

**BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 20, 2023
MINUTES**

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

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

PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT READ INTO RECORD BY MUNICIPAL CLERK MARYANNE 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 TWENTIETH DAY OF JULY, 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:

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO POLICE OFFICERS JOHN DOLAN AND VANCEANTHONY PELINO BY MUNICIPAL ATTORNEY IAN GOLDMAN:

Mr. Goldman administered the oath of office to Police Officer John Dolan and Police Officer Vanceanthony Pelino.

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA:

Municipal Clerk Capasso reviewed the regular meeting agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS :

Time opened: 7:38 p.m.

Bruce Margeson, 5 Geneva Road, questioned Resolution #23-130.

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 #23-122 re: Payment of Bills
2. Resolution #23-123 re: Appointment of John Dolan as Police Officer
3. Resolution #23-124 re: Appointment of Aidan James as Lifeguard
4. Resolution #23-125 re: Appointment of Hailey Dries as Land Use Board Alternate Member
5. Resolution #23-126 re: Approving Membership in Lakehurst Volunteer Fire Department for Raymond Sinton
6. Resolution #23-127 re: Accepting Maintenance Bond and Release of Performance Bond for Limelight LLC.
7. Resolution #23-128 re: Chapter 159 for CDBG Orange Street Phase 2
8. Resolution #23-129 re: Authorizing Extension of Grace Period for Third Quarter 2023 Property Taxes
9. Resolution #23-130 re: Authorize Municipal Clerk to Publish Bid Notice for Leasing Real Property
10. Resolution #23-131 re: Authorizing Agreement with Action Data for Payroll Services
11. Resolution #23-132 re: Supporting Mas Flower LLC for a Class 5 Retail Cannabis License
12. Resolution #23-133 re: Approving the Refund of \$5,000 of Cannabis Application Fee to Cannabis Business Not Selected
13. Resolution #23-134 re: Adjustment to Utility Account for Block 39, Lot 19
14. Resolution #23-135 re: Authorizing Refund of Permit Fee for Block 7, Lot 27

B. ORDINANCES APPROVED ON FIRST READING:

“AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER XXV OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ENTITLED LAND DEVELOPMENT” (#2023-15)

“AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST AMENDING CHAPTER VII OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ENTITLED TRAFFIC” (#2023-16)

“AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER II, OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ENTITLED “ADMINISTRATION”” (#2023-17)

“AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH, CHAPTER XXV ENTITLED “LAND DEVELOPMENT” (#2023-18)

Motion by: Patricia Hodges

Seconded by: James Davis

To approve consent agenda. Roll call vote held. All votes affirmative

COMMITTEE/COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilwoman Hodges reported that the Public Works Committee met with David Winton, Public Works Department Head. Mrs. Hodges stated that the public works department is currently recycling concrete; however, the DEP is now requiring a permit and a designated container for concrete. Mrs. Hodges also stated that Mr. Winton would like to discontinue collecting concrete due to the cost to the borough, adding it is mostly contractors that are dropping off concrete.

Councilman McCarthy asked if the cost to the borough is more than what they are receiving for the recycled concrete.

Mrs. Hodges responded the borough is not getting anything for recycling concrete adding the borough is losing money due to the tipping fee.

Mayor Robbins questioned the contractors that are dumping concrete.

Council President Oglesby responded that contractors are not allowed to dump at the public works yard.

Mrs. Hodges also reported that another problem with concrete recycling is other materials mixed in the concrete.

Mr. McCarthy suggested that concrete only be accepted on Saturdays so that it can be closely supervised.

Mrs. Hodges stated that Mr. Winton is looking for feedback, adding she will suggest that idea.

Mayor Robbins suggested that when no employee is available to monitor the dumping, the gate should be locked so that no one can enter.

Mrs. Hodges further reported that Mr. Winton would like to lower the lake as soon as possible, adding looking at his workforce, he rather sooner than later.

Mayor Robbins responded he would prefer October 1st.

Mrs. Hodges went on to report that Mr. Winton has the materials for the retaining wall and will begin building in the fall and added the planting for the bulkhead will begin in the spring.

Councilman DiMeo reported that an IT security meeting needs to be schedule due to MEL JIF requiring all municipalities to have a Cyber Security policy in place.

Council President Oglesby reported that Municipal Clerk Capasso and himself attended a Cannabis Regulatory Commission webinar on July 10th adding the meeting was mostly procedural issues. Mr. Oglesby explained that when the borough approves a resolution for cannabis establishment, the resolution is approving the location is suitable adding it is not approving the license.

Councilwoman Dugan reported that the county approved the tax rate of 2.128 for 2023 and added the tax bill will be mailed out next week with a grace period of 25 days after the day they are mailed out.

Councilman McCarthy reported that there was a Public Safety meeting last week. Mr. McCarthy stated all entities concerning gear and equipment are in good shape and added both the Fire Department and First Aid Squad are looking for volunteers. Mr. McCarthy also reported the Police Department is one officer shy of being “whole” and added the new police vehicle will be completed by the end of summer. Mr. McCarthy further reported that the OEM plan has been approved by both the county and state. Mr. McCarthy went on to report that OEM had a meeting last week in regard to large wildfire response adding they went over what work, what didn’t work, what could they do better and not do the next time there is a wildfire.

Councilman Davis reported that the police’s Dodge Charger needs extensive work adding the cost of repairs out weights the need to keep in service. Mr. Davis went on to say Police Chief Kline will pull the car out of service and put on GovDeals for auction.

Mayor Robbins suggested reaching out to both Public Works Department Head, Dave Winton, and Police Chief Kline to see if there are other cars to be auctioned as well.

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC:

Time opened: 7:57 p.m.

Sue Clark, 301 Manapqua Avenue, asked if a rescheduled date for the fireworks has been decided.

Mayor Robbins responded that a date has not been decided as of yet.

Bruce Margeson, 5 Geneva Road, stated that at the last council meeting he had mentioned that mulch was needed at the Lake Horicon playground, adding the playground is still in need of mulch.

Councilwoman Hodges noted that she will reach out to Public Works in regard to replenishing mulch at the playground.

Mr. Margeson questioned cannabis wholesale.

Mayor Robbins answered the land that was approved for zoning for cannabis manufacturing and/or cultivation is going out to bid for lease within the next few weeks.

Mr. Margeson reported that a new trailer in Barkers Village is now available for rent at the cost of \$2600 a month, adding the borough needs a Housing Commissioner for affordable housing.

Mayor Robbins responded that the borough will not be hiring a Housing Commissioner.

Mr. Margeson asked if a permit is needed for a petition.

Borough Attorney Ian Goldman stated even if a municipality does not have rent control, the state regulates rent control. Mr. Goldman went on to say that if the landlord raises the rent by 15% to 20% and the landlord tries to evict the tenant for not paying, there is recourse through the state.

Council President Oglesby asked if Barkers Village has a HOA.

Mr. Margeson replied there is no HOA.

Mr. Goldman stated that most contracts have the rent increase built in. Mr. Goldman went on to say that rent control usually applies to location and building in a large capacity, that is not the case in Lakehurst.

Mr. Margeson stated that there are over 300 rentals in Lakehurst. Mr. Margeson also stated that he has family members that tried to rent in Lakehurst, but the cost of rent was too high that they ended up renting in Manchester adding Lakehurst is a great little town, yet people are unable to afford to live here.

Time closed: 8:07 p.m.

