

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

**Monday, October 16, 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, Township Administrator Charles Cuccia, and Municipal Clerk Cynthia Kraus.

Absent: None.

Township Employees present: Police Chief Steve Post, Fire Chief Jack Sweezy, 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 Mayor Damiano asked everyone to send their thoughts and prayers to the families recently affected by the tragic events in the nation.

**PUBLIC COMMENT – GENERAL MATTERS**

It was moved by Councilmember Cordonnier, seconded by Councilmember Liess, 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, stated her presence at tonight's Meeting was to convey concerns regarding proposed Donato Drive improvements. Council President SGOBBA explained Ms. Moline may provide comment during the second Public Comment portion.

Arnold Korotkin, 181 Long Hill Road, noted Election Day is 22 days away and recommended it be included on the Township website calendar. He questioned whether a projected date could be provided as to when the taping, posting, and cable broadcast of Council meetings will resume.

Council President SGOBBA requested Councilmember VANCHERI ensure that Election Day is included on the Township website calendar. Mr. Cuccia stated the new website training will occur on the 25<sup>th</sup> and arrangements to stream the meetings onto the website can be made. Mayor Damiano commented on live streaming of Council meetings, indicating the Township website will be able to archive the meetings directly on the website without using a third party vendor, making it more user friendly for residents.

Mr. Korotkin requested whether Mr. Janota's presentation on redevelopment from the September 25, 2017 could be placed on the Township website. Council President SGOBBA responded the Council will review his request.

Mr. Korotkin queried whether a timetable has been established to bring Inwood Park into ADA compliance. Mr. Lindsay indicated the ramp was constructed, the bleachers are in compliance, and however, parking remains an issue to be explored. Mr. Korotkin asked whether a curb cut or designation of a disability spot was planned. Mr. Lindsay explained there are issues the Township faces as it is a private road; the Township must collaborate with the property owner.

Louis Fernandez, 54 Harrison Street, questioned whether a monthly report would be provided for the paid EMS service to demonstrate expenses in comparison to the volunteer system. Mayor Damiano explained that typically the Fire Department report is attached to the regular Meeting Agenda and will be provided at the October 30, 2017 meeting. However, Mayor Damiano stated it appears the full time paid EMS is not costing the Township more than it cost with the volunteer program, with the added benefit of a reduced response rate.

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

RESOLUTIONS

Grant Agreement with NJDEP Green Acres Program

RESOLUTION [A] 17-10-16 - #1  
NJ DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
GREEN ACRES PROGRAM ENABLING RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Green Acres Program (“State”), provides loans and/or grants to municipal and county governments and grants to nonprofit organizations for assistance in the acquisition and development of lands for outdoor recreation and conservation purposes; and  
WHEREAS, the Township of Little Falls desires to further the public interest by obtaining a grant of \$ 2,080,750.00 from the State to fund the following project(s):  
#1605-11-LBA  
Little Falls Blue Acres Acq.

NOW, THEREFORE, the governing body/board resolves that the Mayor, Administrator and Clerk or the successor to the office of the Mayor is hereby authorized to:

- a) make application for such a loan and/or such a grant,
- b) provide additional application information and furnish such documents as may be required,
- c) act as the authorized correspondent of the above named applicant; and

WHEREAS, the State shall determine if the application is complete and in conformance with the scope and intent of the Green Acres Program, and notify the applicant of the amount of the funding award; and

WHEREAS, the applicant is willing to use the State’s funds in accordance with such rules, regulations and applicable statutes, and is willing to enter into an agreement with the State for the above named project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE The Township of Little Falls Council THAT:

- 1. The Mayor (title of authorized official) of the above named body or board is hereby authorized to execute an agreement and any amendment thereto with the State known as (project name) \_\_\_\_\_, and; [Note: Please authorize only one official to sign the project agreement on behalf of the local government or nonprofit.]
- 2. The applicant has its matching share of the project, if a match is required, in the amount of \$10,276,608.63.
- 3. In the event the State’s funds are less than the total project cost specified above, the applicant has the balance of funding necessary to complete the project, and;
- 4. The applicant agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations in its performance of the project.
- 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Filmmaking Permit

RESOLUTION [B] 17-10-16 - #2  
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF FILMMAKING PERMIT

WHEREAS, Montclair State University has submitted an application for a filmmaking permit in the Township of Little Falls; and  
WHEREAS, filming will take place at Blackwork Tattoo Shop, 69B Newark Pompton Turnpike, Little Falls, NJ 07424 on Sunday, October 22, 2017; and

WHEREAS, Montclair State University has submitted a Certificate of Insurance for this purpose, and paid the required application fees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council does hereby approve the issuance of a filmmaking permit to Montclair State University.

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Payment of Bills

RESOLUTION [C] 17-10-16- #3  
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.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

ADMINISTRATOR:

- 1. CHAPTER 159 RESOLUTION FOR MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE – Mr. Cuccia requested the Council’s approval at the October 30, 2017 Regular Meeting on a Municipal Alliance resolution. Due to receipt of the funding letter after the budget was adopted, an amendment to the budget of approximately \$22,000 was requested.
- 2. ORDINANCE FOR TRANSFER OF WILMORE LOTS - Mr. Wenzel explained there are various lots that will be deeded over in the near future at no cost to the Township. In order for the process to be properly legally affected, the Council will have to pass an ordinance accepting these lots. The lots have been grouped together rather than passing an ordinance on each separately. Mr. Cuccia described the location of the lots, which will become part of Wilmore Park.
- 3. RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LEGISLATION REQUIRING PSE&G TO COVER COST OF MILLING/PAVING ROADWAYS UPON COMPLETION OF REPAIR WORK – Mr. Cuccia explained this supportive resolution, which demonstrates a working relationship with PSE&G.
- 4. BEST PRACTICES- Mr. Cuccia presented the Best Practices Worksheet which is required to be submitted to the State. Mr. Cuccia was pleased to announce the Township has met the requirements with a score of 92%. Mr. Cuccia elaborated on accumulated sick time for non-union employees, and explained the Township’s rationale for current procedure.

DPW SUPERINTENDENT:

- 1. AWARD OF ROCK SALT THROUGH PASSAIC COUNTY CO-OP – Mr. Simone explained the success of working through Co-Ops to obtain the best price. Mr. Simone noted the Township was able to obtain a price lower than last year from the Detroit Salt Company. All paperwork was turned into the Clerk, and the

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Council will be asked to make an award to Detroit Salt Company to purchase the rock salt at the next Meeting.

2. RECYCLING MARKETING BIDS –Mr. Simone stated as the contract has expired, bid sheets are being developed so proposals can be received. Therefore, an award will be requested at the November Meeting.
3. SNOW PLOW BIDS – Mr. Simone indicated snow plow bids will be advertised at the end of this month for receipt in November. The bids run from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31. Mr. Simone will return to Council for approval of an award for a snow plow contract in November. He elaborated on the system used by the DPW to clear snow in a snowstorm, explaining that Township has been using one contractor to supplement the Township equipment in the past, to enable deployment of one truck simultaneously into every area.
4. ASBESTOS & LEAD PAINT ASSESSMENTS BID AWARD – Mr. Simone explained the Township has received a grant from FEMA. Bids are being received from professionals to test for lead and asbestos, which will be included in the demolition spec, and covered by FEMA. A recommendation for an award will be made at the next Meeting. In response to Council President SGOBBA, Mr. Simone stated the last house that received a price for lead and asbestos was approximately \$3500.

### **TOWNSHIP ENGINEER:**

1. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A GRANT AGREEMENT FOR DONATO DRIVE IMPROVEMENTS – Mr. Lindsay detailed how roads are selected for the Municipal Aide application as well as the process and criteria of the local aide grants. Additionally, he noted the Township has adopted a Complete Streets policy in October, 2016, which instructs that when roads are developed for modification or reconstruction, consideration is given to all modes of transportation, including buses, trucks, pedestrians, bikes, and handicapped persons. Mr. Lindsay explained the grant that was prepared and submitted under the SAGE program, and includes about a half a mile of work, new Belgian block curbing, modification to the roadway in terms of milling and paving, replacement of catch basin inlets to meet storm system obligations, sanitary sewer manhole replacement, and sidewalks on the interior loop of Donato Drive. The project was estimated at \$761,000 at initial review. Mr. Lindsay added that consideration of narrowing the width of the road is a possibility, however, it will depend on the parking requirements in that area. Mr. Lindsay listed other roads in the municipality that have undergone similar modification.
2. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A GRANT AGREEMENT FOR CROSSWALK SIGNAL IMPROVEMENTS – Mr. Lindsay noted this Resolution is under the DOT's Safe Streets to Transit program, which provides new beacon signals to identify crosswalks that have high volume traffic. Mr. Lindsay listed the improvement locations as Stevens Avenue and Warren Street, by Paterson Avenue and Main Avenue, and by Paterson Avenue by Duva field. Mr. Lindsay explained how the lights function to draw drivers' attention to those in the crosswalk. In response to Council President SGOBBA's inquiry, Mr. Lindsay indicated the project cost is approximately \$135,000.

Councilmember CORDONNIER questioned whether the possibility of being awarded the grant for Donato Drive would be greatly impacted if sidewalks were not included. Mr. Lindsay responded that he could not predict the DOT decision, but noted the grant is a highly competitive one, and that Little Falls has been fortunate to be awarded other grants for streets which include sidewalks. Councilmember CORDONNIER questioned whether there is a requirement for sidewalk width, to which Mr. Lindsay indicated ADA compliance requires four feet minimum width. Councilmember CORDONNIER questioned whether the entire cost would be covered by a grant. Mr. Lindsay described past projects that were covered by grants; most of the construction was funded by grants, however, engineering costs are not funded.

Councilmember CORDONNIER commented the grant for crosswalk signal improvements was a product of the Transportation Committee. Utilization of the signals has been successful in other municipalities.

### **COUNCIL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

Councilmember BENITEZ announced October 19, 2017 is National Purple Day and Domestic Violence Awareness Month will be commemorated. He encouraged all to join the Prevention of Domestic Violence Vigil at 7 pm at the front of the Municipal Building.

Councilmember CORDONNIER announced October is also National Breast Cancer Month and invited all to wear a pink ribbon made available at tonight's Meeting. She described a successful Breast Cancer Awareness event held with the Little Falls Football Parents Association at Duva field this past weekend. Additionally, Councilmember CORDONNIER announced October is Stigma Free month. During the month the schools have been focusing on anti-bullying, anti-stigma, kindness and antiviolence, and will culminate with the Little Falls schools doing a hand to hand event on October 27, 2017. As part of the charge of the Transportation Committee, federal guidelines for ADA compliance within the Township were reviewed with Mr. Cuccia. Although the Township was found to be in ADA compliance, areas of improvement were identified such as the Civic Center, and hope to be addressed in 2018. The next phases will focus on how to provide more handicap parking at the Township's playgrounds as well as how to communicate the Township's ADA features and events to the public.

Councilmember LIESS announced the Annual Harvest Moon Dinner Dance will be held on October 27, 2017. In addition, the Halloween Bash at the Recreation Center will be held from 10 am-12 noon on Saturday, October 28, 2017 for Little Falls residents.

Councilmember VANCHERI stated the new Township website training will be held next Wednesday with the vendor. Councilmember VANCHERI announced an event to honor Staff Sergeant Hollander is being planned on November 18, 2017. He thanked Mr. Korotkin and Mr. Dey for their help and research.

**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.

Council President SGOBBA stated the Council will do their best to answer the public’s questions and concerns.

Donna Moline, 45 Donato Drive, directed a question to Mr. Lindsay requesting clarification on whether including sidewalks in the grant for Donato Drive improvements would impact the possibility of receiving the grant. Mr. Lindsay stated his belief that sidewalks would improve the chances of obtaining the grant. Ms. Moline requested a copy of the application to which Council President SGOBBA obliged and stated the application will be available at the Municipal Building for resident pick up. Ms. Moline then read a statement from residents from Donato Drive and Paul Place expressing their concerns regarding proposed Donato Drive improvements, specifically resident opposition to the installation of sidewalks. Ms. Moline stated she will forward a final draft of the residents’ statement to the Council later this evening, and provided the resident signature sheet to Mr. Cuccia.

Brian Thomas, 169 Donato Drive, requested clarification on the setback for sidewalks. Mr. Lindsay explained the sidewalk dimensions and noted that the measurements are subject to change should the road be narrowed. Mr. Thomas also requested more police presence to ensure compliance adhering to the stop signs on Donato Drive.

Ed Pomponio, 130 Donato Drive, cited two other projects in the Township that were grant funded and did not have sidewalks. Mr. Lindsay stated the projects were completed prior to the adoption of the Complete Streets policy. Mr. Lindsay reiterated the grant may be awarded, however, he emphasized the competitive nature of the grant. As the Township also adopted a Complete Streets policy, the Township was required to review pedestrian movement. Mr. Pomponio stated his opposition to sidewalks and concern that water drainage in the area would worsen.

Mayor Damiano clarified the sidewalk would be installed on the inner circle of the roadway.

Drew Wisse, 66 Donato Drive, indicated his concerns that drainage would worsen, that the amount allotted for sidewalks would be more than four feet due to the telephone poles, parking would worsen, driveway space would decrease, and sidewalks would not be aesthetically pleasing. Mr. Lindsay stated that while there would be some trees lost, the center location was selected as the most reasonable from an engineering standpoint. There will be some grass area between the sidewalk and the curb, therefore the amount of footage would be more than four feet.

Elizabeth Thomas, 169 Donato Drive, stated her opposition to sidewalks and concern that liability insurance would be increased for all residents.

Christopher Tencza, 57 Donato Drive, reiterated comments regarding the concern of drainage. He further stated perhaps a safety study could have been performed prior to submission of the grant.

John Van Antwerp, 49 Donato Drive, cited his concern that lack of parking and egress for emergency vehicles may be exacerbated.

Andrew Power, 165 Donato Drive, reiterated previous resident concerns including parking and drainage.

At this time Council President SGOBBA invited Ms. Molina to return to the podium to read the statement prepared by residents. He reminded those present to direct their questions to the Council President.

Donna Moline, 45 Donato Drive, read the statement prepared by Donato Drive and Paul Place residents expressing their opposition to sidewalks and Belgian block curbing included in the grant application for improvements to Donato Drive.

Council President SGOBBA requested a summary of the comments given by residents be provided to Mr. Lindsay.

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

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was moved by Councilmember Cordonnier, seconded by Councilmember Benitez, that the meeting be and it was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.