

BOROUGH OF LAUREL SPRINGS  
REGULAR MEETING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2023  
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 10, 2023 and posting on Borough Website and bulletin board.

**ROLL CALL** recorded as present: Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, Riondino, DelPidio and Redstreak; absent none.

**PRESENTATION – Daniel Rice Camden County Health – Camden County Public Safety – HazMat Director – Environmental Health** - Mr. Rice does the outreach for County Health, strengthening relationships and giving information on upcoming events, information Council knows or with Camden County Health. He gave information about the Bellmawr Health Clinic he has gathered information from the County Health Officers. There are two ones in Camden and Bellmawr, Bellmawr is at 35 East Browning Road. There are child immunizations. It requires an appointment. The phone number is 856-931-2700 in Bellmawr and 856-225-5128 in Camden. The Camden address is 18 Federal Street. The use a Cooperative is Jefferson and Virtua Hospitals. It is a collaboration. He discussed food retail for outdoor events. The Health Summit will be October 10 at the Camden County Boat House. He discussed the Camden County Library System with 500 online classes, Radon Testing, which is open to Camden County Residents. The contact is [caseybaker@camdencounty.com](mailto:caseybaker@camdencounty.com). They are at the DiPietro Building, 512 Lakeland Road, Blackwood, NJ 08012, Monday through Friday, 9 am – 3 pm. The County website is [camdencounty.com](http://camdencounty.com). There was discussion of the opioid settlement of 1.2 million for Camden County. There are overdose prevention programs, school age behavioral issues. The County supplies three kits to schools. There was more discussion of the 1.2 mills settlement for the County and the difference of what went to municipalities and states and distributed to municipal alliances. There was discussion of the drug treatment center in Blackwood.

## **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

### **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 remaining to bring the project to full completion. Once the lights have been installed, we will process the final pay estimate and process the grant close out documentation.

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. Bids were opened on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 2:00 PM at the Fire Hall Conference Room. The apparent low bidder was American Asphalt Company, Inc. with a price of \$146,155.90, which falls within the project construction budget. The Governing Body awarded the contract to American Asphalt at the March 13, 2023 Council meeting. We've received signed contracts back from the Contractor and will be sending them to the Borough for execution in the near future. Our office will coordinate as pre-construction meeting to be held in the coming weeks. Construction can be expected to be completed during Spring 2023.

3. **NJDOT FY2022 Local Aid Grant Application**

The Borough received 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 field surveying work and preparation of the base plans was completed in February 2023. We have started work on the construction plans and specifications. It is anticipated that the project design will be completed to allow for a summer 2023 construction start timeline.

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4. NJDOT FY2023 Local Aid Grant Application

The Borough received correspondence from NJDOT dated November 23, 2022 that a grant in the amount of \$197,050.00 has been awarded for the reconstruction of Lakeview Avenue between Walnut Avenue and Glen Avenue. ERI will prepare and submit a proposal for engineering design and construction management / construction inspection (CMCI) services for the Governing Body's consideration in the near future so that design work on the project can proceed as soon as possible.

5. 2022 NJDEP Lake Management Grant Application

Our office submitted an application for the hydro-raking and removal of fallen trees 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.

6. Laurel Lake – 2023 Lake Lowering Permit

Our office prepared and submitted 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, 2023 and March 29, 2023 in order to facilitate the annual lake cleanup activities.

7. 2023 NJDEP Tier A Stormwater Grant

The Borough is eligible for a \$25,000 NJDEP Stormwater Grant, which can be used to help achieve compliance with some of the new and modified requirements of the recently renewed Tier A MS4 Permit, such as street sweeping, mapping of stormwater infrastructure, etc.. There is a virtual information session being held on March 15, 2023 that our office will attend to obtain more details about the grant requirements. We will provide whatever assistance the Borough needs to submit a grant application.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Work Session Meeting of March 27, 2023 - The motion to approve by Redstreake, was seconded by DiGregorio with DiGregorio, DiMarco, Riondino and Redstreake in favor, none opposed and Cruz and DelPidio abstaining.

## RESOLUTIONS

- **##046-2023 - TO REFUND CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY FEE**

**WHEREAS**, the following fee was received on March 21, 2023 for a certificate of occupancy and was subsequently found to be not required.

Duovahn Garner     \$50.00 Certificate of Occupancy

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Laurel Springs that the amount indicated be refunded.

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

- **#047-2023 - APPROVING TREE REMOVAL PERMIT AT 627 GLEN AVENUE**

Solicitor Botcheos reviewed the Tree Ordinance, itemizing the requirements, and the section for exceptions. The tree must be dead or dying, storm damages, infested, etc. Borough Administration Cheeseman met the tree Company, they started on two of the trees and left to come back when resolved. The neighbors behind complaining about particular trees whose plumage fell in their back yard. He is aware of old dead trees and some leaning precipitously. Councilperson DiGregorio gave some historical perspective of the trees in that area at the top of the glen on the Park Avenue side saying the exception to the rules should be anything safety issue. Safety over anything else. Solicitor Botcheos commented that in the letter of application they state they are planning on replacement trees. Solicitor Botcheos swore in applicant, Kamran Azam. He stated that they are going to get a new roof and are planning on installing

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solar panels. The removal of the trees will allow more sunlight. The company has been hired and has represented what needs to be done. He was asked about trees in dying or falling condition and said no, none were dead or dying. Council wanted time to review the criteria for application.

- The motion to table by DelPidio was seconded by Riondino, with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, Riondino, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
- Letter of Resignation from Officer Steve Casciato – Mayor Barbera read the letter into the record, and upon the motion by Redstreak, which was seconded by Cruz, Borough Council accepted the resignation letter, with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, Riondino, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
- #048-2023 - APPOINTING CHRISTIAN ABREU AS REGULAR FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER  
WHEREAS, the Borough of Laurel Springs requires a full-time police Officer for the Laurel Springs Police Department; and  
WHEREAS, Christian Abreu has been approved by Chief Brian Mazziotta and Borough Administration 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 Christian Abreu has been appointed as Regular Full-Time Police Officer effective Monday, May 1, 2023.
- The motion to approve by Redstreak was seconded by Cruz, with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, Riondino, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
- #049-2023 - 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:  
Midlantic Fire and Air
- The motion to approve by Redstreak was seconded by Cruz, with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, Riondino, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
- Resolved to pay \$441,928.97 from Current Fund and \$44,412.00 from the Trust/Capital Accounts. The motion by Redstreak, was seconded by Cruz, with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, Riondino, DelPidio, and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE 2023 MUNICIPAL BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,941,000.00**

Mayor Barbera said they have been very discriminate about spending and that most of the increase was due to debt service for various projects that have not been completed. Spending has been reduced as much as can be. There was conversation about expenditures for Court Shared Services which have jumped and almost tripled and coordinating the debt service situation with the completion of projects.

- The motion to introduce by Redstreak was seconded by Cruz, with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, Riondino, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
- Public Hearing and Adoption is scheduled for Monday, May 22, 2023, 7 pm in the Laurel Springs Recreation Center.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS –**

- DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, BOARDS, SERVICES/PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL-Redstreak- All is well with Public Works, saying they have done an excellent job at the War Memorial and at the Agway building at the Rec Complex using it for storage. Regarding the Sewer Department lasts months’ bill from Lindenwold is

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available and showed a few blockages. Ordinance Review began meeting again in March and took up "Swimming Pools" and "Property Maintenance". The Lake Cleanup is on Saturday at Crystal Springs at 9 am, rain date April 29. Also on April 22<sup>nd</sup> is a Poetry Reading at the Whitman Stafford Farmhouse @ 2pm sponsored by the Stratford Library.

- DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Cruz - thanked Richard Zimmermann for his contribution to the War Memorial project. He also reported on the 2-bay garage project in Public Works.
- DIRECTOR OF MUNICIPAL COURT – DiGregorio – the Municipal Court Report for the month of March, 2023, was reviewed and presented.
- DIRECTOR OF RECREATION – DelPidio – the Laurel Springs Pageant is Friday evening, May 19<sup>th</sup>. Laurel Springs Day as part of WaltFEST is Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Family Game Night is Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup>.
- DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE – Riondino – the CFO report for the month ending March 31, 2023 was presented and reviewed.
- DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – DiMarco - promotion of the events and information was posted for the May 6 Town Wide Yard Sale. The information on the Fire Department Hoagie Sale is not finalized the Lake Clean Up, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Laurel Springs Pageant, May 19<sup>th</sup>, WaltFEST is May 20<sup>th</sup>, Family Game Nights is June 8. Atlantic City Electric is giving away free trees and the Newsletter was delivered last week.
- DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY – POLICE AND FIRE – Chief Cheeseman presented and reviewed the Fire and Ambulance Reports for March, 2023; Chief Mazziotta presented and reviewed the Police Reports for March, 2023. There was discussion of speeding on East Atlantic Avenue.
- MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Barbera – the Mayor's Report on his activities since the time of the last Regular Meeting was presented and reviewed.

#### OLD BUSINESS

- **Financial Disclosure Statements** – Municipal Clerk Amadio reviewed the Local Finance Notice emphasizing the despite the delay in opening the registration site, the Financial Disclosure Statements are still due on April 30.

#### NEW BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE

- From Tax Collector Jennifer Dukelow – Mayor Barbera highlighted the 2022 Annual Tax Collector's Report
- From Sterling High School changing time of March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting from 7 pm to 5:30 pm was distributed to Council.
- Elected Official Risk Management Seminar-complete by May 2023 for a \$250 credit – Mayor Barbera reminded Council.

#### COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - none

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Wednesday, April 19th School Board Meeting @Laurel Springs School @7pm
- Thursday, April 20th Land Use Board Meeting @7pm @Rec Center - cancelled.
- Saturday, April 22nd Lake Cleanup @9am @Crystal Springs
- Saturday, April 22nd Poetry Reading @2pm @Farmhouse (time on Town Calendar is wrong)
- Saturday, April 29th Rabies/Pet Licensing Clinic @10am @Firehouse
- Saturday, April 29th Board of Health @11am @ Firehouse
- Monday, May 8th Regular Meeting @7pm @Rec Center

**ADJOURNMENT** –There being no further business a motion was made by Redstreak to adjourn at 7:51 pm with all in favor and none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn T. Amadio, RMC, Municipal Clerk