

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

Monday, February 8, 2021

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

Absent: None.

Township Employees present: Police Chief Steve 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 6, 2021. 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. **This meeting is being conducted under the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 health situation. No public will be allowed to attend the meeting in person. A link and a telephone number to join the meeting 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 BLACK HISTORY MONTH- At this time, Mayor Damiano read the Proclamation recognizing February 1 through February 28, 2021 as Black History Month.

PUBLIC COMMENT – GENERAL MATTERS

Members of the public who 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. 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 Vancheri, that the meeting be and it was opened to the public.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Luis Fernandez, 54 Harrison Street, submitted queries regarding 75 Harrison Street, a solicitors' permit, and follow-up from the Township Attorney regarding a request made at a previous meeting. In regards to 75 Harrison Street, Mayor Damiano stated the current operator of the building is continuing to complete a closing on the building. Mayor Damiano addressed the canvassing permit. Due to the absence of Mr. Wenzel, Council President Sgobba indicated Mr. Wenzel will be directed to contact Mr. Fernandez.

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, Seber, Vancheri, and Council President Sgobba
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

MAYOR/ADMINISTRATOR:

1. POLICE DIVISION TABLE OF ORGANIZATION ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – Mayor Damiano explained the rationale of the Amendment of increasing the number of sergeants to nine, in order to ensure that the structure of the Police Department is maintained.
2. FEE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT - Mayor Damiano stated the Amendment is an update to address the fees to as there have been many improvements throughout the Township.

Mayor Damiano announced that future meetings will be moved to the Zoom platform. The Mayor thanked the Council for the approval of the new, digital sign at the Recreation Center, and commented on the Pixellot system which allows residents to watch games without physically being present. Mayor Damiano discussed the past and upcoming snowstorms, and thanked the DPW for their hard work in clearing the roads and the Fire and Police Departments for responding to a recent fire in Town. He encouraged residents to clear fire hydrants near their homes. Due to the recent snowstorms, the Mayor has received phone calls from elderly residents concerning snow removal, prompting a potential new program, Snow Angels, whereby individuals help those who need assistance. Mayor Damiano highlighted the frustration of individuals attempting to obtain the COVID-19 vaccination, noting recent discussions regarding the concerns, and encouraged residents to continue to sign up and be patient. Lastly,

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the Mayor reminded that the annual budget is being prepared for presentation at upcoming meetings, noting there will be shortfalls in various departments due the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

ACTION ITEMS:

It was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Kahwaty, to approve Resolutions A and B.

Approving the Transfer of Plenary Retail Consumption License

**TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS
PASSAIC COUNTY NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION [A] 21-02-08 - #1**

WHEREAS, an application has been filed for a Person-to-Person Transfer of Plenary Retail Consumption License Number 1605-33-004-001, heretofore issued to First Russian National Home of Singac NJ, Inc. in Little Falls, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the submitted application form is complete in all respects, the transfer fees have been paid, and the license has been properly renewed for the current license term; and

WHEREAS, the applicant is qualified to be licensed according to all standards established by Title 33 of the New Jersey Statutes, regulations promulgated thereunder, as well as pertinent local ordinances and conditions consistent with Title 33; and

WHEREAS, the applicant has disclosed and the issuing authority reviewed the source of all funds used in the purchase of the license and the licensed business and all additional financing obtained in connection with the licensed business;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Little Falls Township Council does hereby approve, effective February 5, 2021, the transfer of the aforesaid Plenary Retail Consumption License to Woodhull Crossing, Inc., and does hereby direct the Township Clerk/A.B.C. Board Secretary to endorse the license certificate to the new ownership as follows: "This license, subject to all its terms and conditions, is hereby transferred to Woodhull Crossing, Inc., with a mailing address at 14 Sigtim Drive, Little Falls, NJ 07424, effective February 5, 2021.

Bill List

RESOLUTION [B] 21-02-08 - #2

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.

In response to Council President Sgobba, Mr. Minnella discussed plans for the First Russian National Home and thanked Mrs. Kraus for her assistance.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 1392 - -It was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Kahwaty, that the public hearing on Ordinance No. 1392, "**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS, IN THE COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO AMEND CHAPTER 7 (ON-STREET REGULATIONS), STOP INTERSECTIONS, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS,**" be and it was opened.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

As no emails from the public were received for comment, it was moved by Councilmember Seber, seconded by Councilmember Kahwaty, that the public hearing on Ordinance No. 1392 be and it was closed.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

It was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Kahwaty, that the Ordinance No. 1392 be and it was adopted.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Ordinance No.1398 - It was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Kahwaty, that there be introduced and the meeting of March 8, 2021 set as the date for the public hearing of the following:

**ORDINANCE NO. 1398
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS, ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT SECTION 3.7.7 POLICE DIVISION (F) TABLE OF ORGANIZATION OF DIVISION;**

WHEREAS, the Township of Little Falls ("Township") is a public body corporate and politic of the State of New Jersey; and
WHEREAS, the Township's Code of General Ordinances ("Code") currently provides for the establishment of a Police Division; and
WHEREAS, the municipal council ("Municipal Council") of the Township has determined to amend 3.7.7, of the Code entitled Division of Police; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Council has determined to amend said Chapter of the Code to read as follows:

F.
Table of organization of division; work week.

(1)

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Table of organization. The regular members of the division will consist of a Chief, three Lieutenants, ~~seven~~ nine Sergeants and such patrolmen and other personnel and employees as shall be appointed from time to time by the Mayor and deemed necessary in order to maintain administrative efficiency and to preserve good order and discipline within the division.

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

1. The aforementioned recitals are incorporated herein as though fully set forth at length.
2. The Municipal Council hereby amends Chapter 3.7.7 of the Code of the Township of Little Falls.
3. It is the intent of the Municipal Council to incorporate the additions and/or supplements contained in this Ordinance in to the Code. All of the remaining provisions in Chapter 3.7.7 of the Code shall remain unchanged and have full force and legal effect. All other ordinances enacted and inconsistent herewith are hereby modified pursuant to the terms of this Ordinance.
4. If any section, paragraph, subdivision, clause, sentence, phrase or provision of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Ordinance.
5. A copy of this Ordinance shall be available for public inspection at the offices of the Township Clerk.
6. This Ordinance shall take effect after twenty (20) days of its final passage by the Municipal Council, upon approval by the Mayor and publication as required by law.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Ordinance No.1399 - It was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Hablitz, that there be introduced and the meeting of March 8, 2021 set as the date for the public hearing of the following:

ORDINANCE NO. 1399

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 71 FEES

WHEREAS, the Township of Little Falls ("Township") is a public body corporate and politic of the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Township's Code of General Ordinances ("Code") currently provides for the regulation of its Fees in the Township;

WHEREAS, the municipal council ("Municipal Council") of the Township has determined to amend Chapter 71 of the Code entitled Fees; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Council has determined to amend said Chapter of the Code as follows:

71-2 Fees Schedule

Chapter 182 RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS AND VENDING MACHINES

Chapter 182 RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS AND VENDING MACHINES

182-2E	Class V, Temporary Retail Food Establishment	\$35.00
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136. XI. Consistency, Severability and Repealer

(A) If any provision or portion of a provision of this ordinance is held to be unconstitutional, preempted by Federal or State law, or otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions of the ordinance shall not be invalidated.

(B) All ordinances or parts of ordinances, which are inconsistent with any provisions of this ordinance, are hereby repealed as to the extent of such inconsistencies.

(C) No provision of this ordinance shall be construed to impair any common law or statutory cause of action, or legal remedy there from, of any person for injury or damage arising from any violation of this ordinance or from other law.

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

1. The aforementioned recitals are incorporated herein as though fully set forth at length.
2. The Municipal Council hereby amends Chapter 71 of the Code entitled Fees of the Code of the Township of Little Falls.
3. It is the intent of the Municipal Council to incorporate the additions and/or supplements contained in this Ordinance in to the Code. All of the remaining provisions in Chapter 71 of the Code entitled Fees of the Code shall remain unchanged and have full force and legal effect. All other ordinances enacted and inconsistent herewith are hereby modified pursuant to the terms of this Ordinance.
4. If any section, paragraph, subdivision, clause, sentence, phrase or provision of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Ordinance.
5. A copy of this Ordinance shall be available for public inspection at the offices of the Township Clerk.
6. This Ordinance shall take effect after twenty (20) days of its final passage by the Municipal Council, upon approval by the Mayor and publication as required by law.

COUNCIL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Councilmember KAHWATY commented on the Proclamation for Black History Month. He congratulated Mr. Minnella and his partner on their business. Councilmember KAHWATY thanked the DPW for their hard work to keep the residents safe during the storms. He encouraged residents to reach out to those who may need help as the circumstances of the recent storms in addition to the COVID-19 pandemic may increase situations of domestic violence.

Councilmember HABLITZ thanked the DPW for the amazing job in response to the snowstorms. She reminded residents that the Library is closed but continues to offer curbside pickup and many virtual events. In collaboration with Councilmember Seber and the Recreation Department, efforts to coordinate the Farmers Market are being done in preparation for 2021.

Councilmember VANCHERI thanked the Mayor for the Proclamation for Black History Month. He expressed his gratitude to the DPW for the tremendous amount of work done during the past few storms. He wished Mr. Minella and Mr. Zurcher much luck with their ownership of the Russian Hall. Councilmember VANCHERI provided an update on a meeting with the Police Chief regarding additional stop signs in the Township. Councilmember VANCHERI recounted his experience with the Mayor and the Fifth Grade Girl Scouts on a Zoom call on how the Township has become more environmentally friendly. In collaboration with the Council President, Mayor and Recreation Department, Councilmember VANCHERI discussed work conducted on the finalization of fees with the Recreation Center.

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Councilmember SEBER stated the Open Space Committee had their first meeting and identified a short list of projects to be addressed at the monthly meetings. Councilmember Hablitz reported she and Councilmember SEBER were part of a Zoom meeting with the Daisies and Girl Scouts and discussed women in leadership. In response to Council President Sgobba, some items on the Open Space Committee short list include the Louis field area, refurbishing the playground and batting cage at the Recreation center, improvements at Wilmore park, and the Morris Canal area.

Council President SGOBBA reported his discussion with Ron Stell as the Clean Streets Coordinator and ways to keep the town clean in 2021. Though the Senior Advisory Committee has not been able to meet, phone conversations with members have put forth a suggestion to use the senior bus at night to bring the seniors out as a method to increase socialization. In response to many requests for memorialization, the Council is looking into a program in conjunction with Shade Tree Commission that would include an area along the Passaic River. Information will be disseminated once finalization of details has occurred.

At this time, Mayor Damiano briefly discussed the Zoom meeting with the Girl Scouts referenced previously, and the projects the Township has worked on.

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 7:49 p.m.

Cynthia Kraus
Municipal Clerk