

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

Monday, February 13, 2023

Council President Sgobba called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Christine Hablitz, Michael Murphy, Jayna Patel, and Christopher Vancheri. Also present were Township Attorney Joseph Wenzel, Township Administrator Charles Cuccia, Municipal Clerk Cynthia Kraus, and Deputy Clerk Melissa DePiro.

Absent: Mayor James Damiano.

Township Employees present: Police Chief Bryan Prall.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE: Take notice that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-8 and 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 December 27, 2022. A copy of the notice was mailed 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. **A link and a telephone number to join the meeting virtually can be accessed on the Township website at www.lfnj.com. Electronic provisions have been established for the public to participate during the public comment portion of the meeting.**

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING BLACK HISTORY MONTH – At this time, Council President SGOBBA read the Proclamation recognizing February 1, 2023 to March 1, 2023 as Black History Month in the Township of Little Falls.

RECOGNIZING LITTLE FALLS CHEER COMPETITION TEAM – Council President SGOBBA then read a statement summarizing the Cheer Competition Team’s season and noted lighting outside Town Hall was lit in green in honor of the Team. Members of the team were individually recognized and given medals acknowledging their accomplishments.

PUBLIC COMMENT – GENERAL MATTERS AND AGENDA ITEMS

Anyone wishing to address the Township Council may do so through the Council President. It is preferred if you give your name and address for the record. Comments are to be limited to three minutes, however, if appropriate, you may be granted additional time in the sole discretion of the Council President.

Members of the public who have joined the meeting virtually and desire to provide comment shall raise their virtual hand in the Zoom application. The Meeting moderator will queue the members of the public that wish to provide comment and the Council President will recognize them in order. Members of the public who have joined the meeting by calling in must press *6 to mute and unmute themselves and *9 to raise their hand. Members of the public who have joined the Meeting via the Zoom application must click the Reactions icon and then the Raise Hand icon. Please give your name and address for the record. Once the process is complete, we will return to the regular order of business.

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

Poll: Ayes: Hablitz, Murphy, Patel, Vancheri and Council President Sgobba
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

No one having come forward to be heard, it was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Murphy, that the meeting be and it was closed to the public.

Poll: Ayes: Hablitz, Murphy, Patel, Vancheri and Council President Sgobba
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

MAYOR/ADMINISTRATOR:

1. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LICENSURE OF COMPANIES PROVIDING LIGHT DUTY TOWING SERVICES -Chief Prall commented on towing services, the possibility of not utilizing the lottery method in the future, response time and minimal mileage criteria. Mrs. Kraus then explained the lottery process.
2. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LICENSURE OF COMPANIES PROVIDING HEAVY DUTY TOWING SERVICES –Council President SGOBBA reviewed the Resolution.
3. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF ROCK SALT UNDER THE MORRIS COUNTY COOPERATIVE – Per Council President SGOBBA’s request, Mr. Cuccia explained the Morris County Cooperative had the best price and then described the Township’s arrangement with the County.
4. RESOLUTION APPROVING CERTIFIED LIST OF LOSAP ELIGIBLE VOLUNTEER MEMBERS OF THE LFFD- Council President SGOBBA reviewed the Resolution.
5. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LITTLE FALLS PLANNING BOARD AND TOWNSHIP PLANNER TO CONDUCT A MASTER PLAN REEXAMINATION- Council President SGOBBA reviewed the Resolution.

Meeting of February 13, 2023

- 6. RESOLUTION APPOINTING VINCENT QUATRONE AS ALTERNATE FUND COMMISSIONER AND ALTERNATE SAFETY DELEGATE TO THE SUBURBAN ESSEX JIF AND THE MUNICIPAL ESSEX LIABILITY JIF- Council President SGOBBA reviewed the Resolution.

ACTION ITEMS:

It was moved by Councilmember Murphy, seconded by Councilmember Hablitz, to approve Resolutions A through G:

Licensure of Companies Providing Light Duty Towing Services-

**RESOLUTION [A] 23-02-13 - #1
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE LICENSURE OF COMPANIES PROVIDING ROTATIONAL LIGHT TOWING SERVICES
IN THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 249 of the Code of the Township of Little Falls for Light Duty Towing and Storage Services, the Township was required to obtain applications for light towing services for the year 2023-2024 cycle, in accordance with the adopted Code; and

WHEREAS, the Township received five submissions in response to the solicitation from JML, Inc., J&M Heavy Tow, LLC, Raven Towing & Recovery, Inc., Camp Auto & Truck Parts, Inc. and Criger Service, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 249 of the Code of the Township of Little Falls, a lottery is required to be held when more than four applications are received in order to determine which four applications will be on the towing rotation; and

WHEREAS, the lottery produced the following results:

- JML, Inc.
- Raven Towing, LLC
- J&M Heavy Tow, LLC
- Camp Auto & Truck Parts, Inc.; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following light towers shall be issued a license for light towing services:

LIGHT TOWING SERVICES

- JML, Inc.
- Raven Towing, LLC
- J&M Heavy Tow, LLC
- Camp Auto & Truck Parts, Inc.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following light duty towing and storage service application is hereby rejected: Criger Service, Inc.

Licensure of Companies Providing Heavy Duty Towing Services

**RESOLUTION [B] 23-02-13 - #2
RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS, COUNTY OF PASSAIC,
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE LICENSURE OF COMPANIES PROVIDING ROTATIONAL HEAVY
DUTY TOWING AND STORAGE SERVICES**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 249 of the Code of the Township of Little Falls for Heavy Duty Towing and Storage Services, the Township was required to obtain applications for heavy towing services for the year 2023-2024 cycle, in accordance with the adopted Code; and

WHEREAS, the Township received four submissions in response to the solicitation from

JML, Inc., J&M Heavy Tow, LLC, Raven Towing & Recovery, Inc. and Camp Auto & Truck Parts, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the submissions were reviewed by the Police Chief and the Township Clerk for technical sufficiency and by the Township Attorney for legal sufficiency; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS, PASSAIC COUNTY, NEW JERSEY hereby authorizes the licensure of the following companies for Heavy Duty Towing and Storage Services: JML, Inc., J&M Heavy Tow, LLC, Raven Towing & Recovery, Inc. and Camp Auto & Truck Parts, Inc.

Purchase of Rock Salt Under Morris County Cooperative

**RESOLUTION [C] 23-02-13 - # 3
ACCEPTING BID AND AWARDING CONTRACT FOR THE VENDORS LISTED BELOW FOR THE 2023 WINTER PRODUCTS
UNDER MORRIS COUNTY COOPERATIVE PURCHASING
CONTRACT PERIOD OCTOBER 15, 2022 THROUGH OCTOBER 14, 2023**

WHEREAS, the Morris County Purchasing Agent has advised that pursuant to advertising duly made, bids were received by the County of Morris as lead agency for the Cooperative Pricing System for the furnishing and delivery of

Bulk Rock Salt,

for the Contract period October 15, 2022 to October 14, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Morris County Cooperative as lead agency, based on review of bids and the resulting recommendation, has awarded a master contract for this commodity; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Little Falls wishes to participate in the master contract for the purchase of **WINTER PRODUCTS** because the price under the contract is lower than the prices quoted to the Township by other suppliers; and

WHEREAS, the Township Treasurer has provided a Certification of the Availability of Funds pursuant the Local Finance Board; and the appropriation to be charged for this expenditure is Department of Public Works Other Expenses;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Little Falls as follows:

- 1) That the following bids be awarded for purchases to be made on an as-needed basis:

Morton Salt

Bid: \$92.89 per ton

the award being based upon the unit price; and payment to be made based upon the unit price multiplied by the quantities, be and the same is hereby accepted; and

- 2) That the Mayor and Clerk be and they are hereby authorized to execute a Contract for the purchase of the within designated goods at the bid price hereinabove cited.

Certified List of LOSAP Eligible Volunteers

**RESOLUTION [D] 23-02-13 - #4
TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS
PASSAIC COUNTY NEW JERSEY
APPROVING CERTIFIED LIST OF LOSAP ELIGIBLE VOLUNTEER MEMBERS OF THE LITTLE FALLS VOLUNTEER FIRE
DEPARTMENT**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Little Falls, that the attached certified list of volunteer members of the Little Falls Volunteer Fire Department eligible to participate in the Little Falls Length of Service Award Program is hereby approved.

Authorizing Master Plan Reexamination

**TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS
RESOLUTION [E] 23-02-13 - #5
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PLANNING BOARD OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS AND THE TOWNSHIP
PLANNER TO CONDUCT A PERIODIC REEXAMINATION OF THE MASTER PLAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
REQUIREMENTS OF N.J.S.A. 40:55D-89**

WHEREAS, the Municipal Land Use Law (the “MLUL”) at N.J.S.A. 40:55D-89 requires that the governing body shall, at least every ten (10) years, provide for a general reexamination of its Master Plan and development regulations by the Planning Board; and

WHEREAS, the MLUL further requires that the Planning Board prepare and adopt by resolution a report on the findings of such reexamination; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Little Falls, Passaic County, New Jersey desires to authorize the Planning Board of the Township of Little Falls (the “Planning Board”) to conduct a general reexamination of the Borough’s Master Plan and development regulations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-89.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Little Falls as follows:

1. The Planning Board and the Township Planner are hereby authorized and directed to conduct a Master Plan reexamination in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 40:55D-89 and other relevant provisions of the MLUL.
2. The Planning Board and the Township Planner are hereby directed to prepare and adopt by resolution a report on the findings of such reexamination in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 40:55D-89 and other relevant provisions of the MLUL. A certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded by the Township Clerk to the Planning Board, the Planning Board Secretary, the Construction Code Official and the Zoning Officer of the Township of Little Falls.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Appointment of Vincent Quatrone as Alternate Fund Commissions and Alternate Safety Delegate

**RESOLUTION [F] 23-02-13 - #6
APPOINTING VINCENT QUATRONE AS ALTERNATE COMMISSIONER AND ALTERNATE SAFETY DELEGATE TO THE
SUBURBAN ESSEX MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND AND THE
MUNICIPAL EXCESS LIABILITY JOINT INSURANCE FUND**

WHEREAS, the Township of Little Falls has resolved to join the Suburban Essex Municipal Joint Insurance Fund and the Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund; and

WHEREAS, the By-Laws of said Funds require that a Commissioner and Safety Delegate to said Funds be appointed by the Mayor with the Advice and Consent of the Council; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor has recommended the appointment of Vincent Quatrone as Alternate Commissioner and Alternate Safety Delegate to said Funds;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Little Falls, County of Passaic, New Jersey, that Vincent Quatrone is hereby appointed as Alternate Commissioner and Alternate Safety Delegate to the Suburban Essex Municipal Joint Insurance Fund and the Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund.

Bill List

RESOLUTION [G]23-02-13 - #7

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: Hablitz, Murphy, Patel, Vancheri and Council President Sgobba
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 1449 - It was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Murphy, that there be introduced and the meeting of March 13, 2023 set as the date for the public hearing of the following:

**ORDINANCE NO. 1449
ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS IN THE COUNTY OF
PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING THE TOWNSHIP CODE CHAPTER 71 FEES**

WHEREAS, the Township of Little Falls (“Township”) is a public body corporate and politic of the State of New Jersey; and
WHEREAS, the Township’s Code of General Ordinances (“Code”) currently provides for the regulation of its Fees in the Township;
WHEREAS, the municipal council (“Municipal Council”) of the Township has determined to amend Chapter 71 of the Code entitled Fees; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Council has determined to amend said Chapter of the Code as follows:
71-2 Fees Schedule
Chapter 143 Parks and Recreation Facilities

Bike Rodeo Sponsorship
Gold - \$500.00
Silver - \$250.00
Bronze - \$150.00

136. XI. Consistency, Severability and Repealer

- A. If any provision or portion of a provision of this ordinance is held to be unconstitutional, preempted by Federal or State law, or otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions of the ordinance shall not be invalidated.
- B. All ordinances or parts of ordinances, which are inconsistent with any provisions of this ordinance, are hereby repealed as to the extent of such inconsistencies.
- C. No provision of this ordinance shall be construed to impair any common law or statutory cause of action, or legal remedy there from, of any person for injury or damage arising from any violation of this ordinance or from other law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Municipal Council of the Township of Little Falls, Passaic County, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The aforementioned recitals are incorporated herein as though fully set forth at length.
2. The Municipal Council hereby amends Chapter 71 of the Code entitled Fees of the Code of the Township of Little Falls.
3. It is the intent of the Municipal Council to incorporate the additions and/or supplements contained in this Ordinance in to the Code. All of the remaining provisions in Chapter 71 of the Code entitled Fees of the Code shall remain unchanged and have full force and legal effect. All other ordinances enacted and inconsistent herewith are hereby modified pursuant to the terms of this Ordinance.

Meeting of February 13, 2023

- 4. If any section, paragraph, subdivision, clause, sentence, phrase or provision of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Ordinance.
- 5. A copy of this Ordinance shall be available for public inspection at the offices of the Township Clerk.
- 6. This Ordinance shall take effect after twenty (20) days of its final passage by the Municipal Council, upon approval by the Mayor and publication as required by law.

Poll: Ayes: Hablitz, Murphy, Patel, Vancheri and Council President Sgobba
Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

COUNCIL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Councilmember PATEL provided a public health update for the month of January 2023 and announced the Clifton Health Department will be at the Library to answer questions and share information on February 23rd. Councilmember PATEL noted the public health survey is still in process and reported about 75 respondents have answered the survey thus far.

Councilmember HABLITZ announced the Library’s upcoming events including a Cookbook Club on February 16th, Yarn Lovers on February 21st, and the Book Club on March 7th and 8th. The Friends of the Library will convene on February 21st and still seek members. Councilmember HABLITZ reported the Open Space Committee convened and reviewed plans for Wilmore Park. Lastly, registration for Breakfast with the Bunny is being accepted at this time through Community Pass.

Councilmember VANCHERI provided a Transportation Committee update and discussed the addition of a crosswalk near Wilmore Road, the new traffic safety complaint form, new speed radars, and the Francisco Avenue traffic light. Councilmember VANCHERI announced planning has begun for the Autism Awareness month flag raising in April and for the Memorial Day Parade. Lastly, he announced the offering of CPR classes for residents and coaches.

Councilmember MURPHY provided a Domestic Violence Prevention Committee update including a meeting with representatives from the Passaic County Domestic and Sexual Violence Center to discuss available resources.

Council President SGOBBA highlighted activities planned for the Valentine’s Day Dancing and Dessert event on February 14th sponsored by the Senior Advisory Committee followed by the next event on March 17th for St. Patrick’s Day. Council President SGOBBA then read a letter from the Mayor to residents near Stanley Street, Ridge Avenue, and the surrounding areas concerning the former PNC bank and new Township parking lot. The letter announced a Town Hall Meeting on February 28th to discuss the future of the new municipal parking lot located along Stevens Avenue and Stanley Street.

At this time, Chief Prall encouraged residents to follow the Police Department on social media and to utilize the traffic safety complaint form. Chief Prall reviewed the status and availability of radar sites and methods to address pedestrian safety. Lastly, Chief Prall reviewed the DWI grant and enforcement. Chief Prall responded to Council President SGOBBA’s query regarding funding of signs, and Councilmember VANCHERI’s query regarding the 25mph speed limit throughout the Township.

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Anyone wishing to address the Township Council may do so through the Council President. It is preferred if you give your name and address for the record. Comments are to be limited to three minutes, however, if appropriate, you may be granted additional time at the sole discretion of the Council President.

Members of the public who have joined the meeting virtually and desire to provide comment shall raise their virtual hand in the Zoom application. The Meeting moderator will queue the members of the public that wish to provide comment and the Council President will recognize them in order. Members of the public who have joined the meeting by calling in must press *6 to mute and unmute themselves and *9 to raise their hand. Members of the public who have joined the Meeting via the Zoom application must click the Reactions icon and then the Raise Hand icon. Please give your name and address for the record. Once the process is complete, we will return to the regular order of business.

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

Poll: Ayes: Hablitz, Murphy, Patel, Vancheri and Council President Sgobba
Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Steve Lenox – owner/publisher of TAPinto Passaic Valley, discussed the goal of TAPinto to provide information on the happenings in the Township.

No one further having come forward to be heard, it was moved by Councilmember Murphy, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, that the meeting be and it was closed to the public.

Poll: Ayes: Hablitz, Murphy, Patel, Vancheri and Council President Sgobba
Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Meeting of February 13, 2023

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Hablitz, that the meeting be and it was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Cynthia Kraus
Municipal Clerk