

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

**Monday, November 13, 2017**

Council President Anthony Sgobba called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Marc Benitez, Maria Cordonnier, William Liess, and Chris Vancheri. Also present were Mayor James Damiano, Township Engineer Dennis Lindsay, Township Attorney Joe Wenzel, and Municipal Clerk Cynthia Kraus.

Absent: Township Administrator Charles Cuccia.

Township Employees present: Police Chief Steven Post and DPW Superintendent Philip Simone.

**STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE:** Take notice that adequate notice of this meeting was 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 3, 2017; 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.

At this time the Mayor read the Proclamation for Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month.

**PUBLIC COMMENT – GENERAL MATTERS**

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

Poll:           Ayes:   Benitez, Cordonnier, Liess, Vancheri and Council President Sgobba  
              Nays:   None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Donna Moline, 45 Donato Drive, expressed her appreciation for the Council's consideration of resident concerns regarding Donato Drive improvements. On behalf of the residents of Donato Drive, she added that there remain concerns about installation of Belgian block. Ms. Moline questioned whether the residents who favored Belgian block could have it installed and those who opposed it could have alternative curbing installed.

Mr. Lindsay commented on the durability of Belgian block curbing and detailed the process of installation, which in his experience was more substantial than concrete curbing. He further elaborated that historically, the Township did not utilize Belgian block in the past due to the price. Concrete can be found in the Township primarily on County roads. Council President SGOBBA commented on his understanding of Ms. Moline's opinion on Belgian block, however, he disagreed with her comment on durability of Belgian block from personal experience. He added that the repair factor is easier as one small section can be repaired at a time. In response to Ms. Moline's query, Council President SGOBBA indicated the Township would make repairs to the curbing in a reasonable amount of time. The Council heard concerns regarding Belgian block, however, if the grant was approved Belgian block would be included. In response to Ms. Moline's concern regarding trees lost in the installation of Belgian block, Council President SGOBBA believed Shade Tree could assist to restore trees.

Ms. Moline raised a question as to whether depressed ramps would be included in Donato Drive improvements. Mr. Lindsay explained that if there are no sidewalks installed than there is no requirement for depressed curb to be put in.

At this time, Ms. Moline presented a brochure from her development from 1951, then called Cedar Falls.

Louis Fernandez, 54 Harrison Street, questioned an email blast he received advertising a rummage sale held by a church in the Township. Mrs. Kraus explained that often non-profit organizations in the Township submit requests for such advertisements.

Mr. Fernandez also requested additional information regarding the former Municipal Court Judge Corradino. Mr. Wenzel provided his understanding of the allegation, citing that the State Supreme Court and the committees within the Supreme Court will investigate the matter and then render a decision. All decisions rendered by the NJ Supreme Court are available on the NJ judiciary website. Council President SGOBBA stated that if information comes forth the public would be notified.

Mr. Fernandez questioned the rationale for the provision of each resident's name and address when addressing the Council. Council President SGOBBA explained that for the record, the name and address is part of the meeting procedure.

Arnold Korotkin, 181 Long Hill Road, questioned the status of recruitment for a Chief for the EMS. Mayor Damiano stated the Fire Chief and several personnel in the Fire Bureau will assume the duties of that position. At this time, there is no additional cost to the Township.

Mr. Korotkin raised a question related to parking. Council President SGOBBA requested Mr. Korotkin table his questions for the next public comment when parking will be discussed.

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Bill Schnabel, 60 Notchcroft Drive, expressed his concern regarding traffic on speeding and unsafe driving on his street. He also stated his concern regarding the safety of how vehicles are traverse the ramp exiting Route 46 East. Council President SGOBBA requested Police Chief Post and Councilmember Cordonnier examine the area of concern and report back.

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

Poll: Ayes: Benitez, Cordonnier, Liess, Vancheri and Council President Sgobba  
Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

***ACTION ITEMS:***

It was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Benitez, that the following be approved:

**RESOLUTIONS**

Payment of Bills

**RESOLUTION [A] 17-11-13- #1  
PAYMENT OF BILLS**

**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.

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Poll: Ayes: Benitez, Cordonnier, Liess, Vancheri and Council President Sgobba  
Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Council President SGOBBA explained the process by which the Council approves bills for the Township.

**ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:**

***ADMINISTRATOR:***

1. BUDGET TRANSFER RESOLUTION-Mayor Damiano explained the rationale for the budget transfer resolution.
2. COMPLETE STREETS ORDINANCE- Mayor Damiano stated that in review of the Complete Streets Policy, he recommended the policy be amended to be in line with the needs of the Township. Specifically, the Mayor recommended Transit Village designated areas be considered separately from other parts of the Township. The Mayor highlighted factors to be considered when enhancing a street in other parts of the Township, reviewing the proposed exemptions from section 7.3 of the ordinance. Councilmember BENITEZ requested clarification as to when residents would have the opportunity to provide comment on the Ordinance. Mayor Damiano explained the approval process, which begins with the introduction of the ordinance at the next Regular Meeting. It will then be published on the Township website for resident review. A second reading of the ordinance will occur with an opportunity for a second public comment. Councilmember BENITEZ requested clarification as to why the Transit Village was not part of the exemption within the ordinance. Mayor Damiano explained the goal for the downtown area is to reduce vehicular traffic and increase pedestrian, bicycle and ADA accessibility. Therefore if improvements were to be made to the street in the Transit Village it would be the Township’s policy that sidewalks, bicycle lanes and ADA accessibility be improved and included in any application to the DOT.
3. DISCUSSION OF ORDINANCE # 1268 (ADOPTED 9/25/17) - Mayor Damiano indicated that in addition to several conflicts throughout the ordinance, downtown parking times on the weekends and holidays require review to determine whether downtown roads should permit parking on weekends and holidays. Mayor Damiano requested the Council re-introduce this ordinance at a future meeting.

**COUNCIL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

Councilmember VANCHERI reminded those present that Saturday, November 18, 2017 at 1:00 pm the Support the Troops Rally will take place. Sergeant Hollander will be honored and all family and friends who are serving or served our country are encouraged to attend.

Councilmember BENITEZ had nothing to report.

Councilmember CORDONNIER reported the Open Space Committee met to review a list of potential projects that could be considered for as grant projects. The list will continue to be prioritized at upcoming Meetings.

Councilmember LIESS announced the senior citizens will be entertained by MSU theatre students on Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at 10am.

1. LOWER NOTCH ROAD ONE-SIDE OF STREET PARKING – Councilmember CORDONNIER requested this item be placed on the Agenda due to concerns expressed by residents from Lower Notch Road. An option that was proposed was one side of the street parking during the construction to the Route 46 bridge. Mayor Damiano stated he spoke with Chief Post, Counsel, and the DOT regarding this issue. In consideration of the timeline for the project and procedure to approve and implement a new ordinance, the Mayor proposed the Police Chief investigate as to whether one of the street parking could be initiated as an emergency option. In discussion with the Police Chief, he

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has stated that if he deemed necessary, construction is one of the permissible reasons for the Chief to enact an emergency no parking on one or both sides of the roadway. The Mayor recommended having the opportunity to hear resident concerns at the next Meeting to determine whether or not the Police can determine this to be an emergency situation, such that parking could be prohibited on one or both sides of the street. Councilmember VANCHERI stated it would be important to obtain resident input.

Council President SGOBBA explained there are currently two ordinances on the books. The Council seeks to reduce conflict of the ordinances. The Council will entertain one side parking and will discuss at the next Meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

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

Poll: Ayes: Benitez, Cordonnier, Liess, Vancheri, and Council President Sgobba  
Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Arnold Korotkin, 181 Long Hill Road, questioned whether the parking limit would be in effect seven days a week/365 days a year, what the fine would be and whether it could be paid online. Council President SGOBBA stated the Council will review holiday restrictions, dates and times, as it pertains to parking restrictions. Mayor Damiano stated non-moving violations are payable online. Mr. Korotkin questioned whether tickets are paper tickets or electronic. Police Chief Post stated tickets are usually paper tickets, however, if the system is down a ticket may be mailed. Council President SGOBBA requested Mrs. Kraus provide the information on fines to Mr. Korotkin.

At this time, Mr. Korotkin commented he did not have the opportunity to review the Township Complete Streets Policy. However, in his review of policies of other towns, he highlighted provision exemption to those complete streets policies, emphasizing that the policy is not a set of rigidly designed standards. Additionally, he requested that a provision be included in the ordinance that residents be informed regarding any complete street project that may impact their street while it is in the planning stage. Council President SGOBBA requested Mr. Korotkin provide his prepared comment to Mrs. Kraus.

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

Poll: Ayes: Cordonnier, Liess, Vancheri, and Council President Sgobba  
Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

It was moved by Councilmember Cordonnier, seconded by Councilmember Liess, that the Council approve the following:

**RESOLUTION [EX]**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 allows for a Public Body to go into executive session during a Public Meeting; and **WHEREAS**, the Governing Body of the Township of Little Falls has deemed it necessary to go into executive session to discuss certain matters which are exempted for the Public; and

**WHEREAS**, the regular meeting of this Governing Body with reconvene;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Council of the Township of Little Falls will go into executive session for the following reason(s) – contract negotiations

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Poll: Ayes: Benitez, Cordonnier, Liess, and Vancheri, and Council President Sgobba  
Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

The Council entered Executive Session at 8:06 p.m.

At 8:20 p. m. the Council returned and it was moved by Councilmember Benitez, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, that the meeting return to Open Session.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was moved by Councilmember Benitez, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, that the meeting be and it was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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Cynthia Kraus  
Municipal Clerk