

BOROUGH OF LAUREL SPRINGS
REGULAR MEETING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MONDAY, October 17, 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 Borough Website and bulletin board.

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

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

CAPITAL ITEMS

1. 2020 Road Improvement Program (NJDOT FY 2019 & FY2020 Local Aid Grant)

A preconstruction meeting was held between project stakeholders on January 19, 2022. The contractor started construction on June 6, 2022. The project is substantially complete with the installation of the decorative lighting along West Atlantic Avenue and punch list remain to bring the project to full completion.

2. 2021 Road Improvement Program (NJDOT FY2021 Local Aid Grant)

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 during the Week of October 24, 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. The Governing Body authorized ERI's proposal dated July 11, 2022 for the requisite engineering design and CMCI services at the August 8, 2022 meeting. We anticipate completing the field topographic survey within the coming weeks. It is anticipated that the project design will be completed to allow for a Spring 2023 construction start timeline.

4. NJDOT FY2023 Local Aid Grant Application

Only June 28 our office submitted a FY2023 Local Aid Application for the reconstruction of Lakeview Avenue between Walnut Avenue and Glen Avenue. We will keep the Governing Body apprised as to the status of the application as we received any information.

5. 2022 NJDEP Lake Management Grant Application

Our office submitted an application for the hydro-raking and fallen tree removal at Laurel Lake on May 28, 2022. Also included was the construction of erosion control measures at the outfalls discharging stormwater from Walnut Avenue, Park Avenue, Glen Avenue and West Stafford Avenue. We will keep the Governing Body apprised as to the status of the application as we received any information.

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The Borough Engineer was not present, and the report was reviewed by Borough Administrator Ken Cheeseman. The light fixtures are the only outstanding items from the 2020 road project.

APPOINTMENTS

- Dominick Paul Krawchuk and Richard Edward Roach Seasonal Part Time Public Works employees – the motion by Councilman Redstreak, was seconded by Councilman Cruz, with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, Riondino and Redstreak, with none opposed and no abstentions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Work Session Meeting of September 25, 2022 - The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak, was seconded by Councilwoman DiMarco, with DiMarco, Riondino, and Redstreak in favor, Cruz and DiGregorio abstaining.

RESOLUTIONS

- **#082-2022 - INSERTION OF AN ITEM OF REVENUE CAMDEN COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION 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 2022 in the sum of \$25,000.00, which is now available as a revenue from a Camden County Historic Preservation Grant.**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a like sum of \$25,000.00 is hereby appropriated under the title "Historic Preservation – Whitman Stafford House - Other Expenses," pursuant to the provisions of the statute.

- The motion to approve the foregoing resolution by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilman Cruz, with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, Riondino and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
- Resolved to pay \$396,888.52 from Current Fund and \$22529.10 from the Trust/Capital Accounts. The motion by Councilman Redstreak, was seconded by Councilman Cruz, with Cruz, DiMarco, DiGregorio, DiMarco, Riondino, and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

- **DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, BOARDS, SERVICES/PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL-** Councilman Redstreak said That all was well with Public Works. He said that Richard Zimmermann kindly donated Holly trees at Crystal Springs. All is well with the sewer service. He did not have the September invoice but reported that there was nothing major. Regarding Boards and services, there was no ordinance review, as they were waiting on the planner to make some revisions on the recommendation of the committee. It has been kicked back and is being reviewed by the members.
- **DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS & GROUNDS –** Councilman Cruz reported that the ballfield has been maintenance and its buildings winterized. He mentioned the planting of hollies at Crystal Springs along with the donation of a layer of crushed stone for the path by Richard Zimmermann with heartfelt thanks.
- **DIRECTOR OF MUNICIPAL COURT –** Councilwoman DiGregorio said a Court Report was not submitted.
- **DIRECTOR OF RECREATION –** Councilman DelPidio was absent.
- **DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE –** Councilman Riondino had no report.

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- **DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT** – Councilwoman DiMarco reported that on September 21st, she became Sterling Municipal Alliances new secretary. The October 1st Town Wide Yard Sale was held over to October 8th. She mentioned the Veteran’s Day Breakfast on November 9th at 8 am there will be material such as veteran’s discounts, etc. She advertised the Laurel Springs Ornament from the Beautification Committee for \$7 each. There was a lot of activity around Camden County History Month with Saturday, October 22nd having the Whitman interpreter. The Recreation Commission is hosting a Family Game Night on December 8th at 6 pm. Additionally, Disability rights help for the upcoming election, Halloween information such as the 8 pm curfew and trick or treat at 3 pm, and the Sterling Trunk or Treat event.
- **DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY – POLICE AND FIRE** – Chief Mazziotta reviewed the Police Report for the month of September, 2022 and Chief Cheeseman gave the Fire Department Report for September, 2022.
- **MAYOR’S REPORT** – Mayor Barbera offered his report on his activities since the time of the last Regular Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE

- **JIF Cyber Security 2023** – the material from the JIF about this upcoming endeavor was reviewed.
- **Meeting dates for 2023** – the draft of the annual notice was reviewed with no meeting desired on Monday, October 30, 2023. The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreake, was seconded by Councilwoman DiMarco, with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, Riondino and Redstreake, with none opposed and no abstentions.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mariana Collins – 602 East Atlantic Avenue discussed the intersection of Broadway and Stone, as she watched a little boy nearly be run over by a truck. There is no crossing guard there. She feels the child did nothing wrong, to which Mayor Barbera suggested that he should be crossing at a crosswalk. Ms. Collins said that children will be children and that the onus should not be on children, saying we should have the manpower, and the cost to have some one out there should it cost more money, when she is asking over and over to protect the children. It is the right thing to do. If a child needs to go home fast there will be no logic in place. There was discussion that in that case that scenario could be applied to every crossing for every child. Borough Administrator Cheeseman reminded of the changes to traffic flow that have been studied, such as turning Washington Avenue into a one-way during school, and the same was done to Grand Avenue years ago. These were designed by the police and engineers and the County. There was discussion of crosswalks versus crossing guards, and the general logic of children and Ms. Collins personal history of schooling and path to school, and the number of crossing guards in that path. There was discussion that having Crossing Guards located in specific locations encourages crossing at the right spot. The crosswalks were designed by the County. It was recommended that the County Engineer be contacted to see if there are any other ideas for the intersection. There was discussion about people volunteering to help, which was corrected as volunteers can not be used in this capacity for various reasons not the least of which is insurance coverage. There was discussion introduced along the ideas that some children will do things because they are being told not to. There was additional discussion of the County design of the crosswalks. The County will be asked to look at it. There were questions about the number of children to be considered.

Terrence Adams – 621 Stone Road – agreed with the idea that people do not stop. He does allow his children to walk to the school at the Broadway and Stone intersection as it is more convenient, because he lives right there. He would like to see another crossing guard there. He has asked and asked again for an autistic child sign. He reiterated that numerous times people do not stop. There was conversation about how much of an inconvenience it would be for him to walk the two hundred feet to Washington and Stone a get crossed by a crossing guard. The conversation segued into the historical perspective of crosswalks and crossing guards and the current walk pattern. Mr. Adams did not know that it was the law, and that there are a lot of children.

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There was additional discussion of signage out there, and that the State does not want pedestrian signs as recent studies indicate they do not work. There was discussion of the flashing signs not working, to which it was requested that the Police Department check to see if they are working. There was more discussion of how the crossing pattern has changed over the years. The autism signs will be ordered tomorrow, and the County will be followed through with. There was discussion of school hours versus summer and after school hours. There was more discussion of specific types of children. Mayor Barbera thanked them for their concern and said he would look into it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Wednesday, October 19th School Board Meeting @7pm @Laurel Springs School.
- Thursday, October 20th Land Use Board Meeting @7pm @Rec Center - Cancelled
- Friday, October 28th – Monday, October 31st recommended 8 pm curfew for Juveniles
- Saturday, October 29th LSFD Halloween Parade, 12 noon @Schoolyard
- Wednesday, November 2nd Recreation Commission Meeting @7pm @Rec Center
- Saturday, November 6th – Daylight Saving Time ends
- Tuesday, November 8th – General Election – 6 am – 8 pm @Rec Center
- Friday, November 11th – Veteran's Day
- Monday, November 14th Regular Meeting @7pm @Rec Center

ADJOURNMENT –There being no further business a motion was made by Councilman Redstreak, which was seconded by Councilwoman DiMarco to adjourn at 7:46 pm with all in favor and none opposed.

Respectfully submitted

Dawn T. Amadio, RMC, Municipal Clerk