

**BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 1, 2023
MINUTES**

MEETING OPENED AT 7:30 P.M. BY COUNCILMAN JAMES DAVIS.

ALL STOOD FOR THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE.

PUBLIC MEETINGS 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 FIRST DAY OF JUNE, 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: ABSENT
MAYOR HARRY ROBBINS: ABSENT	

WORK SESSION:

PRESENTATION TO LAKEHURST VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, FIRST AID SQUAD, AND POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR SERVICES DURING THE APRIL 2023 WILDFIRE

Councilman McCarthy, Public Safety Committee Chairperson, presented Proclamations to the Lakehurst Volunteer Fire Department, the First Aid Squad, and to the Police Department for their response and services for the April 11, 2023 wildfire.

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA:

Municipal Clerk Capasso reviewed the Regular Meeting Agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Time opened: 7:40 p.m.

NO PUBLIC COMMENT

Time closed: 7:40 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT OF WORK SESSION:

Motion by: Bernadette Dugan

Seconded by: Patricia Hodges

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by: Robert McCarthy

Seconded by: Bernadette Dugan

To approve minutes of May 18, 2023 Regular Meeting. Roll call vote held. All votes affirmative with the exception of Councilman DiMeo who abstained due to his absence at the May 18th Regular Meeting,

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 #23-101 re: Payment of Bills
2. Resolution #23-102 re: Chapter 159 for FY2023 Stormwater Assistance Grant-GIS Mapping
3. Resolution #23-103 re: Professional Services Contract for Engineering Services to Upgrade GIS Stormwater System Mapping
4. Resolution #23-104 re: Hiring Amyrr M. Evans as 90-Day Probationary Public Works Laborer
5. Resolution #23-105 re: Appointing Ava Goins as Part-Time Clerk-Typist
6. Resolution #23-106 re: Appointment of Chaplain for Lakehurst Police Department
7. Resolution #23-107 re: Supporting The New Jersey Forest Fire Service & Fuel Mitigation Projects Using Prescribed Fire and Other Treatments
8. Resolution #23-108 re: On-Premise Raffle License for Lakehurst Volunteer Fire Department
9. Resolution #23-109 re: Off-Premise Raffle License for Lakehurst Volunteer Fire Department
10. Resolution #23-110 re: Raffle Licenses for Lakehurst Historical Society

Mrs. Hodges further reported that Mr. Winton is able to open restrooms at Lake Horicon before Memorial Day added the governing body just needs to give him a date as to when they want the restrooms opened.

Mrs. Hodges went on to report that Pine Street and Union Avenue in the Westlake section of the borough will be paved this year and the sidewalk repair will be next year adding both projects are funded through NJDOT Grants.

Mrs. Hodges reported that Mr. Winton is continuing to resolve the water loss issue, adding Mr. Winton had resolved 50% of the problem last month and now, this month, it is even less than that.

Mrs. Hodges also reported that Mr. Winton reported the flooding issue at Union Avenue and Orchard Street to the county, adding not only did the county express that the flooding is their problem but is also their fault and will have the issue resolved.

Mrs. Hodges reported that Public Works had two workshops last Tuesday at the Community Center, adding both workshops were coordinated with Manchester Township. Mrs. Hodges stated that there was a Rain Barrel Workshop where each participant was able to build and take home a rain barrel and the other workshop was the Composting at Home Seminar. Mrs. Hodges also stated that both workshops were well attended and received good feedback, adding it was a fun evening. Mrs. Hodges gave kudos to Amy Lowe for coordinating the events.

Councilman DiMeo reported the Youth and Recreation Committee will be supporting the Lakehurst Police Department with the Annual Bicycle Rodeo this Saturday at noon till 3 p.m. at Lake Horicon. Mr. DiMeo stated that all children Pre-k through 8th grade are welcome, adding they must have a helmet to participate. Mr. DiMeo also reported that the next Youth and Recreation meeting will be this Monday at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center.

Councilwoman Dugan reported that the adopted 2023 Municipal Budget was forwarded to the Ocean County Taxation Board for certification adding once certified, the borough will be able to send out the 2023-2024 tax bills.

Councilman McCarthy reported that Police Chief Kline has ordered the updated Lake Horicon rules signs and expect delivery soon adding that once they are received, they will be installed.

Councilman Davis asked if there was any update on the vandalism of the Memorial Day wreaths located at Lake Horicon.

Councilman DiMeo responded Police Chief Kline reviewed the cameras at the lake and found that Mother Nature is to blame. Mr. DiMeo stated that the wind knocked the Memorial wreaths down and a few good Samaritans picked them up and replaced the fallen flowers.

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC:

Time opened: 7:49 p.m.

Bruce Margeson, 5 Geneva Road, questioned the movement on the cannabis businesses.

Municipal Clerk Capasso responded that the retail cannabis business located at the old Burger King site has obtained a demolition permit and has begun demolition on the inside of the building adding they are looking to open late summer. Mrs. Capasso also stated that the retail cannabis business in the downtown area has purchased the old First National Bank building and finalized closing last week and added that they have begun pruning back overgrown trees while they are awaiting architect plans.

Mr. Margeson expressed his concerns regarding the pay of \$18 an hour for part-time police officers who are risking their lives in today's climate. Mr. Margeson stated that McDonalds and Shoprite are paying more money than what the borough is paying for new part-time police officers. Mr. Margeson also stated that the police officers are accepting the pay knowing that in two years they will take their experience and move on to another municipality. Mr. Margeson went on to say the governing body needs to be more proactive and when preparing the budget next year, consider a more competitive pay for the police officers.

Councilman Davis thanked Mr. Margeson and noted his concerns.

Time closed: 7:53 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by: Bernadette Dugan

Seconded by: Patricia Hodges

To adjourn meeting. Roll call vote held. All votes affirmative. Time: 7:53 p.m.

Maryanne Capasso, RMC
Municipal Clerk