

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

Monday, February 10, 2020

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

Absent: DPW Superintendent Phillip Simone.

Township Employees present: Police Chief Steve Post, Police Administrative Assistant Steve Maye, and Director of Recreation 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. 10:4-10 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 9, 2020. 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.

At this time, Steve Maye, Coordinator for the Municipal Alliance, provided a synopsis of the presentation on Vaping to be given to parents at Passaic Valley High School on Wednesday, February 12, 2020. The event is sponsored by the Little Falls, Totowa, and Woodland Park Municipal Alliance and is free of charge.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING LITTLE FALLS JUNIOR HORNETS CHEER SQUADS – Mayor Damiano presented the Proclamation to the Fourth Grade and Under Squad and the Eighth Grade and Under Squad for a successful competitive season. He further recognized February 10, 2020 as Little Falls Junior Hornets Cheer Day in the Township of Little Falls.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE LITTLE FALLS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION- Mayor Damiano recognized the Little Falls Business Association with a Proclamation for all the hard work and dedication to developing community activities and events in the Township.

At this time, Mayor Damiano requested a short recess prior to continuing with the remainder of the Workshop Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT – GENERAL MATTERS

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

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Andrew Baggot, 78 Franklin Road, Denville, owner 105/107 Main Street, requested more detail on the PNC lot, further information on the remaining process, and commented on the lot behind A Taco Affair. The Mayor responded that final stages of negotiations for acquisition of the PNC are in process. The three homes on Stanley Street have been purchased and are hoped to be included into one large parking area. An exact timeline could not be provided at this time. The Mayor explained the remaining process. Mayor Damiano is awaiting confirmation of a definitive answer from the owner of the property behind A Taco Affair. Council President SGOBBA expressed his disagreement with Mr. Baggot's statement regarding the owner's knowledge of the parking plan and potential purchase of the lot.

Luis Fernandez, 54 Harrison Street, discussed having a Proclamation to recognize and appreciate the work of the Police Department. The Mayor stated he frequently expresses his thanks to the Police Department and believes they understand the support of the Mayor and Council. Council President SGOBBA suggested perhaps officers who had outstanding performance for a specific situation could be brought before the Council Meetings for recognition once during the year. Councilmember KAHWATY added that when an officer is hired or promoted the Mayor remarks of his appreciation for the Police Department.

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

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

MAYOR/ADMINISTRATOR:

1. FLOOD ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – Mayor Damiano explained the highlighted changes were made to meet the requirements of the DEP, FEMA, and Community Rating System (CRS).

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- 2. RESOLUTION APPROVING LIST OF LOSAP ELIGIBLE VOLUNTEER MEMBERS OF THE LFFD – Mayor Damiano indicated approval occurs on an annual basis so that the individuals can receive their length of service eligibility and the contribution from the municipality each year.
- 3. SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH WOODLAND PARK FOR EXCAVATOR – Mayor Damiano thanked Ms. O’Haire for her hard work in acquiring the excavator and discussed the importance of the excavator to the Township. He added that this is a written agreement that will replace the verbal agreement with Woodland Park.

ACTION ITEMS:

RESOLUTIONS

It was moved by Councilmember Cordonnier, seconded by Councilmember Kahwaty, that the following be approved:

Bill List

RESOLUTION [A] 20-02-10 - #1

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.

**Township of Little Falls
RESOLUTION [B] 20-02-10 - #2**

WHEREAS, an emergent condition has arisen in that the Township is expected to enter in contracts, commitments or payments prior to the 2020 budget and no adequate provision has been made in the 2020 temporary budget for the aforesaid purposes, and

WHEREAS, N.J.S. 40A:4-20 provides for the creation of an emergency temporary appropriation for said purpose, and

WHEREAS, the total emergency temporary appropriation resolutions adopted in the year 2020 pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 96, P.L. 1951 (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20) including this resolution total \$750,875.77

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Little Falls, in the County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, (not less than two-thirds of all the members thereof affirmatively concurring) that in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20:

- 1. Emergency temporary appropriations be and the same are hereby made in the amount of \$750,875.77 as follows:
Judgements Tax Appeal Refund \$750,875.77
- 2. Said emergency temporary appropriations will be funded through a refunding bond ordinance.
- 3. That one certified copy of this resolution be filed with the Director, Division of Local Government Services.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 1377- It was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Kahwaty, that the public hearing on Ordinance No. 1377, “**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 280, ENTITLED, “ZONING” ARTICLE XIV INDUSTRIAL (I) DISTRICT,**” be and it was opened.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Andrew Baggot, 78 Franklin Road, Denville, owner 105/107 Main Street, questioned whether those individuals directly affected by the ordinance have been notified. Mayor Damiano responded that there is no direct contact with anyone in the light industrial zone. All public notices have been property posted and there has been adequate proper notice. Mr. Wenzel explained that whenever there is a change to an ordinance with regard to a zoning district there is no personal notice required. He further elaborated on the standard.

No one further having come forward to be heard, it was moved by Councilmember Cordonnier, seconded by Councilmember Kahwaty, that the public hearing on Ordinance No. 1377 be and it was closed.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

It was moved by Councilmember Cordonnier, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, that the Ordinance No. 1377 be and it was adopted.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

COUNCIL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Councilmember KAHWATY announced that the Green Fair and a Farmers’ Market will be held on April 18, 2020 at the Recreation Center. The Domestic Violence Prevention Committee will be participating in several Township events this year.

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Councilmember VANCHERI discussed the Transportations Committee's plan to hold Town Hall style meetings to allow the opportunity for residents to have a dialogue with the Council regarding the proposal for speed humps and four way and three way stop signs. A meeting with PVHS officials, Chief Post and Council President SGOBBA was held to address parking for senior students at the high school as to discourage parking on the Township streets. The Committee is also researching ordinances that discourage blocking the box in traffic intersections. Councilmember VANCHERI announced a concert in the park is being planned the day before the Memorial Day parade, and Little Falls Night Out will be held on June 26, 2020.

Councilmember CORDONNIER highlighted several events added to the Senior Advisory Committee's calendar, including Dessert and Dancing on March 13, 2020. The Committee is hoping to host one or two Lunch and Learn Programs a month with an upcoming event on Elder Law on March 18, 2020. Councilmember CORDONNIER announced the new senior bus is almost ready to go. Lastly, she emphasized the importance of having everyone counted in the upcoming 2020 Census and discussed her role on the Complete County Count Committee as part of the initiative for the 2020 Census. In response to Council President SGOBBA, the Mayor stated the Senior Bus will be decorated and be on the road soon.

Councilmember SEBER thanked Mr. Maye for his presentation regarding the upcoming event to educate parents on Vaping, and encouraged support of the Municipal Alliance. A Town-wide garage sale will be held on May 2-3, 2020, and consideration is being given to start a Town Farmers Market in the spring and fall.

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

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

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Luis Fernandez, 54 Harrison Street, questioned whether the Little Falls Night Out turn out would be affected by holding it on a Friday. Councilmember VANCHERI responded with a rationale for the holding the Night Out on a Friday. In response to Mr. Fernandez, Council President SGOBBA stated the Department Heads do not have to give notice to the Council of their meeting attendance. Regarding Ordinance No. 1341, Mr. Fernandez asked whether Mr. Baggot's questions would be answered at a public comment for general matters. Council President SGOBBA explained the meeting process for questions.

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

Poll: Ayes: Cordonnier, Kahwaty, Seber, 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 Kahwaty, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, that the meeting be and it was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Cynthia Kraus
Municipal Clerk