

BOROUGH OF LAUREL SPRINGS
REGULAR MEETING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MONDAY, MAY 11, 2020
MAYOR THOMAS A. BARBERA PRESIDING

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 Retrospect and the Courier-Post on January 7th, 2020 and posting on the Borough Website and bulletin board in the Borough Hall.

ROLL CALL recorded as present: Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco Riondino and Redstreak with DelPidio absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting of Monday, April 27, 2020 - The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilman Cruz, with DelPidio, DiMarco, Riondino, Cruz and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and none abstaining.

RESOLUTIONS

- #055-2020 - EXTENDING THE GRACE PERIOD FOR MAY 1ST PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS UNTIL JUNE 1ST IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXECUTIVE ORDER 130
WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-66(a), second-quarter property taxes are due for property taxpayers within Borough of Laurel Springs on May 1, 2020; and
WHEREAS, pursuant N.J.S.A. 54:4-67(a), local governments may fix the rate of interest to be charged for the nonpayment of taxes, assessments, or other municipal liens or charges, on or before the date when they would become delinquent, and may provide that no interest shall be charged if payment of any installment is made within the tenth calendar day following the date upon which the same became delinquent, thereby establishing a grace period running through May 11, 2020 for second-quarter property taxes; and
WHEREAS, in an effort to take action to minimize and mitigate additional hardships, losses, or suffering by individuals and local government units as the State and its political subdivisions respond to the spread of COVID-19, on April 28, 2020, The Honorable Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, issued Executive Order 130, permitting municipalities to adopt a resolution instituting a grace period concluding on a date no later than June 1, 2020 for the payment of second-quarter property taxes; and
WHEREAS, in an effort to mitigate financial hardship and to alleviate some of the financial burden caused as a result of COVID-19 on property taxpayers within the Borough of Laurel Springs, the Township Committee of the Borough of Laurel Springs desire to take action in accordance with Executive Order 130 and institute a grace period to the fullest extent permitted by the Order, concluding on June 1, 2020 for the payment of second-quarter property taxes.
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Borough of Laurel Springs, County of Camden and State of New Jersey, that:
 1. The provisions of the WHEREAS clauses set forth above are incorporated herein by reference and made a part hereof.
 2. The Council of the Borough of Laurel Springs hereby institutes a grace period concluding on June 1, 2020 for the payment of second-quarter property taxes in accordance with Executive Order 130.
 3. The Borough Clerk is directed to notify the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs of this resolution instituting an extended grace period adopted under authority of Executive Order 130 not later than the third business day next following the adoption of this resolution.
 4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.
- The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilman Cruz, with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, Riondino, Cruz and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and none abstaining.
- #056-2020 - APPROVING SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF LAUREL SPRINGS AND THE TOWNSHIP OF VOORHEES FOR CERTIFIED RECYCLING PROFESSIONAL (CRP) TO PREPARE ANNUAL RECYCLING TONNAGE REPORT
WHEREAS, each New Jersey Municipality is required to have mandatory Annual Recycling Tonnage Reports approved and “signed” by a Certified Recycling Professional (hereinafter CRP); and

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WHEREAS, the Borough of Laurel Springs, by ordinance, has duly enacted a recycling plan for all recyclable materials as designated by the Camden County Solid Waste Management Plan and amendments thereto; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Laurel Springs is desirous of retaining CRP services of the Township of Voorhees for preparation, to be signed by a NJ Certified Recycling Professional, of said Annual Recycling Tonnage Report by entering into agreement; and

WHEREAS, the parties hereto are permitted in accordance with NJSA 40:8A-1 et seq., the Interlocal Services Act ("Act"), to enter into an Agreement to provide jointly, or through each respective agency itself, such services authorized by the Act, including areas of general government administration;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in consideration of the terms, conditions, mutual benefits and covenants hereinafter set forth, the Township of Voorhees and the Borough of Laurel Springs agree to the following terms:

- 1) The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute a Shared Services Agreement by and between the Township of Voorhees and the Borough of Laurel Springs
- 2) The Shared Services Agreement shall be placed on file in the office of the Borough of Laurel springs Municipal Clerk and made available for public inspection upon execution.
- 3) The terms and provisions of the Shared Services Agreement shall be in effect from January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020.

- The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilman Cruz, with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, Riondino, Cruz and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and none abstaining
- #057-2020 - TO ESTABLISH AN ESTIMATED MUNICIPAL TAX LEVY PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 72, P.L. 1994

WHEREAS, in light of the disruption caused by the coronavirus outbreak, the State of New Jersey delayed the adoption of their FY 2021 budget to September 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) cannot certify State Aid allocations to municipal budgets until State Aid appropriations are known; and

WHEREAS, the DLGS cannot approve municipal budgets, and the County Board of Taxation cannot certify tax rates until after the June 30, 2020 deadline to process third quarter tax bills due August 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, without an adopted 2020 municipal budget, and without a 2020 certified tax rate, the Tax Collector cannot process the final 2020 tax levy; and

WHEREAS, per Local Finance Notice #2020-07, the DLGS strongly recommends that municipalities prepare to issue estimated property tax bills for 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Laurel Springs Chief Financial Officer and Tax Collector have computed an Estimated Tax Levy in accordance with N.J.S.A. 54:4-66.3, and have both signed a certification showing the previous year's tax levies and tax rates, as well as the range of permitted estimated tax levies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Laurel Springs Mayor and Borough Council that:

1. The Laurel Springs' Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to prepare and issue estimated tax bills for the third quarterly installment of 2020 taxes. The Tax Collector shall proceed and take such actions as are permitted and required by N.J.S.A. 54:4-66.2 and 54:4-66.3.
2. The entire estimated tax levy for 2020 is hereby set at \$6,134,000.
3. The third installment of 2020 taxes shall not be subject to interest until the later of August 10th or the twenty-fifth calendar day after the date the estimated tax bills were mailed. The estimated bills shall contain a notice specifying the date on which interest may begin to accrue.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a reconciled tax bill shall be calculated in accordance with N.J.S.A. 54:4-66.3, and shall be mailed on or before September 30, 2020.

- The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilman Cruz, with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, Riondino, Cruz and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and none abstaining
- #058-2020 - CANCELLING OUTSTANDING CHECK
WHEREAS, upon review of the financial records of various bank accounts maintained by the Borough of Laurel Springs, it was determined that there are stale-dated outstanding checks; and

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WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Borough to cancel these outstanding checks;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Laurel Springs, that the following outstanding check be cancelled:

ACCOUNT & CHECK #	DATED	PAYEE	AMOUNT
General Fund			
#5590	08/12/19	Laurel Self Storage	\$ 19.00
Recreation Trust Fund			
#1926	07/08/19	Sterling Band Boosters	\$ 200.00

- The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilman Cruz, with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, Riondino, Cruz and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and none abstaining

#059-2020 - REQUESTING THE PUBLIC BOARD OF UTILITIES AFFORD 100% RATE OF HIGH-SPEED INTERNET ACCESSIBILITY FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL MUNICIPALITY THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

WHEREAS, rural areas of the State of New Jersey are serviced by service providers with respect to aerial line high-speed internet service; and

WHEREAS, having access to aerial line high-speed internet service is a necessary and vital part of living in today's society; and

WHEREAS, the recent pandemic of COVID-19 further illustrates just how vital access to aerial line high-speed internet has become to society, especially during times of crisis or emergencies and how not having access to aerial line high-speed internet has the potential to cripple a community, particularly a rural one, denying the community the capacity for remote student learning and remote working arrangements with a resident's employer;

AND FURTHERMORE, that during a time of crisis not having access to aerial line high-speed internet has the potential to shut down all functions of government by denying essential employees and elected officials from the ability to work, communicate, distribute information, conduct meetings, and perform the other requirements of a functioning government through remote capabilities; and

WHEREAS, The Borough of Laurel Springs believes that the service providers of aerial line high-speed internet in the State of New Jersey are more than capable of and financially sound enough to achieve a 100% rate of aerial line high-speed internet accessibility but choose not to pursue that goal unless forced to through regulation because the providers feel it is not profitable; and

WHEREAS, not having access to aerial line high-speed internet service is a plight on students, reducing their educational opportunities and ability to learn in a modern world; and

WHEREAS, not having access to aerial line high-speed internet service could potentially have life and death consequences for the elderly or those with various health complications; and

WHEREAS, not having access to aerial line high-speed internet service causes a great burden to businesses, places them at a disadvantage, and reduces chances for economic development in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, not having access to aerial line high-speed internet service can cause rural healthcare facilities to shut down because they cannot access required networks to function, thereby further creating negative impacts on New Jersey residents' health; and

WHEREAS, other municipalities, rural and otherwise, experience dilemmas and burdens due to internet accessibility based upon profitability, failing to ensure safe, adequate, and proper utility services at reasonable rates for customers in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, The Borough of Laurel Springs is desirous of assisting and cooperating with other public entities and State officials to pursue a petition before the Board of Public Utilities to enact regulations requiring a 100% rate of aerial line high-speed internet accessibility in each individual municipality throughout the State of New Jersey; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Borough of Laurel Springs in Camden County that the Board of Public Utilities is requested to order all service providers of aerial line high-speed internet to provide aerial line high-speed internet service to all municipalities throughout the State with each municipality being afforded a 100% rate of aerial line high-speed internet accessibility; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that our State representatives use their authority to require service providers of aerial line high-speed internet to achieve a 100% rate of high-speed internet access for each individual municipality throughout the State of New Jersey; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerk for the Borough of Laurel Springs be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of New Jersey, the Senate President of the New Jersey State Senate, the Speaker of the Assembly of the State of New Jersey and the Board of Public Utilities; and

- The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilman Cruz, with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, Riondino, Cruz and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and none abstaining
- RESOLVED TO PAY \$614,830.41 FROM CURRENT ACCOUNT AND \$269,674.19 FROM TRUST AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS
- The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilman Cruz, with DelPidio, DiMarco, Riondino, Cruz and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and none abstaining.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Cord Mansion Project** – There was a change order to extend the completion date, however, Borough Administrator Cheeseman hopes that the current phase will be completed by June.

NEW BUSINESS –

- Notice was received from Laurel Springs Board of Education postponing the School Board meeting from Wednesday, May 20th to Wednesday, May 27th
- Notice was received for a Freshwater Permit Notice for Stratford Academy (Laurel Road)
- Reports – Engineer and CFO
- Council was apprised that due to closing of Schools and limited staffing, highest ranking students awards to only Laurel Springs School, Yellin School and Sterling High School, information regarding any awareness of specific resident in parochial or special needs setting was requested.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - none

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Borough Offices are under cautionary closure and will not reopen until further notice.
- Whitman Stafford Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 12th is cancelled
- Miss Laurel Springs Pageant scheduled for Friday, May 15th is cancelled
- Combined Land Use Board Meeting, Thursday, May 21st @7pm @Recreation Center – Cancelled
- Memorial Day is Monday, May 25th – Offices are closed
- Memorial Day Ceremony Monday May 25th @10am to be determined.
- School Board Meeting, Wednesday, May 27th @7pm @Laurel Springs School
- There are no Work Session Meetings in May, June, July, August or October.
- WaltFEST scheduled for Saturday, May 30th is cancelled
- Primary Election scheduled for Tuesday, June 2nd is postponed to July 7th
- Recreation Commission Meeting scheduled for June 3rd is to be determined.
- Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council, Monday June 8th @7pm @Recreation Center

ADJOURNMENT –There being no further business a motion was made by Councilman Redstreak, which was seconded by Councilman Cruz to adjourn at 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Dawn T. Amadio, RMC, Municipal Clerk