

**BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 6, 2023
MINUTES**

MEETING OPENED AT 7:30 P.M. BY MAYOR HARRY ROBBINS.

ALL STOOD PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE.

PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT READ INTO RECORD BY MUNICIPAL CLERK CAPASSO:

“IN COMPLIANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 10:4, OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT, NOTICE WAS GIVEN TO TWO NEWSPAPERS, AND POSTED, THAT A WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL IS SCHEDULED FOR THE SIXTH DAY OF APRIL, 2023, WITH THE WORK SESSION TO BEGIN AT THE HOUR OF 7:30 P.M. AND THE REGULAR MEETING TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING AT THE LAKEHURST COMMUNITY CENTER, 207 CENTER STREET, LAKEHURST, NEW JERSEY, AT WHICH TIME, THE BUSINESS OF THE BOROUGH WILL BE CONDUCTED.”

ROLL CALL:

COUNCILMAN DAVIS: PRESENT COUNCILWOMAN HODGES: PRESENT
COUNCILMAN DiMEO: PRESENT COUNCILMAN McCARTHY: PRESENT
COUNCILWOMAN DUGAN: PRESENT COUNCILMAN OGLESBY: PRESENT
MAYOR HARRY ROBBINS: PRESENT

WORK SESSION:

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA:

Municipal Clerk Capasso reviewed the regular meeting agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Time opened: 7:37 p.m.

NO PUBLIC COMMENT

Time closed: 7:37 p.m.

Council President Oglesby reported that Mayor Robbins and himself met with Mayor Arace of Manchester Township this week and will have a report at the next council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT OF WORK SESSION:

Motion by: James Davis

Seconded by: Bernadette Dugan

To adjourn work session. Roll call vote held. All votes affirmative.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by: Steven Oglesby

Seconded by: Robert McCarthy

To approve minutes of March 16, 2023 Regular Meeting. Roll call vote held. All votes affirmative.

CONSENT AGENDA:

All matters to be considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If any discussion is desired by Council, that particular item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

A. RESOLUTIONS:

1. Resolution #23-081 re: Payment of Bills
2. Resolution #23-082 re: Equal Employment Opportunity
3. Resolution #23-083 re: Appointment of Affordable Housing Attorney
4. Resolution #23-084 re: 2023 Salary for Non-Contractual Employee
5. Resolution #23-085 re: Authorizing Shared Services Agreement for Water to Manchester Township
6. Resolution #23-086 re: Authorizing the Hiring of Entry Level Law Enforcement Officers Pursuant to N.J.S.A 11A:4-1.3
7. Resolution #23-087 re: Appointment of Vanceanthony Pelino as Police Officer

B. CORRESPONDENCE:

Lakehurst Volunteer Fire Company requesting to solicit for the year 2023.

C. ORDINANCES APPROVED ON FIRST READING:

“AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK” (#2023-08)

“AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH, CHAPTER IV, SECTION 4-1 ENTITLED “MERCANTILE LICENSING”; AND CHAPTER XIII, SECTION 13-2.1 ENTITLED “LANDLORD REGISTRATION AND LICENSE REQUIRED” (#2023-09)

Mayor Robbins stated it was a great turn out and added Recreation Leader Michele DiMeo did a fantastic job.

Mr. DiMeo also reported Youth and Recreation had a meeting this past Monday and added it was decided that a Nerf War will be held on June 29th at 7:30 p.m. at Fucille Ball Park and the next meeting will be May 1st.

Councilwoman Dugan reported on the Introduction to the 2023 Municipal Budget. Ms. Dugan stated the municipal tax levy increased by 2.78% and the borough net evaluation tax went up by \$8,807,345 adding the rise in evaluation was a result of the reassessment. Ms. Dugan also stated the average residential home went up 61% or approximately \$97,792.00. Ms. Dugan went on to say that the municipal portion of the 2022 tax rate was 1.849, this year it is 1.181 and added the 2022 municipal taxes on an average home was \$2,964.00, this year it is \$3,048.00, an increase of \$84.00.

Councilman McCarthy gave kudos to Police Chief Kline for making his police department close to “whole” again adding Chief Kline is in the process of interviews and background checks; however, Chief Kline is still on the “hunt” for a lifeguard.

Mr. McCarthy reported the new signs for Lake Horicon are to be completed and installed at the end of the month, way ahead of the summer season.

Mr. McCarthy also reported Fire Chief Danny Dries is putting together a Tanker Task Force Drill with the interest of the commercial buildings in the downtown area adding this drill is for scenarios that require more water than the fire hydrants could supply such as commercial buildings. Mr. McCarthy stated Chief Dries would like to use Borough Hall and the surrounding buildings for the drill because of the size, age, and the proximity of the buildings. Mr. McCarthy also stated the drill will take place between Railroad Avenue and Center Street and will include the Police Department, First Aid Squad, and mutual aid companies on May 7th from 7:00 a.m. till 12:00 p.m. Mr. McCarthy further stated traffic will be directed so that the downtown area is accessible.

Mayor Robbins stated that he is in favor of the drill, adding his only concern is having the area cleared before noon.

Mr. McCarthy responded he will speak with Chief Dries and ask that the drill be cleared by 11:00 a.m.

Mayor Robbins asked that a letter be formulated and handed to all businesses in the downtown area so that they are aware of the upcoming drill.

Mr. McCarthy added that it will be posted on both the Police Department and Fire Departments Facebook page and will have electric signs announcing the drill days before the drill takes place.

Mayor Robbins suggested a Code Red be issued so that all residents are aware of the drill as well.

All in favor of the Tanker Task Force Drill.

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC:

Time opened: 7:53 p.m.

Bobby Yuill, 232 Church Street, stated he moved in two years ago adding his yard was a mess and that he wanted to replace his chain link fence, that was rusty and beginning to fall, and add a pool. Mr. Yuill also stated that he replaced the fence with a stockade fence, adding that the stockade fence is exactly where the chain link fence was located. Mr. Yuill further stated when it came time to finalize the pool, the Code Enforcement Officer, Bill VanBerkel, would not approve the pool until the fence was moved back due to the fence being over the property line.

Councilwoman Dugan stated 232 Church Street is a corner lot and that a corner lot has two front yard setbacks, one for the front and one for the side; however, both the house and fence are pre-existing, non-conforming.

Mayor Robbins asked which property line the fence is extending.

Mr. Yuill responded it is the property line along Brook Street and added if the stockade fence is placed exactly where the original chain link fence was located, there is still 4 feet between the fence and Brook Street.

Mayor Robbins stated he will have a conversation with Mr. VanBerkel regarding the fence. Mayor Robbins made Mr. Yuill aware that the governing body will not micromanage a department, adding there is a department head for each department to make their own decisions. Mayor Robbins went on to say the governing body will not ask Mr. VanBerkel to “bend the rules”; however, they will make him aware that the house and fence are pre-existing, non-conforming.

Mr. Yuill thanked the governing body for listening and for considering his concerns.

Time closed: 8:05 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by: Bernadette Dugan

Seconded by: Steven Oglesby

To adjourn meeting. Roll call vote held. All votes affirmative. Time: 8:05 p.m.

Maryanne Capasso, RMC
Municipal Clerk