

BOROUGH OF LAUREL SPRINGS
REGULAR MEETING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MONDAY, September 13, 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, DelPidio and Redstreak; absent: Riondino and DelPidio

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. The bid opening was held on Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 2:00 PM. We prepared a bid summary and recommendation of award, dated September 7, 2021, recommending award of the Base Bid plus Alternate Bid #1 (West Atlantic Ave. Streetscape) in the amount of \$478,044.00 to the apparent low bidder, American Asphalt Company, Inc. It is anticipated that construction will be completed during the Fall of 2021 or Spring of 2022 depending upon the Contractor's schedule.

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. The surveying work was started by ERI during the Week of August 2, 2021 and is anticipated to be completed on August 9, 2021. Once the base plan is completed, we will begin drafting the Construction Plans and Specifications for bidding of the project. It is anticipated that construction of the project will be done during the Spring / Summer of 2022.

3. FY2022 NJDOT Local Aid Grant Application

A grant application for the reconstruction of Poplar Avenue (Lindsay Avenue to West Elma Avenue) and Washington Avenue (Central Avenue to Chestnut Avenue) on June 30, 2021. We will apprise the Governing Body of any updates we receive with regard to the status of the application.

4. FY2022 NJDOT Local Aid Grant Application

Our office is preparing an application for the FY2022 NJDOT Safe Routes to School Grant program to support the installation of flashing speed limit beacons along Stone Road, near the Borough Elementary School. The application will be submitted prior to the October 14, 2021 deadline.

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 August 23, 2021 - The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilwoman DiGregorio, with DiGregorio, DiMarco, Riondino, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and Cruz abstaining.

ORDINANCES – Second Readings by Title:

- #860-2021- Amending and Supplementing Chapter 260 of the Code of the Borough of Laurel Springs Entitled, “Vehicles and Traffic”
 - Second Reading by Title – Mayor Barbera read the ordinance by title
 - Public Hearing – Mayor Barbera opened the meeting to the public for questions and comments, but hearing none, closed the meeting to the public.
 - Motion to Adopt by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilman Cruz, with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, Riondino, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
- #856-2021 – TO ADOPT THE REVISED OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE BOROUGH OF LAUREL SPRINGS
 - Second Reading by Title – Mayor Barbera read the ordinance by title
 - Public Hearing – Mayor Barbera opened the meeting to the public for questions and comments, but hearing none, closed the meeting to the public.
 - Motion to Adopt by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilman Cruz, with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, Riondino, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

RESOLUTIONS

- #083-2021 - INSERTION OF AN ITEM OF REVENUE NEW JERSEY BODY WORN CAMERA 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 \$18,342.00, which is now available as a revenue from the NJ SFY21 Body Worn Camera Grant Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a like sum of \$18,342.00 is hereby appropriated under the title “Body Worn Camera 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.
- #084-2021 - FOR RENEWAL OF 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”; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Mayor and Council of the Borough of Laurel Springs that the proper investigation has been made and the following applicants have 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 renewals of “MERCANTILE LICENSE” for:

J & R Rebuilders
330 Washington Avenue

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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.
- **RESOLVED TO PAY \$402,709.08 FROM CURRENT ACCOUNT AND \$221,331.68 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 the Public Works Department is running well. Ordinance Review was August 26th where there was discussion of required changes needed to the Fire Department ordinance. The Green Team meeting was this evening.
- **DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS & GROUNDS** – Councilman Cruz reported that the contractor, W. J. Gross will be in this week to work on the punch list and required vent for the elevator. Then there will be a wait for the State re-inspection and hopefully a temporary CO and moving of staff out of the office trailer.
- **DIRECTOR OF MUNICIPAL COURT** – Councilwoman DiGregorio presented the Municipal Court Report for the month of July and August 2021.
- **DIRECTOR OF RECREATION** – Councilman DelPidio reported that there was no quorum at the Recreation Meeting, but planning is ongoing for the Winter Festival, with nothing specifically new to report.
- **ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE** – Councilman Riondino presented the CFO report for the month ending August 31, 2021.
- **DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT** – Councilwoman Di Marco reported that there was a lot going on, beginning with promoting Camden County Hazardous Waste, one-way changes on Washington Avenue with back to school, Beautifications 2021 ornament and 2022 calendar patronage, Camden County History Month, October 5th, 12th and 23rd, and Town Wide Yard Sale. There is a town newsletter upcoming. There was discussion of Clean Communities Dumpster being available the beginning of October in tandem with the Town Wide Yard Sale.
- **DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY – POLICE AND FIRE** – Chief Mazziotta presented the Police Report for August 2021. Chief Cheeseman presented the Fire Report for August 2021. There was conversation about body cameras. Chief Mazziotta says all the officers wear them, they are officer activated. There was additional discussion that currently the officers must activate them themselves.
- **MAYOR'S REPORT** – Mayor Barbera gave his report of his activities from the date of the last regular meeting

OLD BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE

- **306 Mount Vernon Avenue** – The property owners of 308 Mount Vernon thought they had bought the driveway lot, but it was separate and became owned by the Borough. Notice has to be sent to all adjacent property owners, and the Borough has received a response from the owner of 308 Mount Vernon that he did want to bid on the property. Council set the price at \$5,000, only \$250 was offered. The matter has been forwarded to the Borough Attorney and his instruction is being awaited.
- **Letter from Charles Aderet, Midtown Management regarding 625 Stone Road** – Mayor Barbera reviewed the letter and explained who the letter was from and his seeking a five-year tax abatement and the 20-40-60-80-100 percent arrangement it offers in the payment of property taxes on the improvement portion. There is no such arrangement available on the land. In any case it will be a 2022 endeavor. There was discussion of whether certain tenants moved out, to which it was responded that there were some month-

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to-month tenants with the former owner, and the new owner cannot offer that. The new owner is working those issues out with his legal counsel who handles them. There was discussion of Code Enforcement in tandem with the tax abatement, to which it was discussed that tax abatements do involve the County Board of taxation which segued into a conversation of apartment complexes in general.

- Request for Block Party Road Closure – Jo Weidler – Mayor Barbera read the letter requesting a road closure for a block party, for which Councilman Redstreak moved to approve, which Councilman DelPidio seconded with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, Riandino, DelPidio, and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
- Tax Sale Date, Monday, October 18th 10 am - Mayor Barbera announced with event.
- Sustainable Jersey ACE Grant – Mayor Barbera discussed the award notification for this grant saying Councilman Redstreak had done most of the work. It asks for a letter from the mayor and two representatives of the town attending a meeting in Medford. There was discussion of who best was available to attend.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - none

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, September 14th JIF Safety Meeting @12:30 pm @Firehouse
Tuesday, September 14th, Whitman Stafford Meeting @7pm @Farmhouse
Wednesday, September 15th School Board Meeting @7pm @Laurel Springs School
Thursday, September 16th Combined Land Use Board @7pm @Rec Center
Monday, September 20th Regular Council Meeting @ 7pm

ADJOURNMENT –There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Redstreak with all in favor to adjourn at 7:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Dawn T. Amadio, RMC, Municipal Clerk