

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

Monday, May 9, 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 Administrator Charles Cuccia, Municipal Clerk Cynthia Kraus, and Deputy Clerk Melissa DePiro.

Absent: Councilmember Tanya Seber.

Township Employees present: Deputy Police Chief Bryan Prall and Recreation Director John Pace.

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.**

LYME DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION - At this time, Mayor Damiano read the Proclamation recognizing May 2022 as Lyme Disease Awareness Month in the Township of Little Falls.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION – Mayor Damiano read the Proclamation recognizing the month of May 2022 as Mental Health Awareness Month in the Township of Little Falls.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING JALEESA AL-KASSEM OF MO & JAY’S PASTRY – Mayor Damiano read the Proclamation recognizing Jaleesa Al-Kassem and congratulated her as a finalist on Food Network’s #1 Champion on the Spring Baking Championship.

At this time, Mayor Damiano provided an update on traffic issues in the Township. The Mayor stated he noticed a substantial downtick in cars particularly along Main Street at the intersections of Stevens Avenue and Union Avenue as a result of an update in traffic light timing, which has allowed additional traffic to flow east and west on Main Street and Union Avenue. The Mayor further noted the Township does not have the authority to change the timing of the traffic light at Route 23 and Main Street as it is a DOT intersection. A virtual conference was held with the DOT whereby the DOT outlined a series of steps that can be taken, including a visual impact study, a traffic study if warranted, and an update of the traffic light timing.

Mayor Damiano then announced Shoprite donated over \$22,000 to install a new scoreboard at the Sports and Recreation Complex. The smaller scoreboard will also be replaced through a donation of over \$12,000 by Schumacher Chevrolet.

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, expressed his gratitude for actions taken with regard to his complaint at a prior Meeting. Mayor Damiano reiterated should residents have a concern, to reach out to the Mayor to have it addressed.

Bill Leonard -384 Main Street, requested information on affordable housing in the Township. Mayor Damiano explained that as soon as the mechanism is set up in which applicants can apply for these units, it will be made available through the LFNJ website. There will be 43 affordable units will be created within the development. The Mayor emphasized that they are affordable not subsidized housing, meaning the units are offered at a reduced rate

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compared to similar market rate units. Councilmember KAHWATY requested clarification that the units are for rent not for sale.

Luis Fernandez – requested clarification that the development under discussion is the Singac redevelopment to which Mayor Damiano confirmed.

John Pace – Director of Recreation, announced 634 individuals signed up for spring sports, the Tri Town Fishing Tournament in Woodland Park is approaching, and summer camp starts July 5th.

No one having come forward to be heard, it was moved by Councilmember Kahwaty, seconded by Councilmember Hablitz, 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 PEDESTRIAN PLAZA IMPROVEMENTS - Mayor Damiano explained the area in back of the Municipal Building will be renovated to facilitate holding outdoor events and to enhance pedestrian safety. As the Council had previously authorized funding to complete this project, this resolution authorizes the advertisement for bids.
2. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF INTERNATIONAL 4X6 ROLL OFF TRUCK – Mayor Damiano discussed this item during the budget presentation and elaborated on the need of which that became apparent after Hurricane Ida. The Mayor explained the truck to be purchased is universal so it can manage any dumpster placed on the Township streets. As this item was included in the budget, this resolution’s purpose is to approve the purchase.

ACTION ITEMS:

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

Resolution Authorizing Advertisement for Bids for Pedestrian Plaza Improvements

RESOLUTION [A] 22-05-09- #1

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS, COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP CLERK TO ADVERTISE FOR RECEIPT OF BIDS FOR MUNICIPAL BUILDING PEDESTRIAN PLAZA IMPROVEMENTS

WHEREAS, it is necessary to approve the advertisement for receipt of bids;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the governing body of the Township of Little Falls that the Township Clerk is hereby authorized to place a notice of bid for the above referenced services in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:11.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Township be and is hereby authorized to certify the within resolution and that the provisions thereof are in conformity with the provisions of law.

Authorizing Purchase of International 4X6 Roll Off Truck

RESOLUTION [B] 22-05-09- #2

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS, COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A INTERNATIONAL 6x4 ROLL OFF TRUCK

WHEREAS, the Township of Little Falls pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:34-6.2 (b) 3, may by resolution and without advertising for bids, purchase any goods or services through the use of nationally recognized and accepted cooperative purchasing agreement that has been developed utilizing a competitive bidding process by another contracting unit within the State of New Jersey or within any other state; and

WHEREAS, the qualified purchasing agent and the department head have determined that utilizing a National Cooperative contract program will meet the Township’s needs for the required vehicle and that it is more cost effective for the Township to purchase said vehicle through the National Cooperative contract program; and

WHEREAS, the statutorily required compliance contract forms will be utilized for this purchase, including a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that the company has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Little Falls or it’s elected officials in the previous year; and

WHEREAS, as required by law, the contract with the company will prohibit the company from making any such reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the chief financial officer has determined that funds are available in the appropriate Capital Ordinance for this purpose. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the governing body of the Township of Little Falls (“Township”) as

follows:

1. The aforementioned recitals are incorporated herein as though fully set forth at length.
2. The Governing Body hereby authorizes the Qualified Purchasing Agent to utilize the National Cooperative contract program/Sourcewell Co-Op #060920-NVS to purchase from AT Northern New Jersey LLC the 2023 HV613 SBA International Roll off Truck with related accessories.
3. The total purchase price of the 2023 2023 HV613 SBA International Roll off Truck with related accessories shall not exceed \$219,994.39
4. The Business Disclosure Entity Certification and Determination of Value shall be maintained on file with this resolution.
5. A copy of this resolution and said contract shall be available for public inspection at the office of the Township Clerk.
6. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Township be and is hereby authorized to certify the within resolution and that the provisions thereof are in conformity with the provisions of law.

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Bill List

RESOLUTION [C] 22-05-09 - #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.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance No.1436 - It was moved by Councilmember Kahwaty, seconded by Councilmember Hablitz, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS, IN THE COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 7, TRAFFIC, SECTION 29, HANDICAPPED PARKING" be and it was opened.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

As no comments from the public were received, it was moved by Councilmember Kahwaty, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, that the public hearing on Ordinance No. 1436 be and it was closed.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

It was moved by Councilmember Hablitz seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, that Ordinance No. 1436 be and it was adopted.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

COUNCIL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Councilmember VANCHERI announced the Tri Town Fishing Tournament is at 7:30 a.m. on June 4th. Other upcoming events include a Pride flag raising on June 1st, Little Falls Night on June 3rd and the 25th anniversary of the Jackals on June 4th. Councilmember VANCHERI then reviewed Memorial Day Weekend events.

Councilmember HABLITZ recalled the success of the annual Shred It event. Library events include a virtual event on paying for college on May 11th and Happy Hour Yoga starting on May 17th. Councilmember HABLITZ announced the Farmers Market will start on May 22nd. Lastly, she praised Councilmember KAHWATY for a successful viewing party for Mo and Jays.

Councilmember KAHWATY then commented on the viewing party for Mo and Jays. He announced that the Little Falls Business Association will hold a Block Party at the intersection of Paterson Avenue and Main Street on June 21st. Councilmember KAHWATY encouraged residents to look out for the Domestic Violence Prevention Committee members at upcoming events and emphasized they are available to provide information. Lastly, Councilmember KAHWATY noted PVHS was awarded a drone at the Passaic County Think Festival and School #1 will hold their TREPS program tomorrow.

Council President SGOBBA announced the Senior Advisory Committee will have their annual ice cream social on May 18th at the Civic Center.

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

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No one further 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.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was moved by Councilmember Hablitz, seconded by Councilmember Kahwaty, that the meeting be and it was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Cynthia Kraus
Municipal Clerk