

**WORKSHOP MEETING
OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS WAS
HELD THIS EVENING IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

Monday, August 8, 2016

Council President Louis Fontana called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the following members present: James Damiano, Pamela Porter, and William Liess. Also present were Mayor Darlene Conti, Township Attorney Jong Soow Nee, Township Administrator Charles Cuccia, and Municipal Clerk Cynthia Kraus.

Absent: Councilmember Joseph Maceri, Township Engineer Dennis Lindsay, DPW Superintendent Philip Simone, and Deputy Registrar Marlene Simone

Township Employees present: Police Chief Steven Post and Fire Chief Jack Sweezy

Following the Salute to the Flag, the Statement of Public Notice was read.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE: Take notice that adequate notice of this meeting was provided in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-10 as follows: A notice of the meeting was prominently posted on the bulletin board at the Municipal Building, located at 225 Main Street, Little Falls, N.J. on January 8, 2016; a copy of the notice was faxed to the North Jersey Herald and News and The Record on the same date; additionally, a copy of the notice was filed in the office of the Township Clerk on said date.

PUBLIC COMMENT – GENERAL MATTERS

It was moved by Councilmember Damiano, seconded by Councilmember Liess, that the meeting be and it was opened to the public.

Poll: Ayes: Damiano, Porter, Liess, and Council President Fontana
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Thomas Paulhus, 123 Montclair Ave, reiterated his previous comment about addressing a curb cut on First Street in the Singac section. He requested the status of the crosswalk placement on Warren Street and Central Avenue.

Bob Dombrowski, 49 Parkway, brought the unkempt condition of the Morris Canal to the Council's attention. He also requested a status report on repairs to his driveway caused by demolition of a neighboring home.

Louis Fernandez, Harrison Street, expressed his gratitude to Mr. Simone for expeditiously fixing the roadway near his street. He also expressed dismay over the receipt of a letter which he provided to Mr. Cuccia regarding complaints about the Fire Chief. He asserted the individual making such accusations should present themselves before the Council with their grievance.

Renea Shapiro, ABC, thanked the Police Department for hosting "Coffee with Cops" at Falls Kitchen and Mr. Simone for preparing the grounds for the Farmers Market and Concerts in the Park. She questioned when residents will be able to pay taxes via credit card and when the Township could move forward with striping the crosswalks throughout the Township. She queried why Councilmember comments to public comments are not included in the Minutes, and made recommendations as to how the minutes should be dated.

It was moved by Councilmember Damiano, seconded by Councilmember Liess, that the meeting be and it was closed to the public.

Poll: Ayes: Damiano, Porter, Liess, and Council President Fontana
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Mr. Cuccia related, in Mr. Simone's absence, that he believed discussion with the County has taken place to address the curb cuts and crosswalk striping. However, Mr. Cuccia will follow-up with Mr. Simone and report back to Council. Councilmember DAMIANO added that the County was sought to do the striping as the County's equipment is more efficacious. The list of crosswalk locations has been provided to the County.

In reference to Mr. Dombrowski's driveway, Mr. Cuccia and Mr. Simone had met with the contractor's representatives to review the damage and repairs at which time a discrepancy arose. A final determination of the outcome is pending.

Mr. Cuccia will discuss the condition of the Morris Canal area with Mr. Simone. Councilmember PORTER stated she had received comments regarding the area as well. In response to Councilmember DAMIANO's query regarding the responsible party for the area, Mr. Cuccia instructed the portion of the park located in Little Falls is the Township's responsibility to maintain.

Council President FONTANA stated he will relay Mr. Fernandez's commendation to Mr. Simone. Mr. Cuccia announced a press release was included on the website regarding the matter concerning the Fire Chief.

Council President FONTANA and Chief Post concurred "Coffee with a Cop" was a success and should continue.

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Mr. Cuccia explained the Township had been ready to move forward with tax payments via credit card, however, the vendor experienced financial difficulties. Another vendor with an established record was sought, however, it was discovered that paying via credit card imposes significant fees to the taxpayer, in some cases \$300-\$400. Therefore, ACH transactions were considered, whereby charges are made directly to an individual's checking account, with fees in the 2.5% range. Councilmember PORTER questioned how other municipalities handle credit card transactions, to which Mr. Cuccia explained the fees to residents are substantial. Upon successful agreement with the bank for ACH charges, and identification of an appropriate vendor to process credit card charges, these new features of tax payment will be implemented.

Mrs. Kraus addressed the issue of Councilmember response to public comment, inviting Mrs. Shapiro to meet with her after Council to indicate where this occurred as her review of the minutes found no such instance. Mr. Cuccia further explained the purpose of the minutes is not to provide a verbatim account but rather an abstract account of events. The Clerk determines what information is deemed for inclusion. The dates of the meetings cannot be changed. Councilmember DAMIANO inserted his understanding of Mrs. Shapiro's comments. Mrs. Kraus will review the dates minutes are posted on the website with Mike Scott and address if necessary.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

ADMINISTRATOR:

1. TAX REFUND RESOLUTIONS-Mr. Cuccia explained these resolutions are routine refunds for tax overpayments.
2. PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE NO. 1261, REGULATING PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON CERTAIN STREETS- Mr. Cuccia stated the public hearing of Ordinance No.1261 is as per the discussion of the July 11, 2016 meeting.
3. PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE NO. 1262, PARKS & RECREATION AMENDMENT- Mr. Cuccia stated that upon review with Mr. Pace, a technical change was made. Background checks were incorporated into the new ordinance such that proper reference was present. At this time, Mr. Cuccia read Section A of the ordinance with the modification. Mr. Cuccia deferred to the Attorney for appropriate procedure due to this modification. Ms. Nee stated that as a technical amendment, a change to the ordinance is not necessary.
4. RE-INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 1245, SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS – Mr. Cuccia announced this ordinance was reviewed by the Planning Board. In response to public comment to include height designations, the manufacturer was contacted, and the verbiage of not more than six inches was incorporated into the ordinance. Council President FONTANA confirmed a minimum height of two inches was specified as well.
5. RE-INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 1246, SMALL WIND ENERGY SYSTEMS – Mr. Cuccia explained this ordinance was also reviewed by the Planning Board, who made no changes to the prior document. Councilmember DAMIANO expressed his hesitation regarding this ordinance as his research on the subject yielded concerns that wind systems can be noisy, and requested applications be reviewed by the Planning Board. Mr. Cuccia explained the ordinance specifies wind systems as a conditional use in all zones, indicating Planning Board review in all cases.
6. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 1263, COAH DEVELOPMENT FEES- Mr. Cuccia stated that this ordinance enables the Township to collect a residential fee of 1.5% of the new assessed value and 2.5% for commercial development. This designation is essential as the Township's prior ordinance did not specify fees to be collected. Fees are to be deposited into the COAH developer's fund as the Township will be responsible for funding a portion of the COAH, alleviating tax payer burden. Mr. Cuccia requested the Council's consideration of this ordinance for introduction at the next meeting.
7. INTRODUCTION OF BOND ORDINANCE NO. 1264, RECREATION CENTER EMERGENCY GENERATOR – Mr. Cuccia recalled the Township received a grant for the generator however, there are some additional costs.
8. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF VETERANS TREATMENT COURTS – Mr. Cuccia explained this resolution requests the courts to consider Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) as a workers compensation situation when it occurs in the military.
9. RESOLUTION APPROVING TEAMSTERS CONTRACT
10. REDEVELOPMENT RESOLUTIONS – Mr. Cuccia highlighted the areas designated in these resolutions include the area around the Overlook building, west of Transit Village on Main Street, Rose Street, and the laundry property. This resolution will enable Mr. Janota to inspect these properties and report back to Council with redevelopment recommendations. Mr. Cuccia emphasized the resolutions do not authorize condemnation of the property.
11. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ASSEMBLY BILL ACR-197-Mr. Cuccia stated this is a supportive resolution at the State level.
12. CHAPTER 159 RESOLUTION FOR MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE- Mr. Cuccia explained this resolution and the Chapter 159 Resolution for a Clean Community are two grants received by the Township. He elaborated how this is relevant to amending the budget after adoption due to revenues offsetting appropriations.
13. DISCUSSION OF PARKING METERS- Mr. Cuccia apprised that the current Township code provides for parking meter locations. He recommended review of the current locations by Mr. Lindsay to determine whether the specified locations are appropriate. Council President FONTANA recommended collaboration with the Police Department as well. In response to Councilmember DAMIANO's query, Mr. Cuccia explained the code can be easily amended in the future.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER:

1. RESOLUTION AWARDDING FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT TO D&M ELECTRICAL FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES – In the absence of Mr. Lindsay, Mr. Cuccia reported the Township received bids for the emergency generator for the Recreation Center. The lowest bid was received by D&M Electrical for \$85,000. Council approval is requested such that installation of the generator can commence.

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COUNCIL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Councilmember DAMIANO referenced information distributed to Councilmembers regarding the grant writing company the Township has agreed to obtain. He noted the amount of grants obtained for the Township from 1995-2000 with the company were \$2.116 million over that time span and \$2.962 million from 2001-2016, when the company was no longer under the Township’s employ. Council President FONTANA clarified the grants received were DOT state grants.

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

It was moved by Councilmember Liess, seconded by Councilmember Porter, that the meeting be and it was opened to the public.

Poll: Ayes: Damiano, Porter, Liess, and Council President Fontana
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Arnold Korotkin, 181 Long Hill Road, questioned why Mr. Cuccia did not address the Resolution Approving the Teamsters Contract on the agenda. He also requested an explanation for the public of the Resolution in Support of Assembly Bill ACR-197 prior to Council vote.

It was moved by Councilmember Porter, seconded by Councilmember Damiano, that the meeting be and it was closed to the public.

Poll: Ayes: Damiano, Porter, Liess, and Council President Fontana
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Mr. Cuccia explained that Agenda Item #9, Resolution Approving the Teamsters Contract, was pulled from discussion as the Teamsters have not ratified their portion, therefore the Council will not be acting on it tonight.

Councilmember DAMIANO reviewed the Resolution in Support of Assembly Bill ACR-197 providing clarification. The purpose of the bill is to evenly allocate funds throughout the state to every single student. Currently, inner city students receive more funding than suburban students. This will represent a significant savings of \$1,535 annually to the average property tax payer.

At this time, Councilmember DAMIANO indicated that the minutes do indeed include responses of Councilmembers. The responses of Councilmembers follow the flow of the meeting and are included after the conclusion of public comment.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was moved by Councilmember Porter, seconded by Councilmember Damiano, that the meeting be and it was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Cynthia Kraus
Municipal Clerk