

BOROUGH OF LAUREL SPRINGS
REGULAR MEETING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 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, DelPidio, DiMarco and Redstreak with Riondino absent.

ENGINEER'S REPORT – Jeff Hansen – Environmental Resolutions

CAPITAL ITEMS

1. NJDOT Local Aid Grant Applications – FY2018

The Borough was awarded a Municipal Aid Grant in the amount of \$195,000.00 for the Reconstruction of Arch Avenue. Construction was substantially completed in July 2019 and punch list items were completed in September 2019. The final pay estimate and change order were approved by Council at their September 9, 2019 meeting. We are currently processing paperwork for submission to NJDOT so that the Borough can receive the outstanding 25% of the grant reimbursement.

2. NJDOT Local Aid Grant Applications – FY2019

ERI's proposal for engineering design and construction management services was approved by the Governing Body at the October 14, 2019 Council Meeting. The field survey work has been completed and base plans are approximately 75% completed. We will complete Plans and Specifications in time to have the project bid in the spring of 2020.

3. NJDOT Local Aid Grant Applications – FY2020

The Borough was recently awarded a NJDOT FY2020 Municipal Aid Grant in the amount of \$240,000.00. The grant includes funds for the reconstruction of Hemlock Avenue (between White Horse Pike and Stone Road) and Madison Avenue (between White Horse Pike and Stone Road). We will prepare a proposal for engineering design and construction management services for Council's consideration in the near future.

OTHER PROJECTS

4. Laurel Whitman Urban Renewal (Former Municipal Building Redevelopment Site)

The project is nearing completion, with the site work being approximately 95% complete to date. The final paving of the parking lot was being completed on November 25, 2019. ERI is providing construction inspections of the work as necessary. Once the project is substantially completed a punch list will be issued.

5. New Jersey American Water Remediation Project - Grand Avenue

New Jersey American Water is still in the process of completing the roadway restoration associated with the recently completed environmental remediation work along Grand Avenue adjacent to their well site. The work is occurring directly in front of the Jack Hagen Recreation Center. The sanitary sewer main tie-in for their facility has been completed. The excavated area of the roadway has been backfilled and restored with dense graded aggregate subbase and asphalt base course has also been installed. The 2" thick top course of paving will be installed in the spring in order to allow the excavated area the opportunity to settle prior installing the top course. We will provide oversight of the top course paving when constructed.

6. Laurel Lake Cleanup Day - Lake Lowering Permit Application

Our office has prepared a Lake Lowering Permit application for the period between March 15, 2020 and March 29, 2020 and submitted the Application to NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife. The lake will be lowered in order to give homeowners along the lake an opportunity to do some clean up with the lake lowered. The Borough's Cleanup Day will still be held as scheduled in April, but the lake will not be lowered for the event due to the new DFW regulations that require all waterbodies in the southern half of the state to be restored to their natural level on or before April 1.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

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

RESOLUTIONS

• **#031-2020-FOR NEW MERCANTILE LICENSE**

WHEREAS, Mayor and Council of the Borough of Laurel Springs have passed an ordinance establishing Chapter 169 of the code of the Borough of Laurel Springs, known as “Mercantile License”.

WHEREAS, a license is required to operate or conduct any business establishment in the Borough of Laurel Springs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Mayor and Council of the Borough of Laurel Springs that the proper investigations have been made and the following applicant has complied with the general laws and statutes of the State and the ordinance of the Borough of Laurel Springs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that approval has been granted by Mayor and Council for NEW “MERCANTILE LICENSE” for:

All Star Kids Karate Academy
817 West Atlantic Avenue

- The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilwoman DiGregorio, with Cruz, DelPidio, DiMarco, DiGregorio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and none abstaining.
- **#032-2020-TO REDUCE FEES FOR THE JACK H. HAGEN RECREATION CENTER IN THE INSTANCES OF SHARING RENTAL DATE**

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

WHEREAS, in certain instances, a Borough event is conducted during daytime hours and a private rental is still desired for evening hours;

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 \$50 in the instances afore mentioned described.
- The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilwoman DiGregorio, with Cruz, DelPidio, DiMarco, DiGregorio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and none abstaining.
- **RESOLVED TO PAY \$609,956.40 FROM CURRENT ACCOUNT AND \$27,583.12 FROM TRUST AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS**
 - The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilwoman DiGregorio, with Cruz, DelPidio, DiMarco, DiGregorio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and none abstaining.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – all reports are on file and available for review.

- **DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, BOARDS, SERVICES/PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL –** Councilman Redstreak reported that everything is running smooth with Public Works. There were two invoices for sewer for service calls. Nothing major to report.
- **DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS & GROUNDS –** Councilman Cruz reported that the project is ongoing at the Cord Mansion, and it looks really impressive.
- **DIRECTOR OF MUNICIPAL COURT –** Councilwoman DiGregorio read the Court report for November and December, 2019.
- **DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE –** Councilman Riondino was absent.

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- DIRECTOR OF RECREATION – Councilman DelPidio reported on the recent that the Senior Group will be meeting at the Recreation Center on the last Friday of each month. LSYA is holding signups. Coaches will have background checks, and Miss Laurel Springs Pageant applications will be out by March 1st.
- DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT- Councilwoman DiMarco reported that she met with Mayor Barbera and Borough Administrator Ken Cheeseman. The Grand Opening of Whitman Manor is forthcoming. The next Newsletter will go out the end of March. There are concerns to be addressed about Social Media and recent lawsuits.
- DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY- POLICE AND FIRE- Lieutenant Mazziotta read the Police Report for the Month of January, and the Fire Report was read by Mayor Barbera. .
- MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Barbera recounted his activities on behalf of the Borough since the time of the last meeting.

OLD BUSINESS –

- Verizon V. Hopewell- Solicitor Botcheos gave the history of the engagement between Verizon and Hopewell Township, the Business Personal Property Tax and Verizon's position that it does not service more than 51%, and therefore, should not be thus taxed. He accounted for the trial courts decisions and subsequent appeals. The primary issue is whether the test is 51% and whether the phone provider had to meet that test once initially or each year. The appellate arguments will probably heard in the next few months to see if the last decision that favored Hopewell Township will be upheld. There was discussion of whether packing the courtroom would help, to which it was said no it doesn't really work that way. Mayor Barbera gave history of the significant revenue lost due to Verizon's approach, and Solicitor Botcheos reiterated the tax appeal and reciprocal law suit filed by the Borough. There was discussion of whether placing a Verizon Land line back in homes in town would have an impact. There was additional discussion of the test and whether the courts want the initial amount of land lines or want Verizon to have to prove that every year. There was discussion that the 9-1-1 system providing the information required to prove the 51%, however, Verizon is reluctant to acknowledge that and have suggested Tax Assessors should have to provide that to incur the tax. The court did not agree and sided with Hopewell. There was discussion of the retroactivity being decided with the court case. There was discussion of the scope of Verizon's equipment on Borough right of ways, for which they receive revenue from other utilities. There was discussion again of whether there would be enough reduction in each properties tax to pay for a line, to which it was said that the outcome of the court case has to be waited for.

NEW BUSINESS –

- Proposal from CivicPlus- Design & Hosting of Municipal Website – Mayor Barbera said that the former website provider has moved out of state, and Municipal Clerk Amadio reported that the recommendation for CivicPlus came from Lindenwold, and our staff likes Lindenwold's format. There was discussion of the alternate payment plan to spread out the \$7,500 implementation and development fee. The annual maintenance and hosting fee is \$2,000 per year. The previous provider was \$2,400. There was question about speaking to the CFO about the budget requirements and offsite requirements. The website will be more interactive and real-time, which would help with moving away from the use of Social Media. There was discussion of the various programs that a municipality must link to their website. Solicitor Botcheos commented on Larkin v. Glen Rock and cautioned Council to communicate with residents via municipal emails, and there was further discussion of the use of Facebook in that case and what was subject to OPRA and discovery. It was suggested that no elected or appointed official or employee identify themselves as such on Social Media, and should municipal matters be discussed by such on social media that no posts get deleted and no persons be blocked from participating. There was discussion if a motion to approve CivicPlus proposal was needed, to which it was responded that only one quote had been received, because

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no other recommendation had been forthcoming for the type of municipal website provider that is required due to the various links and programs that accompany them. It was also discussed that preliminary budget planning is ongoing so the CFO and Borough Administrator needed to give their consent to the pricing.

- The motion to approve proposal pending consent of the Chief Financial Officer by Councilman Redstreak, was seconded by Councilman Cruz, with Cruz, DelPidio, DiMarco, DiGregorio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and none abstaining.

CORRESPONDENCE - None

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC-

- Tony Gianni - 817 West Atlantic Avenue – Concurred that the Borough website was lacking and offered his assistance with the website issue as he is engaged in website design, to which it was responded that a provider company that can interface the municipally linked online companies.
- Bob Lickfield- Glen Avenue- May 19th South Jersey Gas paved half of his street, and then the water company came along and broke through the new pavement. There was discussion of whether the half-pavement was subject to the new road moratorium. Jeff Hansen, Borough Engineer asked that he be emailed regarding the matter.
- Dezzy Mullin- Knights Youth Football a program from age 4 through high school. Service Somerdale, Stratford, Magnolia, HiNella and Laurel Springs. Last year only 9 kids from Laurel Springs were present, and he wants to get out and meet the community. Registration starting up. This Thursday at the Stratford Senior Center is the parent meeting. He wanted to encourage as many parents as possible. If there are any parents that have questions about football they should come to the parent meeting every board member will be there. He spoke about proper equipment and keeping the kids safe. He had with him his son and the newly elected president and coach of pee wee football. Paperwork and flyers were requested to get to the school and signs could be posted. Registration fee is \$175.00, and declines to \$150.00 and \$125.00 for each additional child thereafter. Payment plans are available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Pet Licenses were due in January. February is a grace period before late fee incurred.
- LSYA Baseball Signups - Tuesdays, February 11th and 18th, 6-8 pm @Rec Center
- Presidents' Day is Monday, February 17th – Borough Offices are closed
- School Board-Wednesday, February 19th @7pm @Laurel Springs School
- Combined Land Use Board-Thursday, February 20th @Recreation Center- Cancelled
- Work Session Meeting, Monday, February 24th @7pm @Recreation Center

ADJOURNMENT –There being no further business a motion was made by Councilman Redstreak, which was seconded by Councilwoman Mochel to adjourn at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Dawn T. Amadio, RMC,
Municipal Clerk