BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST REGULAR MEETING MAY 2, 2024 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:

"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 SECOND DAY OF MAY, 2024, 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 COUNCILMAN DIMEO: PRESENT COUNCILWOMAN DUGAN: 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: 7:32 p.m.

NO PUBLIC COMMENT

Time closed: 7:32 p.m.

Councilwoman Hodges stated that she met with Public Works Supervisor Dave Winton and that he wants to meet with the Ordinance Committee to review some of the fees.

Councilman DiMeo wanted to commend everyone on the cleanup. Mr. DiMeo stated that they had a decent turnout and cleaned up a good portion of town.

Mayor Robbins stated that he was glad it was such a success and he wanted to thank everyone for the effort.

Councilman DiMeo questioned if the Borough sweeps the streets.

Mayor Robbin stated that the County sweeps their roads. Mayor Robbins stated that we can talk to the County and questioned if we can pay them under Schedule C to do our roads. Mayor Robbins asked Councilwoman Hodges to reach out to Mr. Winton and find out.

Councilman McCarthy stated he just left the Fire Department and that they had their second meeting with fire safety commission. Mr. McCarthy stated that everything is going well with State Regulations compliance. Mr. McCarthy also stated that Mr. Nelson, New Jersey Division of Fire Safety, has been a tremendous help but there is an elephant in the room which is response time. Mr. McCarthy further stated that right now, mutual aid answers about 60% of our calls, which is not uncommon, adding that there was talk about ways to incentivize volunteers, but we can discuss that further at another time.

Councilman DiMeo stated that at the last meeting there was talk about the town making an ordinance and setting our own response time.

Councilman McCarthy stated that it was not brought up at this meeting, but he will certainly investigate it.

Councilman McCarthy stated that he learned tonight that if a running log is kept for the Firefighters and Line Officer's turn out gear, we can extend the life of the gear.

Councilman Oglesby stated that he was approached by two different people this month because of the fire that almost was, stating that they never received the reverse 911 call. Mr. Oglesby wanted to remind everyone of the importance of checking yearly to make sure that their information is up to date.

ADJOURNMENT OF WORK SESSION:

Motion by: James Davis Seconded by: Bernadette Dugan To adjourn work session. Roll call vote held.

Council	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Council President Oglesby	Х			
Councilman Davis	Х			
Councilman DiMeo	х			
Councilwoman Hodges	х			
Councilman McCarthy	Х			

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by: James DavisSeconded by: Brian DiMeoTo approve minutes of April 18, 2024 Regular Meeting. Roll call vote held.

Council	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Council President Oglesby	х			
Councilman Davis	х			
Councilman DiMeo	х			
Councilwoman Hodges	х			
Councilman McCarthy	Х			

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 #24-088 re: Payment of Bills
- 2. Resolution #24-089 re: Equal Employment Opportunity
- 3. Resolution #24-090 re: Self-examination of 2024 Municipal Budget

B. ORDINANCES APPROVED OF 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" (#2024-02)

Motion by: Patricia Hodges Seconded by: Bernadette Dugan To approve consent agenda. Roll call vote held.

Council	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Council President Oglesby	Х			
Councilman Davis	Х			
Councilman DiMeo	Х			
Councilwoman Hodges	Х			
Councilman McCarthy	Х			

ORDINANCES NOT ON CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion by: Bernadette Dugan Seconded by: Steven Oglesby To approve on second reading and open the public hearing of Ordinance #2024-01 entitled "ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST, CHAPTER XXV ENTITLED "LAND DEVELOPMENT".

Time opened: 7:42 p.m.

NO PUBLIC COMMENT

Time closed: 7:43 p.m.

Motion by: Steven Oglesby Seconded by: Bernadette Dugan To adopt Ordinance #2024-01. Roll call vote held.

Council	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Council President Oglesby	Х			
Councilman Davis	Х			
Councilman DiMeo	х			
Councilwoman Hodges	Х			
Councilman McCarthy	Х			

NEW BUSINESS:

INTRODUCTION OF 2024 MUNICIPAL BUDGET:

Motion by: Bernadette Dugan Seconded by: Brian DiMeo To approve Resolution #24-091 Introducing 2024 Municipal Budget. Roll call vote held.

Council	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Council President Oglesby	Х			
Councilman Davis	Х			
Councilman DiMeo	Х			
Councilwoman Hodges	Х			
Councilman McCarthy	Х			

COMMITTEE/COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilwoman Hodges reported that the paving of Union Avenue and Pine Street is completed, and 28 water services were replaced. Mrs. Hodges stated that the Public Works Department is continuing with the pear tree project and the sidewalk inspections. Mrs. Hodges went on to say that mulch would be brought in for the playground at the lake and that the seed was put down around the lake. Mrs. Hodges also stated that herself and Andew Hodges planted nine seedlings at the lake as well. Mrs. Hodges stated that she is looking into holding the rain barrel workshop in conjunction with the composting workshop again.

Councilman DiMeo stated that Monday at 7:00 pm Youth and Recreation Committee will have their meeting and that May 18th is town wide yard sale.

Councilwoman Dugan reported that school introduced their budget and that there is a 2.65% increase which equates to \$26.00 to the average household. Mrs. Dugan also stated that there is an increased student enrollment at the school and that the school received \$900,000.00 in State Aid. Mrs. Dugan went on to say there is a 2.90% tax increase for the town which equates to \$88.00 to the average household per year or \$1.71 per week. Mrs. Dugan went on to wish Mrs. Hodges a Happy Birthday, whose birthday is next Monday.

Councilman McCarthy stated that saga continues, and they are actively seeking a lifeguard.

Councilman Oglesby said the Personnel Committee is working and results are forthcoming.

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC:

Time opened: 7:49 p.m.

Bruce Margeson, 5 Geneva Road, asked if he understood correctly that the towns taxes are going up because the school tax is going up? Mr. Margeson stated that this concerns him because taxes should be going down from the pot shop and Wawa.

Mayor Robbins responded the cannabis retail shop was only opened for one month and the borough can not anticipate that in the budget because we do not have a true representation of the revenue. Mayor Robbins went on to say that everything is going up, insurance, salaries, and cost of living always goes up.

Councilwoman Dugan stated that Cap Bank Ordinance is a procedural thing and we do it every year. Mrs. Dugan also went on to say that combined the average household will see a \$114.00 increase per year.

Mr. Margeson went on to question enrollment at the school.

Councilman Oglesby told him this was not the forum and that he would need to go to a School Board Meeting.

Mr. Margeson brought up having a crosswalk in front of Mrs. Walkers and stated that people walk across the street all the time.

Mayor Robbins said that this is a County Road and that this would need to be addressed to them as well as the business owners because they would be losing parking spots.

Time closed: 8:01 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by: Bernadette Dugan To adjourn meeting. Roll call vote held.

Seconded by: James Davis

Council	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Council President Oglesby	Х			
Councilman Davis	х			
Councilman DiMeo	х			
Councilwoman Hodges	х			
Councilman McCarthy	Х			

Time: 8:01 p.m.

Amy Lowe, RMC Deputy Municipal Clerk