

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

Monday, June 11, 2018

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

Absent: Township Engineer Paul Przybylinski

Township Employees present: DPW Superintendent Phillip Simone and Police Chief Steven Post.

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. 10:4-10 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 2, 2018. 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 Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Seber, that the meeting be and it was opened to the public.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Kathy Albanese, 85 Houston Road, on behalf of the Great Notch Association, read a petition addressed to the Council and Mayor requesting installation of speed bumps on Houston Road to deter speeding.

At this time, Council President SGOBBA, temporarily recused his position as Council President to Councilmember Cordonnier during this portion of the public comment. He indicated his membership in the Great Notch Association may pose a conflict of interest.

Ms. Albanese provided background and rationale for the development of the petition. Councilmember CORDONNIER requested Ms. Albanese furnish Mr. Cuccia with the petition. Councilmember CORDONNIER described her understanding of speeding issues within the Township as former Chairperson of the Transportation Committee. She noted there are several remedies to reduce speeding. Councilmember VANCHERI stated the Transportation Committee has worked with Chief Post, Corporal Moncato, and residents through social media, to identify areas within the Township where there have been an increase in speeding. Councilmember VANCHERI stated a meeting with the Police Chief, Administrator, DPW Superintendent, Mayor, and the Council President is slated to map out what can be done from a Township street standpoint, as well as with some lingering issues involving the County. He further noted that construction projects and apps such as Waze have led drivers to use streets as a cut thru street. Some solutions are the 25 mph speed change throughout the Township as well as more signage. Chief Post stated the Police Department has had a presence in the area Houston Road. Councilmember CORDONNIER queried whether a traffic study could be conducted on Houston Road. She also asked for Chief Post's perspective on speed humps. Mr. Wenzel interjected to clarify that the Chief's role is in the arena of enforcement of the laws that the Council and State enact. Mr. Cuccia added that the Township can request the Township Engineer prepare standards for the roadway in conjunction with a traffic study for comparison. Councilmember CORDONNIER requested Councilmember VANCHERI follow-up and present different options to alleviate the speeding issue on Houston Road.

Arnold Korotkin, 181 Long Hill Road, thanked the Great Notch Association for their involvement. Mr. Korotkin requested clarification on the difference between speed humps and speed bumps. He also suggested the Council reach out to Montclair Councilpersons to determine how residents responded to proposals to put traffic measures in place in their municipality.

Mr. Korotkin questioned how many warnings or citations were given out during the Township's Click It or Ticket program run during May 21, 2018 and June 3, 2018. He also queried whether officers assigned to this program were on overtime or whether it was part of their regular assignment. Council President SGOBBA stated he will follow-up and respond to Mr. Korotkin's query.

Mr. Korotkin also queried whether are there any updates regarding traffic accident reports, specifically with regard to reports of traffic accidents along Francisco Avenue at the intersection of Wilmore and Cedar Grove roads, as well as any other Township intersection with five or more reported accidents during any given calendar year. Council President SGOBBA stated that the information on Francisco Avenue and Wilmore Road is currently under review. He believed there have been more than five accidents at that intersection. Councilmember VANCHERI stated that with regard to that intersection, there have been additional requests from the County that must be completed by the Police Department, in addition to information already provided. Mr. Korotkin discussed his request for data on accidents on roads in the Township that have had five or more accidents within the year. Council President SGOBBA stated he will look into it and get back to him.

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Mr. Korotkin requested a status report on the School No. 1 parking lot proposal. Mayor Damiano stated the parking lot is not on the table for completion this year. He is not sure it is necessarily being considered at this time.

Mr. Korotkin asked for an update for the proposed municipal parking lot on Stanley Street with respect to the purchase of additional homes and the PNC parking lot. Council President stated there is nothing pending with the PNC parking lot at this point and therefore nothing to comment on at this time.

Renea Shapiro, 163 East Main Street, Little Falls ABC, invited everyone to the first Farmer’s Market and Concert in the Park on June 28, 2018. Council President SGOBBA thanked Ms. Shapiro for her efforts on these events. He also noted that he did an inspection of Wilmore Road with Mr. Simone to review accommodations for handicap parking. He believes there will be two spots for handicap parking. Ms. Shapiro announced that anyone with a handicap or difficulty walking can double park at 6:30 pm near the gazebo and will be escorted.

Dorothy O’Haire, Turnberry Road, requested an update on the culvert on Wilmore Road. Mayor Damiano stated Mr. Simone looked at the culverts after one of the last storms. All the tributaries to the river are completely clean and empty. Mr. Simone stated one of the tributaries is very narrow. He did take pictures upon his inspection and everything was clean. It appears that when the water is leaving the culvert that it is eroding out in front of it, but the actual structure seems to be sound. Ms. O’Haire asserted that the erosion is a major problem. Mayor Damiano responded to Ms. O’Haire’s concern. He also described measures being taken such as purchasing a track hoe with Woodland Park to remove the debris. Ms. O’Haire referred to the Army Corps. of Engineer’s Plan 10B, stating it does not cover erosion. She further indicated she had a letter to them regarding erosion control. At Council President’s SGOBBA’s request, Mayor Damiano clarified that he and Mayor Kazmark each authored letters to the Army Corps. of Engineers prior to the June deadline. Mayor Damiano highlighted the contents of his letter. Mayor Damiano explained the track hoe is essentially an excavator that will be used to remove shoals and debris caused from erosion from flash floods. He described the process of debris removal in detail. Ms. O’Haire then stated there is a severe erosion problem at Tulip Gardens and was told it was a public safety issue.

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

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

ACTION ITEMS:

RESOLUTIONS

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

Award for Purchase of Recycling Packer Truck

RESOLUTION [A] 18-06-11-#1

WHEREAS, the Township of Little Falls has a need to purchase a new recycling cardboard compactor truck; and
WHEREAS, the Township is a member of the National Joint Powers Alliance Cooperative Purchasing (NJPA), and would like to purchase a compactor truck under the NJPA Contract#112014-LEG; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the purchase of a new recycling cardboard compactor truck under NJPA Contract#112014-LEG be approved through the following vendor:

Sanitation Equipment Corp.
80 Furler Street
Totowa, New Jersey 07512

In the amount of \$210,872.60

Filmmaking Permit

RESOLUTION [B] 18-06-11 #2

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF FILMMAKING PERMIT

WHEREAS, Sirens Media has submitted an application for a filmmaking permit in the Township of Little Falls; and

WHEREAS, filming took place at 101 E Main Street, Little Falls, NJ 07424 on Thursday, June 7, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Sirens Media submitted a Certificate of Insurance for this purpose, and paid the required application fees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council does hereby approve the issuance of a filmmaking permit to Sirens Media.

Bill List

RESOLUTION [C] 18-06-11 #3

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.

Councilmember Seber requested clarification on Resolution B as to why the film permit already occurred. Mr. Cuccia described the instances in which ratification in this case would occur.

Councilmember CORDONNIER questioned whether the recycling truck is a new truck or a refurbished truck. Mr. Simone explained the new truck will replace a 1998 Mack truck. The old truck will be placed on auction.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

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ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

ADMINISTRATOR:

1. CHAPTER 159 RESOLUTION FOR MUNICIPAL COURT ALCOHOL EDUCATION REHABILITATION AND ENFORCEMENT FUND GRANT – Mr. Cuccia stated this resolution adds a revenue and expenditure to the 2018 budget. The Township received a Municipal Court Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation and Enforcement Fund grant of \$10,252.54 and would like to add that to the budget by resolution at the June 25, 2018 Meeting.
2. TAX REFUND RESOLUTIONS – Mr. Cuccia stated resolutions will be presented for Council approval at the June 25, 2018 Regular Meeting that involve overpayments and decisions of state courts on state tax court judgments.
3. RESOLUTION TO EXTEND THE DUE DATE FOR THIRD QUARTER TAX PAYMENTS – Mr. Cuccia reviewed the rationale for extension of the third quarter tax payments due to the manner in which 10th of August falls, and to allow payment up until the 13th of August.

COUNCIL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Councilmember VANCHERI reported the Memorial Day on May 26, 2018 was successful and thanked everyone who supported it. On June 8, 2018 Little Falls Night was held at Jackals Stadium in conjunction with the Little Falls Athletic Club and Little Falls ABC. Members of the LFAC sports team were able to march on the field and some players were baseball buddies. Council President SGOBBA threw out the first pitch. It was nice to see everyone from the Township come out. Councilmember VANCHERI reported the Boy Scouts have been working with the DPW Superintendent to finish painting the storage container now located at the DPW yard. The Transportation Committee will meet later this month and an additional meeting will take place as mentioned earlier to address local and County issues.

Councilmember LIESS reported he attended the Passaic County Senior Services meeting which convenes at the Department of Senior Services in Totowa. Issues related to seniors are discussed and later reported in the individual towns.

Councilmember CORDONNIER announced June 14, 2018 is Flag Day. In addition, the Second Annual Block Party will take place on Paterson Avenue and will be sponsored by the Township and the Little Falls Business Association. She provided details of the many activities planned and encouraged everyone to attend.

Councilmember SEBER reported the Municipal Alliance will participate in “A Day of Prevention” held by the Passaic County Municipal Alliance at William Paterson University on June 14, 2018. All the work Little Falls has done will be shared with other towns. On June 20, 2018 the Municipal Alliance will host a free photo booth for the eighth grade end of the school year party, and include a picture frame that states “Picture me drug free.” The Municipal Alliance will also partake in the Fourth of July Street Fair. On August 7, 2018 the Municipal Alliance will take part in the National Night Out in collaboration with the Police Department. Lastly, the Municipal Alliance is planning an event in October called “Hidden in Plain Sight,” which will be hosted by Passaic Valley High School and include all three municipalities.

Per the request of Council President SGOBBA, Mr. Simone detailed construction being done by the State on Route 23 as part of the road reconstruction project. Mr. Simone is in the process of obtaining a plan for residents to review. He will attempt to talk to the State to discuss areas where he feels the sidewalk needs to be replaced. Current plans include replacement of all the handicap ramps along with some sidewalks and some curbing, commencing in Verona through Little Falls, and then up to Wayne.

At the Mayor’s request, Council President SGOBBA provided a follow-up report on the Old Police Station. Council President SGOBBA recounted his tour of the Old Police Station today with another engineer that specialized in old buildings, and was given an estimate of \$1.6 million. Council President SGOBBA then recounted his daughter’s recent trip to the recycling center and commended the helpfulness of the recycling employee who provided assistance.

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

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

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Arnold Korotkin, 181 Long Hill Road, questioned what refurbishment of the Old Police Station would entail. Council President SGOBBA stated refurbishment would include ensuring that the walls were sound, and that everything else would have to be redone to make it usable. Secondly, Mr. Korotkin stated the flagpole in front of the Civic Center is in need of repainting and requested it be addressed. Council President SGOBBA requested Mr. Simone look into it.

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

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved by Councilmember Seber, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, 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 will 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) – litigation.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

The Council entered Executive Session at 7:55 p.m.

At 8:06 p.m. the Council returned and it was moved by Councilmember Seber, 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 Seber, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, that the meeting be and it was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Cynthia Kraus
Municipal Clerk