

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

Monday, September 14, 2020

Council President Sgobba called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: 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, and Township Clerk Cynthia Kraus.

Absent: None.

Township Employees present: None

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 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. **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 YouTube link to view this 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.**

ROLL CALL – Council President Sgobba, Mayor Damiano and Township Administrator Charles Cuccia were present in person. Councilmember Albert Kahwaty, Councilmember Tanya Seber, Councilmember Christopher Vancheri, Attorney Joseph Wenzel, Municipal Clerk Cynthia Kraus, and Township Engineer Tom Lemanowicz attended the meeting remotely.

DISCUSSION TO FILL COUNCIL VACANCY – At this time the Council President announced the Council reviewed the resumes for the vacancy of former Councilmember Cordonnier, submitted by the Democratic Chairman: Ellie Abdi, Christine Hablitz, and Charles C. Festa III. The Council has been charged to select one candidate to fill the unexpired term of Councilmember Cordonnier. Councilmember Kahwaty discussed his endorsement for Christine Hablitz. Councilmember Vancheri added to the endorsement. It was moved by Councilmember Seber, seconded by Councilmember Kahwaty to nominate Christine Hablitz to fill the unexpired Councilmember term.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Council President SGOBBA announced the swearing in of Christine Hablitz will occur after Public Comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT – ALL MATTERS

Anyone wishing to address the Township Council may do so by sending an email to CKRAUS@LFNJ.COM. The email must provide your name and address for the record. At this time there will be a ten-minute recess, which will allow the public to send comments and questions via email. At the end of the recess, the Meeting will reconvene and all proper emails will be read into the record. The Council President will determine if a response is needed and if so, shall direct said response. 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: Kahwaty, Seber, Vancheri, and Council President Sgobba
Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

At this time, Council President SGOBBA announced there will be a ten-minute recess such that questions from the public can be emailed to the Clerk. The Council recessed at 7:07 PM and returned to session at 7:17 PM.

Maria Martini Cordonnier – former Councilmember, congratulated Christine Hablitz on becoming a Little Falls Councilmember.

Luis Fernandez – 54 Harrison Street, submitted comments regarding the change order for Duva field. Mr. Fernandez also questioned when the Municipal Building would be open and residents could attend Council Meetings. Mayor Damiano stated the Municipal Building is open, and entry is granted upon answering several screening questions. The Mayor stated his disagreement with Mr. Fernandez’s opinion, and stated Mr. Fernandez has been able to freely express his concerns during the virtual Meetings. In follow-up to Mr. Fernandez’s query regarding contamination at Duva field, the Mayor reviewed a statement from the LSRP. A copy of the statement was also forwarded to Mr. Fernandez.

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As no further emails were received for comment, it was moved by Councilmember Kahwaty seconded by Councilmember Seber, that the meeting be and it was closed to the public.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

MAYOR/ADMINISTRATOR:

- 1. RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDERS FOR DUVA PARK TURF FIELD – Mayor Damiano commented the change orders had previously been discussed and are now before the Council for final approval of funding.

At this time Mayor Damiano swore in Christine Hablitz as Councilmember to fill the vacant position of Councilmember Cordonnier.

Council President SGBBA congratulated and welcomed Christine Hablitz to the Council.

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

ACTION ITEMS:

CORRESPONDENCE: REQUEST FROM ENTERPRISE CO. #2 FOR PERMISSION TO HOLD A BOOT DRIVE FUNDRAISER ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2020 AND SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2020 WITH RAIN DATES ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2020 AND SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2020.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

RESOLUTIONS

Change Order for Duva Field Project

**TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS
RESOLUTION [A] 20-09-14- #1
AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDERS FOR THE DUVA FIELD TURF PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Township of Little Falls, pursuant to a cooperative purchasing contract, (#060518-S11) awarded a contract to Athletic Fields of America for the installation of a Turf Field at Duva Field 160 Paterson Avenue, Little Falls New Jersey for the original sum of \$3,631,907.00; and

WHEREAS, by memorandum dated September 10, 2020, the Township Engineer recommended that the contract be amended to change bid items in the base bid as follows; and

PCO-18 – Sound System Wiring –

The work under this change order relates to the installation of conduit and wiring under the new turf field for a new public address system at the facility. The change order increases the contract amount by \$31,348.27.

PCO-19 – Parking Lot Curbing –

With respect to the parking lot at the Pickleball end of the property, the original intent was to leave the existing curb in place and attach the nailer to the back of it. Following demolition, this was re-visited and decided to be not in the best way to proceed. This change order involves the work required to, instead, replace the parking lot curbing prior to attaching the nailer. The change order increases the contract amount by \$10,271.85

PCO-20 – Bleacher Pads –

This work involved the installation of two bleacher pads, one on either side of the pressbox, and along the first base line of the large ball field. This change order includes the labor to assemble the bleachers, but the purchase cost of the bleachers is being finalized for a future change order, or direct purchase by the Township. The change order increases the contract amount by \$73,545.69.

PCO-21-LED Sign Trenching and Restoration-

The trenching plan was revised after this change order was developed. A revised change order is required.

PCO – 22 – Storage Building Apron-

This work related to a private work agreement with the storage building contractor. Acknowledged here to avoid confusion around skipping a change order number.

PCO – 23 – Grade Adjustments at Storage Building

This work related to additional detail work required in the area of the new storage building to better facilitate drainage and grading. The change order increases the contract amount by \$12,441.06.

PCO – 24 – ADA Grates and Additional Sidewalk

This work related to additional detail work required in the area of the new storage building to better facilitate drainage and grading. The change order increases the contract amount by \$27,839.53.

WHEREAS, change orders total \$669,284.90, and will be used for the improvements to Duva Field Turf Project; and

WHEREAS, funds for the above refenced Project Change Orders #18 through #24 have been provided for as part of the Townships Capital ordinances; and

WHEREAS, based on the forgoing the Township Council has determined that it is necessary and appropriate to approve Change orders #18 through 24 in the amount of \$155,446.40. Total change orders represent a change of 18.42% on the original Contract amount;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Little Falls, in the County of Passaic, that the Mayor and the Township Clerk be, and they are authorized to execute Change Orders #18 through 24 to the contract with Athletic Fields of America. Funds for the Change Orders are to be charged to the accounts in the Capital Program or as otherwise determined by the Chief Financial Officer’s pending certification of funds.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 1389- It was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Kahwaty, that the public hearing on Ordinance No. 1389, “**BOND ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE AN ADDITIONAL SUM OF \$500,000 FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A SYNTHETIC TURF MULTIPURPOSE ATHLETIC**

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FIELD AT DUVA FIELD IN, BY AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS, IN THE COUNTY OF PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTCES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS,” be and it was opened.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

As no emails from the public were received for comment, it was moved by Councilmember Kahwaty, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, that the public hearing on Ordinance No. 1389 be and it was closed.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

It was moved by Councilmember Kahwaty, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, that the Ordinance No. 1389 be and it was adopted.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

COUNCIL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Councilmember KAHWATY congratulated Councilmember Hablitz. Councilmember KAHWATY announced the movie nights were a success and will occur next year. The Domestic Violence vigil will be held on October 15, 2020. A Halloween event is being planned this year, dependent on the status of the Governor’s COVID-19 directives at that time.

Councilmember VANCHERI congratulated Councilmember Hablitz on her appointment. Councilmember VANCHERI thanked all who attended and followed social distancing at the annual 9-11 ceremony. He also thanked the Mayor and Council, the Police and Fire Departments, the DPW, CERT Team, and performers for their support and participation in the event.

Councilmember SEBER recounted the successful turnout of the Township’s first town-wide yard sale in which over 170 homes participated. She thanked the efforts of the DPW, Police and Recreation Departments in making the event successful. The Municipal Alliance will host a Fall Harvest door decoration contest with prizes.

Councilmember HABLITZ thanked everyone for their kind words and stated she will work hard for the community. Councilmember HABLITZ discussed the success of the Farmers Market, the possibility of extending it further into the Fall, and announced one farm will be bringing alpacas on September 27, 2020.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Kahwaty, that the meeting be and it was adjourned at approximately 7:41 p.m.

Cynthia Kraus
Municipal Clerk