

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

Monday, November 8, 2021

Council President Sgobba called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 Administrator Charles Cuccia, Deputy Clerk Melissa DePiro and Township Clerk Cynthia Kraus.

Absent: None.

Township Employees present: Fire Chief Jeff Altonjy, Police Chief Steve Post, DPW Superintendent Ron Stell.

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 July 22, 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 HOLODOMOR – At this time, Mayor Damiano read the Proclamation recognizing Holodomor.

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 desired 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.

Luis Fernandez, 54 Harrison Street, requested future Council Meetings be open to the public, inquired about properties pending presentation to the Planning Board and the Township's status as a Transit village designated by the State. The Mayor indicated none of the properties presenting to the Planning Board are participating in PILOT programs and provided clarification as to the delineation between State designation and zoning as a transit village. Lastly, Mr. Fernandez questioned the removal of a No Parking sign on Harrison Street to which Mayor Damiano reviewed parking regulations in the area of concern.

Eugene Liss, Attorney practicing at 94 Main Street, representing Integrity LLC, requested the Township Council and Township Engineer discuss the possibility of utilizing Township property to create access to landlocked property to be developed. Council President SGOBBA stated had no issue having the Township Engineer meet with the developer's engineer. Mr. Wenzel stated his office would coordinate discussion with the Township Engineer and Mr. Liss.

John Veteri, 110 Ridge Avenue, commended Councilmembers Seber and Hablitz on the successful Farmers Market.

No one further having come forward to be heard, it was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Hablitz, 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. BUDGET TRANSFER RESOLUTION- Mayor Damiano explained the standard nature of this Resolution.

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- 2. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH PASSAIC COUNTY COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM – Mayor Damiano discussed how the Township enters Co-Ops to obtain the most competitive pricing.
- 3. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER DECREASING CONTRACT PRICE FOR DOWNTOWN LITTLE FALLS STREETSCAPE – SECTION 6 PROJECT -The Mayor stated that as the scope of the project was decreased slightly, the actual cost of the project was also decreased.

ACTION ITEMS:

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

Resolution Authorizing Transfers in the Budget

**RESOLUTION [A] 21-11-08 - #1
TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS**

WHEREAS, Title 40:4-58 of the New Jersey Statutes provides that should it become necessary, during the last two months of the fiscal year to expend for any of the purposes specified in the budget an amount in excess of the respective sums appropriated therefore and there shall be an excess in any appropriation over and above the amount claimed to be necessary to fulfill the purpose of such appropriation, the Governing Body may by resolution setting forth the facts (adopted by not less than 2/3 vote of the full membership thereof), transfer the amount of such excess of those appropriations deemed to be insufficient.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Township of Little Falls, not less than 2/3 of the members thereof affirmatively concurring, that the Treasurer be and is authorized to make the attached transfers in the 2021 Budget Appropriations.

Resolution Authorizing Membership in the Passaic County Cooperative Pricing System

**RESOLUTION [B] 21-11-08 - #2
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE PRICING AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF PASSAIC COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM ID# 38PCCP**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5) authorizes contracting units to establish a Cooperative Pricing System and to enter into Cooperative Pricing Agreements for its administration; and

WHEREAS, the County of Passaic, hereinafter referred to as the "Lead Agency " has offered voluntary participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the purchase of goods and services;

WHEREAS, on November 8, 2021 the governing body of the Township of Little Falls, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey duly considered participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the provision and performance of goods and services;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

TITLE

This **RESOLUTION** shall be known and may be cited as the Cooperative Pricing Resolution of the Township of Little Falls.

AUTHORITY

Pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5)*, the Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency.

CONTRACTING UNIT

The Lead Agency shall be responsible for complying with the provisions of the *Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.)* and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

Resolution Authorizing Change Order Decreasing the Contract Price by \$784.00 for the Downtown Streetscape

**RESOLUTION [C] 21-11-08 #3
RESOLUTION AWARDED CHANGE ORDER TO AA BERMS, LLC.
FOR DOWNTOWN LITTLE FALLS STREETSCAPE – SECTION 6**

WHEREAS, the Township Council has received a recommendation from the Township Engineer, Alaimo Group, regarding the Downtown Little Falls Streetscape – Section 6 contract to change contract item quantities as listed in the original specification; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council has considered this recommendation in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-1 et seq. and the Local Public Contracts Law; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council has a contract with AA BERMS, Inc. for the Downtown Little Falls Streetscape – Section 6 project, which was awarded by public bidding under the Local Public Contracts Law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Council authorizes a change order to AA Berms, Inc. decreasing the contract price by \$784.00, making the revised contract amount \$239,395.41.

Bill List

RESOLUTION [D] 21-11-08 - #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.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

REQUEST FROM KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FOR PERMISSION TO CONDUCT A CAN SHAKE ON SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2022 AND SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 2022 FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M. AT THE INTERSECTION OF ROUTE 23 AND MAIN STREET AND MAIN STREET AND UNION BOULEVARD.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

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NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 1417 - It was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Kahwaty, that the public hearing on Ordinance No. 1417, "**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LITTLE FALLS FIRE DIVISION IN THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS CODE SECTION 3-7.8. ENTITLED "FIRE DIVISION"**," be and it was opened.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Luis Fernandez, 54 Harrison Street, expressed his concerns regarding the Ordinance No. 1417. Mayor Damiano reviewed the ordinance with respect to removal of office, the need for by-laws to be updated, the term limits voted on by membership, emphasizing the Ordinance was drafted with membership input. In response to Mr. Fernandez's query, Council President SGOBBA stated the Council cannot comment on personnel matters.

Jeff Altonjy – 165 Lincoln Avenue, Fire Chief, stated most of the Ordinance mirrored the by-laws, with the exception of a few changes that were collaborated upon with the Council.

Ed Pomponio – 130 Donato Drive, expressed concerns regarding the Deputy Chief's position and change to command status. Councilmember KAHWATY requested clarification to which Chief Altonjy reviewed the command status and training received. Mayor Damiano commented on the operations in other municipalities and that the Deputy Chief position was changed with Fire Department input.

Paul Salomone – Chief Woodland Park Fire Department, discussed Assistant Chiefs in West Paterson and the command structure.

Jeff Altonjy – stated an overview of the Ordinance was reviewed briefly by some members of the Fire Department prior to the Council Meeting, however, sufficient notice did not enable a Departmental meeting. Mayor Damiano stated comments provided in September from the Fire Department were included in the newest version of the Ordinance presented tonight. Chief Altonjy discussed the residency clause and then commented on the change made to stipends. Mr. Wenzel discussed the procedure should the Ordinance be tabled. In response to Councilmember VANCHERI, term limits were passed at a Departmental meeting by vote. In response to Councilmember SEBER's query, Mayor Damiano explained the proposed Ordinance allows a position to be created that runs in perpetuity. At this time, Council President SGOBBA recommended tabling the Ordinance and requested a comprehensive review of the Ordinance by the Fire Department.

As no further comments from the public were received, it was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Hablitz that the public hearing on Ordinance No. 1417 be tabled until the November 22, 2021 Meeting

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

COUNCIL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Councilmember HABLITZ thanked the Library for their participation at the Farmers Markets. Councilmember HABLITZ highlighted upcoming Library events including a webinar on how to pay for college, a Gingerbread house workshop and a holiday glass plate painting event. The Friends of the Library will hold their monthly meeting on November 23, 2021 and will hold a Wendy's fundraiser on November 17.

Councilmember SEBER thanked all those involved in a successful Farmers Market season, including the Recreation Department, Police Department, DPW, CERT team, OEM as well as the Mayor and Council.

Councilmember KAHWATY announced the Little Falls public schools will have a referendum on December 14, 2021. A presentation on the referendum will be held tomorrow evening and at the Council Meeting on November 22, 2021. Councilmember KAHWATY expressed his gratitude to all veterans in honor of the upcoming Veteran's Day holiday.

Councilmember VANCHERI reminded all residents the American Legion Post 108 will honor all veterans on November 11, 2021 at 11:00 A.M. at Memorial Park. He then reported a meeting was held with residents regarding speed humps on Jacobus Avenue. Speed humps will be installed on Jacobus Avenue and on Van Pelt Place after Thanksgiving. A letter will be delivered to impacted residents when work will commence. Councilmember VANCHERI announced Boy Scouts Troop 14 and Girl Scouts Troop 6529 are conducting a food drive and the Police Department is holding their annual toy drive. He then expressed his appreciation for the Fire Department and that he looked forward to working together on Ordinance No. 1417.

Council President SGOBBA expressed his support of the Fire Department and emphasized that the Department's issues are taken with utmost importance. Council President SGOBBA announced upcoming events such as Senior Holiday party at the Civic Center on December 17, 2021 and the Secret Life of Trees on November 17, 2021 hosted by Anne Kahwaty. He thanked the DPW for the planting of the first of three memorial trees on Zeliff Ave.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed

Luis Fernandez – questioned why the Council Meeting was moved to a 6:00 P. M. start time tonight. Council President SGOBBA stated the Meeting time was moved due to a schedule conflict of the Township Attorney, Mr. Wenzel.

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.

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 7:30 p.m.

Cynthia Kraus
Municipal Clerk