

BOROUGH OF LAUREL SPRINGS
REGULAR MEETING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MONDAY, August 14, 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, DelPidio and Redstreak; absent 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. The conduit and appurtenances for the lights have been installed and a work order with Atlantic City Electric was submitted by the Contractor to have the poles / lights installed in July. 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. A preconstruction meeting between our office, the Contractor, Borough officials and a representative of NJDOT Local Aid was held on July 18, 2023. The Contractor indicated that construction will begin on approximately August 21, 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. Plans and specifications are complete and the project was

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reviewed and approved for bidding by NJDOT Local Aid. A bid opening date of September 6, 2023 at 2:00 PM has been set. The bid advertisement will be in the Courier Post on August 18, 2023.

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. NJDOT FY 2024 Safe Streets to Transit Application

During the Week of June 26, 2023 our office submitted an application to NJDOT for the installation of flashing speed beacons along Stone Road, East Atlantic Avenue and Broadway. We will apprise the Governing Body of any updated information with regard to the status of the application as it become available.

6. NJDOT FY 2024 Local Aid Grant Application

During the Week of June 26, 2023 our office submitted an application to NJDOT for the reconstruction of South Avenue (White Horse Pike to Stone Road) and West Atlantic Avenue (Lindsay Avenue to Lindenwold Borough Line). We will apprise the Governing Body of any updated information with regard to the status of the application as it 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 Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance

ERI prepared the draft new Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance that is required by NJDEP and submitted it to NJDEP, who approved the ordinance upon incorporation of their review comments. Second reading / adoption of the ordinance was executed at the July 10, 2023 Council meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting of July 10, 2023 - The motion to approve by Redstreak, was seconded by Cruz, with Cruz, DiMarco, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and DiGregorio abstaining.

ORDINANCES

- Second Reading by Title
 - 877-2023-BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS 2023 ROAD IMPROVEMENTS BY AND IN THE BOROUGH OF LAUREL SPRINGS, IN THE COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING \$100,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$95,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

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BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF LAUREL SPRINGS, IN THE COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY (not less than two-thirds of all members thereof affirmatively concurring), **AS FOLLOWS:**

SECTION 1. The improvements or purposes described in Section 3 of this bond ordinance are hereby authorized as general improvements or purposes to be undertaken by the Borough of Laurel Springs, in the County of Camden, State of New Jersey (the "Borough"). For the said improvements or purposes stated in Section 3, there is hereby appropriated the aggregate sum of \$100,000, which sum includes \$5,000 as the aggregate amount of down payments for said improvements or purposes as required by the Local Bond Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:2-1 et seq. (the "Local Bond Law"). Said down payments are now available therefor by virtue of appropriations in a previously adopted budget or budgets of the Borough for down payment or for capital improvement purposes.

SECTION 2. For the financing of said improvements or purposes described in Section 3 hereof and to meet the part of said \$100,000 appropriation not provided for by application hereunder of said down payment, negotiable bonds of the Borough are hereby authorized to be issued in the principal amount of \$95,000 pursuant to the Local Bond Law. In anticipation of the issuance of said bonds and to temporarily finance said improvements or purposes, negotiable notes of the Borough in a principal amount not exceeding \$95,000 are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to and within the limitations prescribed by the Local Bond Law.

SECTION 3. (a) The improvements hereby authorized and purposes for the financing of which said obligations are to be issued include, but are not limited to, Various Roadway Improvements Throughout The Borough, In Accordance With A List Of Roads On File With The Borough Clerk, Such Improvements Including, But Not Limited To, As Applicable, Milling, Paving, Reconstruction And Resurfacing The Roadway, The Repairing And/Or Installation Of Associated Curbs, Sidewalks, Driveway Aprons, Drainage Improvements, And Roadway Painting, Landscaping And Aesthetic Improvements.

(b) All such improvements or purposes set forth in Section 3(a) shall include, but are not limited to, as applicable, all engineering, architectural and design work, title searches, surveying, construction planning, preparation of plans and specifications, permits, bid documents, construction inspection and contract administration, and also shall include all work, materials, equipment, accessories, labor and appurtenances necessary therefor or incidental thereto.

(c) The aggregate estimated maximum amount of bonds or notes to be issued for said purposes is \$95,000.

(d) The estimated cost of said improvement or purpose is \$100,000, the excess thereof over the said estimated maximum amount of bonds or notes to be issued therefor, being the amount of \$5,000, is the down payment for said improvement or purpose.

SECTION 4. In the event the United States of America, the State of New Jersey, the County of Camden and/or a private entity make a contribution or grant in aid to the Borough for the improvements and purposes authorized hereby and the same shall be received by the Borough prior to the issuance of the bonds or notes authorized in Section 2 hereof, then the amount of such bonds or notes to be issued shall be reduced by the amount so received from the United States of America, the State of New Jersey, the County of Camden and/or a private entity. In the event, however, that any amount so contributed or granted by the United States of America, the State of New Jersey, the County of Camden and/or a private entity shall be received by the Borough after the issuance of the bonds or notes authorized in Section 2 hereof, then such funds shall be applied to the payment of the bonds or notes so issued and shall be used for no other purpose. This Section 4 shall not apply, however, with respect to any contribution or grant in aid received by the Borough as a result of using funds from this bond ordinance as "matching local funds" to receive such contribution or grant in aid.

SECTION 5. All bond anticipation notes issued hereunder shall mature at such times as may be determined by the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough, provided that no note shall mature later than one (1) year from its date unless such bond anticipation notes are permitted to mature at such later date in accordance with applicable law. The notes shall bear interest at such rate or rates and be in such form as may be determined by the Chief Financial Officer. The Chief Financial Officer shall determine all matters in connection with the notes issued pursuant to this bond ordinance, and the signature of the Chief Financial Officer upon the notes shall be conclusive evidence as to all such determinations. All notes issued hereunder may be renewed from time to time in accordance with the provisions of the Local Bond Law. The Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to sell part or all of the notes from time to time at public or private sale and to deliver them to the purchaser thereof upon receipt of payment of the purchase price and accrued interest thereon from their dates to the date of delivery thereof. The Chief Financial Officer is directed to report in writing to the governing body at the meeting next succeeding the date when any sale or delivery of the notes pursuant to this bond ordinance is made. Such report must include the principal amount, the description, the interest rate, and the maturity schedule of the notes so sold, the price obtained and the name of the purchaser.

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SECTION 6. The Capital Budget or Budgets of the Borough are hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this bond ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency herewith. In the event of any such inconsistency, a resolution in the form promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full detail of the amended Capital Budget or Budgets and capital programs as approved by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs will be on file in the office of the Clerk and will be available for public inspection.

SECTION 7. The following additional matters are hereby determined, declared, recited and stated:

(a) The improvements or purposes described in Section 3 of this bond ordinance are not current expenses and are improvements which the Borough may lawfully undertake as general improvements, and no part of the cost thereof has been or shall be specially assessed on property specially benefited thereby.

(b) The average period of usefulness of said improvements or purposes within the limitations of the Local Bond Law, according to the reasonable life thereof computed from the date of the said bonds authorized by this bond ordinance, is 20.00 years.

(c) The Supplemental Debt Statement required by the Local Bond Law has been duly made and filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Borough and a complete executed duplicate thereof has been filed in the Office of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, and such statement shows that the gross debt of the Borough as defined in the Local Bond Law is increased by the authorization of the bonds or notes provided for in this bond ordinance by \$95,000 and the said bonds or notes authorized by this bond ordinance will be within all debt limitations prescribed by said Local Bond Law.

(d) An aggregate amount not exceeding \$20,000 for items of expense listed in and permitted under section 20 of the Local Bond Law is included in the estimated cost indicated herein for the purposes or improvements hereinbefore described.

SECTION 8. The full faith and credit of the Borough are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and the interest on the bonds or notes authorized by this bond ordinance. The bonds or notes shall be direct, unlimited obligations of the Borough, and the Borough shall be obligated to levy *ad valorem* taxes upon all the taxable real property within the Borough for the payment of the bonds or notes and the interest thereon without limitation as to rate or amount.

SECTION 9. The Borough hereby declares the intent of the Borough to issue the bonds or bond anticipation notes in the amount authorized in Section 2 of this bond ordinance and to use proceeds to pay or reimburse expenditures for the costs of the purposes described in Section 3 of this bond ordinance. This Section 9 is a declaration of intent within the meaning and for purposes of Treasury Regulations §1.150-2 or any successor provisions of federal income tax law.

SECTION 10. The Borough Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to prepare and to update from time to time as necessary a financial disclosure document to be distributed in connection with the sale of obligations of the Borough and to execute such disclosure document on behalf of the Borough. The Borough Chief Financial Officer is further authorized to enter into the appropriate undertaking to provide secondary market disclosure on behalf of the Borough pursuant to Rule 15c2-12 of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Rule") for the benefit of holders and beneficial owners of obligations of the Borough and to amend such undertaking from time to time in connection with any change in law, or interpretation thereof, provided such undertaking is and continues to be, in the opinion of a nationally recognized bond counsel, consistent with the requirements of the Rule. In the event that the Borough fails to comply with its undertaking, the Borough shall not be liable for any monetary damages, and the remedy shall be limited to specific performance of the undertaking.

SECTION 11. The Borough covenants to maintain the exclusion from gross income under section 103(a) of the Code of the interest on all bonds and notes issued under this ordinance.

SECTION 12. This bond ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after the first publication thereof after final adoption and approval by the Mayor, as provided by the Local Bond Law.

- 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 Cruz, with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, and DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

RESOLUTIONS

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- #066-2023 - ACCEPTING QUOTE OF RODIER EBERSBERGER ARCHITECTS, LLC FOR ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES FOR CORD MANSION 2ND AND 3RD FLOOR ALTERATIONS

WHEREAS, on January 9, 2023 by virtue of Resolution #006-2023 Rodier Ebersberger, LLC were appointed Borough Architect; and

WHEREAS, Rodier Ebersberger were asked to submit a quote for Architectural Services for the Cord Mansion 2nd and 3rd Floor Alterations; and

WHEREAS, funds are available to complete this project; and

WHEREAS, Rodier Ebersberger Architects, LLC, 946 South Main Street, Williamstown, NJ 08094 has provided a proposal herewith attached in the amount of \$26,170.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Laurel Springs, in the County of Camden, and the State of New Jersey that they hereby approve the Mayor and Clerk to execute the agreement with Rodier Ebersberger Architects, LLC in the amount of \$26,170.00 and authorize the Borough Architect and Municipal Clerk to prepare revised public bid documents and advertise for the solicitation of public bids.

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

- 067-2023-AMENDING APPOINTMENTS FOR THE YEAR 2023

WHEREAS, Resolution #015-2023 designated the appointments for the year 2023; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend the appointment list to reflect changes in the Municipal Committees and Employees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by Mayor and Council of the Borough of Laurel Springs, County of Camden, and State of New Jersey do hereby amend the Appointments for the year 2023 as follows:

POSITION	TERM	NAME
SERVICES		
Code Enforcement		
Property Maintenance Officer	through 12/31/23	Tyler Venuto
"	"	Dominic Krawchuk

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

- #068-2023 - AUTHORIZING PREPARATION OF SPECIFICATIONS AND SOLICITATION OF BIDS FOR REFUSE PACKER
WHEREAS, the Laurel Springs Public Works Department desire the purchase of a pre-owned Rear Load Refuse Packer with a 20-yard capacity or equal; and

WHEREAS, American Rescue Plan Funds have been appropriated for such;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of Laurel Springs, that they authorize the Municipal Clerk to prepare and advertise the specifications and the solicitation of bids for a pre-owned Rear Load Refuse Packer or equal with 20-yard capacity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of Laurel Springs, that they designate and authorize the Municipal Clerk to receive said bids, and the Borough Administrator to open said bids.

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

- #069-2023 - TO EXTEND GRACE PERIOD FOR THIRD QUARTER 2023 TAXES

WHEREAS, property taxes are payable on August 1, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Tax Collector under normal circumstances mails tax bills prior to July 15 of each year; and

WHEREAS, delays in the release of Certified Tax Rate precluded the Borough from printing the Tax Bills on a timely basis; and

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the Borough Council to grant property owners adequate time to pay third quarter taxes due August 1, 2023.

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WHEREAS, the Final 2023/Preliminary 2024 Tax Bills (original) were mailed 7/20/2023.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and the Council of the Borough of Laurel Springs, County of Camden, State of New Jersey that the Tax Collector is directed not to charge interest on third quarter taxes received by the close of business on Wednesday, August 16, 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Laurel Springs, County of Camden, State of New Jersey that the Tax Collector is directed to charge statutory interest from August 1, 2023 on all third quarter taxes received later than close of business on Wednesday, August 16, 2023.

- The motion to approve by Redstreak was seconded by Cruz, with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
- Resolved to pay \$899,324.62 from Current Fund and \$98,945.58 from the Trust/Capital Accounts.
- The motion to approve by Redstreak was seconded by Cruz, with Cruz, 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 that with regard to Public Works, there were a few things. . There was storm damage at Crystal Springs. They have done a nice job at the Hemlock Triangle and clean-up under bridge and stream. The stream must be done a couple times per year. There was tree clean-up downtown. The Sewer Department has the June invoice available. With sewer lid repair. There was no Ordinance review in July, but he will keep council up to date on progress. There is work ongoing on a tree dedication with tree plaque being obtained.
- DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Cruz said he had a brief report. Electric is being worked on in the 2-bay garage. The Candy Stand was power washing and painted, as were the benches and train station.
- DIRECTOR OF MUNICIPAL COURT – DiGregorio reviewed the Municipal Court Report for June.
- DIRECTOR OF RECREATION – DelPidio said the horse and carriage company were booked for the Winter Festival, and there is a Recreation Commission meeting upcoming on Wednesday, September 6th.
- DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE – Riondino was absent.
- DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – DiMarco shared information about the removal of crossing post in Stratford and the July 19th Night Market. There was information shared about Purple Heart on August 7.
- DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY – POLICE AND FIRE – Chief Mazziotta presented and reviewed the Police Reports for July, 2023. Mayor Barbera asked Chief Mazziotta to see Principal Mahlman of Laurel Springs School regarding no crossing guard at Broadway and Stone, and what has been reported about it not being safe for crossing even with a crossing guard. It is not safe for the crossing guard. Mayor Barbera reviewed the Fire Department Report for the month of July.
- MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Barbera – the Mayor gave a report from the time of the last Council meeting to current. He reviewed and highlighted his activities. There was discussion of the redevelopment ordinance and senior housing with deed restrictions and the process of redevelopment. Mayor Barbera will be referring a potential redeveloper to begin speaking with the Borough Redevelopment Attorney.

OLD BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE

- From Borough of Stratford regarding decommissioned school Crossing – this matter was reviewed during the Police Report. There were questions if there are middle school children crossing, and if Laurel Springs was surveyed. Councilman Redstreak said he could reach out, and Chief Mazziotta said he would reach out, and said he doesn't think there are any kids walking that direction. Chief Mazziotta said he would follow up with the conversation.
- League Conference – please communicate your intention to attend – Municipal Clerk Amadio gave the deadlines for the early bird registration. Councilman Cruz said he would be attending.

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COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

- Richelle and Josh Boyle – addressed Council about a Cannabis dispensary. She noted that the Mayor mentioned in his report that he had attended a CRC meeting, to which Mayor Barbera said the lounge rules have not been accepted yet. They are out for comment. There was discussion of bars versus lounges. There was discussion that they had heard policing concerns.; that they must use in-state growers. There was discussion of municipal processes and whether consumption should be allowed or not. He does not anticipate any more problems than with a bar, and he suspects less problems. Some aspects of the lounge rules were questioned by Council.
- Kyle of the Original Banana Company and Megan of the Makers Workshop were present and said they had discussed some remedies for the downtown dog waste problem.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Wednesday, August 16th School Board Meeting @7pm @Laurel Springs School
- Thursday, August 17th Land Use Board Meeting @7pm @Rec Center
- No Work Session Meetings in August or October
- Monday, September 4th is Labor Day, Borough Offices are closed.
- Wednesday, September 6th Recreation Meeting @Recreation Center @7pm
- Thursday, September 7th Family Game Night @Recreation Center @6pm
- Monday, September 11th Laurel Green Team Meeting @Recreation Center @ 6pm
- Monday, September 11th Regular Meeting @Recreation Center @7pm

ADJOURNMENT –There being no further business a motion was made by Redstreak to adjourn at 7:39 pm with all in favor and none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn T. Amadio, RMC, Municipal Clerk