

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

ROLL CALL recorded as present: DiGregorio, DiMarco and Redstreak; absent Cruz, Riondino and 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. The Bid Documents will be sent to NJDOT Local Aid for their review during the week of November 14, 2022. Once their comments are received, we will make final revisions and advertise the project for bid. Construction can be anticipated during the early spring months of 2023.

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 near future. 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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- Regular Meeting of October 17, 2022 - The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak, was seconded by Councilwoman DiMarco, with DiGregorio, DiMarco and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

RESOLUTIONS

- #083-2022 - TO REFUND CONSTRUCTION FEES

WHEREAS, a payment of \$588.00 including the DCA fee of \$69.00 was made for construction permit #22026 for the property listed below:

Terrence Adams - 621 Stone Road

WHEREAS, this payment was to be applied for a construction permit plus DCA fees on the property; and
WHEREAS, the resident cancelled the contract with the company and no longer wants to move forward with the project at this time and the company is requesting a refund; and

WHEREAS, as per N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.27 refunds are allowable with the exception of plan review fees and DCA fees thereby allowing SunnyMac, LLC, a refund of \$519.00 of the \$588.00, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Laurel Springs, County of Camden, State of New Jersey that the refund is approved.

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

- #084-2022 - AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR GRANT FROM NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS – CORD MANSION

WHEREAS, the Borough of Laurel Springs desires to apply for and obtain a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for approximately \$500,000 to carry out a project to renovate the Laurel Springs Borough Hall .

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, 1) that the Borough of Laurel Springs does hereby authorize the application for such a grant; and, 2) recognizes and accepts that the Department may offer a lesser or greater amount and therefore, upon receipt of the grant agreement from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, does further authorize the execution of any such grant agreement; and also, upon receipt of the fully executed agreement from the Department, does further authorize the expenditure of funds pursuant to the terms of the agreement between the Borough of Laurel Springs and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the persons whose names, titles, and signatures appear below are authorized to sign the application, and that they or their successors in said titles are authorized to sign the agreement, and any other documents necessary in connection therewith:

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

- #085-2022 - AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF FIRST AMENDMENT TO SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CAMDEN COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY AND THE BOROUGH OF LAUREL SPRINGS REGARDING PROPERTY REGISTRATION

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:37 A-54, the Camden County Improvement Authority (the Authority) is empowered to undertake the necessary programs and projects for the elimination of, and the prevention of, community decay or spread of blighted, deteriorated or deteriorating properties and areas; and

WHEREAS, the mortgage foreclosure crisis has serious negative implications for Camden County and its communities trying to manage the consequences of property vacancies and abandoned real properties; and

WHEREAS, the County of Camden and the Borough of Laurel Springs have a vested interest in protecting neighborhoods against decay caused by vacant and abandoned properties and have concluded that the creation of a registration and certification system that would include required specific information about the properties and desire to establish protocols and procedures for follow up, which would enhance the code enforcement efforts and assist in mitigating these issues; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Authority has previously authorized the Executive Director to enter into, on behalf of the Authority, Shared Services Agreements with the Borough of Laurel

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Springs regarding the services provided by Property Registration Champions, LLC d/b/a PROCHAMPS, or its predecessor entities, and the program continues to provide the services that are required and are beneficial to under a Shared Services Agreement with the Authority; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Legislature has enacted legislation to confirm the authority of governmental entities to participate in such County-wide property/foreclosure registration programs, said legislation being known as Chapter 444 of P.L. of 2021 and signed into law on January 18, 2022; and

WHEREAS, said legislation necessitates that there be certain changes in the manner by which such programs are conducted and administered and, therefore, there needs to be implemented certain amendments to the Shared Services Agreements in place with the Participating Municipalities and with the Professional Services Contract with Property Registration Champions, LLC d/b/a PROCHAMPS so as to conform therewith.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough of Laurel Springs does hereby authorize the execution of this first amendment to the Shared Services Agreement between the Camden County Improvement Authority and the Borough of Laurel Springs regarding property registration.

- The motion to approve the foregoing resolution by Councilman Redstreak, was seconded by Councilwoman DiGregorio, with DiGregorio, DiMarco and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
- #086-2022-REQUESTING EXTENSION OF CONTRACT AWARD DEADLINE FY 2021 MUNICIPAL AID GRANT
WHEREAS, as stipulated in the agreement for the 2021 Laurel Springs Road Improvement Program funded by the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Authority Act, the construction contract is to be awarded by November 16, 2022; and
WHEREAS, due to resolution of utility conflicts, it is anticipated that the award of the construction contract will be delayed until approximately December 19, 2022.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Laurel Springs requests a one-time six (6) month extension for the award of the contract.
- The motion to approve the foregoing resolution by Councilman Redstreak, was seconded by Councilwoman DiMarco, with DiGregorio, DiMarco and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
- #087-2022 – PPROVING BUDGET TRANSFER #1

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58 provides that a municipal governing body may make Budget Transfers during the last two months of the fiscal year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Laurel Springs, that the following **2022 Budget Transfers (#1)** be approved:

		<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	
		<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
<u>Account #</u>			
1-20-110-201	Mayor & Council - OE		\$500.00
1-20-120-201	Municipal Clerk - OE	\$1,000.00	
1-20-130-205	Finance Dept. - OE		1,000.00
1-20-165-205	Engineering Svcs. - OE	500.00	
1-20-170-205	Economic Development - OE		500.00
1-23-210-210	Liability Insurance - OE	3,000.00	
1-25-240-103	Police Dept. - SW		5,000.00
-26-290-102	Streets & Roads - SW	2,500.00	
1-26-310-101	Buildings & Grounds - SW	7,000.00	
1-26-310-201	Buildings & Grounds - OE		5,000.00
1-26-315-201	Vehicle Maintenance - OE		2,000.00
1-36-473-202	Social Security & Med. Taxes - OE	1,000.00	
1-43-490-206	Municipal Court - OE		1,000.00
TOTAL GENERAL FUND		\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00

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- The motion to approve the foregoing resolution by Councilman Redstreak, was seconded by Councilwoman DiGregorio, with DiGregorio, DiMarco and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
- **#088-2022 - 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:
 - Rush Hour Moving – 313 White Horse Pike
 - King Kutz, LLC – 309 White Horse Pike
 - Cleaning MDs - 811 West Atlantic Avenue
- The motion to approve the foregoing resolution by Councilman Redstreak, was seconded by Councilwoman DiMarco, with DiGregorio, DiMarco and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
- Resolved to pay \$702,396.88 from Current Fund and \$59,646.67 from the Trust/Capital Accounts. The motion by Councilman Redstreak, was seconded by Councilwoman DiGregorio, with DiGregorio, DiMarco, and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

- **DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, BOARDS, SERVICES/PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL-** Councilman Redstreak reported on ongoing work at Crystal Springs and planting of holly trees and review of work done by Ship Shape. There was discussion of grass seeding from the last project. There was discussion of soil samples. There was no October Sewer invoice. All is well with Board Services and no meeting for Ordinance Review as they were waiting for the Planner to finish but that is done and should go to aid 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 was absent.
- **DIRECTOR OF MUNICIPAL COURT –** Councilwoman DiGregorio reviewed the Municipal Court Report for August, September and October, 2022.
- **DIRECTOR OF RECREATION –** Councilman DelPidio was absent.
- **DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE –** Councilman Riondino was absent.
- **DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT –** Councilwoman DiMarco reported since the time of the last meeting that she has posted and promoted the USPS hiring blasts, Camden Count Sustainability Composting and plastic toy donation events. Whitman Stafford Farmhouse held their event on Saturday, October 22 with the Whitman Interpreter. Trick or Treat information was posted and trunk of treat and Sterling and the clothing drive. Leaf Collection and Hay Bale Round Up along with the Winter Festival are ongoing.
- **DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY – POLICE AND FIRE –** Chief Mazziotta reviewed the Police Report for the month of October, 2022 and said that Laurel Springs hosted Active Shooter training at Laurel Springs School. He also had a report of the Sober living home saying there have been only two calls. One to assist Gloucester Township in locating someone and one asking for a car to be moved. Borough Administrator Cheeseman spoke to the owner regarding parking, and he will do what he can to avoid blocking parking. He wants to maintain a good rapport. Chief Cheeseman gave the Fire Department Report for October 2022 and commented about the Ambulance report submitted and the press release regarding the award of a Fire Department Grant from DCA. Payment to Magnolia Ambulance commences in January, 2023.

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- 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

- Best Practices Inventory – Mayor Barbera reviewed the finding of the Best Practices Survey saying this was conducted and responded to every year. This survey will not result in any deduction in State Aid. There was discussion that everything is well done.
- Donation of antique loveseat – the correspondence and transaction were relayed to Borough Council.
- Award of American Rescue Plan Firefighters Grant – was previously discussed with the Fire Report.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Bob Lickfield – 432 Glen Avenue – inquired about new poll workers at the General Election which segued into discussion of various modern election matters historic perspective and electronic poll books.

Kim Brisbin – 528 West Elma Avenue – discussed speeding on Stone Road categorizing it as atrocious. She feels someone is going to be harmed because of the traffic and the various groups of walkers. The recent time change did help the glare which was a problem for one crossing guard who was nearly hit several times. There was discussion of the turn from Broadway to Stone, especially if there is a late opening at Sterling. Chief Mazziotta commented about the speed signs that were put in. There was conversation about double parking on Broadway and the officer on Broadway speaking to Chief Mazziotta directly. There was discussion that an officer standing on the island can't ticket.

There was reiteration of the discussion about the positioning of crossing guards. Borough Administrator Cheeseman said there is an application into the State for signage and pedestrian signage and traffic enforcement in other towns. He said he would work out a plan with the Police Department.

There was discussion of ticketing double parking and historical perspective of the perception that you can't speed in Laurel Springs, to which Borough Administrator Cheeseman thought the town could get that back. There was discussion of not always having personnel to accomplish the ticketing goals. There was additional discussion of where to position officers and reiteration of the effectiveness of ticketing with regard to safety. Mayor Barbera said that he would be having serious discussion the next couple of days and reiterated his concerns about Broadway and Stone and his efforts in speaking to the County Engineer about it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Tuesday, November 15th Whitman Stafford Meeting @7pm
- Wednesday, November 16th School Board Meeting @7pm @Laurel Springs School.
- Thursday, November 17th Land Use Board Meeting @7pm @Rec Center - Cancelled
- Monday, November 28th Work Session Meeting @7pm @Rec Center
- Mayor Barbera announced that the Battleship New Jersey was being featured on Monday Night Football tonight.

ADJOURNMENT –There being no further business a motion was made by Councilman Redstreak, which was seconded by Councilwoman DiMarco to adjourn at 7:37 pm with all in favor and none opposed.

Respectfully submitted

Dawn T. Amadio, RMC, Municipal Clerk