

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

Monday, May 24, 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 Joseph Wenzel, Township Engineer Tom Lemanowicz, Township Engineer Joe Pomante, 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. 10:4-8 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 February 17, 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.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councilmember Kahwaty, seconded by Councilmember Hablitz, the Regular Meeting of April 26, 2021, the Workshop Meeting of May 10, 2021 be and they were approved.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Councilmember VANCHERI provided details on Memorial Day activities and the American Legion Post 108 picnic. Councilmember VANCHERI announced there will be a Pride flag raising at the Municipal Building on June 1, 2021 in honor of Pride Month. A Transportation Committee update included identification of streets appropriate for “no blocking the box” signage and awaiting resident feedback on stop sign recommendations. In response to a water main break in Cedar Grove that affected Little Falls residents, the Mayor will call NJAW and coordinate an email blast to residents to explain how to sign up for alerts from utilities.

Councilmember SEBER reported on the Farmers Market and Municipal Alliance activities.

Councilmember KAHWATY congratulated the Passaic Valley softball team on their County Championship. Councilmember KAHWATY acknowledged the Domestic Violence Prevention Committee volunteers and reminded residents to offer support to anyone who may be subject to domestic violence. Councilmember KAHWATY announced outdoor movie nights will run on Wednesdays for five weeks beginning July 28, 2021 and the Township’s First Annual Water Fun Day will be held on July 17, 2021.

Councilmember HABLITZ provided a report on upcoming Library activities.

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

Council President SGOBBA reminded residents the Senior Advisory Committee is hosting an afternoon concert on May 26, 2021.

MAYOR’S REPORT

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING PASSAIC VALLEY HORNETS SOFTBALL TEAM – At this time, Mayor Damiano read the Proclamation recognizing the Passaic Valley Hornets Softball team and congratulated them on their championship win.

MAYOR’S APPOINTMENT OF PETER TOMASI TO THE LITTLE FALLS LIBRARY BOARD FOR A FIVE-YEAR TERM EXPIRING 5/31/26 WITH ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE COUNCIL

It was moved by Councilmember Kahwaty, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri to approve the appointments of Peter Tomasi to the Library Board.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

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ATTORNEY’S REPORT

Mr. Wenzel had nothing to report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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. 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 Raise the 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 Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Kahwaty, 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.

No one coming forward to be heard, it was moved by Councilmember Hablitz, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, 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.

C O N S E N T A G E N D A

All items on the Consent Agenda were considered to be routine and were enacted with a single motion. Any items under REQUISITIONS carried a Treasurer’s certification as to sufficiency of funds.

REPORTS

Municipal Clerk’s Report – Month of April 2021

MUNICIPAL CLERKS REPORT
Month of April 2021

ABC LICENSES		
OTHER LICENSES		
Business Licenses	\$1,970.00	
Pre-paid Business Licenses		
Raffle Licenses		\$1,970.00
REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS		
Fees & Permits	\$656.00	
Marriage Licenses-LF	125.00	
Marriage Licenses-NJ	15.00	
		\$796.00
MRNA		
Street Maps		
Zoning Maps		
Zoning Ordinances		
Document Copies		
Garage Sales	\$35.00	
Misc. Fees & Refunds:	\$35.00	
		\$70.00
TOTAL MRNA		\$70.00
TOTAL CURRENT ACCOUNT		<u>\$2,836.00</u>
TOTAL TO TREASURER		<u>\$2,836.00</u>

Municipal Clerks Dog/Cat License Report - Month of March 2021

MUNICIPAL CLERK’S DOG/CAT LICENSE REPORT
Month of April 2021

Dog Licenses issued 04/01/2021 thru 04/30/2021		
Nos. 104 to 112 = 9 Licenses		
Amount due Little Falls		61.20
Amount due State		19.80
Total Cash Received		81.00
 Cat Licenses issued 04/01/2021 thru 04/30/2021		
Nos.0 to 0		
Licenses Issued 0		
Total Cash Received		0.00
	Total to Treas.	<u>\$81.00</u>

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Tax Collector's Report -- Month of April 2021

MONTHLY REPORT*

Municipality of Township of Little Falls
 Office of the Tax Collector
 Township of Little Falls Current Account, Lakeland Bank Revenues
 Revenues Collector for the Month of April 2021

Categories 01-	April 1-30, 2021	2021 Year to Date
2021 Taxes	\$6,271,622.85	\$18,116,424.44
2020, 2016 Taxes	41,342.90	337,952.95
Interest	6,432.93	27,774.20
Duplicate Tax Bills	35.00	140.00
6% Penalty Fee	0.00	702.97
GRANT TOTALS	\$6,319,433.68	\$18,482,994.56

Delinquent 2016 Taxes \$310,655.31(Inc. 6% ye-pe)
 Delinquent 2020 Taxes 127,027.77 (Subject to tax sale this year)
 Delinquent 2021 Taxes 173,181.11 (1st qtr. 2021)
Total Delinquent Taxes \$610,864.19

2021 Refunds this month = -\$0.00
 2021 Year to date refunds = -\$21,452.32

Breakdown of refunds for years 2016-2021 completed in 2020(see attached).

REFUNDS IN THE YEAR 2021

Months	2016 STCJ	2017 STCJ	2018 STCJ	2019 STCJ	2020 STCJ	2021 CBJ	2020 Regular	2021 Regular	2021 Senior /Disabled	Exempt 2021	Total by Months
January	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,732.97	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,732.97
February	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(V) \$250	\$0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00
March	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	21,452.32	0.00	0.00	21,452.32
April	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Totals	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,982.97	\$21,452.32	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$28,435.29

Note: The above figures represent the months that the Tax Collector did the adjustments in the computer; the Resolution(s) may have been adopted in the next month.
 STCJ = State Tax Court Judgments. CBJ= County Board Judgments

Municipality of Township of Little Falls
 Office of the Tax Collector
 Township of Little Falls Tax Collector Trust 1 (Lien Monies), Lakeland Bank
 Revenues for the Month of April 2021

	2020 Deposit	2020 Year-to-Date
January 2021	\$ 115,126.74	\$ 115,126.74
February 2021	0.00	115,126.74
March 2021	0.00	115,126.74
April 2021	11,108.06	126,234.80
Total Collected as of April 30, 2021		\$126,234.80

Municipality of Township of Little Falls
 Office of the Tax Collector
 Township of Little Falls Tax Collector Trust 2 (Lien Premium Monies), Lakeland Bank
 Revenues for the Month of April 2021

	Liens with Premiums Redeemed/ (-)	Bal. /Dep. (+)
Balance Brought Forward (January 1, 2021)		\$191,100.00
January 2021	\$-7,800.00	\$183,300.00
February 2021	0.00	183,300.00
March 2021	0.00	183,300.00
April 2021	0.00	183,300.00
Ending Balance as of April 30, 2021		\$183,300.00

Recreation Report – Month of April 2021

Recreation Center –April 2021				
Program	Facility	# Classes	Hours	Participants
Pickleball	Gym	8	16	80
Fencing	Multi	4	8	30
3 Cheer	Multi	4	8	30
Yoga	Multi	8	8	80
Tai Chi	Gym	8	8	70
Tigers Basketball	Gym	*	75	300
Weekly Totals		24	107	510

Civic Center Report – Month of April 2021

April 2021			
Meeting Group	# of Meetings	Hours	Participants
Stamp Club	2	4	18
Senior Citizen Clubs	8	25	95
Girl Scouts	1	2	20
PTA	3	7	52
Monthly Totals	14	38	185

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Police Department Report - Month of April 2021

PATROL DIVISION MONTHLY REPORT – April 2021

This agency handled **6,530** details between January 1, 2021 and April 30, 2021.

This agency completed **572** Operations reports and **157** Investigations between January 1, 2021 and April 30, 2021.

The Little Falls Police Department handled **1,606** details and wrote **120** Operation reports and **32** Investigation reports between March 1, 2021 and April 30, 2021.

The patrol division patrolled **13,071** miles during the month of April, 2021

Calls for Service

Call Type	Total
Medical emergency	46
Fire Department incident	13
Narcan deployment	0
Burglar alarms/false	15
911 calls transferred to another jurisdiction	69
Domestic violence incidents	5
Burglary	2
Criminal mischief	4
Theft	3
Suspicious person/vehicle/incident	17
General investigation	24
Noise complaint	18
All others not listed	1367

Traffic Summary

Crashes	Total
Motor vehicle crashes	82
Motor vehicle crash injuries	5
Motor vehicle crash fatalities	0
Enforcement	Total
Motor vehicle stops	398
Speeding summonses	23
DWI summonses	3
Driving while suspended summonses	13
Uninsured vehicle summonses	6
Moving violations	145
Parking violations	23
Total summonses issued	168

Arrest Summary

Total Arrests - 9

Type of Arrest	Total
CDS	0
DWI	3
Warrant	0
Domestic Violence	2
Theft	2
All others	2

Directed Patrol Summary

Detail Type	Total
School arrival	38
School dismissal	36
School walk through	34
Radar post	151
Park check	141
Vacant house check	6
Extra attention check	0
DWI/Aggressive driving patrol	0
Foot patrol	17

Patrol Division Time & Attendance

Type of Hours	Total
Vacation	108
Holiday	114
Compensatory	96.5
Sick	125
Personal time	37
Credit time	165
Administrative	0
PBA day	7
Schedule transition	0
Bereavement	0
Overtime due to Training	0
Overtime hours to maintain minimum staffing level	62
Overtime due to incident/weather/other event	13

9 out of a total of 60 shifts during the month of February were below minimum staffing.

Patrol staffing level during month: 3.42

Major incident/Notable achievement

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COMMUNITY POLICING

Detail Type	Total
Cell block inspection	21
School arrivals	10
School dismissals	10
School walk thru	25
Vacant house checks	40
Child car seat installations	2
Headquarters safety inspections	0
Project medicine box emptied	1 (22 lbs)
Trips to Covanta for prescription drug destruction	0
Community function appearances	1
School function appearances	0

Special projects/details

Assisted with (3) active shooter drills at Little Falls Schools Assisted with traffic at Recreation Center for Easter
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TRAFFIC DIVISION

Detail Type	Total
Traffic details	*
Radar posts	*
Crashes investigated	*
Speedometer calibrations	*
Alcotest maintenance assignments	*
Traffic meetings attended	*
Traffic complaints received	*
Road job safety checks	*
Assisted patrol	*
Enforcement	Total
Motor vehicle stops	*
Moving summonses	*
Parking summonses	*
Total summonses issued	*

Special projects/details

Due to manpower shortage, no one assigned to Traffic Division.
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SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION – Administrative Monthly Report –April 2021

RECORDS BUREAU

Discovery and OPRA

3 Discovery Cases involving Digital (Audio/Video) files were processed and uploaded to Dropbox for defense attorneys, the public defender, and prosecutors.

28 OPRA requests were processed.

811 pages of reports were facilitated and forwarded to the Township Clerk’s Office for OPRA requests.

\$660.00 was deposited by the Records Bureau during the month.

Discovery \$0.00/Firearms \$150.00/Accident & Incident Reports \$510.00/Fingerprints \$0/Solicitor \$0

Firearms

13 Applications for Firearms Permits

10 Firearms Purchaser ID cards were *Issued*

15 Handgun Purchase Permits were *Issued*

2 Application was *Denied*

Background Investigations

Firearms – 15 Firearms Investigations Completed

Permit to Carry – 0 Permit to Carry Applications.

Solicitor(s)- 0 solicitor permits were processed and issued

TRAINING:

Outside Training

- Det. Cespedes (dark Web/Cyber Crimes Investigation Course)
- Lt. Briggs, Cpl. Post, Cpl. Moncato Jr. (Radar Instructor ReCert)

Departmental Training

- PST DiGangi, Moncavage, Minnella, Jr., Ishak, R. Conti, T. Conti, Vita, McCorry (CPR/AED ReCert)
- Ptl. Racanelli (Motorcycle Training)

Online Training

Power DMS:

- Ethics Training
- Workplace Harassment Training
- CHS Security Awareness Training

Firearms

Next scheduled training is in June 2021

DISPATCHER TIME OFF AND COVERAGE

Dispatcher Time Off

COMP – 56 Hours HOL – 91 Hours VAC – 48 Hours PER – 0 Hours
C/T – 136 Hours SICK – 48 Hours FML – 43.5 Hours COVID19 – 0 Hours

Dispatcher Coverage – Overtime

Part-time Dispatcher Hours Worked – 62.5 hours

Full time Dispatcher OT CASH – 231 Hours

Dispatch Vacancy Covered by Patrol OT –0 hours

Dispatch Vacancy Covered by Patrol Shift – 11.5 hours

Full-time Dispatcher OT Comp –14.5 hours

Part-Time Dispatcher Proficiency Hours Worked –67.5 hours

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Construction Report – Month- April 2021

Uniform Construction Code

Permits Issued – 75
Inspections - 160
Total Value of Construction - \$1,176,224
Certificate of Occupancy - \$363.00
Permit Fees Collected - \$21,574
Permit Fees Waived - \$0.00
Total Fees Collected - \$21,937.00

Zoning

Fence Permits –\$600.00
Sign Permits - \$0.00
Zoning fees – \$1,000.00
Total Fees Collected- \$1,600.00

Property Maintenance

Certificates of Compliance Fees –\$2,715.00
Inspections –47
Complaints Inspections - 20
Violations Issued – 10
Roll-off permits – \$30.00
Total Fees Collected - \$2,745.00

Monthly Revenue \$26,282.00

YTD Revenue \$240,975.00

APPLICATIONS

NJ STATE FIREMEN’S ASSOCIATION, DANIEL HUNTER, BLOOMFIELD AVENUE, BLOOMFIELD, LITTLE FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

NJ STATE FIREMEN’S ASSOCIATION, RAPHAEL NUZZO, OAK TREE LANE, LITTLE FALLS, LITTLE FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

NJ STATE FIREMEN’S ASSOCIATION, JASON GAILES, NEWARK POMPTON TURNPIKE, WAYNE, LITTLE FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

NJ STATE FIREMEN’S ASSOCIATION, THOMAS SPADAFORA, HIGHVIEW DRIVE, TOTOWA, LITTLE FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

BLUE LIGHT PERMIT, JAMES HEARNEY, HUDSON STREET, LITTLE FALLS, LITTLE FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

CORRESPONDENCE

REQUEST FROM AMERICAN LEGION POST 121 FOR PERMISSION TO CLOSE OFF VAN NESS AVENUE BETWEEN ALIDA STREET AND TULIP CRESCENT ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 2021 FROM 12:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

REQUEST FROM A RESIDENT FOR PERMISSION TO CLOSE THE CUL DE SAC ON SIGTIM DRIVE ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2021 FROM 12:00 P.M. – 6: 00 P.M.

RESOLUTIONS

Refund of Tax Overpayment in 2021

RESOLUTION [A] – 21-05-24-#1

WHEREAS, the following property in the Township of Little Falls, New Jersey has overpaid real estate taxes in 2021; and **WHEREAS**, the Tax Collector is requesting that the Township Council direct the Treasurer to refund said amount overpaid listed below;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Little Falls, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey that the following listed tax refund be made by the Township Treasurer:

<u>Tax Year & Qtr.</u>	<u>Block Lot/Q</u>	<u>Taxpayer/ Location</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2021/2	148/43	Richard G Hempel 20 Viewmont Terr	Guardian Title Service 345 Centre St., Ste 2 Nutley, NJ 07110	O/P	\$2,925.96
Total Refund					\$2,925.96

Preparation of Tax Bills for 2021

**RESOLUTION [B] 21-05-24 - #2
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PREPARATION OF ESTIMATED TAX BILLS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Finance Officer and Tax Collector are hereby authorized to prepare estimated tax bills in accordance with the NJ Statutes for the 2021 year and ratify same at a future Council meeting.

Grant Application for Improvements to Louis Street Park

RESOLUTION [C] – 21-05-24-#3

WHEREAS, the Township of Little Falls desires to apply for and obtain a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs that is not to exceed \$500,000 to carry out a project for improvements to Louis Street Park. Improvements include the installation of a street hockey rink and three regulation-sized basketball courts, improvements to the playground equipment, and a new restroom facility.

BE IT RESOLVED,

1. that the Township of Little Falls does hereby authorize the application for such a grant; and,

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- 2. recognizes and accepts that the Department may offer a lesser or greater amount and therefore, upon receipt of the grant agreement from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, does further authorize the execution of any such grant agreement; and also, upon receipt of the fully executed agreement from the Department, does further authorize the expenditure of funds pursuant to the terms of the agreement between the Township of Little Falls and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the persons whose names, titles, and signatures appear below are authorized to sign the application, and that they or their successors in said titles are authorized to sign the agreement, and any other documents necessary in connection therewith:

Bill List

RESOLUTION [D] 21-05-24- #4

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.

It was moved by Councilmember Kahwaty, seconded by Councilmember Hablitz, that the Consent Agenda be approved as printed.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

REGULAR AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 1405 - -It was moved by Councilmember Kahwaty, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, that the public hearing on Ordinance No. 1405, “**2021 LITTLE FALLS SALARY ORDINANCE**” 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 comments from the public were received, it was moved by Councilmember Hablitz, seconded by Councilmember Kahwaty, that the public hearing on Ordinance No. 1405 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 Kahwaty, seconded by Councilmember Hablitz, that the Ordinance No. 1405 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. 1407 - -It was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Seber, that the public hearing on Ordinance No. 1407, “**BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE UNDERTAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF NEW ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY, NEW COMMUNICATION AND SIGNAL SYSTEMS EQUIPMENT, NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT AND A NEW AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLE, INCLUDING ORIGINAL APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT, IN BY AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS, IN THE COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$640,000 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: Hablitz, Kahwaty, Seber, 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 Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Hablitz, that the public hearing on Ordinance No. 1407 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 Seber, that the Ordinance No. 1407 be and it was adopted.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

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Ordinance No. 1408 - -It was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Seber, that the public hearing on Ordinance No. 1408, “**BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE UNDERTAKING OF THE 2021 ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, IN BY AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS, IN THE COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$675,000 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: Hablitz, Kahwaty, Seber, 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 Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Hablitz, that the public hearing on Ordinance No. 1408 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 Seber, that the Ordinance No. 1408 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. 1409 - -It was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Seber, that the public hearing on Ordinance No. 1409, “**BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE IMPROVEMENT OF HEMLOCK ROAD (ENTIRE LENGTH) , IN BY AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS, IN THE COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$600,000 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: Hablitz, Kahwaty, Seber, Vancheri, and Council President Sgobba
Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Richard Kienzlen, 36 Crestmont Road, expressed concerns regarding paving Hemlock Road. Mayor Damiano responded to Mr. Kienzlen’s comments, noting the expense of continuously filling potholes, the ability of emergency vehicles to traverse the roadway safely, and that while there may be increased traffic, he did not believe it would not become a thoroughfare. The Mayor added that the roadway could easily be made one way should traffic become an issue.

A. J. Mueller, 25 Birch Road, agreed with the Mayor’s rationale for paving the road, and was in favor of modifying the road direction should traffic become a problem. Mayor Damiano responded to Mr. Mueller’s query as to whether navigation apps would affect the traffic flow. Joe Pomante, Boswell Engineering, discussed reasons why improvements to Hemlock Road would not make it a viable cut thru and would be a benefit to residents, as the intersection would be reoriented to use traffic signals, making it safer.

Giovanna Ward, 8 Hemlock Road, expressed her opinion on paving Hemlock Road.

Razvan Bot, 54 Hemlock Road, expressed concerns regarding paving of Hemlock Road, questioned if traffic study data was available and why a two-lane road was planned instead of one lane road. Mr. Pomante provided details of the road design and explained there was no basis for a traffic study because Hemlock Road is an existing road, there is no intensification of use or change in use, and it is an upgrade of an existing facility. Mr. Pomante further stated the rationale of a two-way roadway is for the passing of emergency vehicles and for the benefit of the residents to be able to use the road. He believed the roadway would not increase the amount of travel and speed other than the residents within the development, which is a policing issue. Lastly, Mr. Pomante provided an explanation of the cost estimate.

Lauren Bell-Mitchell, 15 Hemlock Road, expressed her support of paving of Hemlock Road.

Richard Santana – 39 Hemlock Road, expressed his support of paving Hemlock Road.

Michael Wagoner – 9 Birch Road, stated paving, grading, and drainage should be addressed and was in favor of a one-way road. Mr. Wagoner expressed concern regarding overflow parking from the nearby church and questioned whether his property would be reassessed should there be an increase in traffic. Mr. Pomante could not speak to parking on surrounding streets, however, current plans do not allow room for parking on Hemlock Road. Council President SGOBBA stated the Township considers all factors into consideration in a reassessment and that it would take an abundance of traffic and concerns to affect a reassessment.

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Azmi Atkins – 25 Hemlock Road, expressed her support of paving Hemlock Road, as well as her concern regarding increased traffic and tree removal. Mayor Damiano stated the Township plans to plant trees elsewhere in the municipality to replace those that will be removed.

Jason Atkins – 25 Hemlock Road, outlined repairs made to his vehicles, expressed his support of paving Hemlock Road and making it a one-way street. He expressed concern regarding removal of trees in front of his home and questioned whether that area would include a berm. Mr. Pomante stated he would be happy to provide more detail and could mark out the trees in the field, and further explained the process of determining tree removal. Council President SGOBBA requested Mr. Pomante mark out the trees. Mayor Damiano requested Mr. Atkins provide his contact information such that information can be disseminated to him.

Norman Scherzer – 26 Birch Road, commented on the dissemination of information to residents and stated more detailed information of the planned improvements should have been provided to residents. Mr. Scherzer further expressed his agreement that Hemlock Road should be paved but at the current width, with added speed bumps and modification into a one-way road. Council President SGOBBA expressed his disagreement with Mr. Scherzer's comment that the project was obscured. Mayor Damiano elaborated that because the Council is being asked to approve a funding cap of \$600,000 it does not mean residents would be incurring \$600,000 worth of funding should the project be completed for less. The Mayor requested the Mr. Pomante speak to cost estimates for a road width of 16, 18, and 22 feet wide, respectively, and added that restricting the width of the roadway would not result in a significant savings. Mr. Pomante explained the more labor-intensive portion of the project is the installation of the drainage not roadway paving. Mr. Pomante discussed orientation of the roadway, safe ingress and egress onto Long Hill Road and why he disagreed with installation of speed bumps.

Kristen Callahan – 61 Hemlock Road, supported paving Hemlock Road, disagreed with a two-way road, questioned the removal of trees and the width of the road. Mr. Pomante stated should the road be a one-way the road it would be 15 feet wide. As to whether the trees could be saved, the alignment would have to be reviewed. Mr. Pomante then explained the overwork that goes into creation of a road.

Arnold Korotkin, 181 Long Hill Road, stated he was pleased to see resident participation in today's Meeting and discussed transparency and process. Mr. Korotkin requested the Council postpone voting on the Ordinance tonight such that the Township Engineer could provide a redesign of plans, and give residents the opportunity to review and render their opinion. Mayor Damiano stated his support of approving the Ordinance tonight as it does not approve a specific project plan but rather funding for a project along Hemlock Road.

Luis Fernandez, 54 Harrison Street, echoed comments made by Mr. Korotkin and expressed his opinion regarding Mr. Scherzer's comments. Council President SGOBBA responded to Mr. Fernandez's comments and remarked on meeting expectations. Mayor Damiano added Mr. Scherzer's questions were addressed and clarified that Mr. Scherzer was not an invited guest of the Council at the prior Meeting, but rather provided his opinion as a member of the public with respect to COVID-19.

Lauren Bell-Mitchell, 15 Hemlock Road, added that she also had to make repairs to her vehicles and questioned whether parking on Hemlock Road would still be possible. Ms. Bell-Mitchell noted that plans to improve Hemlock Road have not been obscured and have been made available to the public.

Norman Scherzer – 26 Birch Road, requested the Council table approval of the Ordinance, and provide residents with specifics on what modifications are to be made. Council President SGOBBA explained the need for verbiage in the Ordinance. The actual plan has not been finalized and further discussion can occur. Mr. Wenzel described the process of first and second readings of an Ordinance, specific to Bond Ordinances.

Razvan Bot, 54 Hemlock Road, questioned the process of deciding upon the exact solution to Hemlock Road. Council President SGOBBA provided an in-depth explanation of the process.

Norman Scherzer – 26 Birch Road, questioned the process of approving funding without having specific options. Council President SGOBBA provided an explanation of the process.

Arnold Korotkin, 181 Long Hill Road, requested clarification and questioned if two sets of plans could be created: one for one-way road and one for a two-way road. Mayor Damiano explained approving the Ordinance would allow the flexibility of several options. He reiterated that Council approval tonight is not approving the plan, but the funding. Mr. Korotkin reiterated the need for resident involvement. Councilmember VANCHERI encouraged residents to reach out with questions, get involved, and to sign up for Township emails and Council Meetings.

As no further comments from the public were received, it was moved by Councilmember Hablitz, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, that the public hearing on Ordinance No. 1409 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 Kahwaty, seconded by Councilmember Hablitz, that the Ordinance No. 1409 be and it was adopted.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Meeting of May 24, 2021

Ordinance No. 1410 - -It was moved by Councilmember Kahwaty, seconded by Councilmember Seber, that the public hearing on Ordinance No. 1410, “**BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE UNDERTAKING OF STREETScape IMPROVEMENTS AT MAIN STREET (PHASES IV AND VI) IN, BY AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS, IN THE COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$1,000,000 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: Hablitz, Kahwaty, Seber, 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. 1410 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 Kahwaty seconded by Councilmember Hablitz, that the Ordinance No. 1410 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. 1411 - -It was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Kahwaty, that the public hearing on Ordinance No. 1411, “**BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE INSTALLATION OF A TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL AT THE INTERSECTION OF FRANCISCO AVENUE AND CEDAR GROVE ROAD IN, BY AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS, IN THE COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$500,000 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: Hablitz, Kahwaty, Seber, 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 Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Hablitz, that the public hearing on Ordinance No. 1411 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 Seber, that the Ordinance No. 1411 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. 1412 - -It was moved by Councilmember Kahwaty, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, that the public hearing on Ordinance No. 1412, “**BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE UNDERTAKING OF VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS AT DUVA FIELD IN, BY AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS, IN THE COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$1,075,000 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: Hablitz, Kahwaty, Seber, 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. 1412 be and it was closed.

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

Meeting of May 24, 2021

The Council President declared the motion passed.

It was moved by Councilmember Kahwaty, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, that the Ordinance No. 1412 be and it was adopted.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

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. 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 Raise the 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 Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Hablitz, 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, questioned when Council Meetings will be open to the public at the Municipal Building. Mayor Damiano stated that with restrictions being lifted, the Township is getting closer to hosting meetings in person. He would like to make sure residents can still join the Meetings remotely as well. Mr. Fernandez questioned Ordinance No. 1406 regarding parking. Mayor Damiano explained the rationale of PILOP programs and how a PILOP benefits the Township. Mr. Fernandez stated his disagreement with the Mayor's comments.

No one further having come forward to be heard, it was moved by Councilmember Hablitz, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, 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.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was moved by Councilmember Kahwaty, seconded by Councilmember Hablitz, that the meeting be and it was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Cynthia Kraus
Municipal Clerk