

BOROUGH OF LAUREL SPRINGS
REGULAR MEETING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MONDAY, May 10, 2021
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 5, 2021 and posting on the Borough Website and bulletin board in the Borough Hall.

ROLL CALL recorded as present: Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, Riondino arrived at 7:06, DelPidio and Redstreak; absent: none.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE OFFICIAL OATH OF OFFICE – Mayor Barbera administered the Official Oath of Office to Sergeant Harrison Lickfield and Sergeant Marco Lombardi

PRESENTATION – Joe Henry, Hardenbergh Insurance Group gave his annual Safety on the Agenda presentation with a handout accompanying it on Seatbelt safety.

ENGINEER'S REPORT – Jeff Hanson – Environmental Resolutions, Inc.

CAPITAL ITEMS

1. 2020 Road Improvement Program

NJDOT approved the combination of both the FY2019 and FY2020 projects together into one (1) bid package / contract. Plans and specifications were sent to NJDOT for their review on March 8, 2021. We anticipate advertising for bids during the Week of May 17, 2021 for a June bid date. Construction can be expected to be completed during the summer of 2021.

2. 2021 Road Improvement Program

In November, the Borough received correspondence from NJDOT awarding a FY2021 Municipal Aid Grant in the amount of \$174,930.00 for the reconstruction of Trenton Avenue and Virginia Avenue. Our office will be conducting the field topographic survey within the next month. Once the survey is completed, we will begin drafting the Construction Plans and Specifications for bidding of the project.

3. 2021 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set Aside Grant Application

In November, our office submitted an FY2021 TA Grant application for streetscape improvements along West Atlantic Avenue in front of the Cord Mansion and the adjoining area. The improvements will be designed to mirror those of the existing adjacent downtown streetscape improvements. We will apprise the Governing Body of any news we received with regard to the grant application as it is received.

4. FY2022 NJDOT Local Aid Grant Application

Applications for the grant are due to NJDOT by July 1, 2022. ERI is seeking input from the Governing Body as to which roads the Borough would like to apply for funding. Once determined we will complete the requisite field work, prepare and submit the application.

OTHER PROJECTS

5. 2020 Laurel Lake Dam Safety Inspection Report

We received correspondence dated March 23, 2021 from NJDEP Division of Dam Safety & Flood Engineering indicating that the 2020 Laurel Springs Dam Safety Inspection Report is satisfactory. The Borough is required to perform the minor maintenance and repairs detailed in that report as a condition of the DEP approval. The next report will be due in 2024.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Work Session Meeting of April 26, 2021 - The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilman Cruz, with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, Riondino, DelPidio, and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and Riondino abstaining.

ORDINANCES

- **First Readings by Title, Public Hearing and Adoption**
 - **Ordinance #853-2021** - SUPPLEMENTING AND AMENDING CHAPTER 169 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF LAUREL SPRINGS ENTITLED "MERCANTILE LICENSING"
 - Mayor Barbera read the ordinance by title upon first reading.
 - Motion to Introduce by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilman Cruz, with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, Riondino, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
 - Second Reading, Public Hearing and Adoption will be held on Monday, June 14, 2021
 - **Ordinance #854-2021** - SUPPLEMENTING AND AMENDING CHAPTER 270 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF LAUREL SPRINGS ENTITLED "ZONING"
 - First Reading by Title
 - Motion to Introduce by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilman Cruz, with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, Riondino, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
 - Mayor Barbera said the Ordinance will now be forwarded to the Planning Board for no more than 35 days for review and report. The Planning Board meets on Thursday, May 20, 2021 and again on Thursday, June 17, 2021, creating a potential timeline for adoption at the July 12, 2021, Borough Council Meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

- **#055-2021 - INSERTION OF AN ITEM OF REVENUE NJ RECYCLING TONNAGE GRANT**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality, when such item shall have been made available by law, and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of any item of appropriation for an equal amount;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Laurel Springs do hereby request the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2021 in the sum of \$2,649.97, which is now available as a revenue from a NJ Recycling Tonnage Grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a like sum of \$2,649.97 is hereby appropriated under the title "Recycling Tonnage Grant – Other Expenses," pursuant to the provisions of the statute.
- The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilman Cruz, with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, Riondino, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
- **056-2021 - AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE**

WHEREAS, the Laurel Springs Mayor has submitted to Borough Council the name of Charles Shimberg, Esq., to serve as the Municipal Court Judge.

WHEREAS, the Borough of Laurel Springs (Laurel Springs) has entered into a Shared Services Agreement with the Borough of Somerdale (Somerdale) to provide Municipal Court Service for Laurel Springs; and

WHEREAS, Somerdale has appointed Charles Shimberg, who possesses the necessary skills and qualifications for the position; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the nomination of Charles Shimberg, Esq., is hereby confirmed, and that he is appointed by the position of Municipal Court Judge of the Borough of Laurel Springs, County of Camden, and State of New Jersey.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the term is three (3) years, effective: January 1, 2021, and the term ends December 31, 2023.

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- The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilman Cruz, with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, Riondino, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
- #057-2021 - APPOINTING HARRISON LICKFIELD AS POLICE SERGEANT
WHEREAS, the Borough of Laurel Springs requires a full-time police Sergeant for the Laurel Springs Police Department; and
WHEREAS, Harrison Lickfield has been approved by Chief Brian Mazziotta for this position;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Mayor and Council of the Borough of Laurel Springs, County of Camden, State of New Jersey do hereby confirm that Harrison Lickfield is appointed as Police Sergeant effective Monday, May 10, 2021.
- The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilman Cruz, with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, Riondino, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
- #058-2021 - APPOINTING MARCO LOMBARDI AS POLICE SERGEANT
WHEREAS, the Borough of Laurel Springs requires a full-time police Sergeant for the Laurel Springs Police Department; and
WHEREAS, Marco Lombardi has been approved by Chief Brian Mazziotta for this position;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Mayor and Council of the Borough of Laurel Springs, County of Camden, State of New Jersey do hereby confirm that Marco Lombardi has been appointed as Police Sergeant effective Monday, May 10, 2021.
- The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilman Cruz, with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, Riondino, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
- #059-2021-AUTHORIZING THE EXPOSURE TO PUBLIC SALE OF THE CERTAIN BOROUGH-OWNED REAL PROPERTY
WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13 authorizes the sale of real property not needed for public use; and
WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of Laurel Springs has determined that Block 37, Lot 1.01, is not necessary for public use and that said property would be of better value to the Borough as a privately-owned tax ratable; and
WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of Laurel Springs has further determined that the minimum fair market value for Block 37, Lot 1.01 is \$50,000.00; and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Governing Body of the Borough of Laurel Springs, County of Camden, State of New Jersey, that Block 37, Lot 1.01, 908 Stone Road, be sold on a date to be fixed by the Borough Clerk pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13 to the highest bidder; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the minimum price for Block 37, Lot 1.01 is \$50,000.00; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, as follows:
 - Said lots shall be used only for a use permitted in the zone.
 - Said lots are being sold with the condition that the municipality is issuing no representations or warranties as to the permissibility or advisability of building.
 - The Borough reserves the right at any time prior to confirmation of the sale made hereunder to reject any and all bids.
 - The successful bidder shall be required to demolish the existing structure within 60 days of settlement. The deed transferring the subject property shall be held in trust by the Borough of Laurel Springs until the demolition is completed and approved by the Borough, at which time the deed will be released to the successful bidder.
 - In addition to the bid amount, the successful bidder shall pay the cost of legal and engineering fees, and services for the preparation of necessary ordinances, notices, deeds, maps, descriptions, and costs of advertisement. These costs shall be paid in addition to the prices bid at the time of transfer of title.

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- A bargain and sale deed for each lot will be the document of conveyance and no warranties or representations as to title are made by the Borough of Laurel Springs. If, however, the Borough is unable to convey marketable title, any deposit monies received pursuant to the bidding will be returned.
- The confirmation of the sale by the Governing Body shall be a complete acceptance of the bid and, thereafter, within 60 days from said confirmation, settlement must be completed. In the event of default by the successful bidder to complete within the time allowed, the down payment shall be forfeited.
- The successful bidder, at the conclusion of the sale, shall be required to pay 20 percent of the bid, in cash, certified check, or other acceptable check or instrument as down payment.
- Said sale and conveyance shall be subject to all covenants, conditions, easements, and restrictions whether of record or not, as well as subject to all existing municipal rules, regulations, and ordinances, including the zoning ordinance and amendments thereto of the Borough of Laurel Springs. The sale shall in no way bind the Borough of Laurel Springs to provide access to or improve presently existing accesses, whether there be public roads or not, nor is there any representation, in fact, that accesses do exist to the parcel named herein.
- In the event the successful bidder shall fail to pay the balance as herein provided, the payment made at the time of sale shall be retained by the Borough as liquidated damages for the non-performance of said bidder.
- No representation is made by the Borough of Laurel Springs as to the marketability of, or insurability of title to said parcel. In the event that the title of the Borough of Laurel Springs to said parcel or portion thereof is not marketable or insurable at regular rates by a reputable title insurance company licensed to do business in the State of New Jersey, the successful bidder's sole remedy shall be the right to demand the return of any deposit paid to the Borough of Laurel Springs.
- At least 15 days prior to the date of settlement, the successful bidder will provide the Borough attorney with the following:
 - Preliminary report of title with legal description; and
 - Current survey.
- The Borough Solicitor, Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver any documents necessary to effectuate the subject conveyance.
- The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilman Cruz, with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, Riondino, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
- **RESOLVED TO PAY \$884,832.95 FROM CURRENT ACCOUNT AND \$22,794.13 FROM TRUST AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS**
- The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilman Cruz, with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, Riondino, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – copies of submitted reports are on file and available for review.

- **DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, BOARDS, SERVICES/PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL**- Councilman Redstreak said that with regard to the Sewer Utility, April was a light month with only one stoppage. Ordinance Review has gotten to a phase of reviewing the need to re-examine the Master Plan, after having completed the amendment of Chapter 270 Zoning and sent it to the Planning Board for review, he truly believes that the members are going to like the work accomplished. All is well with Public Works with no complaints received. Bulk trash and brush pick up is the highest it has ever been, and the current trend far exceeds everything previous. The Clean Communities Dumpster is still in the Public Works Yard. The Town Wide Yard Sale seemed successful on a beautiful weather day with a lot of activity.
- **DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS & GROUNDS** – Councilman Cruz reported that the flooring was installed at the Cord Mansion. The elevator was installed, and the general contractor compose punch list. Gordion was out for a pre-bid meeting for Phase 2 while the elevator inspection is being awaited. The Candy Stand bathroom was trashed, and a plumber may be required.

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- **DIRECTOR OF MUNICIPAL COURT** – Councilwoman DiGregorio read the Court Report for the month ending April 30, 2021. She reported on her communication with the Court Administrator regarding the court structure, including the new Shared Service with Pine Hill and the support by the Somerdale Mayor and if our contract will reflect a decrease. She got CARES Act information that the Borough should receive \$180,000 American Rescue Act funds, which segued into a discussion of what the Borough and schools can use it for. Councilwoman DiGregorio said she will continue to act as an emissary with regard to these Court matters.
- **DIRECTOR OF RECREATION** – Councilman DelPidio discussed a letter of recommendation that was composed by the Recreation Commission supporting an upcoming resiliency grant in which generators will be applied for. He said there is an umpire shortage that is being worked through, and the search for more towns to scrimmage, perhaps looking toward certain areas of Voorhees.
- **ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE** – Councilman Riondino read the CFO Report for the month ending April 30, 2021.
- **DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT** – Councilwoman Di Marco said the clean communities' information and dumpster availability were well posted on social media. The Town Wide Yard Sale was a success, and information about the need to obtain a pet license is being posted. The situation with the Sewer Payment online is still not available which is disappointing, but the collector is in contact with the provider.
- **DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY – POLICE AND FIRE** – Chief Mazziotta read the Police Report for April and added that the eTicketing program had been purchased and the officers seem to like it. He offered thanks to Borough Council for their willingness to offer the officers the promotions acted upon this evening, and it provides good faith and a boost and is greatly appreciated. Borough Administrator Cheeseman followed up saying the Chief had put a lot of time and effort into the promotions and did a fantastic job. Some Fire incidents were highlighted saying that the Fire Alliance was working well.
- **MAYOR'S REPORT** – Mayor Barbera presented the Mayor's Report from the time of the last Regular Council Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE - none

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – none

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Tuesday, May 11th, Whitman Stafford Committee, @7pm @Farmhouse
- Wednesday, May 19th, Board of Education @7pm @Laurel Springs School
- Thursday, May 20th, Combined Land Use Board @7pm @Rec Center
- No Work Sessions in May, June, July and October
- No WaltFest in 2021 due to COVID
- Monday, May 31st, Memorial Day Service @10 am @War Memorial – details to be determined.
- Wednesday, June 2nd Recreation Commission @7pm @Rec Center
- Tuesday, June 8th Primary Election @6am – 8 pm @Rec Center
- Tuesday, June 8th, JIF Safety Meeting @12:30 @Firehouse
- Monday, June 14th Regular Council Meeting @ 7pm

ADJOURNMENT –There being no further business a motion was made by Councilman Redstreak with all in favor to adjourn at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted

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Dawn T. Amadio, RMC, Municipal Clerk