

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

Monday, February 13, 2017

Council President Anthony Sgobba called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Maria Cordonnier, William Liess, Joseph Maceri, and Chris Vancheri. Also present were Mayor James Damiano, Township Attorney Joe Wenzel, Township Engineer Dennis Lindsay, Township Administrator Charles Cuccia, and Municipal Clerk Cynthia Kraus.

Absent: None.

Township Employees present: DPW Superintendent Phillip Simone, Police Chief Steve Post, Recreation Director John Pace, and IT Support Nelson Serrano.

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 3, 2017; 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 PORTION – GENERAL MATTERS

At this time Council President SGOBBA opened the meeting to the public for comment.

Howard Lipoff, 161 Main Street Apt. F, addressed the Council noting it has been four years since the Council approved the Rent Control Ordinance. He recounted the history of the ordinance, expressed it has benefitted Little Falls residents, and hoped the Council planned to renew the ordinance by the September, 2017 deadline.

Arnold Korotkin, 181 Long Hill Road, brought forth two items that related to the American Disabilities Act. He cited a curb cut at the intersection of Wilmore Road and First Avenue had detectable warnings covered with cement. He referenced regulations indicating the definition and necessity of such detectable warnings. Secondly, Mr. Korotkin indicated ADA accessibility of Inwood Park was to be addressed by the Council. He therefore requested a status update of the review of proposed accessibility improvements that were to occur with a contractor.

Council President SGOBBA requested Mr. Korotkin furnish Mr. Cuccia with a copy of the regulation referenced by Mr. Korotkin.

Mr. Simone responded to the curb cut issue explaining the handicap accessible mat was a glue down mat and had become disengaged during a storm. A concrete face was applied to eliminate the rough surface. The entire slab is scheduled for removal, and a new pad will be reinstalled in the spring.

Mr. Lindsay responded to the status of Inwood Park ADA accessibility. Sketches were prepared to obtain pricing, however, weather conditions prohibited proper review by the contractor. Mr. Lindsay stated his intention to arrange for a contractor to review the area when feasible. Mr. Lindsay to update the Council as information becomes available.

Renea Shapiro, Little Falls ABC, requested an update on the Route 46/3 project.

Mr. Lindsay responded the last contact with the Debbie Hirt, Public Coordinator for the DOT, revealed issues with the foundation of the sound wall, which required attention prior to proceeding with the project. Mr. Lindsay to follow-up with Debbie Hirt for a status report and report back to Council.

Ms. Shapiro also informed the Council the directional arrows at a Municipal lot are not visible and their presence prevents much confusion. Mr. Simone indicated the arrows will be replaced when the weather improves.

Ms. Shapiro questioned whether the brine treatment is effective. Mr. Simone stated this is the first year the Township has used the brine system, and thus far, it has been applied 3-4 times. The purpose of the brine is to break the contact with the snow and ice with the black top. It has been an effective weapon against snow and ice conditions.

Lastly, Ms. Shapiro queried whether the sanitation crew could be required to put the lid into the garbage receptacle per contract. She noted the incidence of missing garbage receptacle lids and receptacles left to roll in the street as a resident concern.

Council President SGOBBA questioned whether Mr. Simone had received complaints about garbage receptacles rolling away. Mr. Simone stated that he does receive some complaints, especially on windy days, however it is difficult to address in those conditions. He stated the workers have been reminded to return the receptacle to the curb. Mr. Simone will review the contract for any content regarding lid receptacles and report back to Council.

Dorothy O' Haire, Turnberry Road, reported the Regional Flood Board met with the Army Corps of Engineers regarding the Peckman River project. The plans are not complete at this time, but to have a plan is reassuring. She

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expressed awareness the Township has completed its requirements for permits but concern over the time period waiting for the permits to be issued.

Council President SGOBBA thanked Mrs. O’Haire for all of her work on the Flood Board. Mayor DAMIANO stated he has met with Mr. Cuccia to discuss the permit issue. Mr. Cuccia has filed all requisite paperwork to obtain the permits with the County. Mayor Damiano planned to contact the County this week to determine what needs to be done next to obtain appropriate approvals. He will report his findings to the Council and Mrs. O’Haire.

Council President SGOBBA requested a voice vote to close the meeting to the public.

Poll: Ayes: Cordonnier, Liess, Maceri, and Council President Sgobba
Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT

Mr. Cuccia presented a brief analysis of the Township’s financial status as of the end of 2016 prior to presentation of the Mayor’s budget for 2017. In Mr. Cuccia’s presentation, he explained the accounting requirements stipulate receivables be offset with reserves, as they are not allowed to go to surplus. Additionally, he elaborated on the Township’s target and regeneration fund balance policy, the purpose of which is to main an appropriate fund balance for cash flow and avail for emergencies. Mr. Cuccia also reviewed the various funds in the trust funds.

PRESENTATION OF MAYOR’S BUDGET

At this time Mayor Damiano presented the 2017 Budget. He highlighted the positive attributes of increased property values and an assessed value. Mayor DAMIANO explained the Teamsters contract negotiations have not been finalized, therefore, estimates were provided and appropriations reserved. Other focal points included: a 1.8% base administrative increase, an administrative position increase from a part time to full time in the Police Department, a collective bargaining increase for Police, review of Firemen pension costs, and discussion of the vehicle acquisition program. Mayor DAMIANO further elaborated on latter, indicating the logic to acquire two vehicles per year. He also discussed the merit of extended warranties for municipal vehicles to reduce repair costs. He indicated the intention to maintain the current level of staff in the Police Department at 28 and thirteen in the DPW. An increase in insurance will also occur in 2017. He discussed the EMS program regarding expense, revenue collection, improved response times and use of data to analyze effectiveness. Mayor DAMIANO announced debt service costs were reduced by \$400,000 due to the refunding bonds as approved by the Council in 2016. Finally, he explained the importance of the capital budget and several areas that comprise it. He concluded by stating that the budget will be forwarded to the Council, noting adding he and Mr. Cuccia are available for questions or comments. Due to the requirement of a 28 day review period, the budget will introduced at the February 27, 2017 meeting with a public hearing and adoption scheduled for March 27, 2017.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Simone for the excellent job of keeping the roads clear due to the recent inclement weather.

ACTION ITEMS:

REGIONAL FLOOD CONTROL BOARD

Township Councilmember (1) – Christopher Vancheri

It was moved by Councilmember Cordonnier, seconded by Councilmember Maceri, to approve the appointment of Councilmember Christopher Vancheri to the Regional Flood Control Board.

Poll: Ayes: Cordonnier, Liess, Maceri, Vancheri, and Council President Sgobba
Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

COUNCIL AD HOC COMMITTEES:

Passaic River Advisory Committee

Township Councilmember CHRISTOPHER VANCHERI

C O N S E N T A G E N D A

All items on the Consent Agenda were considered to be routine and were enacted with a single motion. Any items under REQUISITIONS carried a Treasurer’s certification as to sufficiency of funds.

RESOLUTIONS

Authorizing the Mayor to Sign the Recreation and Open Space Inventory Certification

**RESOLUTION [A] 17-02-13 - #1
RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS, COUNTY OF PASSAIC,
NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE
RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE INVENTORY CERTIFICATION**

WHEREAS, The Recreation and Open Space Inventory (ROSI) is a document compiled by a local government unit as a master list of its Green Acres-restricted lands (known as "parkland" under the Green Acres rules *N.J.A.C. 7:36*). Lands that are subject to Green Acres restrictions cannot be disposed of, or diverted to a use other than recreation or conservation purposes, without the approval of the DEP Commissioner and the State House Commission. The Declaration of Encumbrance, including the ROSI, is recorded with the appropriate county clerk as a condition of the Green Acres funding contract in order to provide notice of the Green Acres restrictions on these lands to title searchers and the general public; and

WHEREAS, as a condition for accepting grants from New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Green Acres Program (1605-11-LBA and 1605-12-053), The Township of Little Falls agreed to provide the required ROSI for the Township; and

WHEREAS, The ROSI is required to be certified by the Planning Board Chairperson and the Chief Executive Officer of the Jurisdiction.

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NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by Municipal Council of the Township of Little Falls, in the County of Passaic, New Jersey that the Mayor is hereby authorized to sign the 2017 ROSI submission that will be sent to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Green Acres Program.
This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Authorizing Submittal of Fiscal Year 2017 Passaic County CDBG Application

**RESOLUTION [B] 17-02-13- #2
RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS,
COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE
SUBMITTAL OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2017 PASSAIC COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION**

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Mayor and Township Council to authorize the submittal of a FY 2017 Passaic County Community Development Block Grant application to the Passaic County Department of Economic Development for the replacement of entry doors in the Little Falls Public Library, that will ensure ADA compliant accessibility;

WHEREAS, at a meeting held February 13, 2017, the Township council of the Township of Little Falls adopted a resolution authorizing the application for and use of funds from the Passaic County Community Development Block Grant Program for activities described in the proposal and, if awarded funds, shall implement the activities in a manner to ensure compliance with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Mayor James Damiano and Township Council of the Township of Little Falls, Passaic County, State of New Jersey, support the application of the Passaic county Community Development Block Grant program.

It was moved by Councilmember Cordonnier, seconded by Councilmember Liess, to approve the Consent Agenda as printed.

Poll: Ayes: Cordonnier, Liess, Maceri, Vancheri, and Council President Sgobba
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Councilmember Maceri requested Mr. Cuccia review protocol for resolution updates related to Resolution A for public knowledge. Mr. Cuccia explained when the Township receives funds from the federal government used for open space, the Township must provide an inventory list to the government. With regard to Resolution A on the Agenda tonight, the Township must update the inventory due to the FEMA flood mitigation program. The inventory was updated to include parcels owned by the Township upon completion of SRL-10, SRL-11, HMGP and RFC programs. The present list has been updated for all of the flood mitigation in terms of acquisition. The requirement stipulates the Council authorize the Mayor to sign that it is the official list. In response to Council President SGOBBA, Mr. Cuccia stated the list would need to be updated again once the SRL-15 program is finalized.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

ADMINISTRATOR:

1. TAX REFUND RESOLUTION – Mr. Cuccia briefly explained that a request will be made at the February 27, 2017 to authorize approval of tax refunds.
2. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE GRANT 2017-2018 – Mr. Cuccia indicated this resolution provides information to the Municipal Alliance Group enabling the Township to obtain the 2017-2018 Municipal Alliance Grant.
3. ORDINANCE REGULATING ELECTRONIC SMOKING OR VAPOR DEVICES- Mayor DAMIANO discussed his recent meeting with an inspector from the Clifton Health Department. As a result, he became aware of a new public health concern regarding liquid nicotine found in e-cigarettes. The ordinance was developed to provide monitoring and limitation by charging a small fee to vendors. Mayor DAMIANO explained the rationale that vendors would be inclined to sell the product only if they had enough volume, were agreeable to obtain a permit, and followed regulations particular to liquid nicotine. Councilmember VANCHERI questioned whether any type of ordinance regarding electronic smoking devices was currently in place. Mayor DAMIANO indicated the Township does not have anything in place, but he believed this is a step in the right direction.

DPW SUPERINTENDENT:

1. REPORT ON PASSAIC COUNTY HIGHWAY OPENING AND USE PERMIT- Mr. Simone explained the annual requirement for the Township to submit a bond to the County for \$30,000 should the Township require any work to be done on County roads.

COUNCIL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Councilmember VANCHERI reported on the Wildlife Committee which met on January 25, 2017 and focused on managing the impact of the deer population. Recommendations of the Committee included: comparison of methods used by neighboring municipalities, collaboration with other municipalities for cost savings, meeting with MSU regarding the impact of recent construction at the University, application and cost of salt blocks, partnering with local landscapers to glean knowledge to prevent destruction of foliage, signage, and various approaches for resident education and feedback. Councilmember VANCHERI stated the Committee has teamed up with the Police Department to review the current ordinance and determine the best method to address violations.

Councilmember CORDONNIER encouraged the idea of Town Halls and resident education regarding the concerns of the deer population. She supported inviting a representative from the medical community as well. At this time, Councilmember CORDONNIER stated she is a member of the following three committees: Open Space Committee, Grant Committee and Transportation Committee. Regarding the Open Space Committee, Mr. Lindsay will provide a recap to the Council as to what grants have been submitted to the County Open Space and what additional grants are in progress. Councilmember CORDONNIER emphasized the grant progress can be a lengthy, therefore long term plans for grants have been discussed. She noted an issue to be addressed is the need for air

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conditioning in the Recreation Center. The Grant Committee convened this week and has been working closely with the Open Space Committee. Councilmember CORDONNIER highlighted that aside from traditional grants, grants are being pursued in the areas of foundation grants and from companies, in an effort to obtain as much funding as possible. Finally, Councilmember CORDONNIER reported on the Transportation Committee. The Committee is scheduled to convene again on February 22, 2017 and Chief Post will be invited. Chief Sweezy will also be invited to a future meeting. Updates will be provided to the Council as information becomes available.

Councilmember LIESS reported on the Senior Advisory Board. He intends to meet with MSU to obtain information and stated the Board proposes to address several new topics over the next few months. The first meeting will be February 14, 2017.

Councilmember MACERI reported the first Domestic Violence Prevention Committee was scheduled for Friday, February 17, 2017. However, feedback from Committee members proved this to be an inconvenient time. The time will be changed and an update will be provided at the next Council meeting. The Technology Committee is scheduled to convene next Thursday with a status report provided at the next Council meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Council President SGOBBA opened the meeting for public comment of Agenda Items only.

Council President SGOBBA requested a voice vote to close the public comment.

Poll: Ayes: Cordonnier, Liess, Maceri, Vancheri, and Council President Sgobba
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

It was moved by Councilmember Cordonnier, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, that the Council approve the following:

RESOLUTION [BL]

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Little Falls the Council having received the Treasurer’s certification of the availability of funds for payment of all bills presented, that payment of all bills approved by the Finance Committee be and is hereby authorized, subject to the availability of funds and subject to the appropriate and available appropriation in the line item.

Poll: Ayes: Cordonnier, Liess, Maceri, Vancheri, and Council President Sgobba
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved by Councilmember Cordonnier, seconded by Councilmember Liess, that the Council approve the following:

RESOLUTION [EX]

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 allows for a Public Body to go into executive session during a Public Meeting; and **WHEREAS**, the Governing Body of the Township of Little Falls has deemed it necessary to go into executive session to discuss certain matters which are exempted for the Public; and

WHEREAS, the regular meeting of this Governing Body with reconvene;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Little Falls will go into executive session for the following reason(s) – pending or anticipated litigation- contract negotiation – no action taken.

Poll: Ayes: Cordonnier, Maceri, Liess, Vancheri and Council President Sgobba
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

The Council entered Executive Session at 8:08 p.m.

At 8:22 p.m. the Council returned and it was moved by Councilmember Maceri, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, that the meeting return to Open Session.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was moved by Councilmember Cordonnier , seconded by Councilmember Maceri, that the meeting be and it was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Cynthia Kraus
Municipal Clerk