

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

Monday, November 13, 2023

Council President Anthony Sgobba called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Christine Hablitz, Michael Murphy, and Christopher Vancheri. Also present were Mayor James Damiano, Township Attorney Joseph Wenzel, Township Administrator Charles Cuccia, Assistant Administrator Vincent Quatrone, and Deputy Clerk Melissa DePiro.

Absent: Councilmember Jayna Patel and Municipal Clerk Cynthia Kraus.

Township Employees present: Police Chief Bryan Prall.

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 5, 2023. A copy of the notice was mailed 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. **A link and a telephone number to join the meeting virtually 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.**

EPILEPSY AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION – Mayor Damiano read the Proclamation recognizing November 2023 as Epilepsy Awareness Month in the Township of Little Falls.

ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH – Mayor Damiano then read the Proclamation recognizing November 2023 as Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Month in the Township of Little Falls.

PUBLIC COMMENT – GENERAL MATTERS AND AGENDA ITEMS

Anyone wishing to address the Township Council may do so through the Council President. It is preferred if you 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 have joined the meeting virtually and 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 the Raise Hand icon. Once the process is complete, we will return to the regular order of business.

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

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

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

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

MAYOR/ADMINISTRATOR: At this time, Mayor Damiano complimented the DPW on recent additions to the downtown streetscape including banners for the Hometown Heroes project and decorative wreaths. The Mayor then highlighted the November 25th Holiday Light parade route and emphasized the need to be aware of road closures. Mayor Damiano announced the Township has received a grant from the NJDOT in the amount of \$644,000 for continuation of the Streetscape program. The Mayor added decorative holiday banners have also been ordered and will be added to the decorative light poles.

1. RESOLUTIONS AUTHORIZING AFFORDABILITY ASSISTANCE GRANTS WITH RENTERS OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS (RESOLUTIONS A-C) – Mayor Damiano explained the rationale of Affordability Assistance Grants awarded under Resolutions A-C. These resolutions will be presented to the Council over the next several years as these units are rented.
2. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF ROCK SALT UNDER MORRIS COUNTY COOPERATIVE- Mayor Damiano discussed the annual nature of this Resolution. Morris County has provided the Township with the most competitive price.
3. ORDINANCE NO. 1474 – CANNABIS – Mayor Damiano summarized this Ordinance is updating the fees associated with cannabis such that they are more in line with other surrounding municipalities.

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In response to Council President SGOBBA’s inquiry regarding the rock salt agreement with Passaic County, Mayor Damiano explained the past replenishment agreement will be confirmed with the new County Administrator.

ACTION ITEMS:

It was moved by Councilmember Murphy, seconded by Councilmember Hablitz, to approve Resolutions A through E:

Authorizing Affordability Assistance Grant – 405 Main St Unit 302

**RESOLUTION [A] 23-11-13 - #1
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AFFORDABILITY ASSISTANCE GRANT WITH THE RENTER OF AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNIT LOCATED 405 MAIN ST, UNIT 302, LITTLE FALLS, NJ 07424**

WHEREAS, Kimberly V Eke [will rent/rents] property located at 405 Main St, Unit 302, Little Falls, NJ 07424, which property is governed by the statutes, ordinances, rules and regulations restricting ownership and use of the property as an Affordable Housing unit; and **WHEREAS**, the tenant has requested an Affordability Assistance Program grant from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund; and **WHEREAS**, the Township is willing to extend a grant to the tenant in the amount of \$1,253.00. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** on this 13th day of November, 2023, by the Township Council of Little Falls, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, that:

1. The Mayor, Administrator, Clerk and attorney are hereby authorized to execute an Affordability Assistance Program grant with the renter of an Affordable Housing unit at 405 Main St, Unit 302, Little Falls, NJ 07424.

Authorizing Affordability Assistance Grant – 405 Main St Unit 202

**RESOLUTION [B] 23-11-13 - #2
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AFFORDABILITY ASSISTANCE GRANT WITH THE RENTER OF AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNIT LOCATED 405 MAIN ST, UNIT 202, LITTLE FALLS, NJ 07424**

WHEREAS, Rasheedah T Morrison [will rent/rents] property located at 405 Main St, Unit 202, Little Falls, NJ 07424, which property is governed by the statutes, ordinances, rules and regulations restricting ownership and use of the property as an Affordable Housing unit; and

WHEREAS, the tenant has requested an Affordability Assistance Program grant from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund; and **WHEREAS**, the Township is willing to extend a grant to the tenant in the amount of \$1,554.00.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED on this 13th day of November 2023, by the Township Council of Little Falls, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, that:

1. The Mayor, Administrator, Clerk and attorney are hereby authorized to execute an Affordability Assistance Program grant with the renter of an Affordable Housing unit at 405 Main St, Unit 202, Little Falls, NJ 07424.

Authorizing Affordability Assistance Grant – 405 Main St Unit 137

**RESOLUTION [C] 23-11-13 - #3
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AFFORDABILITY ASSISTANCE GRANT WITH THE RENTER OF AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNIT LOCATED 405 MAIN ST, UNIT 137, LITTLE FALLS, NJ 07424**

WHEREAS, Rashon K Stroman [will rent/rents] property located at 405 Main St, Unit 137, Little Falls, NJ 07424, which property is governed by the statutes, ordinances, rules and regulations restricting ownership and use of the property as an Affordable Housing unit; and

WHEREAS, the tenant has requested an Affordability Assistance Program grant from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund; and **WHEREAS**, the Township is willing to extend a grant to the tenant in the amount of \$1,098.00.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED on this 13th day of November, 2023, by the Township Council of Little Falls, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, that:

1. The Mayor, Administrator, Clerk and attorney are hereby authorized to execute an Affordability Assistance Program grant with the renter of an Affordable Housing unit at 405 Main St, Unit 137, Little Falls, NJ 07424.

Purchase of Rock Salt Under Morris County Cooperative

**RESOLUTION [D] 23-11-13 - # 4
ACCEPTING BID AND AWARDING CONTRACT FOR THE VENDORS LISTED BELOW FOR THE 2024 WINTER PRODUCTS UNDER MORRIS COUNTY COOPERATIVE PURCHASING CONTRACT PERIOD OCTOBER 15, 2023 THROUGH OCTOBER 14, 2024**

WHEREAS, the Morris County Purchasing Agent has advised that pursuant to advertising duly made, bids were received by the County of Morris as lead agency for the Cooperative Pricing System for the furnishing and delivery of Bulk Rock Salt,

for the Contract period October 15, 2023 to October 14, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Morris County Cooperative as lead agency, based on review of bids and the resulting recommendation, has awarded a master contract for this commodity; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Little Falls wishes to participate in the master contract for the purchase of **WINTER PRODUCTS** because the price under the contract is lower than the prices quoted to the Township by other suppliers; and

WHEREAS, the Township Treasurer has provided a Certification of the Availability of Funds pursuant the Local Finance Board; and the appropriation to be charged for this expenditure is Department of Public Works Other Expenses;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Little Falls as follows:

- 1) That the following bids be awarded for purchases to be made on an as-needed basis:

Morton Salt
Bid: \$94.31 per ton

the award being based upon the unit price; and payment to be made based upon the unit price multiplied by the quantities, be and the same is hereby accepted; and

- 2) That the Mayor and Clerk be and they are hereby authorized to execute a Contract for the purchase of the within designated goods at the bid price hereinabove cited.

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Bill List

RESOLUTION [E] 23-11-13 - #5

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance No.1474 - The public hearing on Ordinance No. 1474, “**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS, ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNEMENT, SECTION 33, CANNABIS,**” be and it was opened.

As no comments from the public were received, the public hearing on Ordinance No. 1474 be and it was closed.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

It was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Hablitz, that Ordinance No. 1474 be and it was adopted.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

COUNCIL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Councilmember MURPHY provided a progress report on the Township calendar. He then discussed development of an Ordinance in collaboration with Chief Prall to address mass gatherings to ensure both safety and adequate resources are available. In response to Council President SGOBBA’s inquiry, Councilmember MURPHY explained calendars are expected to be mailed in January and will include 13 months. In response to Councilmember VANCHERI’s query, there will be extra copies at Town Hall and a pdf available on the website as well.

Councilmember HABLITZ reviewed recent Library events and highlighted upcoming events including the New York Speaker Series on November 14th, and the second meeting of the Garden Club on November 20th. Councilmember HABLITZ discussed a grant the Township received for 5,000 daffodils and 10 new trees and thanked all those who helped obtain the grant and perform the planting.

Councilmember VANCHERI reviewed the annual Veteran’s Day services led by American Legion Post 108 and discussed the Hometown Heroes program. Councilmember VANCHERI provided an update on the Transportation Committee regarding the location of the speed humps on Houston Road, and noted the Engineers are reviewing potential locations for speed humps throughout the Township.

Council President SGOBBA reviewed the Hometown Hero program noting those individuals who currently have a silhouette will be replaced with a photo should one be obtained. The second phase of the program will include those who have been discharged and retired from the services, and will begin in the spring as those applications come through.

Police Chief Prall reported results of the application for the DWI enforcement grant are pending; nonetheless, there will be increased DWI patrols leading up to the holidays regardless of whether the grant is received. Chief Prall noted DWI enforcement has increased in the Department for this year. Lastly, Chief Prall described the PBA and Police Department participation in the No Shave November Campaign which will be carried through December.

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

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

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

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

Poll: Ayes: Hablitz, Murphy, 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 Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Hablitz, that the meeting be and it was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Cynthia Kraus
Municipal Clerk