

BOROUGH OF LAUREL SPRINGS
REGULAR MEETING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MONDAY, June 12, 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, DiMarco, DelPidio and Redstreak; absent Cruz and Riondino.

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 have completed the shop drawing review for the various project materials submittals. Our office is currently coordinating a preconstruction meeting with all project stakeholders. Construction can be expected to be completed during the summer.

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 fall 2023 construction start timeline.

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. We will continue to seek out future grant opportunities for the restoration of the lake as they become available.

7. 2023 NJDEP Tier A Stormwater Grant

The Borough recently received correspondence that the previously submitted NJDEP Existing Tier A NJDEP Stormwater Grant application was approved. The Borough was awarded \$25,000, 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.

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.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Work Session Meeting of May 22, 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

- Riley Mallette and John Billak - Junior Members of Fire Department – the motion by Redstreak was seconded by DiMarco, with DiGregorio, DiMarco, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

ORDINANCES

- Second 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.
 - Mayor Barbera opened the meeting to the public for questions and comments. Hearing none, he closed the meeting to the public.
 - Motion to Adopt by Redstreak was seconded by DiGregorio, with DiGregorio, DiMarco, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
- First Reading by Title
 - 876-2023-AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF LAUREL SPRINGS REPEALING CHAPTER 141 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF LAUREL SPRINGS; ADOPTING A NEW CHAPTER 141 ENTITLED FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT; ADOPTING FLOOD HAZARD MAPS; AND DESIGNATING A FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR
 - Mayor Barbera read the ordinance by title.
 - The motion of 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, July 10, 2023, 7 pm in the Laurel Springs Recreation Center, 820 Grand Avenue, Laurel Springs, NJ 08021.

RESOLUTIONS

- **#057-2023 - APPOINTING DEBBIE DI MATTIA AS THE BOROUGH'S ACTING CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:9-140.10(a) provides that "in every municipality there shall be a chief financial officer (CFO) appointed by the governing body of the municipality"; and
WHEREAS, the position of Chief Financial Officer will become vacant as of July 1, 2023; and
WHEREAS, Debbie DiMattia has agreed to accept such appointment, effective July 1, 2023; and
WHEREAS, Ms. DiMattia meets the statutory qualifications to hold the position of Chief Financial Officer under the laws of the State of New Jersey; and
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Laurel Springs hereby appoints Debbie DiMattia as Acting Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of Laurel Springs effective July 1, 2023.
- The motion to approve by Redstreak was seconded by DiGregorio, with DiGregorio, DiMarco, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
- **#058-2023 - APPOINTING A QUALIFIED PURCHASING AGENT AND INCREASING THE BID THRESHOLD TO \$44,000 PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3(A)**

WHEREAS, Contracting units that have appointed a Qualified Purchasing Agent pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-9(b) and take advantage of a higher bid threshold pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3(a), can have their maximum bid threshold increased from \$17,500 to \$44,000.
WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 5:34-5 et seq. establishes the criteria for certification of a Qualified Purchasing Agent; and
WHEREAS, Valerie Ciminera possesses the designation of Qualified Purchasing Agent as issued by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services; and
WHEREAS, the Borough of Laurel Springs desires to increase the bid threshold as provided;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the governing body of the Borough of Laurel Springs hereby increases its bid threshold to \$44,000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governing body hereby appoints Valerie Ciminera as the Qualified Purchasing Agent to exercise the duties of a purchasing agent with specific relevance to the authority, responsibility and accountability of the purchasing activity of the Borough of Laurel Springs; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Laurel Springs is hereby directed to forward a certified copy of the resolution and copy of Valerie Ciminera's certification 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.
- **#059-2023 - INSERTION OF AN ITEM OF REVENUE NJ CLEAN COMMUNITIES 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 2023 in the sum of \$5,198.15, which is now available as a revenue from a NJ Clean Communities Grant.**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a like sum of \$5,198.15 is hereby appropriated under the title "Clean Communities Grant - Other Expenses," pursuant to the provisions of the statute.
- The motion to approve by Redstreak was seconded by DiGregorio, with DiGregorio, DiMarco, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
- **#060-2023 - INSERTION OF AN ITEM OF REVENUE NJ STORMWATER ASSISTANCE 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 2023 in the sum of \$25,000.00, which is now available as a revenue from a NJ Stormwater Assistance Grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a like sum of \$25,000.00 is hereby appropriated under the title "Stormwater Assistance Grant - Other Expenses" pursuant to the provisions of the statute.
- 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 \$422,049.57 from Current Fund and \$192,375.05 from the Trust/Capital Accounts. The motion to approve by Redstreak was seconded by DiGregorio, 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 had a few things: Public Works is doing great, and repeated that they did a great job at the War Memorial. Laurel Springs Fire Department with Ken Lippincott and Roy Kane did a great job with the Memorial Day Service. Three dogwood trees were planted at Crystal Springs. There will be a tree Planting ceremony at 6:30 pm tomorrow night at Crystal Springs. It looks good. All is well with Sewer there wasn't anything pressing and no major issues. Board and Services has had Ordinance Review meeting again on May 25th and is considering the Site Plan ordinance and will keep everyone posted. He welcomed Roy Kane to the Ordinance Review Committee. He attended the Laurel Springs Pageant on May 19th and congratulated all the winners. WaltFEST thanking those who helped plan. Despite the weather it was a good day. There was

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a comment regarding tree dedications being handled by the Green Team followed by a discussion of dogwood trees in general and the use of Crystal Springs at first and other locations thereafter.

- DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Cruz was absent.
- DIRECTOR OF MUNICIPAL COURT – DiGregorio – reviewed the report for May highlighting comparison with last year.
- DIRECTOR OF RECREATION – DelPidio – Said the Pageant, May 19th and Laurel Springs Day May 20th went well, making the best of the weather situation. The Recreation Commission appointed a Downtown Committee, and the Original Banana Company and Makers Workshop will have a market night and car cruise on Wednesday, July 19th. He reached out to the horse and carriage company for the WinterFEST, with fund raising required right now. Game night was Thursday, and it went well and was fun.
- DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE – Riondino was absent.
- DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – DiMarco - commented on the Original Banana Company car cruise on May 18th saying it was a cute event. She posted information on the Clean Communities Dumpster. On May 19th Nicoletta Troilo was the winner of the Laurel Springs Pageant, with Ashleigh Cheeseman, First Runner Up and Jordyn Caul Second Runner Up. The Memorial Day Service was promoted and very beautiful with Charles Hobbs being honored. Nancy Sachleben being Grand Marshal of the Fourth of July Parade was announced. Recorded remarks from Memorial Day were posted on social media. May 31st was the Sterling Awards Ceremony. There was discussion of the Pageant and Memorial Day on social media.
- DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY – POLICE AND FIRE – Chief Mazziotta presented and reviewed the Police Reports for May, 2023, and said there have been no issues at the sober living house. He thanked the Fire Department for the good job with the Memorial Day Service. Chief Cheeseman presented and reviewed the Fire and Ambulance Reports for May, 2023, and commented on the tragedy of the recent fatal fire and commended the Fire Department on their excellent job, saying unfortunately it had become a substantial fire before it was reported.
- MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Barbera – the Mayor's Report on his activities since the time of the last Regular Meeting was presented and reviewed. There was discussion of the recent Primary Election.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE - none

- MEL/JIF – 2022 – discussion of 2022 Year End Results – letter from MEL including different liability insurance claims encountered.
- Public Notice of hearing on development on Laurel Road in Stratford connected with Laurel Manor was announced to Borough Council.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - none

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Tuesday, June 13th, JIF Safety Meeting @Fire Training Room @12:30 pm
- Thursday, June 15th Land Use Board Meeting @7pm @Rec Center-No Matter to be considered.
- Monday, June 19th, Borough Offices are closed in observance of Juneteenth.
- Wednesday, June 21st School Board Meeting @Laurel Springs School @7pm
- No Work Session Meetings in June, July, August or October
- Tuesday, July 4th, Independence Day Parade 9:15 am Stone Road-Judging 8:30 am @Walnut Avenue
- No Recreation Commission Meetings in July or August
- Monday, July 10th Regular Meeting @Recreation Center @7pm

ADJOURNMENT –There being no further business a motion was made by Redstreak to adjourn at 7:36 pm with all in favor and none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn T. Amadio, RMC, Municipal Clerk