

**BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST
REGULAR MEETING,
NOVEMBER 3, 2022
MINUTES**

MEETING OPENED AT 7:30 P.M. BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT 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 THIRD DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2022, 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: ABSENT COUNCILWOMAN HODGES: PRESENT
COUNCILMAN DiMEO: PPRESENT COUNCILMAN McCARTHY: PRESENT
COUNCILWOMAN DUGAN: PRESENT COUNCILMAN OGLESBY: PRESENT
MAYOR HARRY ROBBINS: ABSENT

WORK SESSION:

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA:

Municipal Clerk Capasso reviewed the regular meeting agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS OF HALLOWEEN DECORATING CONTEST:

FIRST PRIZE: \$100 WILLIAM & JESSICA POST
811 OAK STREET

SECOND PRIZE: \$50 KURT & JANET VAN BUSKIRK
604 WILLOW STREET

THIRD PRIZE: \$25 AMY PAGE
506 WILLOW STREET

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Time opened: 7:34 p.m.

NO PUBLIC COMMENT

Time closed: 7:34 p.m.

Councilman McCarthy stated Police Chief Kline is here tonight to discuss his concerns in regard to the ongoing issues at Lake Horicon and a potential resolution.

Police Chief Kline reported that in 2021 the police department received 32 calls for disturbances and in 2022 the calls rose to 70 calls adding summons are written; however, the police can not enforce them to vacate the property. Police Chief Kline stated if the borough was to implement badges, that would give the police officers the “tools” to alleviate the ongoing issues. Police Chief Kline further stated he understands that the governing body has a concern charging residents a fee for badges adding he does not see many residents utilizing the lake. Police Chief Kline went on to say the lifeguard circulated a petition and added out of 62 signatures only 2 were residents. Police Chief Kline suggested that a minimum fee be charged to residents adding he is not looking to generate revenue but to give the police officer leverage to have people leave if causing a disturbance.

Council President Oglesby responded that the governing body has discussed beach badges over the years and added the one question that comes up is if the borough is to restrict beach access to badges only, has is one to purchase a badge on the weekends.

Councilwoman Dugan asked Borough Attorney Ian Goldman if the borough is allowed to restrict access when badges are not available for purchase.

Borough Attorney Ian Goldman responded that badges should be available to purchase.

Councilman McCarthy suggested to have badges available to purchase through the borough’s website and the purchaser can either pick badges up at Borough Hall or receive by mail. Mr. McCarthy stated he does not agree to charging residents but if the need is there then at least it is readily available to purchase.

Mr. Oglesby suggested charging for parking permits for the spots at the lake so that those who can not park near the lake have to park further away adding this could be a burden for those trying to access the lake. Mr. Oglesby stated requiring badges can be difficult to enforce unless a Class I Officer is assigned to be stationed at the lake to not only check for badges but be available for those who want to purchase badges.

Mr. Goldman asked how often the issue occurs and when does it occur.

Police Chief Kline responded it is happening on the weekends adding people from out-of-state are having parties with alcohol.

ORDINANCES APPROVED ON FIRST READING:

“AN ORDINANCE GRANTING RENEWAL OF MUNICIPAL CONSENT TO COMCAST OF NEW JERSEY, LLC. TO CONSTRUCT, CONNECT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A CABLE TELEVISION AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAKEHURST, OCEAN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY” (#2022-11)

“BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR WATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADES, APPROPRIATING \$805,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$805,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE A PORTION OF THE COSTS THEREOF, AUTHORIZED IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST, IN THE COUNTY OF OCEAN, NEW JERSEY” (#2022-12)

RESIGNATIONS:

- 1) Acceptance of letter of resignation from Police Officer Gavin M. Cecchini

Motion by: Patricia Hodges

Seconded by: Brian DiMeo

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

ORDINANCES NOT ON CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion by: Bernadette Dugan

Seconded by: Patricia Hodges

To approve on second reading and open the public hearing of Ordinance #2022-10 entitled: “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; AND CHAPTER IV ENTITLED “GENERAL LICENSING” SECTION 4-5” (#2022-10). Roll call vote held. All votes affirmative.

Time opened: 7:50 p.m

Bruce Margeson, 5 Geneva Road, stated that the borough has already approved two cannabis retail businesses and now they want to approve a third adding where will it go. Mr. Margeson also stated the borough does not need a third cannabis retail business adding overall it does not look good for the borough. Mr. Margeson further stated the borough is going to be known as the “Pot Capital” of Ocean County and will bring more people into the borough making Route 70 even busier. Mr. Margeson went on to say he is aware that the borough has to pay more money towards police pension fund; however, the borough is gaining a new Wawa, two retail cannabis businesses, and a cannabis manufacturing business.

Time closed: 7:54 p.m.

Motion by: Brian DiMeo

Seconded by: Patricia Hodges

To adopt Ordinance #2022-10. Roll call vote held. All votes affirmative.

COMMITTEE/COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilman DiMeo reported the Youth and Recreation Committee had a Pumpkin Carving event where kids came to carve pumpkins and enjoy a slice of pizza adding fun was had by all. Mr. DiMeo stated the committee will have again next year.

Council President Oglesby thanked the Youth and Recreation Committee for a wonderful parade adding it was a nice turn out.

Councilwoman Dugan reported Public Works has ordered a new body for the 2006 Ford Mason dump truck.

MAYOR COMMENTS:

Council President Oglesby reminded everyone that on Saturday, November 5th, is the Rabies Clinic at the Community Center at 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Mr. Oglesby also reminded everyone Election Day is November 8th and encouraged everyone to express their right to vote adding polls open at 6 a.m. and closed at 8 p.m.

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC:

Time opened: 7:56 p.m.

Jerry Nieuwenhuizen, 601 Poplar Street, asked who is responsible for cleaning out the catch basins in the borough.

Council President Oglesby responded some are the county's responsibilities and some are the borough's responsibilities.

Mr. Nieuwenhuizen stated he has seen some with trees starting to grow out of them.

Councilwoman Dugan had asked the location of these catch basin.

Mr. Nieuwenhuizen stated he does not recall the location. Mr. Nieuwenhuizen also stated that he is here tonight because there is a tree growing between the curb and the sidewalk and the branches are leaning over into the street as to where he can no longer park his car in that location. Mr. Nieuwenhuizen further stated that he approached Dave Winton, Public Works Department Head, in regard to cutting the tree down adding Mr. Winton responded the tree does not belong to the borough.

Mr. Oglesby asked if the tree is lifting the sidewalk.

Mr. Nieuwenhuizen responded it is lifting the sidewalk.

Mr. Oglesby stated the borough does have a program to remove the tree.

Ms. Dugan asked how tall the tree is.

Mr. Nieuwenhuizen answered about 50 feet tall.

Mr. Oglesby stated that Municipal Clerk Capasso will reach out to Mr. Winton in regard to both the tree and the catch basins.

Bruce Margeson, 5 Geneva Road, reported that only one bathroom was open during the Halloween Parade adding the Veteran's Day Memorial event is next week and both bathrooms will need to be open.

Mr. Oglesby assured Mr. Margeson that the bathrooms will be open on Veteran's Day.

Mr. Nieuwenhuizen questioned the new curbing installed on Route 70 for the new Wawa.

Mr. Oglesby responded that the curbing issue is already in the works and is being taken care of.

Time closed: 8:02 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by: Bernadette Dugan

Seconded by: Patricia Hodges

To adjourn meeting. Roll call vote held. All votes affirmative. Time: 8:02 p.m.

Maryanne Capasso, RMC
Municipal Clerk