

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

**Monday, October 7, 2019**

Council President Anthony Sgobba called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Maria Cordonnier, Albert Kahwaty, Tanya Seber, and Chris Vancheri. Also present were Mayor James Damiano, Township Attorney Joe Wenzel, Township Administrator Charles Cuccia, and Municipal Clerk Cynthia Kraus.

Absent: Township Engineer.

Township Employees present: Police Chief Steve Post and DPW Superintendent Phillip Simone.

**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 January 2, 2019. 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, Council President SGOBBA requested Mr. Simone gave his report.

**DPW SUPERINTENDENT:**

1. **AUCTION EQUIPMENT** – Mr. Simone itemized equipment to be auctioned. Paperwork will be submitted to the Clerk to proceed with advertisement for public auction.
2. **RECYCLING RULES AND REGULATIONS** – Mr. Simone explained the repercussions when contaminated recycling is submitted and is then classified as garbage. He identified the Council’s support as imperative to improving resident compliance through an aggressive plan to educate residents on acceptable recycling. In response to Councilmember SEBER, Mr. Simone responded to questions regarding the handout provided, whether the facility could become contaminated, and disposal fees. Councilmember CORDONNIER proposed methods to educate residents and questioned whether the Township should investigate banning the use of plastic bags. Councilmember VANCHERI proposed making the guidelines available at activities Town-wide. In response to Councilmember KAHWATY, Mr. Simone stated this is a nationwide problem and noted the impact of market fluctuations. Mayor Damiano discussed help available from Alexa and Google Assistant called Recycle Coach. Councilmember CORDONNIER highlighted the financial and environmental issue of plastic bags, straws and Styrofoam and that the State will probably develop a plan to phase out plastic bags come next Spring.

At this time, Mayor Damiano thanked everyone who assisted with the success of the Little Falls 5K Run event this weekend. He also reminded everyone flu shots will be available at the Civic Center on October 22, 2019 from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm.

**BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION** – Mayor Damiano invited Maria Organisciak, a Little Falls resident who lost her mother to breast cancer and is now an American Cancer Society volunteer, to the podium while he read the Proclamation declaring October, 2019 Breast Cancer Awareness Month in the Township.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION** – Mayor Damiano invited members of the Domestic Violence Prevention Committee to the podium as he read the Proclamation declaring October, 2019 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Mayor Damiano announced there will be a Domestic Violence Vigil at 6:30 pm on October 10, 2019.

**PUBLIC COMMENT – GENERAL MATTERS**

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

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Reverend Ed Hawkins, Pastor, Second Reformed Church, 6 Walnut Street, and Resident at 28 Ridge Avenue, addressed the Council regarding the road closures that occurred for the Little Falls 5K this past Sunday and its impact on access to worship services. Councilmember SEBER appreciated the Reverend’s comments and acknowledged that with an inaugural year of an event there are things to be learned. Mayor Damiano agreed with comments made and noted consultation should be included next year. He pointed out that all of the roadways were opened 22 minutes prior to the 10 am services held at three of the churches in the Township. He will certainly work closer with the churches in planning this event in the future.

Andrew Baggot, 78 Franklin Road, Denville, 105/107 Main Street, stated the 5K run was a wonderful event. He commented a brief descriptions of the ordinances would be helpful. Council President SGOBBA acknowledged that the Council has taken Mr. Baggot’s suggestion into consideration. Mr. Baggot requested the podium be moved. Council President SGOBBA stated he will poll Councilmembers on the request.

Bob Dombrowski 3 Garden Street, noted St. Agnes had less attendees during service yesterday due to road closures.

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Luis Fernandez, 54 Harrison Street, stated he received the court proceedings regarding the case of 53 Harrison Street and explained the homeowner was only charged with failure to obtain a permit. He explained there were other violations. Council President SGOBBA directed Mr. Fernandez to the Superior Court to convey his concern and to provide any information on violations to Mr. Cuccia. Councilmember CORDONNIER discussed raising the fines for violations as a deterrent.

Denise Organisciak, 300 Main Street, thanked the Mayor and Council for recognizing breast cancer awareness. She has been raising money in her mother’s memory since 2015 and offered her services to coordinate a Town Walk for this cause in 2020.

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

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

**ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:**

**MAYOR/ADMINISTRATOR:**

Mayor Damiano discussed

1. 2018 MUNICIPAL AUDIT REVIEW – Mr. Cuccia presented a power point presentation detailing the audit report for the year end December 31, 2018. Mr. Cuccia reviewed the management comments noting a corrective action plan will be submitted to the Department of Community Affairs. In response to Council President SGOBBA, Mr. Cuccia provided clarification on the Township debt and described the process to which the Township follows-up on uncashed vendor checks.
2. 2019 BEST PRACTICES REVIEW –Mr. Cuccia reported the Township has met the requirements of the State by answering the Best Practices Report. Mr. Cuccia highlighted the response categories, noting the Township did very well.
3. PROPOSED SALARY ORDINANCE – Mayor Damiano explained the salary ordinance which sets a range of the salary for each employee by position. The ordinance has not been updated since 2017. An updated Salary Ordinance will be presented for Council adoption at the October 21, 2019 Meeting.
4. BUDGET TRANSFER RESOLUTIONS – Mayor Damiano elaborated on why budget transfers occur at this time of the year.

**MUNICIPAL CLERK:**

1. Mrs. Kraus announced the Township has an opportunity to enter into a shared service agreement with Passaic County. The program will aide in registering vacant and foreclosed properties. The Township will have to update the current ordinance to meet the standards of the company and impose a fee. This will help keep the properties maintained and provide a contact should action need to be taken. Mr. Cuccia added the Township currently has an ordinance but would have to determine the appropriate fee in discussion with the County.

**FIRE CHIEF:**

1. FIRE PREVENTION WEEK – Fire Chief Sweezy discussed the Fire Prevention campaign. He encouraged everyone to visit [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org) for additional fire safety tips and to develop a fire escape plan. On October 15, 2019 at 9:00 am a Fire Department Demonstration Day will occur at the end of Hopson Avenue with a recruitment event at the High School. On October 27, 2019 at 9:30 am the Little Falls Annual Mass will be held at Holy Angels. In response to Council President SGOBBA, Chief Sweezy stated Enterprise Company No. 2 is the only company that has sleeping quarters for its volunteers. Councilmember KAHWATY stressed the importance of fire prevention and making an escape plan. Councilmember SEBER discussed the importance of having a fire plan when home or away.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**RESOLUTIONS**

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

Bill List

**RESOLUTION [A] 19-10-07 - #1**

**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: Cordonnier, Kahwaty, Seber, Vancheri, and Council President Sgobba  
Abstain: Kahwaty

The Council President declared the motion passed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Meeting of October 7, 2019**

**COUNCIL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

Councilmember CORDONNIER thanked Ms. Organisciak for her work with the Cancer Society. She hopes that a Breast Cancer Walk will be planned in April. Educational information on breast cancer will be in various locations in the Township. The Senior Advisory Board will hold a Lunch and Learn on October 16, 2019. The Harvest Moon Dance is scheduled for October 25, 2019.

Councilmember VANCHERI reported two traffic studies are in progress on Browertown Road and Van Pelt Place. Upon completion, data will be reviewed to develop recommendations. Councilmember VANCHERI clarified why speeds are not posted on the mobile traffic study stations. The Township Engineer has been researching speed humps in collaboration with the Police Department. Mr. Cuccia is researching the possibility of introducing four way stop signs. Councilmember VANCHERI forwarded a request from the Library to add a second handicap parking spot in front of the Library. At the next Council meeting, the Little Falls Jackals, who won the Canadian American League Championship, will be recognized.

Councilmember KAHWATY expressed his appreciation to the members of the Domestic Violence Prevention Committee and highlighted many of the efforts of the Committee. This year there will be an event on Wilmore Road on Halloween which will include food trucks and to give residents a chance to come together after trick or treating. He congratulated Councilmember SEBER on the success of the 5K.

Councilmember SEBER reported the 5K was a great success with 239 runners and thanked all the Departments and individuals involved in its fruition. Councilmember SEBER looked forward to all feedback to make the event even better in the future.

**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:   Cordonnier, Kahwaty, Seber, Vancheri, and Council President Sgobba  
                  Nays:   None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Luis Fernandez, 54 Harrison Street, appreciated the emphasis on Fire Prevention and making an escape plan, and commented illegal apartments often do not meet safety requirements. Council President SGOBBA commented.

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:   Cordonnier, 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 Cordonnier, seconded by Councilmember Seber, that the meeting be and it was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

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Cynthia Kraus  
Municipal Clerk