

BOROUGH OF LAUREL SPRINGS
REGULAR MEETING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MONDAY, May 8, 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: DiGregorio arrived via phone at 7:18 pm, DiMarco, DelPidio and Redstreak; absent none.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE OFFICIAL OATH OF OFFICE – Mayor Barbera administered the Official Oath of Office to Christian Abreu as a Regular Full-Time Police Officer

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.

We received correspondence from NJDEP that the project was not selected for funding in the 2022 cycle. The grant program / project can be revisited for the 2023 grant cycle if it is the pleasure of the Governing Body.

6. Laurel Lake – 2023 Lake Lowering Permit

The Borough's 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 was approved. It is our understanding that the lake was lowered during the approved period and restored to its normal level by March 29 by Borough Public Works.

7. 2023 NJDEP Tier A Stormwater Grant

Our office submitted an application to NJDEP for a \$25,000 Existing Tier A NJDEP Stormwater Grant on March 22, 2023. If approved, the grant 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.. We will apprise the Governing Body of any information we receive with regard to the grant application as it becomes available.

8. Borough Stormwater Outfall Mapping

During March 2023, ERI completed the field location of the Borough's eight (8) existing stormwater outfalls, utilizing GPS equipment. The resulting data was electronically formatted to meet the NJDEP requirements and submitted to NJDEP.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Work Session Meeting of April 17, 2023 - The motion to approve by Redstreak, was seconded by DiMarco, with DiGregorio, DiMarco, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

APPOINTMENT

- Bruno Chrazanowski – Junior Member of Fire Department – the motion by Redstreak was seconded by DiMarco, with DiGregorio, DiMarco, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

ORDINANCE – First Reading by Title

- 875-2023-AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #855-2021 SUPPLEMENTING AND AMENDING CHAPTER 270 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF LAUREL SPRINGS ENTITLED ZONING
 - Mayor Barbera read the ordinance by title.
 - Motion to Introduce by Redstreak was seconded by DiMarco, with DiGregorio, DiMarco, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
 - Second Reading, Public Hearing and Adoption will be on Monday, June 12, 2023, 7 pm in the Laurel Springs Recreation Center, 820 Grand Avenue, Laurel Springs, NJ 08021

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RESOLUTIONS

- #050-2023 - ADOPTING THE 3-YEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF CAMDEN
WHEREAS, the Borough of Laurel Springs and the County of Camden wish to establish a cooperative means of conducting certain eligible community development and affordable housing activities; and
WHEREAS, the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act (N.J.S.A. 40A:65-4 et seq.) permits local units such as counties and municipalities to enter into agreements for the provision of joint services; and
WHEREAS, Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, the Housing and Urban-Rural Recovery Act of 1983, the HOME Program Act of 1991, and the Emergency Solutions Grant, as amended, provides federal funds being made available to Camden County for use to carry out eligible Community Development Activities therein; and
WHEREAS, the Borough of Laurel Springs will propose certain activities to be carried out under the 2024, 2025 and 2026 Community Development, HOME Programs and Emergency Solutions Grant programs; and
WHEREAS, the aforesaid activities are in the best interest of the Borough of Laurel Springs and the County of Camden;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Laurel Springs that the 2024 to 2026 Cooperation Agreement be adopted;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its enactment.
- The motion to approve by Redstreak was seconded by DiMarco, with DiGregorio, DiMarco, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
- 051-2023 - TO REFUND TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN TAXES
WHEREAS, certain adjustments are necessary to the records of the Tax Collector;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Laurel Springs, County of Camden, State of New Jersey that the following adjustments be approved.

OWNER	BLOCK/LOT	AMOUNT	REASON
GABRIEL CISNEROS JR	42/7	\$5,406.80	TDV GRANTED 11/29/22
- The motion to approve by Redstreak was seconded by DiMarco, with DiGregorio, DiMarco, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
- 052-2023 - AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER TO CONDUCT THE LOCAL BUDGET EXAMINATION
WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-78b has authorized the Local Finance Board to adopt rules that permit municipalities in sound fiscal condition to assume the responsibility, normally granted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, of conducting the annual budget examination; and
WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 5:30-7 was adopted by the Local Finance Board on February 11, 1997; and
WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.2 through 7.5, the Borough of Laurel Springs has been declared eligible to participate in the program by the Division of Local Government Services, and the Chief Financial Officer has determined that the Borough of Laurel Springs meets the necessary conditions to participate in the program for the 2023 budget year;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Laurel Springs that, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.6a & b and based upon the Chief Financial Officer's certification, the governing body has found that the Budget has met the following requirements:
 1. That, with reference to the following items, the amounts have been calculated pursuant to law, and appropriated as such in the Budget:
 - a. Payment of interest and debt redemption charges
 - b. Deferred charges and statutory expenditures
 - c. Cash deficit of preceding year
 - d. Reserve for uncollected taxes
 - e. Other reserves and non-disbursement items
 - f. Any inclusions of amounts required for school purposes
 2. That the provisions relating to limitation on increases of appropriations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.2 and appropriations for exceptions to limits on appropriations found at 40A: 4-45.3 et seq. are fully met.

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3. That the Budget is in such form, arrangement and content as required by the Local Budget Law and N.J.A.C. 5:30-4 & 5:30-5.
4. That pursuant to the Local Budget Law:
 - a. All estimates of revenue are reasonable, accurate and correctly stated
 - b. Items of appropriation are properly set forth
 - c. In itemization, form, arrangement and content the Budget will permit the exercise of the comptroller function within the municipality.
5. The Budget and associated amendments have been introduced and publicly advertised in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Budget Law, except that failure to meet the deadlines of N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-5 shall not prevent such certification.
6. That all other applicable statutory requirements have been fulfilled.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

- The motion to approve by Redstreak was seconded by DiMarco, with DiGregorio, DiMarco, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
- Resolved to pay \$958,448.52 from Current Fund and \$52,683.00 from the Trust/Capital Accounts. The motion to approve by Redstreak was seconded by DiMarco, with DiGregorio, DiMarco, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

- DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, BOARDS, SERVICES/PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL-Redstreak- said Public Works is doing really well, with a good crew doing a great job. The Annual Lake Clean Up was April 22nd with thanks to the public works doing good job in the park and a wonderful job overall. There were 20 volunteers plus the Fire Department with thanks to the Fire Department for always showing up and the Green Team chipping in. With the Sewer Department, everything is going well. They videoed Tomlinson and Park and the pipes look good with maintenance coming up, but they look good. He had the April Invoice available with nothing major for the month. For Boards and Services there was Ordinance Review on April 27th producing the ordinance that was introduced tonight. WaltFEST with Laurel Springs Day is on Saturday, May 20, Laurel Springs Pageant Friday, May 19th, Council discussed email from Makers Workshop regarding disposal of pet waste in the downtown trash containers and if Clean Communities money could be used to purchase.
- DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Cruz was absent.
- DIRECTOR OF MUNICIPAL COURT – DiGregorio – the Municipal Court Report was pending.
- DIRECTOR OF RECREATION – DelPidio – Pageant, May 19th and Laurel Springs Day is May 20th. Everything is on track. On Thursday, May 18th, there will be a car cruise in the eight spots in front of Borough Hall. There was discussion of blocking off the spots.
- DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE – Riondino was absent.
- DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – DiMarco - April 22nd was the Lake Clean Up and Petry Reading. There was advertisement of the Hoagie Sale and Rabies Clinic and May 6th Town Wide Yard Sale and Clean Communities Dumpster. The Hazardous Waste collection in Atco has been promoted. Laurel Springs Pageant is Friday, May 19th, Laurel Springs Day May 20th. Praises from the Farmhouse curator for Public Works job at the War Memorial, Crystal Springs and the Farmhouse were shared and posted.
- DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY – POLICE AND FIRE – Chief Cheeseman presented and reviewed the Fire and Ambulance Reports for April, 2023; Chief Mazziotta presented and reviewed the Police Reports for April, 2023. Chief Cheeseman took the opportunity to mention that the concrete pad was poured for the 2-bay public works garage and announced that CFO Ciminera will be retiring July 1st.
- 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

- **Tree Removal Permit** – 627 Glen Avenue – There was discussion that ERI did not inspect, however, there was discussion with the Borough Engineer and Borough Administrator. The Trees are not dead, however, if

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the request had come in a different order they would have bypassed the Tree Removal Permit process altogether, via approval of the construction of solar panels and a new roof which is permitted.

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

WHEREAS, Chapter 258 of the Code of the Borough of Laurel Springs entitled "TREES" authorizes Borough Council to grant a permit to remove or destroy non-Borough tree or trees; and

WHEREAS, the cutting or removal restrictions set forth in such ordinance were reviewed by Kamran Azam, 627 Glen Avenue, hereinafter the applicant, and a plan in the form of letter containing the required information has been submitted to Borough Council; and

WHEREAS, the applicant has requested permission for removal of trees deemed significant by said Code and exemption from any restrictions on removal of any other trees indicated in his property plan; and

WHEREAS, the Borough inspected the site on which are located the tree or trees sought to be cut or removed and no conditions existing on the subject property and adjoining properties would be impaired or disadvantaged by the removal requested; and

WHEREAS, the applicant has identified the hardships with the said trees as being weakened and eaten away at the base, concerning proximity to the main structure, and also set the removal of said trees within the context of construction projects; and

WHEREAS, the applicant has stated his intention of planting smaller yule or fir trees to preserve the area from where these trees will be removed yet posing no threat by managing the tree canopy; and

WHEREAS, all tree removal permits shall be limited to one year from the date of issuance, and should approved tree (s) removal not occur within one year, a new permit must be applied for and is subject to the payment of new fees;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Laurel Springs that Kamran Azam, 627 Glen Avenue, be granted a permit in the form of this resolution to remove the trees indicated in his property plan attached hereto.

- The motion to approve the foregoing resolution by Redstreak was seconded by DiMarco, with DiMarco, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
- Elected Official Class – Mayor Barbera asked that the new instructions please be reviewed by those who had not taken the class.
- FDS Reminder – Financial Disclosure Statements were due on April 30th. They have released a notice saying they will begin reviewing those who have not filed on June 14, 2023.

NEW BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE - none

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

- **Ken Lippincott** – 511 Park Avenue – spoke on the Memorial Day Celebration – an order was placed for 18 wreaths, and he has an elderly gentlemen and World War 2 veteran, 97 years old who is thrilled. Everything is ready and everything is fine. He thanked the Public Works Department for the work at the War Memorial saying he was very pleased.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Tuesday, May 16th Whitman Stafford Meeting @Farmhouse @7pm
- Wednesday, May 17th School Board Meeting @Laurel Springs School @7pm
- Thursday, May 18th Land Use Board Meeting @7pm @Rec Center
- Friday, May 19th Pageant @5:30 @Sterling High School
- Saturday, May 20th WaltFEST @11 am – 3 pm @Crystal Springs, Farmhouse and Downtown
- Monday, May 22nd Work Session Meeting @7pm @Rec Center

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business a motion was made by Redstreak to adjourn at 7:49 pm with all in favor and none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn T. Amadio, RMC, Municipal Clerk