

BOROUGH OF LAUREL SPRINGS
REGULAR MEETING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MONDAY, February 14, 2022
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 adequate notice of this meeting was given by emailing the Retrospect and the Courier-Post on January 11, 2022 and posting on the Borough Website and bulletin board.

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT –
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 contract for the Base Bid plus Alternate Bid #1 (West Atlantic Ave. Streetscape) in the amount of \$478,044.00 was awarded to American Asphalt Company, Inc. at the September 20, 2021 Council meeting. A preconstruction meeting was held between project stakeholders on January 19, 2022. It is anticipated that construction will begin in April 2022, with completion of the project anticipated in early summer of 2022.

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 has been completed and base plans have been drafted. We are currently working on the design phase of the project. Once the Construction Plans and Specifications are completed we will advertise the project for bid. It is anticipated that bids will be advertised in approximately March 2022, allowing for a construction start in summer 2022.

3. NJDOT FY2022 Local Aid Grant Application

The Borough recently received confirmation of the award of a NJDOT FY2022 Local Aid Grant for the reconstruction of Poplar Avenue (Lindsay Avenue to West Elma Avenue) and Washington Avenue (Central Avenue to Chestnut Avenue) in the amount of \$167,769.00. ERI will provide a proposal for the requisite engineering design and CMCI services within the coming weeks for the Governing Body's consideration.

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4. FY2022 NJDOT Safe Routes to Schools Application

Our office submitted an application for the FY2022 NJDOT Safe Routes to School Grant program to support the installation of flashing speed limit beacons along Stone Road and Broadway, near the Borough Elementary School. We will apprise the Governing Body of any updates we receive with regard to the status of the application.

OTHER PROJECTS

5. Laurel Lake – 2022 Lake Lowering Permit

Our office has prepared an application to NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife to permit the Borough to lower Laurel Lake by 2 feet between the dates of March 15, 2022 and March 29, 2022 in order to facilitate the annual lake cleanup activities. We will submit the application to NJDFW once signed by the Borough Clerk.

Councilman Redstreak asked if the Washington Avenue Project would be done in 2023, to which Engineer Hansen responded maybe in the Fall of 2023, the plans are mostly done, but need to be tweaked. Trenton and Virginia will be done in 2022. There was conversation about combining the projects and about issues with residents on Washington with water run off. Councilman Redstreak would like to be able to let those resident know details about the project. Engineer Hansen said it would be by Spring 2023 for sure.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Work Session Meeting of January 24, 2022 - The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilwoman DiGregorio, with DiGregorio, DiMarco, and Redstreak in favor, and Cruz abstaining.

APPOINTMENTS

- Sierra Dubuisson – seasonal file clerk – part time – the motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilman Cruz with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco and Redstreak in favor and none opposed and no abstentions.

ORDINANCES – FIRST READINGS BY TITLE

- 863-2022-AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #814-2017 ESTABLISHING AND FIXING SCHEDULE OF RATES, FEES AND SEWER CHARGES FOR THE USE, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE SANITARY SEWER OF THE BOROUGH OF LAUREL SPRINGS, COUNTY OF CAMDEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY
 - First Reading by Title – Mayor Barbera read the ordinance by title
 - Motion to Introduce by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilman Cruz with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
 - Second Reading, Public Hearing and Adoption will be held on Monday, February 28, 2022, 7 pm in the Recreation Center, 820 Grand Avenue, Laurel Springs, NJ 08021

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- 864-2022- AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE SALARIES OF THE POLICE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF LAUREL SPRINGS, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
 - First Reading by Title – Mayor Barbera read the ordinance by title
 - Motion to Introduce by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilman Cruz with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
 - Second Reading, Public Hearing and Adoption will be held on Monday, February 28, 2022, 7 pm in the Recreation Center, 820 Grand Avenue, Laurel Springs, NJ 08021

RESOLUTIONS

#031-2022 - AUTHORIZING SALE OF BOROUGH OWNED ITEMS ON ONLINE AND PUBLIC AUCTION

WHEREAS, the Borough of Laurel Springs owns and/or has title to the following items and/or fixed assets:

- 2010 Ford Police Vehicle – VIN: 1FMJU1G53AEA42968
- 2 dozen council room chairs
- 1 large conference table

WHEREAS, the uses of the above items are defunct and of no practical or useful life based upon the capacity for which they were used by the various Departments of the Borough of Laurel Springs; and

WHEREAS, said items will be offered for public auction on GovDeals.com and or Craigslist, on-line public auction sites, the terms and conditions of which are available on said website and in the office of the Municipal Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the sale is being conducted pursuant to Local Finance Notice 2008-9; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Laurel Springs that the sale and public auction of the aforementioned Borough fixed assets and/or Borough-owned items is approved;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the said items may be offered for traditional public auction, and the Municipal Clerk is authorized to legally advertise such, should it be of greater benefit to the Borough of Laurel Springs to do so.

- The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilman Cruz, with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

#032-2022 - 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:

- Express Auto Service & Xpress Auto Sales – 101 South White Horse Pike
- Aikido Agatsu Dojos – 1124 Stone Road

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- Phillips 66 Grocery store – Two Broadway
- Phillips 66 Gas Station – Two Broadway
- Laurel Springs Automotive – 900 Stone Road
- Maker's Workshop – 801 West Atlantic Avenue
- The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilman Cruz, with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
- Resolved to pay \$374,288.94 from Current Fund and \$39,006.08 from the Trust/Capital Accounts by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilman Cruz, with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

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

- DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, BOARDS, SERVICES/PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL – Councilman Redstreak said that he had met with Richard Zimmermann at Crystal Springs, as he is going to purchase laurel buses from Oregon to be planed around the lake and Crystal Springs. Everything with Public Works is going well with no issues. Snowstorms were managed well. There is a problem with the packer on a garbage truck which is being addressed. He had a copy of the sewer invoicing which listed nothing major. He discussed the Sewer billing going up, which is the reason for tonight's ordinance making an amendment to the Sewer fees. Ordinance Review met on January 27th and they are currently reviewing the White Horse Pike Redevelopment Ordinance. There was discussion of the date of the next ordinance review meeting. He reiterated the dates of the Lake Clean Up of April 23rd and WaltFEST on May 21st. There was discussion of costs for dumping fees and fuel costs and snowstorms and bulk trash.
- DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilman Cruz reported that there are currently quotes being requested for the Cord Mansion Generator and that the Recreation Center should reopen the end of February/beginning of March.
- DIRECTOR OF MUNICIPAL COURT – Councilwoman DiGregorio reviewed the Municipal Court Report for the months of November and December, 2021. There was discussion of the impact of COVID on court revenues and the ability to use prior year court revenues in drafting the budget, which will be allowed again for 2022.
- DIRECTOR OF RECREATION – Councilman DelPidio was absent.
- DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE – Councilman Riondino was absent.
- DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT- Councilwoman DiMarco reported on the Sterling Strategic Planning Meeting on January 24th and reminded about the comment period and online survey. There will be another strategic planning meeting on February 22nd. The primary communication for the month involved the cancellation of the Rabies Clinic because of the snowstorm. She received the graphic for WaltFEST which is May 21st. She has gotten the Hazardous Waste Schedule from the County for 2022 and information about the two virtual job fairs for the post office.
- DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY- POLICE AND FIRE- Chief Mazziotta reviewed the report for January 2022 and commented that Officer Lickfield has received a grant to obtain a speed sign with speed monitoring cameras. Chief Cheeseman reviewed the Fire Report for the month of January, 2022.
- MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Barbera gave a report of his activities from the time of the regular meeting in December through this meeting.

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OLD BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE-

- From Richard DePetro regarding Laurel Whitman Urban Renewal, LLC to Achim Enterprises – Mayor Barbera said that the owner and developer of the Whitman Manor is selling the property as he has moved out of state. Achim Enterprises is purchasing it. There was discussion of approving some type of property tax deal with anyone he sells it to; something that would cover the legal costs and fees. There was discussion that it was something that needs to be worked on with the CFO and Borough Attorney as soon as possible as it will be sold shortly. Mayor Barbera commented that the new owner has a nice reputation and money for the operation.
- From JIF regarding Elected Officials Risk Management Seminar – the information regarding this seminar was distributed to Council noting that a \$250 reduction is taken from the insurance bill for each official who attends. Borough Administrator Cheeseman commented that he and Councilman DelPidio and Councilman Cruz were able to take the class down at the League Convention. There was comment that it was very similar to last years seminar.
- From Reverend Cliff Jones – Mayor Barbera read a letter from Reverend Cliff Jones who offered the invocation and benediction at the Reorganization Meeting. At that time, a proclamation was offered to Reverend Jones as he has retired his position. Mayor Barbera commented that it was a very nice letter of thanks.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC-none

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Tuesday, February 15, 2022 – LSYA Baseball Signup @6-8pm @Rec Center
- Wednesday, February 16th - School Board Meeting @7pm @Laurel Springs School
- Thursday, February 17th - Combined Land Use Board @7pm @Rec Center
- Monday, February 21st – Presidents’ Day – Borough Offices are closed
- Monday, February 28th – Work Session Meeting @7pm

ADJOURNMENT –There being no further business a motion was made by Councilman Redstreak to adjourn at 7:34 pm with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted

Dawn T. Amadio, RMC, Municipal Clerk