

**BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST
WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 19, 2021
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 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 NINETEENTH DAY OF AUGUST, 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: PRESENT	

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 COMMENTS

Time closed: 7:33 p.m.

Councilman DiMeo recommended the governing body enable multi-factor authenticator on their Microsoft and email accounts to reduce the risk of cyber vulnerability adding this will give an extra layer of protection. Mr. DiMeo stated that instructions on how to set-up the multi-factor authenticator has been sent to their email and once it is set-up, they are to contact Coastal Solution for the final set-up procedure. Mr. DiMeo also reminded the

governing body that they are no longer to be using their Gmail account, adding Coastal Solution can provide instructions on how to have their Gmail go directly to their Lakehurst-nj.gov account.

Council President Oglesby reported the county has increased the recycling capabilities adding you can now recycle plastics that are marked 1, 2, or 5 including caps on bottles. Mr. Oglesby also reported pie plates and trays, aluminum foil, and yogurt containers can now be recycled adding they just need to be clean. Mr. Oglesby stated the new recycling capabilities flyer will be posted on the borough website.

Mr. Oglesby stated the governing body received information on a new incentive for municipalities called “We Value Our Veterans” adding there is a certain criteria to be met but feels the borough can certainly meet them.

Mr. Oglesby also stated he attend a pre-construction meeting for the reconstruction of Lake Street. Mr. Oglesby reported the project will begin late September adding the project consist of curbing, sidewalks with handicap curbing, and repaving on the north side of Route 70. Mr. Oglesby went on to say residents on Lake Street will be notify ahead of time.

Mr. Oglesby questioned the ordinance codification.

Municipal Clerk Capasso responded a representative from Coded Systems, Michele Woods, had reached out to her to meet next week to review the ordinances.

Mr. Oglesby reported that he and Public Works Department Head, Dave Winton, will be meeting next week with an arborist to discuss planting of new trees along Union Avenue. Mr. Oglesby also reported the arborist recommended Coriander Cherry Trees adding the tree does not get too big, does not spread out, and is a hardy tree.

Councilman Davis reported nuisance trees that are causing sidewalks to lift are starting to be removed.

ADJOURNMENT OF WORK SESSION:

Motion by: James Davis

Seconded by: Gary Lowe

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by: James Davis

Seconded by: Patricia Hodges

To approve minutes of July 1, 2021 Special Meeting. Roll call vote held. All votes affirmative.

Motion by: Steven Oglesby

Seconded by: Gary Lowe

To approve minutes of July 15, 2021 Regular Meeting. Roll call vote held. All votes affirmative with the exception of Councilman DiMeo who abstained due to his absence at the July 15th 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 #21-105 re: Payment of Bills
2. Resolution #21-106 re: Approving renewal contract for Web Site Maintenance
3. Resolution #21-107 re: Approving Agreement with the Lakehurst Board of Education for a School Resource Officer
4. Resolution #21-108 re: Hiring Amyrr M. Evans as Temporary 60-Day Public Works Laborer
5. Resolution #21-109 re: Authorizing Refund of 2020 Tax Overpayment for Bl. 25, Lot 14.02
6. Resolution #21-110 re: Authorizing Refund of 2021 Tax Overpayment for Block 56, Lot 14
7. Resolution #21-111 re: Authorizing the Cancellation of 2021 Taxes for Bl. 8, Lot 13
8. Resolution #21-112 re: Chapter 159 for Body Worn Camera Grant Program
9. Resolution #21-113 re: Approving Membership in Lakehurst First Aid Squad for Krizia Gonzalez
10. Resolution #21-114 re: Approving Membership in Lakehurst First Aid Squad for Avatara L. Robinson

ORDINANCES APPROVED ON FIRST READING:

“AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST, IN THE COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS AND TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$100,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, FULLY FUNDED BY THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND” (#2021-07)

Motion by: Steven Oglesby

Seconded by: James Davis

To approve consent agenda. Roll call vote held. All votes affirmative with the exception of Council President Oglesby who abstained from Resolution #21-113 and Resolution #21-114 for he is a member of the First Aid Squad.

ORDINANCES NOT ON CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion by: Brian DiMeo

Seconded by: Patricia Hodges

To approve on second reading and open the public hearing of Ordinance #2021-06 entitled: "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", SECTION 25-32 RESERVED; AND CHAPTER IV ENTITLED "GENERAL LICENSING", SECTION 4-5 RESERVED" (#2021-06) Roll call vote held. All votes affirmative with the exception of Councilman Lowe who voted no.

Time opened: 7:42 p.m.

Hugh Giordano, Union Representative for the United Food and Commercial Workers, stated he is here tonight representing cannabis workers in the sale, cultivation, and distribution of both medical and retail cannabis. Mr. Giordano also stated he is in support of Ordinance #21-06 in theory but wants to make sure that it protects the working-class citizens in this field. Mr. Giordano further stated that these are skilled, trade workers that have degrees in areas such as botany, horticulture, and pharmacy. Mr. Giordano asked that the borough add to the ordinance a merit base system that would protect these workers.

Christopher Chillemi, 215 Manapaqua Avenue, asked if Ordinance #21-06 proposes a growing farm.

Mayor Robbins responded the ordinance allows for two retail businesses in the borough, one in the B-1 Downtown Business Zone and one in the B-2 Highway Business Zone. Mayor Robbins also stated the ordinance allows cultivating, manufacturing, wholesale, and distribution in the Light Industrial Zone which is located by Public Works adding it was the old landfill site.

Amanda Oglesby, 309 Church Street, reported that only three municipalities in New Jersey failed to support the legalization of recreational marijuana and added over 70% of the voters in Lakehurst voted yes to the legalization.

Mayor Robbins responded the actual number of supporters was 97.2% of the voters in the borough.

Ms. Oglesby stated she is happy to see the governing body has listen to the voters and to see changes happening.

Bruce Margenson, 5 Geneva Road, commented that a union does not need to come in and tell business owners what needs to be done adding if a business owner wants to invest his money in a business in the borough, then allow him to do just that.

Time closed: 7:54 p.m.

Motion by: Brian DiMeo

Seconded by: Patricia Hodges

To adopt Ordinance #21-08. Roll call vote held. All votes affirmative.

COMMITTEE/COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilman DiMeo reported the Youth and Recreation Committee will be hosting a car show event at Lake Horicon on September 17th from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Mr. DiMeo stated the Boy Scouts will be selling food adding they have not been able to raise money since the pandemic.

Councilman Davis added the event is more of a Cruise Night event. Mr. Davis invited everyone to come down to meet people, eat good food, enjoy youth activities for the children, and support the vendors.

Mr. DiMeo is requesting for Lake Street at Union Avenue and at Church Street to be closed for foot traffic.

Councilman Lowe reported the backhoe is back from the repair shop and added the engine will not be replaced. Mr. Lowe further reported that no problem was found, and it was recommended that the oil is check on a daily basis.

Councilman McCarthy reported the grant body cameras are in and added training will begin next week. Mr. McCarthy also reported Chief Kline is currently working with the body cam company on a credit with the current contract that is not quite over.

Mr. McCarthy went on to report that the On-Point Program had a “handful” of referrals this month and added Chief Kline has noticed the effect of the program has caused a drop in the reoccurring issues. Mr. McCarthy once again reminded the governing body the importance of the program and that the grant for the program runs out at the end of the year.

Mayor Robbins asked Councilman McCarthy to explain the On-Point Program to the residents.

Mr. McCarthy explained the On-Point Program provides a social worker that is available 24/7 for the police department. Mr. McCarthy went on to say the ON-Point Program “removes” the police officer from a situation that they are not necessarily trained in and allows the social worker to address those needs such as homelessness, addiction, or domestic abuse and then getting the help that is needed. Mr. McCarthy reported that since this program has been implemented in January, the number of cases has dropped drastically. Mr. McCarthy stated he keeps reiterating the benefits of the program because the first year is a “freebie”, after that, the cost is approximately \$17,000 a year. Mr.

McCarthy added the program is assisting an average of 10 to 20 cases a month, that is over 100 residents a year that are getting the help they need.

Mr. McCarthy reported the Fire Department began replacing the outfits and equipment adding this is part of the new fire chief's agenda. Mr. McCarthy also reported all the SBA's have been tested, repaired as needed, and recertified.

MAYOR COMMENTS:

Mayor Robbins suggested the Boy Scouts can clean up around the lake and receive a \$200 donation through the Clean Communities Grant.

Mayor Robbins reported he has been in contact with the county regarding the repaving of Brown Avenue adding it will be done either this fall or early spring.

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC:

Time opened: 8:02 p.m.

Clark Norris, Pine Street, requested the borough provide more grills at Lake Horicon adding there is only one grill, and it is creating problems such as people bring their own grills which is not permitted.

Mr. Norris commented on the noise ordinance adding the ordinance gives no time frame.

Mayor Robbins responded that this ordinance was written quite some time ago; however, if you are disturbed at anytime of day, you have the right to call the police department.

Mr. Norris stated that in his opinion it is an unjust law adding he has spoken to many residents and businesses in the borough, and they share the same opinion. Mr. Norris went on to say no person shall make noise such as loud talk, laughing, or singing in the borders of their own property is an unjust law. Mr. Norris added people come to this borough, buy property taxes in the borough, spend money to beautify their home, and then have to abide to the noise ordinance, it is unjust and needs to be changed now.

Mayor Robbins acknowledge that the borough ordinances do need to be updated adding there is an ordinance committee that are currently doing so.

Councilman Davis stated he does not recall that ordinance being enforced in the borough.

Mr. Norris responded it has been enforced at his home adding the ordinance needs to be changed now.

Council President Oglesby responded the ordinance committee can only update so many ordinances at a time.

Mr. Norris asked how will the residents know when an ordinance has been updated.

Mayor Robbins stated just like this evening, the ordinance will be on the agenda for public comment and adoption adding the agenda is on the website two days prior to a council meeting.

Bruce Margenson, 5 Geneva Road, stated that there have been nine tornados in New Jersey this summer and asked where will residents go to seek shelter. Mr. Margenson suggested the governing body put a plan in place and possibly use the Community Center, the ESC building, or the gym at the school especially for those who live in the mobile home parks.

Robert Robinson, 519 Willow Street, asked what can be done about animal feces around the neighborhood.

Mayor Robbins answered unfortunately nothing can be done unless they are caught.

Mr. Robinson stated he noticed a few green garbage cans are missing throughout the borough.

Mayor Robbins responded the municipal clerk will address the garbage cans with Public Works Department Head, Dave Winton.

Time closed: 8:14 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION:

Municipal Clerk Capasso read resolution to go into closed session:

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:

