

**BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST
WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
MAY 20, 2021**

MEETING OPENED AT 7:30 P.M. BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT STEVEN OGLESBY.

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 TWENTIETH DAY OF MAY, 2021, 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 LOWE: PRESENT
COUNCILMAN DiMEO: PRESENT COUNCILMAN McCARTHY: PRESENT
COUNCILWOMAN HODGES: PRESENT COUNCILMAN OGLESBY: PRESENT
MAYOR HARRY ROBBINS: ABSENT

WORK SESSION:

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA:

Municipal Clerk Capasso reviewed the regular meeting agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Time opened: 7:33 p.m.

NO PUBLIC COMMENT

Time closed: 7:33 p.m.

Councilman DiMeo reported AT&T is no longer providing analog phone lines as of November 1st adding the borough is looking into a new phone system. Mr. DiMeo stated he is in the process of receiving quotes from a few providers that provide Voice-over-Internet Protocol (VoIP) adding VoIP is a technology that uses broadband internet. Mr. DiMeo further stated it is the most current technology and is cost efficient. Mr. DiMeo

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

PUBLIC HEARING ON 2021 MUNICIPAL BUDGET:

Motion by: Patricia Hodges
To open public hearing on 2021 Municipal Budget. Roll call vote held. All votes affirmative.

Seconded by: Brian DiMeo

Time opened: 7:41 p.m.

NO PUBLIC COMMENTS

Time closed: 7:41 p.m.

Motion by: Gary Lowe
To close public hearing on 2021 Municipal Budget. Roll call vote held. All votes affirmative.

Seconded by: Patricia Hodges

ADOPTION OF 2021 MUNICIPAL BUDGET:

Motion by: Brian DiMeo
To approve Resolution #21-080 adopting 2021 Municipal Budget. Roll call vote held. All votes affirmative.

Seconded by: Patricia Hodges

COMMITTEE/COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilman DiMeo reported the Youth and Recreation Committee met this past week. Mr. DiMeo stated the committee discussed they will be having public meetings on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the community center adding all are welcomed. Mr. DiMeo stated with guidelines changing, the hopes are having fun this summer adding a Cruising Night and a Movie Night “are in the works”.

Councilman Lowe reported Public Works’ backhoe has been set out for engine repair. Mr. Lowe also reported Public Works, along with Save Barnegat Bay, are hosting a rain barrel workshop on June 5th at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Lowe stated the hands-on workshop will educate and empower residents to reuse rainwater collected from their roof and added attendees will build and take home a 55-gallon rain barrel. Mr. Lowe further stated if anyone had question to please contact Public Works at 732-657-9797 and added registration information is on the borough website. Mr. Lowe also stated the borough will receive Stormwater credits for hosting the workshop.

Council President Oglesby stated the borough is a part of the Barnegat Bay Watershed and added water flows east so everything done here in the borough does affect the bay and the ocean.

Councilman Davis reported the Public Works Committee spoke with Public Works Department Head Dave Winton. Mr. Davis stated the Public Works Department's work force is low due to lost personnel and schedule vacation time adding some projects have been put on the "back burner". Mr. Davis also stated finishing touches are being done on the restrooms at the lake like egress and egress exit for ADA, lighting, and cameras outside to monitor vandalism adding the hopes are to have completed for Memorial Day. Mr. Davis further stated "No Parking" and "Park in Designated Areas" signs for the lake will be going in tomorrow.

Councilman McCarthy reported Board of Education meeting was held on May 18th adding they will be going into collective bargaining for teacher's contracts. Mr. McCarthy also reported the board hired a new school psychologist, they approved six staff member's children to attend the school for the 2021-2022 school year and recognized three recent retirees yet ignoring a fourth retiree. Mr. McCarthy stated the board's bills totaled \$351,131.19 showing a balance of \$1,306,409.00.

Mr. McCarthy reported the Fire Department last fall purchased new lower pressure hoses and is currently adding an additional five new lengths of hose adding they now have five hoses that are serviceable but are no longer needed. Mr. McCarthy stated the Fire Chief asked if he could ask the mutual aid companies if they can use them and if they cannot, the fire department would like to sell them on Govdeals.

Chief Financial Officer Wayne Sibilis reviewed the 2021 budget. Mr. Sibilis stated the budget was adopted under self-review adding next year the budget will be reviewed by the state. Mr. Sibilis also reported the budget is within the appropriations cap having \$210,546 in the bank for future years and added the budget is within the levy cap having \$97,550 in the bank for future years. Mr. Sibilis went on to report the budget as introduced increased taxes \$41,447 generating a \$0.03 increase adding the increase is due to items the borough has no control over such as increase pension cost, health benefits, and utilities.

Mr. Oglesby thanked the Finance Committee for their hard work in regard to the budget.

Mr. Oglesby stated the borough has a time deadline to consider any ordinances on marijuana sales and distributions adding the Ordinance Committee and the borough attorney will be meeting next week.

Mr. Lowe asked if marijuana can be sold now.

Mr. Oglesby responded as of now no but on August 22, 2021 that could change. Mr. Oglesby stated any municipal regulation or prohibition must be adopted by August 22, 2022 and failure to act by that date shall mean that a period of five years thereafter, the growing, cultivating, manufacturing, selling, and reselling of cannabis and cannabis items shall be permitted uses in all industrial zones, and the retail selling of cannabis items to consumers shall be a conditional use in all commercial and retail zones.

Mr. McCarthy reported Toms River is adopting a Period of Time Ordinance where they are not excepting the sales or distribution of cannabis at this time but giving themselves more time to look at other options adding the borough might want to go that route.

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC:

Time opened: 7:57 p.m.

Bruce Margenson, 5 Geneva Road, stated there were 75 people at the Lake Horicon yesterday adding the bathrooms need to be open to the public. Mr. Margenson also stated signs need to indicate the Men's Bathroom and Women's Bathroom as well as lightening in the area.

Mr. Margenson expressed his concerns of the Cannabis Ordinance. Mr. Margenson stated there are pros and cons adding he hopes the public will voice the concerns to the Mayor and council.

Time closed: 8:01 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION:

Resolution to go into closed session read:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P. L. 1975, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances, **and**

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Lakehurst, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, as follows:

The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the hereinafter specified subject matter.

The general nature of the subject matters to be discussed is as follows:

**PERSONNEL MATTERS
CONTRACT NEGOTIATION**

It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter will be made public.

