

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

Monday, May 8, 2017

Council President Anthony Sgobba called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with the following members present: Marc Benitez, Maria Cordonnier, William Liess, 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: DPW Superintendent Philip Simone

Township Employees present: Police Chief Steve Post

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 COMMENT – GENERAL MATTERS

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

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

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

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

PROCLAMATION HONORING THE PASSAIC VALLEY YOUTH GIRLS BASKETBALL LEAGUE – At this time, Mayor Damiano invited the members of the Passaic Valley Girls Youth Basketball team to join him as he presented each member with a proclamation. In return, the team presented the Mayor with a signed basketball.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION – At this time, the Mayor read the Proclamation for Mental Health Awareness Month.

The Mayor encouraged residents to clean up the area around their homes and businesses on May 20, 2017 in an effort to beautify the Township.

The Mayor announced he received a letter from Mayor Hector Lora of Passaic, who expressed gratitude for support from the Little Falls Fire Department regarding a mutual aid response on 112 Gregory Avenue on April 15, 2017.

ACTION ITEMS:

Council AD-Hoc Committees: Councilmember Benitez read the addition of a Community Member to the Domestic Violence Committee.

Domestic Violence Committee - Council President appoints

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES (1) Kevin Wronko

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 1286 - It was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Cordonnier, that the public hearing of Ordinance No. 1286, “**BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION AND DEMOLITION OF FLOOD-PRONE PROPERTIES IN THE SINGAC SECTION FOR FLOOD MITIGATION AND OPEN SPACE PURPOSES, IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS, IN THE COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE A FEDERAL GRANT, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS,**” be and it was opened.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

No one further having come forward to be heard, it was moved by Councilmember Cordonnier, seconded by Councilmember Liess, that the public hearing on the Ordinance No. 1286 be and it was closed.

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

Meeting of April 3, 2017

The Council President declared the motion passed.

It was moved by Councilmember Cordonnier, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, that the Ordinance No. 1286 be and it was adopted.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Ordinance No. 1287 - It was moved by Councilmember Liess, seconded by Councilmember Cordonnier, that the public hearing of Ordinance No. 1287, **“BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE UNDERTAKING OF THE 2017 ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS, IN THE COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$300,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS,”** be and it was opened.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

No one further having come forward to be heard, it was moved by Councilmember Cordonnier, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, that the public hearing on the Ordinance No. 1287 be and it was closed.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

It was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Liess, that the Ordinance No. 1287 be and it was adopted.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Ordinance No. 1288 - It was moved by Councilmember Liess, seconded by Councilmember Liess, that the public hearing of Ordinance No. 1288, **“BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE UNDERTAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF NEW ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY, IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS, IN THE COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$375,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS,”** be and it was opened.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

No one further having come forward to be heard, it was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Benitez, that the public hearing on the Ordinance No. 1288 be and it was closed.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

It was moved by Councilmember Cordonnier, seconded by Councilmember Liess, that the Ordinance No. 1288 be and it was adopted.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Ordinance No. 1289 - It was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Liess, that the public hearing of Ordinance No. 1289, **“BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE UNDERTAKING OF A PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT AND THE ACQUISITION OF NEW AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLES, INCLUDING ORIGINAL APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT, IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS, IN THE COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$465,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS,”** be and it was opened.

Poll: Ayes: Benitez, Cordonnier, Liess, Vancheri, and Council President Sgobba

Meeting of April 3, 2017

Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

No one further having come forward to be heard, it was moved by Councilmember Benitez, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, that the public hearing on the Ordinance No. 1289 be and it was closed.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

It was moved by Councilmember Cordonnier, seconded by Councilmember Liess, that the Ordinance No. 1289 be and it was adopted.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Ordinance No. 1290 - It was moved by Councilmember Liess, seconded by Councilmember Cordonnier, that the public hearing of Ordinance No. 1290, "**BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION OF NEW ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY, IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS, IN THE COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$50,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS,**" be and it was opened.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

No one further having come forward to be heard, it was moved by Councilmember Benitez, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, that the public hearing on the Ordinance No. 1290 be and it was closed.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

It was moved by Councilmember Benitez, seconded by Councilmember Cordonnier, that the Ordinance No. 1290 be and it was adopted.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Ordinance No. 1291 - It was moved by Councilmember Cordonnier, seconded by Councilmember Liess, that the public hearing of Ordinance No. 1291, "**AN AMENDING ORDINANCE OF THE LITTLE FALLS CODE IN THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS, PASSAIC COUNTY, AS AMENDED AND INCORPORATED UNDER RENT CONTROL IN CHAPTER 178, ELIMINATING THE SUNSET PROVISION OF THE CODE SECTION 178,**" be and it was opened.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

No one further having come forward to be heard, it was moved by Councilmember Benitez, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, that the public hearing on the Ordinance No. 1291 be and it was closed.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

It was moved by Councilmember Liess, seconded by Councilmember Benitez, that the Ordinance No. 1291 be and it was adopted.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Ordinance No. 1292 - It was moved by Councilmember Benitez, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, that the public hearing of Ordinance No. 1292, "**ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS, IN THE COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING VARIOUS TOWNSHIP CODE CHAPTERS IN ORDER TO AMEND MUNICIPAL COURT VIOLATIONS,**" be and it was opened.

Poll: Ayes: Benitez, Cordonnier, Liess, Vancheri, and Council President Sgobba

Meeting of April 3, 2017

Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

No one further having come forward to be heard, it was moved by Councilmember Liess, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, that the public hearing on the Ordinance No. 1292 be and it was closed.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

It was moved by Councilmember Benitez, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, that the Ordinance No. 1292 be and it was adopted.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

ADMINISTRATOR:

1. ESTIMATED TAX BILLS – Mr. Cuccia stated he will request the Council’s approval on the estimated tax bills at the Regular Meeting scheduled for June 22, 2017. While the Township budgetary process has been completed, the County will not formalize its budget until such time as the State adopts its budget. This will in effect, be past the Township’s due date of August 1 for the collection of the 3rd Quarter real estate taxes. Mr. Cuccia explained this procedure has been done in the past and any adjustments would be reflected in November. Additionally, Mr. Cuccia announced a resolution will be presented at the June 22, 2017 Regular meeting for Council approval to allow the mortgage processing companies to wire their funds as opposed to paper checks. This process will be more efficient.
2. MORNINGSIDE CIRCLE IMPROVEMENTS- Mr. Lindsay summarized Morningside Circle improvements which included: pipe work, new curbs, paving, restoration of surfaces, and landscaping. Backyard areas that were impacted by previous pipes were corrected. Issues in connection with sprinkler systems are on a punch list that continues to be addressed and monitored. Mr. Lindsay stated that funds are reserved should they be needed due to sprinkler systems or sparse areas that require reseeding. The final completion cost was approximately 8% higher than the original bid due to change in conditions, obstruction with sanitary sewer lines in the way of the new drainage pipe, and change in quantities for excavation and replacing backfill, etc. In addition, there other items that were required during the course of the work including: unanticipated conditions, restoration of driveways, PSE&G assistance to relocate the line, and restoration of a sink hole caused by the municipal pipeline that was being replaced. Per the request of Council President SGOBBA, Mr. Lindsay explained the why the project was undertaken and the rationale for method in which it was conducted.
3. PVHS TRACK LEASE AGREEMENT – Mr. Cuccia stated the Township is supporting the PVHS grant for the track. The County had requested the Township prepare a lease agreement, which Mr. Wenzel had overseen. Mr. Wenzel stated the school board approved it on their end and is awaiting the Township’s formal approval and execution.

COUNCIL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Councilmember BENITEZ highlighted the initiatives of the Domestic Violence Prevention Committee which included collaborating with the Technology Committee to add resource links to the Township website. Additionally, the Committee has partnered with the superintendent of schools to raise awareness at the youth level, as well as the Clifton DVRT (Domestic Violence Response Team), and Chief Post who provided stats and insight on domestic violence.

Councilmember CORDONNIER reported the Transportation Committee will convene on Monday, May 15, 2017. She announced the Township and the Mayor received television and newspaper coverage with regard to the proposed speed limit change to 25 mph Township-wide. The Committee has also discussed proposals for upgrading and adding new crosswalks which have been reviewed with Mr. Cuccia and discussed with Superintendent Marinelli. Councilmember CORDONNIER announced the Little Falls Business Association will host their monthly meeting at Town Hall on Wednesday, May 10, 2017 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm, which will be a Meet and Greet.

Councilmember LIESS reported the Senior Advisory Board will have an ice cream social on May 17, 2017 at the Civic Center. There will also be a special program at 10:00 am on June 21, 2017 at the Civic Center presented by medical professionals. The Committee is in the process of preparing activities for the Fall. Councilmember LIESS highlighted the efforts of the Parade Committee thus far and commended the efforts of those involved.

Councilmember VANCHERI announced the Technology Committee had a kick off meeting with Q-scend Technology to discuss plans for the upgraded Township website. The plan to carry out the four phase project yields an anticipated go live date in July. Councilmember VANCHERI reported the Passaic River Flood Advisory Board will meet tomorrow to finalize recommendations to present to the Mayor and will include replacement of the flood gates for the Beattie dam. Councilmember VANCHERI also explained that FEMA has a community rating system which offers discounts off flood insurance from 20-45%. The Committee is researching methods to save money for residents. Lastly, Councilmember VANCHERI stated the Wildlife Committee plans to present recommendations to the Mayor to add signage to raise awareness of the deer population. The Committee has reached out to the County to request the addition of signage for County areas as well. The Committee continues to collaborate with the DPW and a local resident to develop methods to ward off geese.

Meeting of April 3, 2017

At this time, Councilmember CORDONNIER stated she has been approached by residents concerned with properties rented to MSU students. She reviewed the various detriments associated with rentals to students including noise, litter, parking and reduction in property values. She encouraged residents to call the Police if there is an issue and noted there are several ordinances in place that address rental properties, noise, and parking. She expressed her preference for the Council to explore this in more detail. Mr. Cuccia explained the Council had passed an ordinance in 2015 that was modeled against the Belmar ordinance that addresses length of properties and the amount of square feet allowed per person. However, he identified the need for a good execution plan. Mr. Cuccia requested Mr. Wenzel review and counsel on steps to implement the ordinance effectively.

Councilmember CORDONNIER requested Council feedback and that the ordinances be mailed to landlords and provided to renters upon a new lease agreement. Council President SGOBBA stated the Council and Mr. Cuccia will review the issue and bring back for discussion at the next Council meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

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

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Arnold Korotkin, 181 Long Hill Road, thanked the Mayor Mental Health Awareness Month proclamation. Mr. Korotkin also requested the Township website provide links for the ordinances to be discussed at meetings such that residents could prepare for public comment. He thanked Mr. Simone and the DPW for installing the orange detectable warning on the curb ramp on Wilmore Road adjacent to Memorial Park. Additionally, Mr. Korotkin requested a status report on the ramp for Inwood Park, specifically whether a start and completion date has been established.

Mr. Lindsay stated he received a price from a contractor which was over the value of the work. Mr. Simone had reached out to another individual for a price. Mr. Lindsay to follow-up with Mr. Simone and provide a status report.

Mr. Korotkin questioned why the Little Falls tax increase for the 2017-2018 school budget is double that of the other two sending municipalities.

Councilmember CORDONNIER responded that she and Council President SGOBBA are meeting with the School Business Administrator to review the formula as to how each Township's rate is derived. Councilmember CORDONNIER will report on this at the next meeting.

Mr. Korotkin questioned the status resuming video recordings of Township meetings and whether video recordings of Council meetings are currently being aired on PVTV. Mrs. Kraus explained the Township has switched to a new vendor as there was an issue with the previous vendor with regard to the video recordings. The new vendor is to provide another link for the Township to make video recordings available. Mayor Damiano stated as soon as that is provided, the Township hopes to have recordings online again. The Mayor also discussed the possibility of live video streaming, a feature which he has discussed with Councilmember Vancheri as Chairman of the Technology Committee. In response to Mr. Korotkin's query, Councilmember VANCHERI explained that the Technology Committee is in the process of determining how to obtain archived meeting videos as well.

Mr. Korotkin discussed the availability of health inspection reports on the Township website. He suggested a list of businesses with an unsatisfactory rating be listed at a minimum. He also requested the health inspection section of the Township website be corrected with respect to the NJ Sanitary Code link in addition to the Council re-visiting the posting of health inspection results.

Mayor DAMIANO responded that the issue that had been discussed in the past regarding the conditional satisfactory designation. The Mayor elaborated that although the food may be completely up to par, a conditional satisfactory listing may indicate something that can be easily and quickly remedied. Mr. Cuccia also added that an unsatisfactory designation could also be swiftly cleared up and highlighted the significance of understanding the timeframe. Council President SGOBBA stated the issue will be reviewed by Council.

Raymond Kostroski, 170 Donato Drive, requested that upon adoption, the rental ordinance be posted in the Passaic Valley Toady to notify residents. He also listed several properties within the Township that require property maintenance. Council President SGOBBA requested Mr. Kostroski furnish Mr. Cuccia with the property locations for follow-up and resolution.

Dorothy O'Haire, 89 Turnberry Road, questioned Ordinance No. 1286 and stated she had recently read that Little Falls would pursue elevations. She added that the Flood Board worked on the mitigation plan to generate elevations not demolitions. She also emphasized that the CRS program is a worthwhile undertaking.

Mayor Damiano elaborated upon Ordinance 1286. He explained that each year the municipality had to apply, and was granted, a sum of money for elevations or demolitions. He stated that in the most recent year, the only permitted application of the funds was to demolitions.

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

Meeting of April 3, 2017

Poll: Ayes: Benitez, Cordonnier, Liess, 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 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 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) – contract negotiations and personnel.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

The Council entered Executive Session at 8:04 p.m.

At 8:49 p. m. the Council returned and it was moved by Councilmember Cordonnier, seconded by Councilmember Benitez, 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 Vancheri, that the meeting be and it was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Cynthia Kraus
Municipal Clerk