

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

Monday, June 13, 2022

Council President Sgobba called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Christine Hablitz, Albert Kahwaty, and Christopher Vancheri. Also present were Mayor James Damiano, Township Attorney Joseph Wenzel, Township Engineer Tom Lemanowicz, Township Administrator Charles Cuccia, Municipal Clerk Cynthia Kraus, and Deputy Clerk Melissa DePiro.

Absent: Councilmember Tanya Seber.

Township Employees present: Deputy 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 March 11, 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 UNICO- At this time, Mayor Damiano invited members of UNICO to the podium and read the Proclamation recognizing the 50 year anniversary of the Passaic Valley Chapter of UNICO.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING NEW JERSEY JACKALS – Mayor Damiano then read the Proclamation recognizing the NJ Jackals 25th anniversary.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE GIRL POWER ROBOTICS TEAM – At this time, Mayor Damiano invited the Girl Scouts to the podium to receive a medal, read the Proclamation recognizing the Girl Power Robotics Team and congratulated the team on winning the Core Value Award.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING PRIDE MONTH - The Mayor announced the annual Pride flag raising occurred on June 1, 2022. Mayor Damiano then read a Proclamation recognizing June 2022 as LGBTQ Pride month in the Township of Little Falls.

PUBLIC COMMENT – GENERAL MATTERS

Anyone wishing to address the Township Council may do so through the Council President. Please 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 Kahwaty, seconded by Councilmember Hablitz, that the meeting be and it was opened to the public.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Luis Fernandez- 54 Harrison Street, made comments regarding the statement read by Deputy Chief Prall at the last Meeting. Councilmember KAHWATY and Councilmember VANCHERI responded to Mr. Fernandez's concern. Mayor Damiano explained how the liaison helps bridge a gap in a group that has experienced discrimination. Mr. Fernandez made an inquiry regarding former Fire Chief Jack Sweezy. Council President SGOBBA stated the Council cannot comment. Mr. Wenzel agreed with Council President Sgobba and advised the Council not to comment as the complaint filed continues to be a personnel matter and matter of litigation. Mayor Damiano responded former Chief Sweezy presented his allegations to the Township which the Township will defend.

John Veteri, 110 Ridge Avenue, thanked the Mayor and Council for their assistance with the planting event that occurred on Zelif Avenue and Woodcliff Avenue on June 3, 2022.

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

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

MAYOR/ADMINISTRATOR:

1. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS FOR FIRE ALARM SYSTEM FOR THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING COMPLEX – Mayor Damiano explained the fire alarm system needs updating and that this Resolution requests the Council’s permission to go out to bid.
2. RESOLUTION AWARDED CONTRACT FOR MAIN STREET STREETScape SECTION 4 PROJECT (MAPLE STREET TO PATERSON AVENUE) – The Mayor explained this Resolution is to continue the streetscape down Main Street. The Township has funding from Van Ness Avenue to Union Avenue, which will bring curb appeal to the Downtown with new curbs, streetlights, and signage. Additionally, the project is almost entirely funded by a grant from the NJDOT. Council President SGOBBA requested the Mayor provide the Council with the number of grants awarded for the streetscapes. The Mayor elaborated on the amount of monies the grant writers have obtained in grants compared to the fee charged for grant writing services.
3. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING INSERTION INTO 2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION – CLICK-IT-OR-TICKET-GRANT – Mayor Damiano stated this Resolution authorizes \$7000 to be inserted into the budget.
4. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING INSERTION INTO THE 2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION – DISTRACTED DRIVING GRANT - Mayor Damiano stated this Resolution authorizes \$7000 to be inserted into the budget.
5. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING INSERTION INTO THE 2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION – SAFE CORRIDORS GRANT – The Mayor was pleased to report the Safe Corridor Grant has increased to \$64,366. In response to Councilmember VANCHERI and Councilmember KAHWATY, Deputy Chief Prall spoke to the importance of the grants in promoting public safety and confirmed the reimbursement nature of the grants.

ACTION ITEMS:

It was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Hablitz, to approve Resolutions A through F:

Advertisement of Bids for Fire Alarm System

RESOLUTION [A] 22-06-13-#1

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS, COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO SOLICIT COMPETITIVE BIDS FOR THE ALARM SYSTEM FOR THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING COMPLEX

WHEREAS, the Township desires to improve the alarm system at the Municipal Building Complex in the Township of Little Falls, and

WHEREAS, the Township administrator shall prepare bid specifications and plans to accomplish these improvements;

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

The Township authorizes the Township Administrator to advertise for project bids and provide the Township Council with the results of said bids once received, in accordance with New Jersey Statutes, in anticipation of a contract award for these purposes.

Award of Contract for Main Street Streetscape Section 4

RESOLUTION [B] 22-06-13-#2

ACCEPTING BID AND AWARDED CONTRACT FOR THE MAIN STREET STREETScape SECTION 4 PROJECT

WHEREAS, pursuant to advertising duly made, bids were received by the Township of Little Falls on May 27, 2022 for the Main Street Streetscape Section 4 project (Maple Street to Paterson Avenue), and the bids were opened and read publicly as follows:

Grade Construction	Zuccaro, Inc.	AA Berns, LLC
Bid: \$385,572.40	Bid: \$594,200.00	Bid: \$390,429.00

And, **WHEREAS**, the Township Attorney has reviewed the bids for legal sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, award is subject to the Availability of Funds and certification of same in the 2022 budget; and

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

- 1) That the bid of
 - Grade Construction
 - 10 Pennsylvania Avenue
 - Paterson, NJ 07505

in the amount of

\$385,572.40

be and the same is hereby accepted; and

- 2) That the Mayor and Clerk be and they are hereby authorized to execute a Contract in a form approved by the Township Attorney for the designated services at the bid price hereinabove cited, subject to the successful Contractor’s filing and required form of Affirmative Action compliance and Payroll Certification for Public Works Projects; and
- 3) That the Clerk be and is hereby authorized and directed to return to the unsuccessful bidder(s) and Certified checks and/or Bid Bonds received from them as surety with the exception of the surety received from the second-lowest bidder, which shall be retained for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days or until a contract in a form satisfactory to the Township Attorney shall have been executed with the low bidder, whichever shall come first.

Special Item of Revenue & Appropriation – Click-It-Or-Ticket-Grant

**TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS
PASSAIC COUNTY NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION [C] 22-06-13-#3**

SPECIAL ITEMS OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION

WHEREAS, NJS 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of an special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by the law and the amount was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, the Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for equal amount;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Council of the Township of Little Falls in the County of Passaic, New Jersey, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2022 in the sum of \$7,000.00, which is now available from Miscellaneous Revenues – Section F – Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with prior written consent of Director of Local Government Services – Public & Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations NJ Department of Law and Public Safety SFY22 Click-It or-Ticket Grant.

Meeting of June 13, 2022

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the like sum of \$7,000.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption:
General Appropriations

- A. Operations – Excluded from “CAPS”
Public & Private Programs Offset by Revenues
NJ Department of Law and Public Safety
SFY22 Click-It or-Ticket Grant \$7,000.00

Special Item of Revenue & Appropriation – Distracted Driving Grant

**TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS
PASSAIC COUNTY NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION [D] 22-06-13-#4
SPECIAL ITEMS OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION**

WHEREAS, NJS 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of a special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by the law and the amount was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, the Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for equal amount;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Council of the Township of Little Falls in the County of Passaic, New Jersey, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2022 in the sum of \$7,000.00, which is now available from Miscellaneous Revenues – Section F – Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with prior written consent of Director of Local Government Services – Public & Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations NJ Department of Law and Public Safety SFY22 Distracted Driving Grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the like sum of \$7,000.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption:
General Appropriations

- A. Operations – Excluded from “CAPS”
Public & Private Programs Offset by Revenues
NJ Department of Law and Public Safety
SFY22 Distracted Driving Grant \$7,000.00

Special Item of Revenue & Appropriation – Safe Corridors Grant

**TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS
PASSAIC COUNTY NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION [E] 22-06-13-#5
SPECIAL ITEMS OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION**

WHEREAS, NJS 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of a special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by the law and the amount was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, the Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for equal amount;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Council of the Township of Little Falls in the County of Passaic, New Jersey, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2022 in the sum of \$64,366.00, which is now available from Miscellaneous Revenues – Section F – Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with prior written consent of Director of Local Government Services – Public & Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations NJ Department of Law and Public Safety SFY22 Safe Corridors Grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the like sum of \$63,366.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption:
General Appropriations

- A. Operations – Excluded from “CAPS”
Public & Private Programs Offset by Revenues
NJ Department of Law and Public Safety
SFY22 Safe Corridors Grant \$64,366.00

Bill List

RESOLUTION [F] 22-06-13 - #6

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, Kahwaty, Vancheri and Council President Sgobba
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

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

APPLICATIONS

RAFFLE, PASSAIC VALLEY BAND ASSOCIATION, ON-PREMISE, 50/50, 09/17/22, 9:00 P.M., 100 EAST MAIN STREET, LITTLE FALLS

RAFFLE, OUR LADY OF THE HIGHWAY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #3835, MERCHADISE RAFFLE, 12/4/22, 1:00 P.M., 473 MAIN STREET, LITTLE FALLS

RAFFLE, SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION POST #108, ON-PREMISE 50/50, 6/30/22, 4:00 P.M.- 8:00 P.M., 591 MAIN STREET, LITTLE FALLS

CORRESPONDENCE

REQUEST FROM PASSAIC VALLEY BAND ASSOCIATION FOR PERMISSION TO CONDUCT A CAN SHAKE FUNDRAISER ON 11/4/22 AND 11/5/22 AT THE INTERSECTION OF MAIN STREET AND UNION AVANUE BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8:00 A.M. AND 4:00 P.M.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Meeting of June 13, 2022

NEW BUSINESS

COUNCIL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Councilmember HABLITZ announced the Library will host the Passaic County Clerk's office on June 23rd who will offer passport services, notary oath and renewals and free veteran ID cards. The Library will present a Super Hero Story Time on June 27th. Councilmember HABLITZ congratulated the Girl Scouts on their achievements. She and her fellow Councilmembers supported the Families Behind the Badge event this past weekend where all funds raised went to the State PBA fund for fallen officers and families who lost officers in the line of duty. Lastly, at the Farmers Market, the Library will kick off their summer reading program and Mr. Pullara and the Cool Beans band will provide entertainment.

Councilmember KAHWATY congratulated the Girl Scouts and the Little Falls Police Department for their participation in their events. Councilmember KAHWATY joined Superintendent Marinelli at her Talk a Latte event and encouraged residents to attend these informal meetings where concerns can be heard. He then announced Water Day will be held on July 23rd and on July 27th the Movie Nights will commence. Councilmember KAHWATY honored all fathers in recognition of Father's Day and expressed his condolences to Councilmember Hablitz on the recent passing of her father.

Councilmember VANCHERI discussed the possibility of expanding robotics programs in the Township. He recalled the Families Behind the Badge event this weekend and reported on the success of the Memorial Day weekend activities. He then thanked Commissioner Lepore and Sheriff Berdnik for attending the Pride Flag raising and recalled Little Falls Night and the anniversary of the NJ Jackals. Councilmember VANCHERI noted a few residents on Park Place contacted him regarding placement of a stop sign. Lastly, he remarked on all the happenings at the Recreation Department.

Council President SGOBBA spoke on the Memorial Tree program and noted that the memorial bronze tributes are ready to be installed for three trees on Zeliff Avenue. He also announced the Senior Advisory Committee will have program with Jack Zuckerman on falling and injury prevention on June 29th.

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Anyone wishing to address the Township Council may do so through the Council President. Please 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 Hablitz, seconded by Councilmember Kahwaty, that the meeting be and it was opened to the public.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Luis Fernandez – Requested the Council's assistance with repair of potholes near Union Avenue and Furler Street. Councilmember VANCHERI will follow-up.

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

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Deputy Chief Prall reported there will be a PBA event on community policing at the 4th of July Street Fair.

At this time, Township Engineer Tom Lemanowicz commented on ongoing projects and timelines for completion.

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 8:00 p.m.

Cynthia Kraus
Municipal Clerk