

**BOROUGH OF LAUREL SPRINGS
MAYOR AND COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2017 - 7:00 P.M.
MAYOR THOMAS A. BARBERA PRESIDING
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SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND MOMENT OF SILENCE was led by Mayor Barbera

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW – Mayor Barbera stated that adequate notice of this meeting was given by emailing the Central Record and the Courier-Post on January 10, 2017 and posting on the website and bulletin board in the Borough Hall, also on Borough’s website.

ROLL CALL recorded as present: Letts, Mochel and Redstreak; absent: McCunney, DiGregorio and Cruz

PRESENTATION – Joe Henry from Hardenbergh Insurance, who is the Borough Insurance Consultant, made a presentation entitled “Put Safety on Your Agenda” to inform the Governing Body about the Borough’s 2017 Safety Topic, which is PEOSH. He explained the Borough’s Safety Incentive Program and gave Council the opportunity to ask any safety related questions they might have.

ENGINEERS REPORT – Environmental Resolutions - Engineer Jeff Hansen

CAPITAL ITEMS

1. Reconstruction of Washington Avenue, Phase 1 - NJDOT FY2016 Municipal Aid Grant

The Borough received a \$200,000.00 Municipal Aid Grant for the Reconstruction of Washington Avenue, between Stone Road and Chestnut Avenue. Bids were received at 2:00 PM on June 8, 2012. The apparent low bidder was Paving Plus, LLC. At the June 2017 meeting Council awarded the Base Bid plus Alternate Bid #2 in the amount of \$179,730.00 to Paving Plus, LLC.

Construction is substantially complete. A punch list of incomplete / unsatisfactory items has been issued to the Contractor for correction.

2. NJDOT Local Aid Grant Applications – FY2018

We recently received correspondence from NJDOT indicating that FY2018 Municipal Aid Applications are due to the state on or before October 6, 2017. ERI is currently preparing a Municipal Aid Application for the Reconstruction of Washington Avenue, Phase 2 (Central Ave. to Chestnut Ave.) and also for the Reconstruction of Arch Avenue (Chestnut Ave. to Summit Ave.). The applications will be submitted to NJDOT prior to the 10/6 deadline.

3. Borough Zoning Map Update

ERI has prepared a draft copy of an updated zoning map for review with appropriate Borough officials. The map will be further updated based upon any comments received once Borough officials have had a chance to review the map.

OTHER PROJECTS

4. Tempo Builders Mixed Use Development

ERI received Final Plans for conformance review to the terms of the Planning Board approval received by the developer in 2013. The design engineer has revised the Plans to satisfy ERI's review comments from March and the Final Plans have been signed by the Borough Engineer. Construction will be able to begin once the developer has posted a performance bond, inspection escrow; and has held a Preconstruction Meeting with our office and appropriate Borough officials.

MATTERS REQUIRING OFFICIAL ACTION

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES-** Regular Meeting of Monday, September 11th, 2017 – the motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak, was seconded by Councilwoman Mochel, with Letts, Mochel and Redstreak in favor, none abstaining and none opposed.

- **RESOLUTIONS**

- **#076-2017-AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE 2018 ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Authority Act provides that each community receive an annual state aid allotment for roads and bridge projects; and

WHEREAS, roadway improvements listed in the 2018 Road Improvement Program, consisting of Washington Avenue Phase 2 (Central to Chestnut); Reconstruction of Arch Avenue (Chestnut to Summit) have been identified as potentially eligible projects; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council, of the Borough of Laurel Springs that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as the 2018 Road Improvement Program to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Borough of Laurel Springs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the Borough of Laurel Springs and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Borough Council, of the Borough of Laurel Springs that the Borough Engineer be authorized to complete the electronic grant application and associated documentation for submission to the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the 2018 Road Improvement Program.

- The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilwoman Mochel with Letts, Mochel and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

- **#077-2017- TO WAIVE OR REDUCE FEES FOR THE JACK H. HAGEN RECREATION CENTER**

WHEREAS, there are fees required for the use of the Jack H. Hagen Recreation Center in the Borough of Laurel Springs, NJ; and

WHEREAS, in certain instances, these fees are reduced or waived;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Laurel Springs that the fees for rental of the Jack H. Hagen Recreation Center be reduced or waived for the following: Ken Cheeseman – Borough Employee
- The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilwoman Mochel with Letts, Mochel and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

- **#078-2017-EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS REGARDING THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT AND OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS ACT**

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee took action on Senate Bill Nos. 1045 and 1046, which amend the Open Public Meetings Act and Open Public Records Act, respectively, on June 29, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Committee released the bills to the full Senate without recommendation because the bills are unnecessary, unpopular with the public, and would result in significant financial and administrative burdens on municipalities; and

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WHEREAS, the bills fail to adequately protect taxpayers, municipalities and, especially, municipal clerks from abusive, harassing, and purposefully confrontational individuals who submit voluminous requests for no legitimate reason; and

WHEREAS, the legislation would expand the Open Public Meeting Act to create impractical and burdensome requirements with respect to subcommittees and working groups established by the entire governing body, which would effectively limit the ability of small groups of local officials discussing issues of public concern for the purposes of informing the governing body; and

WHEREAS, under the bills, the responsibilities of municipal clerks, who the Legislature has already loaded with responsibilities beyond the scope of their office, would be stretched even further than current law requires without a single dollar of additional resources provided to, or authorized to be collected by, municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the bills would impose a financial burden on municipalities that would not be offset by a revenue source other than the property tax, making the bills unfunded mandates prohibited by the New Jersey Constitution; and

WHEREAS, some municipalities are more equipped than others to meet the burdens that would be imposed by Senate Bill Nos. 1045 and 1046, however, without assistance of any kind from the States or the courts, every municipality would be on its own to meet the myriad new requirements of the law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Laurel Springs, that the Legislature is strongly urged to reject Senate Bill Nos. 1045 and 1046 and draft new legislation to modernize OPRA and OPMA while providing municipalities and clerks with the resources to effectuate these changes for the benefit of the public.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be filed with the legislative sponsors of Senate Bill Nos. 1045 and 1046 and Assembly Bill Nos. 2697 and 2699, the Speaker of the General Assembly, the President of the Senate, and the Governor, and all parties are urged to listen to the concerns of local officials and prevent Senate Bill Nos. 1045 and 1046 from becoming law.

- The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilwoman Mochel with Letts, Mochel and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

- RESOLVED TO PAY \$41,407.42 FROM CURRENT ACCOUNT AND \$12,341.74 FROM TRUST AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

- The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilwoman Mochel with Letts, Mochel and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS – the Laurel Springs Police Officers Association submitted a letter to Mayor and Council with regard to their desire to open contract negotiations, as they're current contract expires December 31, 2017.

- The motion to open negotiations by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilwoman Mochel, with Letts, Mochel and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
- Mayor Barbera appointed the following members of Council to a Police Contract Negotiation Committee: Cruz, Mochel and Redstreak.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

- Best Practices Checklist – The best practices checklist was distributed to council and the results discussed and reviewed by Council.
- New Jersey League of Municipalities Convention Registration Deadline – those attending indicated their interest.

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ITEMS RECEIVED AFTER THE AGENDA WAS PRINTED -

- St. Lawrence Blue Mass - September 29th @7PM – Mayor Barbera announced the invitation to attend this event.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –

- Pastor Cliff- Reported on his ongoing survey around Laurel Springs. Residents mentioned their concern over taxes, abandoned homes, community involvement, saying they need to be more involved and are not informed. Other issues raised were communication, youth-teenagers, trash, blight, and drug overdose.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Wednesday, October 4th – Recreation Commission Meeting @7pm @Recreation Center
- Saturday, October 7th – Fall Town Wide Yard Sale – Clean Communities Day.
- Monday, October 9th – Columbus Day – Borough Offices are closed
- Saturday, October 14th – WhitsEnd Music Festival @11 am – 4 pm
- Saturday, October 14th – Laurel Lake Fire Alliance Fire Prevention Program – Clementon
- Monday, October 16th – Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council @7pm @Borough Hall.

ADJOURNMENT –There being no further business a motion was made by Councilman Redstreak which was seconded by Councilwoman Mochel to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn T. Amadio, RMC, Municipal Clerk