

Woodbridge, New Jersey – July 6, 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 July 6, 2020 at 6:00 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 to not only remember our troops serving our Country overseas and for all those lost to Covid-19 and their families.

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, Amended Annual Notice Schedule was published in The Home News Tribune and The Star Ledger on June 5, 2020. 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  
(Debbie Meehan and Nancy Drumm participated electronically)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** John Mitch, Municipal Clerk  
Vito Cimilluca, Business Administrator  
John Hagerty, Communications Director  
Casey Wagner, Deputy Business Administrator  
Craig J. Coughlin, Esq. (Arrived at 6:26)  
Eric Lange, Esq.

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

Council Meeting:

June 23, 2020

**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.**

**A. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNED BY THE TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE TO A CONTIGUOUS PROPERTY OWNER. (20-46)**

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 these Ordinances be adopted and submitted to the mayor for approval, which was seconded by Councilman Bauer and carried unanimously.

**B. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR A LONG TERM TAX EXEMPTION AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A FINANCIAL AGREEMENT WITH MORRIS AVENEL ASSOCIATES URBAN RENEWAL, LLC. (20-47)**

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.

Councilman Spillar: I just want to remind the council this was the old portion of the Developmental Center Property which is under State Jurisdiction so we got zero revenue on that under the Projected Terms of Financial Agreement. It is estimated that we will to generate \$3 million per year over 30 years in taxes with 1,200 temporary Construction jobs as well as 1,000 permanent jobs which is an absolute homerun for Avenel, I just wanted to put that on the record.

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 these Ordinances be adopted and submitted to the mayor for approval, which was seconded by Councilman Bauer and carried unanimously.

**C. AN ORDINANCE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE ADOPTING THE “DOWNTOWN WOODBRIDGE AREA 4**

**REDEVELOPMENT PLAN, " PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING LAW, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 et seq. (20-48)**

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 these Ordinances be adopted and submitted to the mayor for approval, which was seconded by Councilman Bauer and carried unanimously.

**D. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER III, POLICE REGULATIONS, OF THE WOODBRIDGE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES (MUFFLERS). (20-49)**

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.

Anjoli Holt, Woodbridge: with the modification of mufflers, does that mean that you guys are you going to be ticketing kids or people, with loud cars, is that what it is for?

Vito Cimilluca: So this is a modification, this is to make it illegal for a shop to modify a muffler to make it louder than it is from the manufacturer.

Anjoli Holt, Woodbridge: So it's specifically for shops, doesn't involve residents.

Vito Cimilluca: This Ordinance is for shops that modify mufflers.

Anjoli Holt, Woodbridge: Within our township.

Vito Cimilluca: Within our township.

Anjoli Holt, Woodbridge: O.K. All right. Thank you.

Council Vice President Small moved the public hearing closed and these Ordinances 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. AMENDING CHAPTER 7 ENTITLED “TRAFFIC”, SECTION 7-38.1 - HANDICAPPED PARKING TO ADD RIDGEDALE AVENUE WEST AND DELETE DEMOREST AVENUE EAST.
- F. AMENDING CHAPTER 7 ENTITLED “TRAFFIC”, SECTION 7-38.5 - HANDICAPPED PARKING ON PRIVATE PROPERTY TO ADD 2 SPACES - POWDERHORN COURT.
- G. AN ORDINANCE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE ADOPTING THE “DOWNTOWN WOODBRIDGE AREA 5 REDEVELOPMENT PLAN,” PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING LAW, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 et seq.
- H. AN ORDINANCE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE ADOPTING THE “51 NEW BRUNSWICK AVENUE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN” PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING LAW, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 et seq.
- I. AN ORDINANCE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE ADOPTING THE “AMENDED CUTTERS DOCK ROAD REDEVELOPMENT PLAN (dated July 2020).”
- J. AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A LICENSE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE AND STATION VILLAGE AT URAN RENEWAL, LLC, AND APPROVING A SUB-LICENSE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE AND WOODBRIDGE ARTS ALLIANCE.

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, July 10, 2020 with Notice of Public Hearing to be held on Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 6:00 P.M.

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

- (1) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby consents to the Mayor’s appointment of Joseph Fugaro to serve as Deputy Coordinator for the Woodbridge Township Office of Emergency Management for a Three (3) year term commencing July 1, 2020 and terminating June 30, 2023.
- (2) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby appoints Gerald F. Volpe as the Qualified Purchasing Agent with an increased bid threshold to \$44,000.00.
- (3) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby approves the request of Bartolomej Skro to waive the requirements for the installation of Sidewalks and Curbs for Block 476.02, lot 3, 418 New Dover Road, Colonia.

- (4) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Chief Financial Officer to issue a Tax refund check in the Amount of \$1,815.80 to 100% Disabled Veteran, Clarence I. Wilson Sr. at 259 Archangela Avenue, Colonia.
- (5) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Chief Financial Officer to issue a refund check for overpaid taxes.
- (6) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Chief Financial Officer to issue a refund check for cancelled parking permits.
- (7) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Chief Financial Officer to issue a refund checks for cancelled parking permits.
- (8) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Municipal Comptroller to issue a refund check from the Developer’s review Fund.
- (9) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Municipal Comptroller to release the sidewalk permit fee in the amount of \$100.00 to Accurate Sewer & Drain, LLC.
- (10) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Municipal Clerk to release the Performance Guarantee Paper Bond in the amount of \$11,018.22 from Bond No. CT023107 to Briad Development, LLC.
- (11) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Chief Financial Officer to issue checks to the vendors for the Pizza Run being held on July 15, 2020 from the donations deposited.
- (12) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby designates Block 867, Lot 3 on the tax maps of the Township, as an Area in Need of redevelopment (non-condemnation).
- (13) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby designates 200 Wood Avenue South Study Area, Block 356.02, Lot 13.01 on the tax maps of the Township, as an Area in Need of redevelopment.
- (14) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Planning Board of the Township of Woodbridge to undertake a preliminary investigation to determine if Block 544, Lot 69.01, 120-122 Main street, Woodbridge is an Area in Need of Redevelopment.
- (15) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby refers the “Amended Cutters Dock Road Redevelopment Plan” to the Township Planning Board for review and comment pursuant to the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law.
- (16) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby refers the “51 New Brunswick Avenue Redevelopment Plan” to the Township Planning Board for review and comment pursuant to the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law.
- (17) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby refers the “Area 5 Redevelopment Plan” to the Township Planning Board for review and comment pursuant to the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law.

- (18) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Municipal Comptroller to issue a refund to St. Andrews’s Church in the amount of \$800.00 for cancelled Bingo Raffle.
- (19) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Municipal Comptroller to issue a refund to St. Andrews’s Church in the amount of \$40.00 for the application fee of the cancelled Tricky Tray Raffle.
- (20) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby approves the temporary road closure for the Mayor’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports “Pizza/4 Mile Run Race”- July 15 beginning at 7:00 P.M. ending 8:30 P.M.
- (21) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Mayor’s or his designee to execute a Shared Services Agreement with the Woodbridge Housing Authority for the acquisition of affordable senior housing in the form substantially similar to that on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.
- (22) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council hereby authorizes the Mayor or his designee and the Municipal Clerk to enter into a contract with Governance and Fiscal Affairs LLC for professional services as Qualified Purchasing Agent at a cost not to exceed \$40,000.00.
- (23) **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 July 6, 2020 and the Supplemental Bill List dated June 19, 2020 through July 2, 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 of Councilman Ficarra on Resolution# 21.

Councilman Ficarra: I would like to abstain on #21.

**Public Meeting:**

Council President Dejesus: We will now move to the public portion of the meeting, please approach the microphone if you would like, state the area of the township you reside and your name, there is a one time, five minute time period.

**Meshal Bannerman, Avenel:** I am here on behalf of Woodbridge Youth for Liberation and Equality and will be presenting all of our demands again but first, I want to address the Council. I came here about a month ago in hopes of building off a well-organized protest and practically seek change. When I explained my experiences and fears, which are symbolic to many other black people in Woodbridge, I was ignored ghastly and dismissed. I was told by a white mayor, who is not even here today, that I should be comfortable even though he has never been in my shoes. I was told by a predominant white Council that could use their PBA cards at any time if they get in trouble they had nothing to worry about. Instead of listening and acknowledging a bundle of privilege or continue a conversation to further understand, nobody responded me, except Councilman Anderson who heard me out. Despite me giving

my number to all of you out, it took Twits and Emails for me to finally have a conversation with Councilman Spillar,

which is a good first step but nonetheless we still have a lot to do. Our goal as a group is to make Woodbridge a better town to live in for all residents. In particular, those who have suffered from various forms of oppressions either as students, residents or both. I hope that is your goal too, especially as elected officials, and so I hope we all reflect on the recent shortcomings. Resorting to monitoring someone's Twitter feed or taking up space at a protest as a form of speech and no plan thereafter or sending a copy of a pasted email from a Council meeting that recently happened here, it is not leadership. We will not be silenced, bullied. You guys will hear us and you guys will represent us. If the message we are delivering is one that you can't understand the world, we'll deliver it in a way that jeopardizes your seats and brings both State and National attention to Woodbridge and then Mayor and Council people, everyone can see the leadership of your self-proclaimed the greatest town around, but nonetheless I am here to present our first demand: We demand that Woodbridge Township does not increase the number of police officers on duty for the fiscal year 2021. More cops means a higher budget for the Police Department when it's already a higher single budget expenditure. With Covid-19 downsizing our economy, lowering our budget in numerous ways, it is not reasonable to reduce spending in other areas and then thus increase police spending. You want to shift away from spending more money on policing when that money can be used to strengthen our community. Lastly, not lastly, in addition violent crime in Woodbridge is already low. We only have one violent crime per thousand residents a crime reported which means most of the crime in Woodbridge is non-violent stemming from either a lack of economic or health stability. We should be funding that instead of funding our Police Department more and more. The Mayor cites the increase in housing as a reason for increasing cops, but we all know that these apartments in this housings will consist of mostly minority communities, so he is admitting that yes, we will be putting more policing areas that are predominantly not white. The increase in policing and criminalization of minorities is exactly what we don't want. So I'm asking you guys ask Council people: What are you gonna do about it? Some of you were here just a month ago saying God Bless the police and we are not, but I am asking you know in the town that's is increasingly becoming diverse increasingly being majority minority. What are you gonna do for us, too? Right? You can't proclaim Woodbridge and boost the diversity in this town without actually representing us. That is not fair to me. It's not fair to younger people in this town and it's also not fair to the older generation who'd been through a lot of racism and a lot of different experiences themselves. So I am asking to each and every one of you, right? To do something. Thank you.

**Mia Banks, Avenel:** Good evening everyone, good evening Council. My name is Mia Banks and I am a resident of Avenel. I lived in Avenel my entire life. I went to Woodbine School 23 for Elementary School, Avenel Middle School and I graduated from Colonia High School in 2017. I am now a rising senior at Boston University studying Political Science and Statistics, and I am here to present our second demand: We demand that the Woodbridge Township provides transparent information in about the funding and appropriations of the Woodbridge Police Department to the public. In light of the recent investigation into the use of the Federal Cares Act funding for police officer's haircuts, affiliates of the Woodbridge Township must be provided and easily accessible and transparent outline of exactly where the items listed under the term quote end quote "Other Expenses" in the annual budget reports available in the Township website where those items are allocated. For the proposed budget for the 2020 fiscal year, the \$2.7 million listed under quote end quote "Other Expenses" was higher than the Salaries and Wages budget for recreation services and programs and it was higher than the Salaries and Wages budget for our park maintenance. If an investigative article from the News, from a State newspaper had to unpack potential shady use of money from the Woodbridge Police Department and I am truly fearful of what may end up happening behind the scenes. There was a 50% spike in spending on guns and

military style equipment 2 years ago, in this Township with a very low violent crime rate, like Meshal said. While during the same timeframe, there was also a decrease in Police education spending. The

Woodbridge Police Department, Mayor McCormac and the Council need to be open and honest as per our taxpayer money is going. I believe that if many township affiliates were to critically analyze our budget, they'd conclude that the police have too much money. Explaining why they can waste federal funding or taxpayer dollars on their own personal luxury, during a global pandemic, when many essential workers in this town weren't provided the same luxury, thank you.

**Jimmy Dembrowski, Woodbridge:** Okay. Good evening everyone, my name is Jimmy Dembrowski. I'm a lifelong resident of Woodbridge Township. I have three demands to present this evening. In addition to the other demands you've heard thus far, and will continue to hear from other residents of conscience, who are dedicated to helping Woodbridge finally begin to make concrete commitments to diversity, inclusion, equity and anti-racism, so to continue where Mr. Meshal Bannerman and Miss Mia Banks has left of. Third, we demand that Woodbridge Township Police officers under investigation, for using excessive force, be denied pay and benefits while the investigation is ongoing. Fourth, we demand that the Woodbridge Township officers themselves, and not the town taxpayers, pay for Police misconduct lawsuits and use of forced settlements. And fifth, we demand that Woodbridge Township does not rehire cops involve in excessive force incidents. In support of this simple demands, I would like to present a few facts and statistics:

- 1- Woodbridge PD uses excessive force higher than the New Jersey State average and it is in the top 40% higher in the entire State for excessive force usage according to NJ.com Comprehensive Force report database.
- 2- A black person in Woodbridge is 70% more likely to have excessive force use on them than a white person. Mayor John McCormac, our white Mayor in a long line of exclusively white mayors, even just recently and inexcusably, invalidated Mr. Meshal Bannerman lived experience as a black resident saying that Meshal should be pretty comfortable with the Woodbridge PD after he shares his concerns at our June 10 Council meeting. This alarming 70% statistic only further validates Mr. Bannerman lived experience and concerns and you can watch the Mayor's tone deaf display of cultural incompetence on the Woodbridge TV You Tube channel. You can also watch Council Vice President Brian Small dismiss other black residents voicing the same concerns at our June 23 Council meeting, for the outrageously remarks to our overwhelming white police force don't listen to the public.
- 3- Just a few years ago, Woodbridge PD quietly paid a resident over \$125,000 in taxpayer funds after officers displaced his front teeth with a flashlight, while attempting to search him for a knife, which they did not find. The Township paid this amount with our tax dollars confidentially to avoid the incident going to trial. Of the 8 officers listed in a lawsuit, 6 remain on the force today, all making upwards of six figures salaries.
- 4- There are multiple Woodbridge police officers who have may use excessive force repeatedly in a short three year time frame but continuously received a bump in their salaries. Patrick Harris, Jose Maldonado and Hector Rivera all used upwards of fifteen cases of excessive force, but still make over \$120,000 a year on the Woodbridge taxpayers dime and

5- Does not it seem backwards that in the Township where teachers have to pay for their own supplies, police officers can enjoy high salaries on tax dollars to brutalize and beat black people at an alarming rate and not be liable for settlements? Instead making taxpayer foot the bill, as an educator myself of fifteen years, the absurdity is quite clear.

In addition to these three simple demands and facts provided to support making them anti-racist policies, I'd also like to point out how Woodbridge was sadly on the wrong side of history just a few months ago. As fellow advocates and I literally begged our elected officials to pass a compassionate, bare minimum resolution condemning the horrific racist, racist separation and detention of migrant families, a crime against humanity committed in our name. While Mayor Mc Cormac and the Council never had the courage or respect to respond on the record at a Council meeting, besides coldly dismissing us saying that Woodbridge does not entertain such resolutions, the Mayor did tell me, on two separate occasions, that he and the Council indeed agreed with the resolution, but that Woodbridge will not be passing it because it's not a local issue; It most certainly is. That it might encourage other Township residents to bring other uncomfortable human rights issues to the attention of our elected officials, and demand they actually do their jobs and take a stand and dare to lead for a change and lastly that it might piss off half the town. That's a direct quote from our Mayor, who supports ripping desperate black and brown families apart and locking them up. I got to get reelected was the Mayor shameful justification for the unconscionable. Will that be the Mayor and Councils same terrible excuse again? Or, will you this time actually have the conscience and courage to get on the right side of history and stand with Black Lives instead of against them? When history looks back on not only this moment, but this movement, which side would you be on? The racist Anti-Black Lives Matters side or the anti-racist Pro Black Lives Matter side. There is no in between. As anti-racism scholar Dr. Ibram X. Kendi explains, politics can either be racist and anti-racist. It's long overdue that Woodbridge begin passing anti-racist policies. Thank you.

**Charity Daramola, Sewaren:** Hi, my name is Charity Daramola, resident of Sewaren, New Jersey. Graduated from Woodbridge High School 2018. A current junior at Wellesley College. We demand that the Woodbridge Township cuts overtime, accrual and overtime for military exercises. Officers are allowed to work extra hours in excessively policing and patrolling communities, which disproportionately affects black and brown people. The overtime budget for WPD is at \$800,000 per year, which is honestly unacceptable. This allows officers to make more money at the expense of the likelihood of people in this community, which are mostly brown and black people who are being affected by this. Policing needs to stop. Our next demand is: We demand that Woodbridge Township defines 15% of the Police Department and reallocates the funds to other underfunded departments such as Public Health, with an emphasis on instituting mental health resources, parks and recreation services and community resources that fosters a township that focuses less on policing and police officers. By defunding by 15% and reallocating that money, we can invest in our community and underfunded departments, which play the town most, such as a form mentored mental health crisis, sexual assault, domestic violence, which we all know is a big issue in this township, as I talked about at the last meeting. An addiction recovery for non-violent crimes stemming from economic hardship and instability and we can live in a community that actually helps people, instead of harms people and polices them. We need to be less reliant on the police and help people with crisis. We also need to focus more on investing in community safe heavens such as housing and parks and recreations or public libraries that give opportunity to multiple people in this community. This would lead to a proactive and reduction of all nonviolent crimes as we all know that crime is associated with what people don't have

rather than what rather say they have. We need to rely less on the police because they are criminalizing black and brown people in the long term. The budget report available shows us that public defenders receive \$79,000 on this budget. The police get \$35 million and public defenders only \$79,000? This shows a lot of how much you care about people that are being incriminated. It shows how you eager to criminalize people without providing with the actual support that they need. It shows that you have no sense of encouraging people to defend them of their rights. You all stood for the statute, you stood there, and said “Liberty and Justice for all” but you are out here allocating \$79,000 just for public defenders to help people. You are pushing people into plea deals that have been known to criminalize black and brown people and if you don’t know watch the Documentary 13<sup>th</sup>. It is not my job to explain everything to you. If the Township reallocates some of the public budget to public defenders, they will be able to hire more of them and pay them more and they will actually give people of color black people and brown people and particular a chance to actually understand what is going on in their lives and their communities. It is time to define the police and we are merely asking for 15% and as I said at the last meeting, that is just a start and that is simply easy to do, so thank you.

**Ann Bajaret, Woodbridge:** I live in Woodbridge Proper. Calls for police reform and the reallocation of funds here in Woodbridge are often met with the recognition that our Police Department is nationally accredited. As thought, there is somehow evidence that our Police Department is immune to the perpetuation of racial and justice. Before I give our next two demands, I’d like to speak briefly about that national accreditation. First and foremost, our national accreditation that the town so proudly votes off is not issue by any government agency; it is a self-initiated process done through enrollment in a Commission and Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies Incorporated, a for-profit business. With our Police Department employing more than 200 officers, the fee paid to enroll in that Accreditation would it been approximately \$16,000. The bulk of the assessment for accreditation isn’t based in a two to three years internal analysis, so a self-assessment conducted by our department, essentially any department willing and able to invest first the funds and the time to check all the boxes and provide proof that their policies meet the Commission’s criteria or aborted such Accreditation. It wouldn’t be very good business if they were. So congratulations we have a \$16,000 participation trophy. According to the Commission though, this Accreditation is a means for developing and approving upon an agency’s relationship with the community, not to provide a defense to ignore their concerns. On the corporation websites it states accreditation embodies the precepts of community oriented policing. It creates a form in which Law enforcement and Citizens work together to prevent and control challenges confronting law enforcement and it’s based on the ideas of integrity, transparency and accountability. So in the spirit of your national accreditation of which you are so proud, we would like to offer our next two demands: we demand that Woodbridge Township develops non-police alternatives to 911 calls involving people with mental health needs or other forms of health crisis. We asked police officers to respond to too much in this town. Mental health is a medical issue not a police matter. Officers are not properly educated or trained to deal with mental health issues. People with entry mental illness endure special needs and is 16 times more likely to be killed during a police encounter than other civilians approached or stopped by a police enforcement. They are involved in at least one and four as many as half of all fatal police shootings. Because of this prevalence, reducing the number of encounters between on duty armed law enforcement officers individuals with mental health issues endures special needs may represent the single most immediate practical strategy for reducing the potential for fatal police shootings. Many departments across the country are or already have implemented policies that divert non-violent of mental health related 911 calls to a mental health professional instead of a law enforcement or has implemented call respondent programs, in which law enforcement officers are matched with the

behavior health specialist to intervene on mental health related police calls. Does mental health professionals work to deescalate the situations that have historically resulted in arrest, and to assess whether the person should be referred for immediate behavior self-assessment. Additionally, in cases of domestic violence and abuse, mental illness may manifest as a result of ongoing target abuse by a partner these victims may fear being viewed and treated themselves as a criminal threat by a law enforcement if they call for help, which brings me our next demand. We demand the Woodbridge Township make the Woodbridge Township Domestic Violence Response Team a separate entity from the police and reallocate the funds to pay the individuals on this teams and require or provide the legitimate training for those working in that department. As I stated before, a police officer with a gun is not always the answer. Our town is not currently properly funded or invested in domestic violence response and instead relies on police to be responders. The response team is a volunteer organization that requires only 40 hours of classroom training. After police responds to instances, volunteers from that team often meet with victims inside police headquarters to explain their available options and resources. These victims are not criminals, and the police department is not the place to offer them support. The US Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, and the Police Executive Research Forum studied the nature and function and impact of police community partnership that address domestic violence. The biggest barriers to the success of these programs are lack of funding and lack of training. The fact that the Domestic Violence Response Team consists of minimally trained volunteers while the township purchases unnecessary military grade vehicles to drive through in your parades, it is not acceptable. Arrest or prosecution programs alone also do not prevent recidivist of violence. Our Township focus on strengthening non police alternatives and investing in the community to provide long term support to break these cycles of violence. This council and many community members are very proud to flaunt that National Accreditation of our police department. But to believe that this accreditation meets our departments is above the need for reform, it's either arrogance or ignorance.

**Salaam Ismial, Elizabeth:** I am the National Director of United Council Incorporated. We operate out of Elizabeth but we have chapters in 13 cities and we also have affiliates and representatives and volunteers from this Township. This is not the first time that I came to Woodbridge dealing with a police, isn't it? In 2013, a young woman dropped coming to pick up her kids from school and was accosted by a police officer who came to her car and told her back the car up, move it and slide it over and move it to the side wall, so she did that. Then some altercation became abruptly with the police officer to the young woman on how fast she move the car without, this was the Sergeant by the way, and what end up happening is that he snatched a young woman by her hair, threw her down, punched her about the face, a number of times, she ended up going to the hospital on what happened and charged with of course resisting arrest and the typical other charges that come with it. Just recently as May, another incident where a young men who alleged by police accounts that he was part of a robbery. The officers approached this young man said that he fit the description. When those officers got out of their vehicle, now this is where the story got gray in a couple of newspapers here they said that the young man tried to run away or whatever. They say he slipped over some drainage, fell on some bushes, but yet they tackled him. You know anybody plays football, once you hit the ground you are down, you are not tackled. So he ended up being beaten up again and receiving five staples in his head. So here is what I am saying, we support these younger students and the group movement here in this town on their tenth objective that you guys are way behind the time, even in 2020 cities across this nation is doing at least, even a Republican Party it's a democratic town does asking for buddy camp and you refuse that. So

what is wrong with you? You got a George Wallace of who was also a Democrat kind of attitude on dealing with policing. You got a blue light, blue flag and you say horribly but you have one the highest police abuses in the State and you're denying that. You are denying your own facts. Here is what I had to say to this town: you have 10 days to respond to these young people and to the groups and these organizations, 10 days. If I don't see movement in 10 days, we are going to alert all our national organizations around the state and around this region to pay visits here to Woodbridge and you are going to see it won't be these kinds of little alike your marches but the kind of marches and demonstrations we plan to do this shake it up little bit. Tie the city up and I am not joking. This is for real, people are dying, black man has been dying in this policing system for so long and yet white people continue to ignore those who in the system, those who govern in our land. And now there is some movement on it, in this city? In Woodbridge? You are not even gonna take a look at your own statistics and see what continues to happen and you are gonna have these people gonna take out at that time and still have to re-teach you all over again yet you represented body of this city you should be ashamed of yourself. You got Abraham Lincoln emancipation slave owner, white George Washington slave owner read the whole story. Read the whole story of the impact of slavery and how we came out of slavery the Thirteenth Amendment that's it now to this day many of people that looked like me in the prison system. In this county is one of the highest rate of prison populated by your actions than anywhere because New Jersey sixty-one percent of the prison population are black. In the nation, the highest in the nation that is coming in our counties in our state, which continue to draw the acts of this brutal police officers out of cities like Woodbridge and even my hometown Elizabeth we had to run a racist director out, you all have seen that. We are gonna do a lot here in this town. You know what I am saying? I bought my first suit from Woodbridge Mall you know that. That was a long time ago I never stopped shopping at Woodbridge Mall. Maybe Woodbridge Mall is going to be one of the physics we are gonna make, maybe the business community takes a look at what is happening how you running your government and how you continue to allow people of color to be the target of your police actions. You got 10 days from this day, clock is ticking, thank you very much.

**Keysha Dembrowski, Woodbridge:** Goodnight everyone, my name is Keysha Dembrowski and I am a home owner of 8 years here in Woodbridge Proper. I am also an assistant Vice Chancellor for Diversity Strategy Communication and Community Engagement at the State University Rutgers University. I am here tonight to talk about the divide that has been happening in our town. You need only go to the Woodbridge social media page to see the divisiveness that has happened in our town because of the blue line outside. I can tell you that I am a communicator and as a communicator and let me step back and say I am expert communicator. I have been trained in communications and I can tell you that symbols have meaning if you want I can send you all of the articles and all of the books that back up that literature. Right again I am an educator. I remember noticing the blue line for the first time as I cross Green Street with my husband back October 29<sup>th</sup>. I'll never forget that awful evening when one and one and only black Council member was being attacked and lied about by the Woodbridge PBA President. While the overwhelming white police force intimidate Lee crowded behind the room. I also got to say that I witnessed, as a witness, I saw his wife mistreated by one of those officers as she tried to enter the room. I was appalled and could not believe it. As I addressed the Council about my concerns with the lack of diversity on the police department and remember I am a tax payer who pays their salary, calmly, I was very rudely interrupted and shouted down by a few of the officers, none of whom even bothered to apologize to me after and I did try to have a conversation after. It was, it was and still is very clear to me and many other residents that this blue line down on Main Street is part of the races Blue Lives Matter

counter movement, which came in direct response in opposition to the Black Live Matter movement and only intensified after Colin Kapernick began his peaceful protest against police brutality and racial injustice. Additionally, many of us also feel that the blue line symbolism represents an “us versus them”. Again you can see it in the social media website, mindset that heightens tensions between officers and residents and negatively influences police community relations by setting police apart from society at large. Now, I know being a cop is hard and I know is dangerous. That’s why certain sound jobs are compensated the way that they are. But there are just some jobs that you just cannot have bad apples. It is not just okay for us to that there are just a few bad apples. If you are on a flight going somewhere, an American Airlines flight and the pilot decides this pilot I am gonna crash every few pilots, pilots, am gonna crash. It is not okay for us to say that there are few bad apple pilots that want to crash their car and kill people. That is not okay. That is essentially what you are saying when there are some bad apples. No, when something happens you look at the root of why is happening. You look at the understanding, you interrogate the policies and the practices that allow that bad apple to happen. It is not just okay to say: Ah it is just some bad apples. So, I can send all of you all of the facts of the blue lines as it goes all the way back to the 1920’s and has a really rooted actually in PR my area. It was a PR stunt in order to garner favoritism of the police during a time that there it was in New York and then again in LA. I’ll send it to the Council so you can see for yourself and the references so I won’t waste your time here. But I do want to ask for today is if policies are either racist antiracist and if indeed the blue line down Main Street is to affirm our support for our police officers as you say, then we are also saying that we use symbols on our streets to support and affirm some of our members of our community we do it for Saint Patrick’s Day then am here today to ask you do the same with Black Lives Matter. If is merely to show and affirm your support for you 210 police officers, then paint Black Lives Matter perpendicular in an equally public place down Rahway Avenue. Other towns have done it. Why not us? And if there is some tension on, wait a minute, we can’t do that.

**Anjoli Holt, Woodbridge:** Hi my name is A. H. I’m a resident 11 years homeowner over in Woodbridge Proper. I’ve got three children that I put through Woodbridge High School. My oldest have graduated a couple of years ago. She had some incidents that we brought up at the Board of Education so we talked about that but I am here to speak on behalf of our students and our residents and our parents as well with demand number nine, but before I bring up that I just want to say a couple of things. Don’t wait until we are the worst town around to act. We might not be the worst but we can’t claim to be the best. We can’t claim to be the best if we are not inclusive. We can’t have pride in our diversity if we are not including people of color in our decision making and in our planning and acknowledging their pain when they stand before you. These are not fools, these are well educated people in here. We are asking you to do the work. Do the research. Learn about what we are talking about. There is plenty out there. This is not an overnight process. This is a step, take a step, so do that. Another thing I want to say about that was we have a lot of divisiveness around here am and if you do nothing you are taking the side of the oppressor, so there is that. So, with our demands: We demand that you remove the police from Woodbridge High School. We brought this up at the Board of Education meeting and we were told that this was done to protect students after Columbine. A couple of facts about that after Columbine over 10,000 school police officers were hired just in case a police shooting happened. Two decades later they have yet to stop a single police shooting., Adding more police to our school just increases the chances that kids will be victim of the school to prison pathway and that’s proof that they have already arrested over a million kids most of those are students of color for routine behavior violations in our schools. So money spent on keeping police in schools could easily be reallocated to spend on full-time counselors

who are better equipped to deal with school conflicts who understand the difference in culture and who are not inept and it also reduces the chance of trauma that the students are feeling they see it all over the television, it's in our chat room, it's all over social media that police are valued over their lives. So, when you have them bombarded with this constantly, it is dramatic. My children are one of them so and why should we have someone with a gun in our schools? You know, when these fights and everything else are breaking out that should not happen. You don't need anyone intervening with that with a gun. Black and brown students are overwhelmingly encountering police in schools that builds the trauma. Choosing between having police officers in our schools and investing in textbooks, having teachers' pay for their supplies but finding the funding for this, it just doesn't make sense and it's not improving our safety. So, help our children heal from this by actually doing something. It's not about being anti police, it's being inclusive and supporting your community your residents, your taxpayers. You shouldn't have to have black children to feel this way. You shouldn't have to have a black husband or a wife, you just have to be human. We are all human, we live here together and it should be about all of us. Thank you.

**Mary Nasir, Port Reading:** I live in Port Reading. I graduated from Woodbridge High School in 2018. I am a current junior at Rutgers University. I would like to address how these meetings are specifically set up to silence the public there are never spoken about, they are not announced, no one even knows when they are happening. For the people who are at a high risk for Covid-19, there is no virtual option for them like they have for the Board of Ed meetings. The public is allowed only a one-time 5 minute speaking slot before the Council and finally the Council fails to acknowledge anything we say. At the last meeting a few of us voiced our concerns with the police department and none of them were acknowledged instead each member voiced how comfortable they are with the officers. With respect, the majority of you are white and politicians with this township and of course you feel comfortable with the officers. At the last meeting Council Vice President Brian Small voiced how the police officers shouldn't kept worrying about what the public says about them. That It's kind of add because they are public servants and that should be their number one concern what the public thinks about them and it is amazing how this Council valued what the police feels over the black and brown people's legitimate fear and the last thing I want to say is I see a lot of you smirking and laughing and nothing is funny about what we are saying. We should be taken seriously. I don't care how young we are. We will not be silenced and we will not stay silent. We will continue to practice our First Amendment Right to protest. We will continue to show up. We will continue to call you out and if needed, we will vote you out. Thank you.

**Lee Darden, Avenel:** Hello everyone, my name is Lee Darden. I currently live in Avenel. I grew up in Port Reading. I am part of the graduating class of WHS 2001 and I currently have two children in the Woodbridge Township School District. I love Woodbridge Township. I am grateful for all the opportunities that affords for its residents. I specially see efforts for the town senior citizens, youth athletes and the special needs communities. Each of these demographics hold a special place in my heart. With that being said, I also noticed specifically over the course of the last several weeks and months that there is another community within Woodbridge Township that is crying out for help and appears that those cries have been met with resistance or indifference. It is hard for me to reconcile these responses of what I know of the town to be a loving, accommodating place, but at the same time frustratingly silent or indecisive with a series problem within another community that I hold dear to my heart: Woodbridge is residence of color. Many residents, specifically a younger generation have been speaking out about the profiling another bias or discriminatory behavior they or their friends have

experienced or witness at the hands of the Woodbridge Police Department. These responses to these calls have been firmly “we stand with the police.” I can only imagine that you will have that response because you either haven’t experienced such behavior yourself or you haven’t witnessed it. I can understand that you may have not seen that behavior on the street, however I can point to one time where a reckless behavior happened right here in this room. During a Town Council meeting in October of 2019, the President of the Woodbridge Police Department Fraternal Organization spoke at the meeting. I’d like to point out that even though there were people in the room that did not agree to what he was saying, everyone gave that officer the respect he deserved as a speaker at the meeting. However, that respect was not returned by some, not all of the members, of the Woodbridge Police Department that were in attendance that night. When my fellow township resident came to the microphone, she was jeered, talked over, and argued with. It was exceptionally insulting to a democratic process that some members, not all of them, of the town police departments were trying to intimidate a town resident from speaking her mind. What I saw before me, as I watched the replay of the video at home, was that some of the officers could not remain civil for the less than five minutes my fellow residents said what they disagree with. How are we supposed to believe that those same individuals do not get a little overzealous in the field? I believe in the phrase “When you know better, you do better” whether you are aware of this behavior prior to other residents is bringing it up to you or not, you are now aware that there are some people employed by the township to uphold the law but are being reckless with that privilege and responsibility. I need to emphasize this is not an attack on all Woodbridge Police Department or the institution of policing. I understand there are good officers, but I am hoping to convey is that there are some who aren’t and who are ruining the reputation to those who do the right thing. What I ask of this town, it is to be open to having an open forum with the people who are expressing their concern. My only hope is that you can learn to understand that while I respect you for standing with the good officers of the town, I hope you can learn, how important it is to stand with all the demographics within the town. We have to be uncomfortable. We have to have uncomfortable conversations. Yes, racism makes us uncomfortable the issue that we are dealing with has been brushed under the rug for so long that we are now tripping over the dust Pilate has created. We have no choice but to be the people that focus on fixing this problem. We may not be able to erase all the hate that some people have in their heart, but we can work it out to make it known that Woodbridge does not tolerate that hate. I look forward to working towards and seeing the necessary changes in town, so that we are not just a diversified town but an inclusive one. Thank you everyone for your time.

**Victoria Burch, (Sp.?) Colonia:** My name is Victoria Burch, I am a resident of Colonia. I am so sorry. I am not professional, but I will be kind. Yes, okay. I did not come prepared, so apologies again. I just want everyone to think about the decision to join such a Council and what it means to hold these positions in your community. What did you do it for? What are you acting for? Who are you representing? God my accent is awful. Have your ever listened to yourself? Anyway. In terms of the blue line in Main Street, these symbolic gestures obviously matter. If you want to do the opposite, unfortunately, it is seen as the opposite. Talking and supporting Black Lives Matter. You should be doing so. It should be in your everyday conversations. You should be having these conversations with your family, but you need to be doing so much more as it is your job than just symbolic gestures. Think about your jobs. I want to throw up. Is anyone else nervous up here? Oh my God! Your jobs are very important. The President sets the tone for the country. You set the tone for everyday lives. It is not a joke; it is not something to flippantly ignore. The job is very important. Think about what you are doing every day. Yes, you are appreciating the different parts of our community that we have supported

whether it be police officers or special needs people, our sister being one of them, or the elderly or anything within that. There is something that we should all recognize which is intersectionality right there. There are cops, should be more, there are cops of color, there are disabled people, there are people of color, there are elderly people, there are people of color when we care but these organizations that we are caring about every facet of what it means to be a human in our town. In school discrimination, just if any of you all got kids. I am sorry, I do not know you. If any of you have kids, talk to them about the things that they have seen. I saw some wild stuff when I was at Colonial High School, especially Islamophobia and reading these peoples like essays. The last person who spoke, spoke about police not being able to remain calm. Why our citizens are expected to respond with “yes sir, no sir”, whatever. I am saying sir because that is pretty much how that goes, right? By our people and citizens, expected to remain more calm than anyone else, especially the people that are supposed to be enforcing the laws, if we think that laws and structures and the culture that we have fostered here are unjust, why aren't we doing anything to rectify that? Oh, and I'm not specifically saying what the last person was speaking about but specific forum where we can actually talk about this instead of just within this meeting right something specifically about police culture and what this town is doing to support Black Lives Matter. I'm gonna, that man and you. Anyone else? I am shaking, so I'm gonna sit down. Thank you.

**Daniel Jimenez, Avenel:** Hi my name is Daniel Jimenez. I live in Woodbridge Township, specifically Avenel and I moved here two years ago, and I just want to talk about my experiences. Before I moved to Woodbridge Township in 2018, I lived in Perth Amboy and I've been a cross-country runner since the sixth grade. I have also done track and field and one my things is I love to go outside and run. I do it every day sometimes multiple times a day. I will get 50, 60, 70 miles in a week and I've already had three instances in the two years that I lived in this township that I didn't really encounter in Perth Amboy. Now, I know this is a diverse town like in Perth Amboy, but there is a difference. The police force isn't really all that diverse here, like it is there, and I wanna tell you a little bit about my experiences that I don't talk a lot. Because, you know. I don't like, nobody likes, boasting about my microaggressions, if you can call it that. Nobody, we don't take pleasure in this, actually takes like some strength to try to get out so. The first time that something happened to me, it was in the fall of 2018. I moved here a couple of months prior. I was running down. It was close to the high school, by kind of like by the pizza place before the high school, right. And I am running down, I don't have music in me. I am kind of glad I didn't have music because then I wouldn't have like heard this. I didn't have music on me because I remember my earbud had just broken, so I was just running with my phone and I was just like blasting my music. Somebody could hear that I was playing Kendrick Lamar and they were actually in their car. This was around five, six in the morning. There weren't many people around and I think that they took out a BB gun without the orange cap, so I was extremely terrified when they did. It was kind of like they were pulling up to my side. And I don't want say what they said to me because I don't think I want to say that word here, but I remember being so scared that instantly I ran the other way. I did not try to get their license plate. My stepdad asked me why you didn't get the license plate. Why you didn't do it? I said: I was in the moment. I run the other way, at that point. And that wasn't with the law, but I just want to say that this was a white passing van. The second instance was when I was running down near the ShopRite, a police officer stopped me, and he said: Why are you running? I mean, I had my little like arm strap on, I had the headphones on me, I had the Nike Just Do It shirt on me. There is a lot of joggers in this town. I see them all the time. Sometimes I see a jogger and say hey! Did you ever got stopped by the police for jogging and they tell me, No! Of course, I ask this to fifty year old white guys that go outside and jog and see them every morning, but anyway, that was the second time. And the third

time, something similar happened, even though he did not tell me why are you running? But he did a kind of like do a little stop in front of me and frisk on me he said where do you live? What is your name? Do you have an ID on you? No. Okay. Run along. So, that is, pretty specific, instances that I have encountered, all within a two-year span since I moved here. I just wanted to air that out. You know, thank you.

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

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

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

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

Council President DeJesus: Barron Arts Center are having virtual lectures “The Works Project Administration and its influence in shaping 20th century American art and photography including the work for Dorothea Lange presented by Art Historian MaryAnn Zolota”. So, this already happened and if you go to on TV 35 video on demand, you should be able to see this lecture. They are also offering “Saturday morning cartooning” learn to draw your favorite cartoon characters from yesterday in today as well as the story behind the artist who created them. New episodes every Saturday at the Barron Arts Center Facebook page and they are available again on the You Tube channel. Because of Covid-19, all

the programming from now, until further notice, will be online.

10. Free Public Library of Woodbridge  
HOLD
11. Veteran's Tax Deduction  
HOLD
12. Green Infrastructure  
HOLD
13. Girls' Sports  
HOLD
14. Girl Scouts/Scouts Pavilion and Camp (9/18/20 – 9/20/20)  
HOLD
15. Summer Fest 2020 (9/5/20)  
HOLD
16. Census 2020  
HOLD

Councilman President DeJesus: I guess I should congratulate all the seniors especially that my daughter is graduating high school. I don't want her to think that I forgot. On my behalf, I would like to congratulate all the seniors in Woodbridge Township, including the college seniors who didn't get to have their graduations. They are still graduating. I just want to wish you congratulations and good luck in your future endeavors. Just a reminder, We are all registered voters and got mail in ballots home, we had the Middlesex County Board of Elections put a mailbox right in front of Town Hall so you just got to fill out your mail in ballot and either take it to the post office or put it here. You will see that it is clearly labeled for the election only.

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

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 (9/26/20)  
HOLD
13. Marine Eight  
HOLD
14. Mayor Mac Café  
HOLD
15. Jazz Festival (9/12/20)  
HOLD

Council Vice President Small: The Jazz festival’s new date is September 12th to be held over at Park Press Park, right across the street.

16. Concerts  
HOLD

Council Vice President Small: Our Summer concerts got rained out, but check the website for our rain dates. Again, it runs Sunday thru Thursday, and the concerts are all held at Woodbridge High School. Just keep in mind all our essential workers and all our first responders and God Bless America, thank you.

17. Light Parade  
HOLD

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

1. Avenel’s Very Merry Holiday Lighting/Port Reading Day (10/10/20)  
HOLD

2. Avenel Arts Village/Train Station/Eric LeGrand Believe Park  
HOLD

Councilman Spillar: The Arts Village, Curtains is announcing that in August, they will have a week of learning for children ages 10 to 15. Each day of the week, students will learn how to prepare meals, breakfast, lunch, snack, dinner and dessert. All materials are included in the price of tuition which is \$50.00 daily or \$200.00 for the week. Space is limited and you can register at [www.avenelarts.com](http://www.avenelarts.com). Also, for children ages 8 to 15, there will be a four weeks of Triple Threat Theater Camp at APAC, come study with professional educators and Broadway instructors, excuse me. There are Disney musicals, Harry Potter, a Greek Mythology and Pop Rock musicals end of the week showcase for your family and friends on the APAC stage. Space is limited and you can register again at [www.avenelarts.com](http://www.avenelarts.com) or by calling 732-588-8903. Those are really great programs for our children this summer. You don't have to zoom-in but they are on our township website APAC. Also check our Facebook live every Wednesday at 3:00 P.M. on APAC's Facebook for Live performances and interviews with actors and musicians.

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) Route 1 at So. Inman Avenue
  - (D) Bud's Hut
  - (E) Big Top property
  - (F) Holiday Inn Express expansion
  - (G) Pier I Imports propertyHOLD
8. Avenel Fire Department  
HOLD
9. Shuttles – Warehouses/Train Station  
HOLD
10. Woodbridge Developmental Center property  
HOLD
11. The Greens at Avenel – Rahway Avenue

HOLD

12. Cable Commission/Renewal

HOLD

13. School 4 & 5

HOLD

Councilman Spillar: As always be safe, be smart. God Bless all our essential employees, our township emergency services. I'm sorry council, I just want to thank Mr. Mitch and the girls in his office. They don't get the praise that they deserve when dealing with the election in this pandemic. It seems that the county threw them a curve ball, every single day, everything is changing. We thought we had an understanding of what we were supposed to do and all of a sudden at four o'clock, Mr. Mitch gets another conference call and everything would change. So, it hasn't gone unrecognized. So Mr. Mitch, please thank all the girls in your office as well as yourself. Thank you

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

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 Whiffle 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

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

Councilwoman, Meehan: I just want to congratulate all the graduating seniors from Colonia JFK and Woodbridge High School who will be attending their graduation this Wednesday. May each and everyone in the future be filled with happiness and great success, and I just want to wish everybody a happy and healthy summer, please continue to stay safe. That's all I have to say this evening. Thank you.

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

1. Events: Relay for Life  
Fishing Derby (10/3/20)  
Parker Press Concerts  
Woodbridge Wednesdays and Local Band Thursdays  
St. James Street Fair  
HOLD
2. (DMA) Downtown Merchant Association

HOLD

Councilwoman Drumm: There will be another zoom webinar interview for the Woodbridge Township Downtown Merchants and Owners, we just completed one last Thursday with the owner of the National Bartenders School, Jessie Singh. Our third interview coming up will be with Phil and Mikaela Claremont, the owners of Want A Smoothie on Thursday July 16th at 6 P.M. to register go through the Woodbridge Downtown Facebook Page and join us to get to know where our Downtown Business Owners.

3. Main Street SID (Special Improvement District)

HOLD

4. Chamber of Commerce

HOLD

Councilwoman Drumm: The Chamber of Commerce is having an outdoor event on Wednesday July 15<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 6 in the public parking lot on New Street with new business owner Nicole Rosser, Ice Cream Emergency bus, with a Mayoral ribbon cutting at 5 P.M. You can check the Woodbridge Chamber of commerce to register for the event. There will be social distance protocols followed and all are welcome. The chamber continues to provide resources and webinars complete on our website.

5. Buy Local Program

HOLD

Councilwoman Drumm: We have our Woodbridge Township Buy Local app called Woodbridge Now. A listing of all our businesses should be there. If you are not on there or need to make changes to your business, address or name go ahead and email [buylocal@twp.woodbridge.nj.us](mailto:buylocal@twp.woodbridge.nj.us).

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

Councilwoman Drumm: Woodbridge Elks is having some outdoor events coming up, it's so nice to see somethings are opening up again, it will be a Comedy Show outdoors on July 18th and the Motorcycle Committee will be having their Bike Nights July 8<sup>th</sup> and July 29<sup>th</sup>, you can visit their Facebook page for additional information.

14. Woodbridge Fire Department  
HOLD

15. Coast Guard  
HOLD

16. Sewaren Library Programs  
HOLD

17. Acacia Center  
HOLD

Councilwoman Drumm: The Lake Chateau on Route 9 is having an outdoor after work celebration from 5:30 to 9:30 on July 10th for small businesses, essential workers and emergency responders with complimentary admission, to RSVP call 732-234-2444. And I wanted to shout out to our DPW staff for their clean-up efforts along Cliff Road in Sewaren as well as the Boat Launch area and Ferry Road.

**KYLE ANDERSON, COUNCILMAN AT LARGE:**

Councilman Anderson: Congratulations to Brianna.

1. W.T.Y.R.C.  
HOLD
2. Job Bank  
HOLD

I have few areas that I wanted to talk about under the Job Bank, the Employment Opportunities Center on the Woodbridge Township website. There are a lot of people right now that probably are looking for work, they were let go due to COVID. I just want to let you know that there sites that are out there of people that are looking for Woodbridge Township residents. And New Jersey Governor Murphy has also initiated a website for jobs and that is [jobs.covid19.nj.gov](https://jobs.covid19.nj.gov).

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.  
HOLD
9. Dr. Martin Luther King Annual Program  
HOLD
10. Independent Club of Colonia  
HOLD
11. Tooling Around Program  
HOLD
12. Boy Scouts/Camping (**Camporee 9/18/20 – 9/20/20**)  
HOLD
13. League Consolidation  
HOLD
14. Middlesex County College  
HOLD
15. Minority Community Relations Panel  
HOLD

I want to make a mention in regards of the minority community relations and some of you may already in an email that I sent out. I am planning this week to sit with you. I want to say, as always, I am open to meet with anyone. I've met with people who oppose me. I've met with people who are in favor of me. I have even gone out of my way to meet with the police department after their difficult situation with myself in October and I can say that it is a little bit more on my end, I am hoping that they are going to meet me more than half way and continue on those relationships that we kind of improved on. A whole thing with that, it is an indication or symbolic of what they want to do with the community. I haven't reached out to them regarding the Minority Community Relations Panel, but I have received the commitment that they will come in, listen and hopefully listen to your concerns to make some changes. I mean with this young man right there. I've made that known that I've met with him because I was him 35 years ago when this town was not so diverse. So, I completely understand where he is coming from, how meticulous, how he was handed this situation. He has made, I think, some valid points that need to be examined closer. So, I encourage you all to continue fight for what you are fighting for and encourage you all to make your position and case within Woodbridge Township. It does not mean I don't support the police. One thing I want to make it very clear because I don't support police brutality,

it doesn't mean I don't support the police. There is a difference. I don't support police brutality but I support our police. So this gentle wake up can shake up the world and there are risks and costs to programs of action but they are far less than the range of risks of comfortable inaction. So, I appreciate that you come in and talk to us. This is probably in my nine years as councilman, the most I have ever seen in the community of any action of actual defense from the very beginning of Covid-19 until now. I haven't seen this kind of action in the community. So, thank you for coming in this far. That's all I have.

**GREGG FICARRA, COUNCILMAN AT LARGE:**

Councilman Ficarra: Thank you Council President. I would like to thank everyone for their heartfelt comments and expressing yourself in such a great detail. My only concern is that I didn't bring enough paper because I run out of the notes and everything that I was taking, and I am not good enough to type on my iPad, but I did take copious notes. I hear what you are saying and I would like to join with Councilman Anderson. We have spoken about this before but we do appreciate, you are coming out. We are listening in despite of being threatened with ten days. We don't need that threat. We are listening to you and we hear you loud and clear.

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

Councilman Ficarra: I have some mundane things that are somewhat important in town as we creep back to regular activities, particularly, in the world of recreation and sports that I am involved in. Our Highland Grove pool and spray park is now open for season membership. Summer camps in both the Community Center and the Club of Woodbridge are open. I think the easiest way for you to take a look at that is the Community Center website is NJWCC.com and the Club is simply TheClub.org and that will give you great detail.

2. Youth Month – April  
HOLD
3. Senior Citizen Month – May  
HOLD
4. Mentoring Program  
HOLD
5. Mayor's Fitness/Wellness Initiative  
HOLD
6. Fireworks (9/6/20 Rain Date: 9/7/20)  
HOLD
7. Heroes & Cool Kids/Strengthening Families  
HOLD
8. Pedestrian Safeway's/East Coast Greenway  
HOLD

9. Annual Pizza Run (**Date: TBD**)  
HOLD

Councilman Ficarra: In the world of sports and Daniel, you spoke as a runner, you probably are already aware of this. Annually, every year, we have a four mile race down by the water front. It is called the Pizza run rather ironically because it's a healthy adventure but that run is going on and you can go to compusport.com and register for that. We have had limited for social distancing for the first 150 people and then shut it off. Unfortunately, we are at that of 150, so we are working with the government, state government to see if by next Wednesday, that will be open up again. But again, it's on next Wednesday, July 15th, and starts in Alvin P. Williams Park and you can go to [www.compusport.com](http://www.compusport.com) to give you the most updated information on that. Thank you very much Council President. That's all I have.

10. Jacob's Landing  
HOLD

11. The Club at Woodbridge Upgrades  
HOLD

12. Crossroad's Race (**9/6/20**)  
HOLD

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

Councilman Patel: Thank you Council President. My agenda is in order but I have a few announcements. Good evening everyone. I'm glad to see everyone here and specially in good health. I'm actually extremely thankful to be attending today's council meeting in person. Today, after about four and a half months, although we have accomplished an incredible amount to social distancing. Nothing beats gathering in these chambers to get to work. I want to thank the Mayor, the administration, our frontline workers and the health, police, emergency departments for doing such an extraordinary work during this pandemic. Our township wouldn't be in the condition it is in without your efforts. Special thanks to the sanitation department for their work. In addition to all of the successful street construction projects, they have executed in the past few months. Our roads are in great shapes because of you. I would like to take an opportunity to send out prayers to all those who have lost their lives during this pandemic and I extend my condolences to their family members. These are difficult times and although we have lost loved ones, we must remain vigilant and strong to better our community. Regarding our school, I would like to congratulate all of our elementary and middle school graduates. A special congratulation to our high school graduates who will be attaining their outdoor commencement ceremonies this Wednesday. This pandemic may have taken your final school years from you all but your grade that you made still remain exceptional. Congratulations to all parents, family and friends of our township graduates as well. Tomorrow, July 7 is our Primary Election day. I request all Woodbridge Township members to get ready to vote. Fill out your mail-in your ballots and mail them in by 8:00 P.M. tomorrow. In person voting at local polling station will only be available to those that are visually impaired or are provisionally voting. Lastly, I would like to wish everyone a belated Happy Independence Day as well as happy and healthy summer vacation. With our township on the road to recovery, please continue to follow COVID safety measures set by the administrations. Darker times have passed us and with everyone combine effort, we can continue our work. Good night everyone and thank you all for your time. That's all for tonight. Thank you Council President.

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: Thank you Council President. My agenda is in order. I have one announcement tonight. The Greenway Family Success Center located in Fords, July's calendar is up and ready. Due to Covid-19, all activities are virtual and are free to you and your family. Followed it in my Facebook or if you have any question, call 732-768-8049. Congratulations to all our graduating seniors. Remember your social distancing, stay safe, and God bless America. Thank you Council President. That's all I have.

**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 #1225-32-059-003 from Urban Tadka Restaurant, Inc., to Dimple Liquor, LLC, t/a Dimple's Bombay Talk Rest Bar, 42 Marconi Ave., Iselin, NJ 08830.

Mr. Mitch: Thank you Madame President. Just a couple of items. New to your agenda is 1B, which is a transfer of a liquor license for Dimple's Bombay Talk Restobar and that will be under review and before you.

2. Liquor License Incident(s)/Hearing(s).
3. Liquor License Renewals.
  - A. 2021 Annual Retail Licensee Meeting.

Mr. Mitch: Within the next couple of weeks, starting the next meeting, you will start seeing the license renewals. The annual date, as you recall, was postponed due to the Covid-19. They'll start in your packets then.

4. Street Closings/Special Events (Block parties, street fairs, carnivals, etc.).
5. Elections.
  - A. 2020 Primary Election – July 7, 2020 (6 A.M. – 8 P.M.).
  - B. 2020 General Election – November 3, 2020 (6 A.M. – 8 P.M.).

Mr. Mitch: Councilman Patel already referenced tomorrow's election. Now that come off my agenda like I have talked exhaustively over that the last two months, so that's all I have.

6. Best Practices.
7. Census 2020.

**MAYOR:**

Mayor John E. McCormac: Absent

**ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE:**

Business Administrator Cimilluca: I have a refund for overpayment of taxes and a refund for parking permits. I have a Grant Application for the NJDOT for Magnolia Road design project.

**POLICE:**

Business Administrator Cimilluca: I have a traffic Ordinance Amendment and please remove from the police agenda, the Fire Prevention Ordinance Amendment.

**HEALTH:**

**RECREATION:**

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT:**

**PUBLIC WORKS/ENGINEERING:**

**LEGAL:**

Mr. Lange: Nothing this evening.

On a motion made by Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Bauer and carried unanimously, Council President DeJesus adjourned the meeting at 7:17 P.M.

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Lizbeth DeJesus,  
Council President

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