communities? I know you've owned it for a year, I've done some investigation you've owned it for over a year, what's the profit that they made in 2019? I heard that they increased by...you know when I first walked in the room and I apologize if you answered this already for the public but when I walked in you were talking about how they have more members. Do you know what the membership is verses other towns and what they charge their citizens?

Mayor John E. McCormac: Well first of all you can't compare this to a YMCA, The Club is not a YMCA. I would say the Community Center is more like a YMCA but The Club is certainly not. It's a high end upscale health and fitness center. It got things that most other places do not have so you really can't compare it to Y. The fees were exactly what they were when we took over; we didn't raise them, we didn't lower them.

Stacey Gregg: How much profit did you make to pay back this bond? How much do you have set aside? It's a profitable club, it's an elite club. You required it for the town. Did you use town money to

acquire The Club?

Mayor John E. McCormac: We did not use taxpayer money to acquire The Club.

Stacey Gregg: And what was the profit so we know so that we know you can pay back the bond at the \$3.5 million?

Mayor John E. McCormac: The profit isn't know yet because we don't have the rink yet.

Stacey Gregg: Of last year when you had, not just the rink....

Mayor John E. McCormac: We're not using the money from last year to pay off the bond we're using the money from what the bond is being invested in to pay off the bond and we certainly don't know that yet but as I said the rink is a million dollar operation.

Stacey Gregg: How much do roller rinks make?

Mayor John E. McCormac: It's not a roller rink.

Stacey Gregg: You did an analysis.

Mayor John E. McCormac: It's not a roller rink.

Stacey Gregg: I mean ice rink. How much do they make?

Mayor John E. McCormac: Our ice rink for the last five years has grossed 950 average and it cost us less than 500 average so it's nearly a half a million dollars a year toward the bottom line of the Woodbridge Community Center which as all kinds of other aspects to it some of which make money, some of which don't. The track doesn't make money.

Stacey Gregg: This is your second rink though, correct?

Mayor John E. McCormac: It's our second rink.

Stacey Gregg: And aren't you going to be taking business away from the first rink?

Mayor John E. McCormac: No we don't believe so at all.

Stacey Gregg: You don't think so.

Mayor John E. McCormac: No.

Stacey Gregg: And this is for the rink to use for the fees from the high schools and the colleges who will be using it or just the local citizens for the ice hockey?

Mayor John E. McCormac: They'll be people from up and down the East Coast coming here to use that rink as you heard Mr. Warner say.

Stacey Gregg: Okay, wonderful, and it's strictly a separate fee to get into that rink?

Mayor John E. McCormac: Yes.

Stacey Gregg: Has nothing to do with the existing Club?

Mayor John E. McCormac: Property tax dollars are not used. The money is segregated, it's collected, it's separated into a separate fund and that fund pays all the bills and then that fund pays the debt. The Community Center has no debt anymore, it's all be paid off. There still is debt on The Club because we just bought it sixteen months ago.

Stacey Gregg: Okay so this has nothing to do with The Club then which is way overpriced compared to other clubs in other parts. They're charging the initial person an outrageous amount per family here but if it's not coming from family funds it's irrelevant but its way overpriced for your Club.

Mayor John E. McCormac: All I can say is 663 members have joined since we bought it. I question you please don't compare it to a YMCA, it's not a YMCA.

Stacey Gregg: Well a price tag of \$2,680.00 a year for a family of four comparative to even if you doubled what other places have and not a YMCA and I guess you're doing away with the tennis courts there right?

Mayor John E. McCormac: Yes.

Stacey Gregg: So their Club is going down in services minus those....

Mayor John E. McCormac: It's not going down in services.

Stacey Gregg: Well you don't have the tennis player.

Mayor John E. McCormac: When we bought The Club there was only thirty-seven people that played tennis and it made about \$20,000.00 a year. We're going to make it a half a million dollars a year or more. This is a very solid business decision.

Stacey Gregg: And how much are you paying towards The Club to lower the price for the rest of the citizens?

Mayor John E. McCormac: We don't plan to lower the price in The Club. The Club is fairly priced right now.

Stacey Gregg: You're taking away from The Club...alright you said it's only that many people that are using the tennis courts and again how many?

Mayor John E. McCormac: When we bought The Club there were 37 members playing tennis, six of which lived in Woodbridge.

Stacey Gregg: And that's it, alright.

Mayor John E. McCormac: And the owners of The Club were getting rid of the tennis the next year anyway. Regardless of whether we bought it or not they were getting rid of it and actually they had

considered an ice rink and we saw plans they had collected from outside entities for them to possibly put an ice rink so I would venture to say that whether we bought it or not the tennis was gone and hockey was coming.

Stacey Gregg: Can I ask a question that is not about the bond it's about the money that is being spent that's on the agenda about the golf about the....

Council President DeJesus: We're on Ordinance A now so if it's any item on the agenda then you have to wait until we get to that item.

Stacey Gregg: Thank you for your answer.

Scott Harris, Woodbridge: I just wanted to voice my support for a second rink. I have two kids that play travel hockey through the Woodbridge Wolfpak Wolverines. I've been blessed with two goalies. One is a female, one is a girl; she's going to be going into high school next year and as Mr. Warner mentioned building a second rink will help develop or help develop a girl's program. This will definitely help my daughter out. As of now she's playing with the boys. She's very competitive but again give her the opportunity of programs built for the females, for the girls, that she'll be able to you know play within that program. Also give us the ability to have extra training. Practice time is very difficult. My daughter now practices at nine o'clock at night so again having a second rink will give more opportunities for you know different flexibility with ice times as well. But again I just wanted to voice my support of a second rink within Woodbridge, thank you.

Steve Strubolow, Colonia: My son has joined the Woodbridge Wolfpak at the age of three and a half years old learning to skate with all the different programs, things like that. I grew up in a football town. Football in high school, football in college. Hockey was a total shock to me. I have my in-laws to thank for that when I got to tell you that much. But the one thing that did come out of it is customers for life. My son will probably be 15 or 16 years old when he stops going to play for Woodbridge and at that point in time I would have put a lot of money into it and there's nothing better than it. I can't believe as a football guy I'm going to say that it builds camaraderie for the children, bonds that last a lifetime and the revenue that it will generate for everyone and the training and everything else that comes to fruition because of having the ice time we won't have to wake our children up at 5:00 A.M. in the morning. It's going to explode and it's going to take it to the new level for the program and for the township; again customers for life, what business could ask for more than that, thank you.

Council President DeJesus: Thank you but I would just have to say that he'll play a little longer because we have a joint team, our high schools, so he can play high school hockey.

Joe Rotella: I currently coach the township ice hockey program which we just mentioned so definitely we look forward to having your son. Look I've been around for twelve years when the high school league started, the first time we had a Woodbridge Township program, and we had a massive influx of players and yes hockey has its ups and downs but we're looking at another influx and we need the facilities to facilitate that. We have a bunch of kids coming up right now and the hope is that we go back to independent hockey and I think with another rink you're going to have that. You're going to have three high school teams competitive again as opposed to having a township program. And I could definitely say from my hockey experience another rink I mean you're opening up the door for showcase level events, for colleges, for tournaments, for travel programs, even high school. You're going to have tons of tournaments over the holiday breaks, summer leagues and spring leagues. It just keeps adding

and honestly the sky is the limit and if I could just say one other thing about the township rink we travel all over. I have seen tons of ice hockey rinks in the State of New Jersey and probably two or three stick out of my head and ours is one of them. We have probably one of the best facilities around. When players come to play in our rink they look at our ice rink and they say, oh my God it's an HL style rink. It's clean and it's lit. Some of these places we play in dim looks like warehouses. Ours is something to be proud of and I think that started with the mayor's initiative when we did the first push with hockey and that's why I'm very proud to come and speak tonight on this because I'm in it for life and I hope we are too, thank you.

Council Vice President Small moved the public hearing closed and this Ordinance be adopted and submitted to the Mayor for approval, which was seconded by Councilman Bauer and carried unanimously.

**B. AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR A LONG TERM TAX EXEMPTION AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A FINANCIAL AGREEMENT WITH 112 NEW BRUNSWICK PROPERTIES URBAN RENEWAL, LLC. (20-12)**

Council Vice President Small made a motion that this Ordinance be taken up on Second and Third Readings and for the public hearing to be opened which was seconded by Councilman Bauer and carried unanimously.

Council President DeJesus moved the public hearing to be held on this Ordinance and carried unanimously.

Tom Maras, Fords: One of my other favorite things is long term tax abatements. Is this a PILOT program?

Mayor John E. McCormac: Yes.

Tom Maras: What is being constructed there?

Council President DeJesus: It's a small storage facility.

Tom Maras: I'm sorry a storage facility?

Council President DeJesus: A small storage facility.

Tom Maras: And this is going to be on New Brunswick Avenue?

Council President DeJesus: Yes.

Tom Maras: So there will be increased commercial traffic then with trucks and so on because we already have the apartments back there. So what is the value of that long term exemption?

Council President DeJesus: Mayor.

Mayor John E. McCormac: Well first of all you can't say there will be more traffic. I don't know what was there before but whatever it was it certainly generated traffic and now this is going to be a short

storage facility which will also generate traffic so to say there's going to be more I don't know if you can make that statement, I can't. The taxes on it were eighteen thousand two hundred and forty-nine dollars and now the taxes will start at three hundred seventeen thousand and nine hundred and ninety dollars. That is probably sixteen or seventeen times the amount of taxes that we would have gotten had it stayed as it was.

Tom Maras: Well you say eighteen thousand dollars, was that on abandoned property that wasn't being used?

Mayor John E. McCormac: I do not know what was there before.

Tom Maras: You know you throw these numbers around; I wish you had some backup for them.

Mayor John E. McCormac: They're right in the agreement. The PILOT agreement is right there. They are legitimate numbers. That is what the taxes were.

Tom Maras: I don't have a copy of the PILOT agreement in front of me. You don't attach it to any information you give out.

Mayor John E. McCormac: That is what the taxes were, eighteen thousand two hundred and forty-nine dollars the last year as whatever it was and now when it's built it's going to be three hundred seventeen thousand nine hundred and ninety.

Tom Maras: We hear that all the time about PILOT programs oh look what it's going to bring in but the real other side of that is what it's costing the taxpayers.

Mayor John E. McCormac: It doesn't cost the taxpayers anything. We get all the compiles from debt for taxation and that's why we are able to do all the great things we do for the schools.

Tom Maras: Because there's tax abatement, there's already a lot of complaints about New Brunswick Avenue being too much traffic over there with the new apartments...can we talk together and maybe do a duet.

Mayor John E. McCormac: No you say something and I'm going to respond.

Tom Maras: I'll respond to that and I'm the one up here asking the questions right now so thank you.

Mayor John E. McCormac: I can respond.

Tom Maras: Yes when I 'm done asking questions if you don't mind. Again it goes back to the taxpayers. We know that there has always been a lot of complaints before this Council about what the new apartments are going to do over on that area of New Brunswick Avenue. It's going to add a lot more...and obviously if you've got a big warehousing facility going in that's going to add a lot of commercial traffic which is heavy trucks added to the mix.

Mayor John E. McCormac: It's a small storage area as the Council President said.

Tom Maras: Okay, what's going to go in there, trucks or automobiles?

Council President DeJesus: It's a storage facility; one of those closet storage facilities.

Tom Maras: I understand. So you're talking about private storage facilities?

Council President DeJesus: Yes, like residents can rent storage.

Tom Maras: Residential not commercial. Not commercial in a sense it's going to be big warehousing.

Council President DeJesus: It's not a big warehouse.

Tom Maras: That what I was trying to get clear on.

Council President DeJesus: It's a commercial facility where residents can go and rent storage space.

Tom Maras: Okay and how many units will you be putting in there?

Council President DeJesus: I don't know how many units.

Tom Maras: Again we're approving a bond and discounts to people...

Mayor John E. McCormac: We're not floating bonds.

Council President DeJesus: It's not a bond.

Tom Maras: I'm sorry I'll take back the bonds. We're going through a PILOT program which is a tax abatement and again we don't have all the particulars. I just find it always distressing that we're voting on things where you don't have these kind of answers.

Mayor John E. McCormac: The answer is it's going from eighteen thousand in taxes to three hundred eighteen thousand in taxes.

Council Vice President Small moved the public hearing closed and this Ordinance be adopted and submitted to the Mayor for approval, which was seconded by Councilman Bauer and carried unanimously.

**C. AMENDING SECTION 7-39 CONTROL FOR THE MOVEMENT AND THE PARKING OF TRAFFIC ON MUNICIPAL PROPERTY AND BOARD OF EDUCATION PROPERTY – TO ADD 150 AVENEL STREET/AVENEL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (APAC) 105 AVENEL STREET, MUNICIPAL PARKING LOT AND 181 AVENEL STREET, MUNICIPAL PARKING LOT. (20-13)**

Council Vice President Small made a motion that this Ordinance be taken up on Second and Third Readings and for the public hearing to be opened which was seconded by Councilman Bauer and carried unanimously.

Council President DeJesus moved the public hearing to be held on this Ordinance and carried unanimously.

Council Vice President Small moved the public hearing closed and this Ordinance be adopted and

submitted to the Mayor for approval, which was seconded by Councilman Bauer and carried unanimously.

**D. AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SALARY RANGES FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE. (20-14)**

Council Vice President Small made a motion that this Ordinance be taken up on Second and Third Readings and for the public hearing to be opened which was seconded by Councilman Bauer and carried unanimously.

Council President DeJesus moved the public hearing to be held on this Ordinance and carried unanimously.

Tom Maras, Fords: What does this entail? When you say salary ranges for employees of Woodbridge Township is that all employees of the township?

Mr. Mitch: It's clearly a housekeeping effort that you know we probably do almost every year just to adjust ranges to match the bargaining unit agreement.

Tom Maras: In the adjustment of those ranges is it going up in itself and by what percent on an average?

Mr. Mitch: It's not a question of an average increase to every line.

Tom Maras: Do you have a range?

Mr. Mitch: Yes there are ranges. There's a low range and a high range so you try to project a salary as it goes up over the next couple of years.

Tom Maras: Let me rephrase the question, typically are the salaries going up for this year or what is the duration of this? Will this be done again next year?

Mr. Mitch: Maybe.

Tom Maras: Maybe

Mr. Mitch: It could be but right now this is set for 2020.

Tom Maras: But if they are going up I'm just asking what they're going up by. You must have some formula to the increase.

Mayor John E. McCormac: They are all different union contracts. I think we have seven or eight different bargaining units plus the non-union employees. Everybody is different so I can't answer that question with a general statement.

Tom Maras: So this would cover custodians, our esteem police department....

Council President DeJesus: Everyone.

Mayor John E. McCormac: Everybody.

Tom Maras: Okay, is there a breakdown then? I guess you can just ask for these in detail through an OPRA.

Mr. Mitch: Yes.

Tom Maras: And get the various contracts and what the increases are, is that not available?

Mr. Mitch: Yes.

Tom Maras: It is available, thank you.

Council Vice President Small moved the public hearing closed and this Ordinance be adopted and submitted to the Mayor for approval, which was seconded by Councilman Bauer and carried unanimously.

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

**E. AN ORDINANCE RESCINDING ORDINANCE #19-114 ADOPTED NOVEMBER 12, 2019.**

Council Vice President Small made a motion, seconded by Councilman Bauer and carried unanimously that these Ordinances be passed on First Reading to be published in The Home News Tribune on Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 with Notice of Public Hearing to be held on Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.

**The Municipal Clerk introduced the following Resolutions as Consent:**

- (1) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes and directs the Mayor, Municipal Clerk and Municipal Purchaser to execute an agreement with Nature's Choice for Mulch & Topsoil in an amount not to exceed \$45,000.00.
- (2) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes and directs the Mayor, Municipal Clerk and Municipal Purchaser to execute an agreement with Out Front Media for leasing of Township Real Property for Digital Outdoor Advertising in an amount not to exceed \$78,000.00 for lease years 1-10 and \$90,000.00 for lease years 11-20.
- (3) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby approves to add various bus stops in the Township.
- (4) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby directs the Mayor or Municipal Clerk to endorse the submission of a Municipal Recycling Tonnage Grant Application to the Department of Environmental Protection and Energy.
- (5) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes Excel Environmental Resources, Inc. to apply for Grant Funding by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for Preliminary Assessment and Site Investigation Activities at the 1177 Rahway Avenue Site located in the Township of Woodbridge.

- (6) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the insertion of a Special Item of Revenue into the SFY Budget – Body Armor Replacement Grant – \$17,790.51.
- (7) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the insertion of a Special Item of Revenue into the SFY Budget – Recycling Tonnage Grant - \$221,903.19.
- (8) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the insertion of a Special Item of Revenue into the SFY Budget – Tanzman Charity Grant - \$10,000.00.
- (9) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes a Revised Memorandum of Understanding for the Green Acres/Blue Acres Program between the Township of Woodbridge and the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.
- (10) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes, as a result of an emergency, a contract be awarded to P & A Construction in an amount not to exceed \$22,000.00 for the emergency sanitary sewer repairs at 43 and 44 Leslie Place in the Colonia section of the Township.
- (11) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes and directs the Mayor and Municipal Clerk an agreement with T & M Associates for professional engineering services for the Ice Rink Conversion at The Club of Woodbridge, 585 Main Street, Woodbridge in an amount not to exceed \$355,870.00.
- (12) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes and directs the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute an agreement with Vaughn Collaborative for professional architectural services for the Ice Rink Conversion at The Club of Woodbridge, 585 Main Street, Woodbridge in an amount not to exceed \$398,802.00.
- (13) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Mayor or his designee to execute an Agreement between the Township of Woodbridge and the County of Middlesex for a Pedestrian Flashing Beacon at the Port Reading Avenue and Daniel Street intersection
- (14) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Shared Services Agreement between the Township of Woodbridge and the Borough of Sayreville for various services be renewed for an additional two (2) years commencing June 29, 2020 through June 28, 2022.
- (15) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes execution of Change Order #1 on the purchasing contract with Beyer Ford for the co-op purchase of two (2) new 2020 Ford Explorers increasing the contract amount of \$57,017.40 by \$4,834.48 to a contract total of \$61,851.88.
- (16) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes execution of Change Order #1 on the purchasing contract with W.E. Timmerman for one (1) new Elgin Pelican Series P. Street Sweeper increasing the contract amount of \$223,853.70 by \$1,946.55 to a contract total of \$225,800.25.
- (17) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby approves the Final Quantities Change

Order on the Additions and Renovations at the Cypress Recreation Center Contract with M and M Construction Company, Inc.

- (18) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Township of Woodbridge to enter into the New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Alliance Cooperative pricing agreement.
- (19) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes that Resolution #23 adopted on November 26, 2019 be amended to read “Dynamic Earth, LLC” instead of “Dynamic Engineering”.
- (20) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby approves all claims and bills presented to it by the Municipal Comptroller of the Current Bill List dated February 4, 2020 and the Supplemental Bill List dated January 17, 2020 through January 31, 2020 and the Addendum to the February 4, 2020 Bill List.

Council Vice President Small moved the adoption of the foregoing Resolutions. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bauer and carried unanimously except for a comment from Councilwoman Meehan on Resolution #20 and Councilman Spillar on Resolution #13.

Councilwoman Meehan: I’m abstaining on Resolution #20.

Councilman Spillar: On Resolution #13 I would just like to thank the Mayor and Administration for working so hard with the county to get the pedestrian flashing beacon at Daniel Street and Port Reading Avenue. That’s going to help that area a lot with pedestrian traffic.

Mayor John E. McCormac: Madame President if I could comment on Resolution #2 since it involves The Club at Woodbridge and a lot was talked about tonight. There’s a billboard there that we got title to when we bought The Club. It was making money but we decided to try to go out and make it into a digital billboard. We were successful, we had a bid process, and we’re awarding in No. 2 the bid to Out Front Media for digital outdoor advertising. It will give us a minimum of seventy-eight thousand dollars a year for ten years and then ninety for the next ten. That’s like getting a million dollars now so we did by The Club for \$7.5 basically now we bought it for \$6.5 because we’re going to get a million back just from one simple billboard, thank you.

Council President DeJesus: We will now move to the public portion of the meeting. Please approach the microphone if you would like and state the area of the township you live in and your name. There is a five minute time period.

Jimmy Dembrowski from Woodbridge asked the Council to pass a Symbolic resolution calling on our elected officials to reunify migrant families and release them from detention and afford them due process and immigration proceedings.

Nadia Retkowski from Hoboken also asked the Council to pass a Symbolic resolution.

Stacey Gregg from Rockaway also asked the Council to pass a Symbolic resolution.

Kason Little with Faith New Jersey also asked the Council to pass a Symbolic resolution.

Tom Maras from Fords questioned why if the rink is such a great viable commercial operation why is it

not being put out for an entity that would be a private entity that would then paying taxes and bringing revenue into town. Mayor McCormac replied that was tried when the Community Center was first built but that did not work out well. Lastly Mr. Maras commented that the United States Congress should fix or change the immigration policies.

**LIZBETH DEJESUS, COUNCILWOMAN AT LARGE (PRESIDENT):**

Council President DeJesus: First I want to acknowledge that earlier this evening we recognized several township students that were honored on their essay submission on the remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King and it is with that spirit of remembrance as we enter Black History Month that we recognize the sacrifices, contributions and achievements of the African-American community.

1. Housing Authority  
HOLD
2. Affordable Housing Corporation  
HOLD
3. Youth and Government Day (5/19/20)  
HOLD
4. History Museum  
HOLD
5. Police Community Relations  
HOLD

Council President DeJesus: This week they will be starting classes at the two high schools for their police interaction class. They will also be a new boy's mentoring group at one of the high schools for at risk youth and they will be taking new offices or a tour of the medical examiner's office. Next week starting February 10<sup>th</sup> they will be starting to circulate applications for their senior police academy that will be held in May on Tuesdays and again this is a great program for any of our seniors that have any questions regarding our police department and how it works to be a part of. Again the applications will be coming out and the Academy will be held on Tuesdays starting in May. They will also be starting a new mentoring group for boys and girls in one of the elementary schools and they will continue with their police interaction class.

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
11. Veteran's Tax Deduction  
HOLD
12. Green Infrastructure  
HOLD
13. Girls' Sports  
HOLD

Council President DeJesus: This Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, JFK is hosting their varsity game at 11:30 A.M. and their JV game at 10:00 A.M. In a joint effort to honor, recognize and applaud the achievements and participation of girls and women in Woodbridge Township the girls' basketball programs of Colonia High School, John F. Kennedy Memorial High School and Woodbridge High School participated in the first ever lead all forward basketball games which were last Saturday and this is the last game this Saturday. We are cordially inviting all Woodbridge Township girl's recreation, travel and school sports teams to join at the game. Again it's this Saturday at JFK starting at 10:00 A.M. Councilwoman Nancy Drumm was there and so was I. My daughter plays for Woodbridge High School and it was just a nice showing of township young women and past athletes and they were celebrating. Admission will be \$2.00 for children, adults pay four dollars and all of the donations will go towards the National Girl's and Women's Sports Foundation.

14. Girl Scouts/Scouts Pavilion and Camp  
HOLD
15. Summer Fest 2020  
HOLD

Council President DeJesus: Summer Fest 2020 will be held Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. If you enjoyed the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration then guarantee that you will be thrilled with Summer Fest 2020. So far performing will be Real Diamond which covers Neil Diamond at 4:00 P.M., the B Street Band at 6:00 P.M. and The Outlaws at 8:00 P.M. and we are still working to make it a memorable event.

16. Census 2020  
HOLD

Council President DeJesus: The Greenway Family Success Center is hosting at the Jacob's Landing Community Center on Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.M. food, games and fun. It will have the whole information on Census 2020. You can call to register 732-567-3400.

The Greenway Family Success Center is also hosting a Census 2020 Job Fair. It will be held on Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the Greenway Family Success Center. It's for anybody that is looking for a job, 18 and older, for Census 2020. There will be information and you can apply for a job there.

**BRIAN SMALL, COUNCILMAN AT LARGE (VICE-PRESIDENT):**

Council Vice President Small: I want to congratulate Woodbridge High School Boy's Bowling. Earlier this evening they captured the GMA County Championship so that is back to back years for Woodbridge so congratulation to the coach and the boys.

1. Woodbridge News  
HOLD
2. Mayor's Advisory Council on Education (Mac-E)  
HOLD
3. Port Reading Fire and Township First Aid Squads  
HOLD
4. Website E-Government  
HOLD
5. Bicycle Lanes/ Bicycle Share/ Bicycle Paths  
HOLD
6. Electric Vehicle Car Share/ Car Charging Stations  
HOLD
7. School Projects  
HOLD
8. S.T.O.W. (Register @ 732-726-2394 for Client Transport ID#)  
HOLD
9. Level Playing Field @ Cypress Recreation Center/Our House  
HOLD
10. Property Fraud ([www.middlesexcounty.nj.gov](http://www.middlesexcounty.nj.gov) search for "Property Alert" to Register)  
HOLD
11. Inspections at Hotels/Motels  
HOLD
12. National Public Lands Day  
HOLD
13. Marine Eight  
HOLD
14. Mayor Mac Café  
HOLD

Council Vice President Small: I just urge the public to once again stop at Mayor Mac Café located in the Cypress Center on West Avenue in Port Reading. They are open from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. You can get a delicious breakfast or lunch.

15. Jazz Festival  
HOLD
16. Concerts  
HOLD
17. Light Parade  
HOLD

**CORY SPILLAR/ 3<sup>RD</sup> WARD COUNCILMAN:**

1. Avenel's Very Merry Holiday Lighting/Port Reading Day  
HOLD
2. Avenel Arts Village/Train Station/Eric LeGrand Believe Park  
HOLD

Councilman Spillar: I'm happy to announce the Coffee Bar is close to opening inside the Arts Village. It should be operating within two weeks. It's located at 190 Avenel Street. This neighborhood Coffee Bar is where people come to enjoy and share the love of coffee, tea, hot chocolate and enjoy a gourmet sandwich or treat yourself to warm pastries, cookies or dessert. The ambiance is high class and calming designed to provide a place to relax and unwind. This space is ideal to meet and mingle with many. Grab some lunch, schedule a meeting, catch up with a friend or seat at the bar and chat with others as you work on you laptop. So now within the last nine months we've opened Curtains which is right next door at 150 Avenel Street, several weeks ago we opened Feed Your Soul at Rahway Avenue and now shortly we will be opening the Coffee Bar so there are a lot of good spots in the Arts Village Avenel area.

Speaking of the Avenel Arts Village APAC, Avenel Performing Arts Center, there is still time to get your tickets for this Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. Team Eric LeGrand presents Comedy Night. All proceeds will benefit the Team Eric LeGrand Foundation and the Christopher and Dana Reeves Foundation. For tickets you can contact 732-314-0500.

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/Senior Center  
HOLD
7. Sycamore Senior Center/Red Oak  
HOLD

8. Route 1 Redevelopment
  - (A) Star/City Motels
  - (B) Americana/Avenel Motels
  - (C) Quick Chek
  - (D) Bud's Hut
  - (E) Big Top property
  - (F) Holiday Inn Express expansion
  - (G) Pier I Imports propertyHOLD

Councilman Spillar: The Hollywood Motel on Route 1 has undergone extensive renovations on both the insides rooms and entire exterior. New façade, siding and lighting really has brought its image up. Drive by at night to see the lighting. Soon they should be in a partnership with the Flag Hotel chain and the Hollywood name will change and continue to upgrade its image and continues our desire I believe to redevelop the Route 1 corridor to make it Woodbridge standard.

9. Avenel Fire Department  
HOLD

Councilman Spillar: The Avenel Fire Department is having their annual Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. at the Avenel Fire House in Avenel. For tickets you can contact Chris at 732-803-1524.

10. Shuttles – Warehouses/Train Station  
HOLD
11. Woodbridge Developmental Center property  
HOLD
12. The Greens at Avenel – Rahway Avenue  
HOLD
13. Cable Commission/Renewal  
HOLD
14. School 4 & 5  
HOLD

**DEBBIE MEEHAN, 5<sup>TH</sup> WARD COUNCILWOMAN:**

1. Inman Avenue Business Improvements  
HOLD
2. CBC – Colonia Business Community  
HOLD
3. Green Houses – Colonia Middle and Colonia High Schools  
HOLD

4. Evergreen Senior/Youth Center  
HOLD

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

HOLD

Councilwoman Meehan: The Taste of Colonia will be this Thursday from 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. at the Colonia Country Club. Tickets are \$30.00 in advance and \$35.00 at the door. We have plenty of restaurants and spirits from Joe Canal's and JJ Bittings. All proceeds from this event will be donated to the Woodbridge Township Food Bank in conjunction with the Have a Heart Drive. If you can't make the Taste of Colonia and you still want to give to the food bank you can still donate. We are taking donations up until Valentine's Day, February 14<sup>th</sup> and we're challenging business and residents to donate either \$214.00 or two hundred and fourteen pounds of food. As we all know everybody is very generous during the holidays so we really need to keep these two events live. There are a lot of people here in our community that are hungry so it's very, very important that we keep this up.

This Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. at the Colonia Fire Department in Colonia we are going to be doing a Spaghetti Dinner. This is for Dan DeMichele. He's a 38 year old dad with two small children who is battling colon cancer that has now spread to his liver. Dan who is an employee of Woodbridge Township is too sick to work right now so the dinner will help to cover bills and medical expenses during this difficult time. The tickets are \$10.00 if you purchase them that day at the door. We are also raffling boxes, have live entertainment and plenty of things for the kids to do. It's Sunday and football is over so it will give you something to do and it's a great way to help this young family. So if you can come out and support them please do.

6. Food Pantry  
HOLD
7. Reinhard Manor  
HOLD
8. Colonia Fire Department/First Aid Squad  
HOLD
9. Colonia American Legion/V.F.W./Elks  
HOLD
10. Veteran's Issues

HOLD

11. Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority  
HOLD
12. Cpl. Kevin Reinhard Marine Corps League  
HOLD
13. Municipal Alliance + Addiction Task Force  
HOLD
14. Volunteer Directory  
HOLD
15. Domestic Violence Response Team  
HOLD
16. AED Program  
HOLD
17. Engineering Exploring Project  
HOLD
18. Lake & Lancaster/Inman & Delaware Traffic Signals  
HOLD

**NANCY DRUMM, 1<sup>ST</sup> WARD COUNCILWOMAN:**

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

HOLD

Councilwoman Drumm: Relay for Life is the American Cancer Society's premier fundraising. Each year Woodbridge does it and it is very successful. Their relay walk is generally around the Woodbridge High School track. It takes place on June 13<sup>th</sup> this year and to learn what takes place at the relay or how you can sign up to participate or start a team register as a survivor or volunteer and what upcoming fundraisers we have planned there will be a kickoff for the relay event which will be on March 3<sup>rd</sup> any time you can come up in between 6:00 P.M. and 8:00 P.M. and it will be at Curtains Bar and Restaurant, 150 Avenel Street in Avenel; we hope that you can support that.

2. (DMA) Downtown Merchant Association  
HOLD
3. Main Street SID (Special Improvement District)  
HOLD

4. Chamber of Commerce  
HOLD

Councilwoman Drumm: The Woodbridge Chamber of Commerce Women’s Leadership Connection present “Breaking Boundaries” a 2020 Speaker Series with Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver. Lieutenant Governor Oliver will share her journey about her accomplishments as Acting Governor and discuss her career in public service advocating for social justice, women’s equality and education. It will take place on Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at the Colonia Country Club. It begins at 5:30 P.M. which includes dinner and there will be a cash bar. For Chamber members it is \$60.00 and for non-members it is \$70.00. You can go to our Chamber website or call us at 732-636-4040 and I would like to add a special thanks to our sponsors that enables us to have these events, Almasi Companies, Investor’s Bank, JJ Elek Realty, Middlesex Water Company, RSI Bank and Wilentz Goldman and Spitzer Law Firm.

5. Buy Local Program  
HOLD

6. Transit Village  
HOLD

7. Blue Acres/F.E.M.A.  
HOLD

8. Main Street and Route 9  
HOLD

9. Animal Shelter  
HOLD

10. Dog Park  
HOLD

11. Arts  
(A) Woodbridge Train Station Mural Project  
(B) Woodbridge Artisan Guild  
HOLD

12. PACE  
HOLD

13. Woodbridge Elks Lodge 2116  
HOLD

14. Woodbridge Fire Department  
HOLD

Councilwoman Drumm: I had a swearing-in ceremony on January 15<sup>th</sup> at the Firehouse and I just wanted to acknowledge and congratulate the following Woodbridge firefighters. Robert Paul, Provisional Deputy Chief; Michael Balog, Provisional Deputy Chief; Steven Weber, Provisional Battalion Chief; David Hines, Provisional Battalion Chief; Robert Fizer, Captain; Keith McGrath,

Captain; Michael Barcellona, Captain and there were four career firefighters that were sworn-in, Chris Kenny, Daniel Aquino, Gilbert Rivera and Christopher Jago.

15. Coast Guard  
HOLD

16. Sewaren Library Programs  
HOLD

**KYLE ANDERSON, COUNCILMAN AT LARGE:**

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

2. Job Bank  
HOLD

3. Real Estate Database  
HOLD

4. Mayor's Trophy  
HOLD

5. Woodbridge Hall of Fame  
HOLD

6. Taste of Woodbridge  
HOLD

7. Charity Raffle  
HOLD

8. Drive-In Movies  
HOLD

9. N.A.A.C.P.  
HOLD

Councilman Anderson: The N.A.A.C.P. meets every third Monday at 1 Olive Street, Perth Amboy at 7:00 P.M. They have some revitalized membership and they are looking for new members. Please stop down, they are very active. They are also active in the Census 2020.

10. Dr. Martin Luther King Annual Program  
HOLD

Councilman Anderson: I'd like to say that the kids and the families that were here for the Dr. Martin Luther King Program representing our town along with our teachers and Superintendent and many Principals were here to support those kids. The young man that read his essay I thought did a phenomenal job. It was nice to see the diversity of all the children. The boys were outnumbered by the

girls so I think the boys kind of stepped their number up in their writing. There were about 20 girls and 3 boys but it was a very passionate essay that was read so I just want to congratulate the school district on holding that event. It's important and we need to make sure that Dr. King's words are never forgotten.

11. Independent Club of Colonia  
HOLD

Councilman Anderson: Regarding Black History Month there will be a Black History Month event at the Independent Club of Colonia on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00 P.M. at 400 Inman Avenue at the Evergreen Center. That is being sponsored by the Independent Club of Colonia.

Also with Black History Month we just completed year 2019 and I know I mentioned it before but last year was the Centennial Graduation of Paul Robeson. Paul Robeson was a Rutgers all American International Orator and also a Road Scholar. In 1916 he earned a full academic scholarship to Rutgers University where he was also an All American Football player but he had a number of universities and colleges who would not take a field as long as he was on the field. So when I think of Black History Month I think of Paul Robeson and what he stood for and also being from New Jersey. I thought Rutgers did a phenomenal job last year of recognizing him and if you have an opportunity there is an area at Rutgers off of College Avenue where they are a number of monuments and you just go there and sit and just reflect so I encourage you to stop up at Rutgers University.

I have a few announcements for an essay. There is an essay contest that I would like to read. The Freeholder Director Ryan Rios Trust Fund is offering a high school scholarship. His office would like each district in the county to share this information with their guidance departments. He is interested in granting one scholarship to each high school in the amount of \$250.00. The question that must be answered is how you can make a positive change in our community or our world. If you have any questions regarding this essay contest you can email [carolfaccone@hotmail.com](mailto:carolfaccone@hotmail.com) or you can call her at 732-570-4849.

Also Middlesex County College is holding their 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Casino Night so that would like you to come and bet on education. That's on Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at the Edison Campus. Dining begins at 5:30 P.M., Casino Night starts at 6:30 P.M. A \$100.00 ticket includes \$50.00 in chips, dinner, buffet, dessert and open bar. Business attire is requested and you must be 21 years old or older. If you are interested you can contact [foundation@middlesexcc.edu](mailto:foundation@middlesexcc.edu).

Finally, the Middlesex County Freeholders are holding an essay contest, "If You Were To Be a Freeholder What Changes Would You Make and Why". That is for all 8<sup>th</sup> Graders in Middle School and 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grades. The 8<sup>th</sup> Graders scholarship is for \$250.00 and for the high school it is \$500.00. You can contact the county office but all the information will be sent to your guidance department. So there are two essay contests you can enter through your guidance department or through the contact information that I've given.

12. Tooling Around Program  
HOLD

13. Boy Scouts/Camping  
HOLD

14. League Consolidation  
HOLD

15. Middlesex County College  
HOLD

**GREGG FICARRA, COUNCILMAN AT LARGE:**

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

Councilman Ficarra: Over at the Community Center there will be a wonderful combination event which is called the Heartthrob Workout. It's this Saturday. It features programs from the Les Mills classes which is pretty popular. The names are Body Flow, Body Pump and Body Compact. It all starts at 9:00 A.M. and it goes until about 12 Noon. You must be 13 years old or older to participate. There is no fee for this event but we ask that you please donate a non-perishable food item to support the Woodbridge Township pantries that are doing good work every day so it's a great event at our Community Center. Also speaking of the Community Center our group swim lessons are going very well but there is plenty of room there and I just want everyone to know that the American Red Cross Learn to Swim program is certified here at the Woodbridge Community Center. So it's a great opportunity if you don't know how to swim to learn how to swim. We are a town that's near water so it's always important to be able to do that.

2. Youth Month – April  
HOLD
3. Senior Citizen Month – May  
HOLD
4. Mentoring Program  
HOLD
5. Mayor's Fitness/Wellness Initiative  
HOLD
6. Fireworks (July 2, 2020 – Rain Date: July 3, 2020)  
HOLD
7. Heroes & Cool Kids/Strengthening Families  
HOLD
8. Pedestrian Safeway's/East Coast Greenway  
HOLD
9. Annual Pizza Run (2020)  
HOLD

10. Jacob's Landing  
HOLD

11. The Club at Woodbridge Upgrades  
HOLD

Councilman Ficarra: The Club at Woodbridge which was talked about quite a bit today Mr. Cook informs me and I saw some of the pictures online that is a new ladies locker room including a steam room, whirlpool and sauna which is now open. There are rave reviews from what I can see today when I checked on it. The ladies locker room joins in with the renovations to the new Sports Courts and also the Golf Den. That's three new spaces that have opened up in the township in that facility since we took over in October of 2018.

Then just one public service announcement Councilwoman Drumm and I have been starting in regards to recycling, it's just so important now, just a tip that things like hoses or cords or chains do not go in recycling. Anything tangling do not go in recycling because once it gets there it shuts the whole machine down and as I mentioned the last time at one point the township was making money on recycling now we're paying money. So we really need to get together on this. Director Brew and I were talking and we're going to have a major campaign on this issue because it's extremely important and I know that everyone wants to do well to the environment so thank you.

**VIRBHADRA N. PATEL, 4<sup>TH</sup> WARD COUNCILMAN:**

Councilman Patel: My agenda is in order but I have a few announcements. On January 24<sup>th</sup> there was a small water main break on Middlesex/Essex Turnpike. It was right across from the Iselin Post Office and actually I happened to be there so I just called our Chief's Office, Police Department and Engineering and all those people came up within less than five minutes and it was taken care of within like 6 to 8 hours so I would like to thank them all.

Also we have the Mayor's Breakfast and Brunch in Iselin and its coming up on Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup> and we have actually two locations. One is from 10:15 A.M. to 11:15 A.M. at the Iselin Fire Company Number One which is located at 1222 Green Street, Iselin and from 11:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. we will have it at Iselin Hook and Ladder Company which is located at 20 Auth Avenue, Iselin.

Since Valentine's Day is coming up I would like to wish everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

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. 4<sup>th</sup> Ward Road Projects

HOLD

6. Magnolia/Willow/Walnut Area Commuter Parking  
HOLD
7. Sign Ordinance  
HOLD
8. Cooper Field  
HOLD

**HOWIE BAUER, 2<sup>ND</sup> WARD COUNCILMAN:**

1. Second 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
  - B. Trunk or TreatHOLD
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

Councilman Bauer: Many free programs are offered every day at the Greenway Family Success Center. It's a community gathering place where families have fun and find information and support. You can meet their friendly staff and learn more about their free educational workshops, family activities and ways you can use your talents to strengthen our community. For more information call 732-527-3400 or check out their Facebook page with a monthly event calendar. The Greenway Family Success Center is located at 537 New Brunswick Avenue in Fords.

**JOHN M. MITCH, MUNICIPAL CLERK:**

1. Liquor License Transfer(s)/Change of Corporate Structure:

- A. Change of Corporate Structure for Red Chutney, LLC t/a Talli Bar & Grill, 1538 Oak Tree Road, Iselin, New Jersey 08830.
- B. Person-to-Person Transfer of Liquor License #1225-33-021-007 from Kona Macadamia, Inc., Debtor in Possession to TOG Kona Macadamia, LLC, t/a Kona Grill, 511 U.S. Highway 1, Iselin, New Jersey 08830.

Mr. Mitch: Item 1A and 1B we continue to work with the police department on.

2. Liquor License Incident(s)/Hearing(s).

3. Liquor License Renewals.

- A. 2020 Annual Retail Licensee Meeting (Thursday, May 14, 2020).

Mr. Mitch: Item 3A we set the date for Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> for the Annual Retail Licensee Meeting for all holding liquor licenses with Woodbridge Township.

4. Street Closings/Special Events (Block parties, street fairs, carnivals, etc.).

5. Elections.

- A. Special School District Election: March 10, 2020
  - 1. New machine demonstration – February 25, 2020 (5 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.)

Mr. Mitch: Item 5A just a reminder we're scheduled to conduct a Special School District Election on Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Polls will be open from 2:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

- B. 2020 Primary Election – June 2, 2020.

- C. 2020 General Election – November 3, 2020.

6. Best Practices.

7. Census 2020. (April 1, 2020 is Census Day)

- 3/12/20 – 3/20/20 Receive invitation to respond online to 2020 Census. Some households will also receive paper questionnaires.
- 3/16/20 – 3/24/20 A reminder letter will be sent if you haven't responded yet.
- 3/26/20 – 4/3/20 A reminder postcard will be sent if you haven't responded yet.
- 4/8/20 – 4/16/20 A reminder letter and paper questionnaire will be sent if you haven't responded yet.
- 4/20/20 – 4/27/20 A final reminder postcard will be sent if you haven't responded yet before an in-person follow up is done during mid to late May.

Mr. Mitch: Item 7 I know you made a couple of announcements already and I want to start with Councilman Bauer just mentioning the Greenway Family Group. They have joined our complete count committee and they are off to a running start so we look forward to working with that Success Center. We all will be working with the US Census Bureau the Secretary of State's Representative as well as some other non-profits. We will be advertising language lines effective March 1<sup>st</sup> and I know you would prefer to give me that information to promote as well. Our intention is to have a very significant PR campaign during the month of March for the April 1<sup>st</sup> Census Day and we've coined the Hashtag Be Counted in the Best Town Around. So our efforts hopefully before April 1<sup>st</sup> will be very protective.

**MAYOR:**

Mayor John E. McCormac: Thank you Council President and thank you for mentioning Former Mayor Phil Cerria. This Friday is his wake from 3:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. at Costello's just around the road at 44 Green Street and the funeral mass is 11:00 A.M. on Saturday morning at St. Cecelia's. You know he had a long career of public service as a multi-year Councilman I think he served three and a half terms, one term as mayor and five plus years as Municipal Clerk so he and his family should be kept in our prayers.

Just a quick commercial about the referendum. Its five weeks away on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Polls are open from 2:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. wherever people normally vote. It's an \$87 million referendum. About \$13 million will be provided by state aid so the remaining \$74 million will be bonded by the school district and it will be paid for by the money that the township earned from selling and to the developer of the former Woodbridge Developmental Center and from the taxes to be generated on that site. So the whole referendum is paid by one project not by general taxpayers. Nobody can say that their taxes went up because of this project. The three main pieces of it are Avenel School 4 & 5 which will be built brand new on Rahway Avenue right in front of the Developmental Center at the Premier Dye Cast site and then School 25 in Fords Lafayette Estates and School 28 in Sewaren. Matthew Jago will get very massive additions somewhere around a dozen classrooms each plus new gyms. They'll be stem labs at all the Middle Schools probably not the most biggest number but I think the most important item is school security. Multimillions will be spent towards that. I can't explain the details, I'm not an expert in it, but I know we have people who are experts and they will spend that money wisely. It's got nothing to do by the way with the Downtown Development which was covered by the last referendum where we have a new Ross Street School, practically brand new Woodbridge Middle School and practically brand new School 29. Those school projects added capacity of about six hundred students to our capacity. The new ones from this referendum will add another five or six hundred. A lot of people

believe that there are going to be a lot of kids from the Downtown Developments; there probably will not be but in any event we have over one thousand two hundred new desks of capacity that can handle anything that comes. The two projects so far in Iselin and Avenel have brought in fifty-eight kids out of five hundred apartments, that's barely ten percent. Even if we have four times that which we won't we'll have plenty of capacity for any new kids that are generated. I should note I became mayor thirteen years and three months ago right about now. We have less kids now than when I became mayor, literally less kids now, so there is no threat really that as it went adjusted for kindergarten. There is really no threat that any projects will overburden our school capacity; they simply won't. Even with the fifty-eight kids that came from the two new projects we still have less kids now than we had thirteen years and three months ago and compared to fifteen years ago we have thousands less so there really is no issue with capacity. I want to make sure that's clear. Whatever kids come from any developments we'll educate them and we'll welcome them but there won't be an issue with any place for them to go because there's twelve hundred new desks and probably only a few hundred new students. So I want to make sure we keep getting that message out. It's very important that we pass this referendum. We'll never have an opportunity like this again. Towns all around us are putting referendums up with taxpayer money paying for them and they're getting defeated. Ours three years ago passed and I really hope ours this year passes and it's five weeks away so we're going to keep working hard to make sure the message is out that people should vote for this for the future of our school district and our students, thank you.

**ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE:**

Business Administrator Cimilluca: I have a few housekeeping items. I have a refund on tax overpayment. I have a refund on a parking permit and a County tax appeal.

**POLICE:**

Director of Police Hubner: I have a resolution for a new Public Address System for Town Hall.

**HEALTH:**

Director Green: I don't have anything tonight, thank you Council President.

**RECREATION:**

Business Administrator Cimilluca: I have a fireworks contract. I have a Change Order for a contract for a divider and wall padding for The Club and I have a replacement of turf for the Mini Golf Course at the Woodbridge Community Center.

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT:**

Director Darden: Just our standard biweekly refund resolutions, thank you.

**PUBLIC WORKS/ENGINEERING:**

Director Brew: I just have one resolution for a release of a Performance Bond at 1348 Oak Tree Road, thank you

**LEGAL:**

Mr. Coughlin: Nothing this evening Council President, thank you.

On a motion made by Council Vice President Small, seconded by Councilman Bauer and carried unanimously, Council President DeJesus adjourned the meeting at 8:23 P.M.

---

Lizbeth DeJesus  
Council President

---

John M. Mitch, RMC, CMC, CMR  
Municipal Clerk