

BOROUGH OF LAUREL SPRINGS
REGULAR MEETING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MONDAY, September 11, 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.

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. A preconstruction meeting between our office, the Contractor, Borough officials and a representative of NJDOT Local Aid was held on July 18, 2023. Construction started during the Week of August 21, 2023 and final paving was completed by the Contractor on September 6, 2023. Installation of striping and traffic signs, punch list and restoration work are all that remain to bring the job to completion. Once the payment requisition is received from the Contractor, we will process the final payment and change order and also process the appropriate NJDOT documentation for the Borough to receive the balance of the grant funds.

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. Bids were received and opened on September 6, 2023 at 2:00 P.M. The results of the bid are currently being reviewed by the Borough CFO and Solicitor.

Once their respective reviews are complete, we will make a recommendation for award of contract, most likely for the September 25, 2023 Council meeting.

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.

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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.

Mayor Barbera mentioned that there was an electric pole near his home that is split and should be replaced.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting of August 14, 2023 - The motion to approve by Cruz, was seconded by DiGregorio, with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and Riondino abstaining.

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

- **Resignation** - the motion to accept letter of resignation from Joyce Kelly, Crossing Guard by Cruz, was seconded by DiMarco with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, Riondino, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
- **Appointment** – the motion to appoint Derek Edward and Delmaro King as Junior Members of the Fire Department – by Cruz, was seconded by DiMarco with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, Riondino, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

RESOLUTIONS

- #070-2023 - APPOINTING DEBBIE DI MATTIA AS THE BOROUGH'S CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER AND AMENDING RESOLUTION 057-2023
WHEREAS, Resolution #057-2023, appointed Debbie DiMattia as Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of Laurel Springs effective January 1, 2023; and
WHEREAS, the Department of Community Affairs has informed the Borough that this appointment is not permitted by statute and will need to be corrected by the Borough at their next scheduled Council meeting; and
WHEREAS, Debbie DiMattia holds a Certified Municipal Finance Officer (CMFO) certificate, N-0593, and per NJSA 40A:9-140.13(f), she is not permitted to serve as an acting, temporary, or any synonym thereof CFO, and must be appointed as per statute to the position of Chief Financial Officer, with a term as per NJSA 40A:9-12.1 and NJSA 40A:9-140.10a.;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Debbie DiMattia is appointed Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of Laurel Springs with a term from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2027.
- The motion to approve by Cruz was seconded by DiMarco with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, Riondino, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

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- **#071-2023 - AUTHORIZING SALE OF BOROUGH OWNED ITEMS THROUGH ONLINE AND PUBLIC AUCTION**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Laurel Springs owns and/or has title to the following items and/or fixed assets:

- 1998 International Trash Truck – VIN: 1HTSCAAN1WH572076

WHEREAS, the Borough's use of the above item is defunct and of no practical or useful life based upon the capacity for which it was used by the various Departments of the Borough of Laurel Springs; and

WHEREAS, said items will be offered for public auction through on-line public auction sites, the terms and conditions of which are available on said website and in the office of the Municipal Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the sale is being conducted pursuant to Local Finance Notice 2008-21R dated December 3, 2008; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Laurel Springs that the sale and public auction of the aforementioned Borough fixed assets and/or Borough-owned items is approved;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the said items may be offered for traditional public auction, and the Municipal Clerk is authorized to legally advertise such, should it be of greater benefit to the Borough of Laurel Springs to do so.

- The motion to approve by Cruz was seconded by DiMarco with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, Riondino, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
- **#072-2023 - AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL OF INACTIVE LICENSE PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 33:1-12.39 FOR THE 2023 – 2024 AND 2024 - 2025 LICENSE TERM(S); LIC. NO. 0420-33-001-008; LIC. NAME: BON GIRLS LLC; DOCKET NO. 06-23-547; JOB NO. 60803**

WHEREAS, licensee, Bons Girls, LLC on July 27, 2023, received from the State of New Jersey, Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control a Special Ruling granting relief pursuant to NJSA 33:1-12.39 for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 license years and filed a renewal application for a Plenary Alcoholic Beverage Consumption License No. 0420- 33-001-008 being held "in-pocket" status effective through June 30, 2024; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the above mentioned, the licensee has filed renewal for the 2023-2024 license year has paid the \$200.00 fee filing renewal with the State of New Jersey, and \$2,500.00 fee to the Borough of Laurel Springs, and has complied with all the regulations and applicable local ordinances and it is now the desire of this governing body to grant the renewal of said license.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Laurel Springs, County of Camden, State of New Jersey that Plenary Retail Alcoholic Beverage Consumption License No. 0420-33-001-008 held "in pocket" status by Bons Girls, LLC be and is hereby renewed for the licensing term through June 30, 2024.
- The motion to approve by Cruz was seconded by DiMarco with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, Riondino, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
- **#073-2023 - AWARD OF BID FOR PRE-OWNED REAR LOAD 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 American Rescue Plan Funds have been appropriated for such; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of Laurel Springs by virtue of Resolution 068-2023 authorized the Municipal Clerk, to prepare and advertise bid specifications and solicitation of bids; and

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WHEREAS, two (2) sealed formal bids were received and publicly opened on Tuesday, September 5, 2023 and subsequently reviewed by the Council President, Borough Administrator and Borough Counsel; and

WHEREAS, the initially apparent low bidder indicated in the Compliance Statement section of their bid submission that they would not comply with the statement: “30 to 60 day warranty, with warranty to start when the truck is out into service, with no exceptions” statement required by the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the other bid received was from Hunter Truck and did comply in every aspect of the Compliance Statement and the full bid reviewed and found to be complete;

WHEREAS, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Laurel Springs, County of Camden, and State of New Jersey that they reject the bid of H. A. DeHart for non-compliance with the bid requirements, and award the bid to:

Hunter Jersey Peterbilt
524 Monmouth Road
P. O. Box 729
Clarksburg, NJ 08510

- Councilman Redstreak clarified the process of elimination that left this bid as the lowest responsible bidder, primarily that the low bidder did not comply with the bid specifications and his requirement that at warranty be offered. He also gave details of the differences in bids for a pre-owned vehicle.
- The motion to approve by Cruz was seconded by DiMarco with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, Riondino, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

• **#074-2023 - TO WAIVE OR REDUCE FEES FOR THE JACK H. HAGEN RECREATION COMPLEX**

WHEREAS, there are fees required for the rental of the Jack H. Hagen Recreation Center and adjacent fields in the Borough of Laurel Springs, NJ; and

WHEREAS, in certain instances, these fees are reduced or waived;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Laurel Springs that the fees for rental of the Jack H. Hagen Recreation Center be waived:

Laurel Springs Lions’ fund raiser on October 20, 2023

- The motion to approve by Cruz was seconded by DiMarco with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, Riondino, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
- Resolved to pay \$448,515.52 from Current Fund and \$98,010.42 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 they gave up in the process of looking for trash truck because of bid threshold woes. All local truck dealers were given the information about the Borough going to bid. The Borough received the bids, the low bidder was DeHart, but they did not comply. There was discussion of trucks specs submitted and that there has to be some sort of warrantee with the truck and therefore it was a stipulation, and they were not able to produce that warranty. There was more explanation of comparison of trucks and the time and effort in the process. The big factor was the warranty and age. With regard to the sewer the invoices have been submitted. There was no ordinance review due to vacations. There will likely be one in September. He commented on the potential for another tree planting ceremony, but he would like to vet the process with the Green Team.
- **DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS & GROUNDS** – Cruz had a brief report. There is a problem with the AC Units at the Fire Department. The best approach is to repair one and replace the other.

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- DIRECTOR OF MUNICIPAL COURT – DiGregorio reviewed the Municipal Court Report for July, highlighting some revenue items.
- DIRECTOR OF RECREATION – DelPidio said Senior Connections wants to get started again in October. Game Night was successful with around 15 people and a good time. The Downtown Committee is planning another Market Night with live music and 30 vendors. They would like to close Tomlison avenue. The Winter Festival horse drawn carriage has been booked waiting for certificate insurance. Downtown Carolers will perform for WinterFEST. ROTC and Paged winners. Laurel Springs Youth Association will be at the October 16 meeting to discuss upgrades.
- DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE – Riondino reviewed the CFO Report for the month of August.
- DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – DiMarco shared posts on the road improvement project, Family Game Night, Laurel Springs School Calendar, Recreation Commission interest for involvement; the full Camden County history month calendar. There was conversation about information coming from Veteran's affairs forwarded from Camden County.
- DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY – POLICE AND FIRE – Chief Mazziotta presented and reviewed the Police Report for August, 2023. Mayor Barbera questioned the number of recent accidents, to which Chief Mazziotta said they were in September. Chief Cheeseman reviewed the Fire Department Report for the month of August.
- MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Barbera did not submit a report.

OLD BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE –

- From Ryan Tobin thanking Council for award – Mayor Barbera read the letter into the record.
- From Laurel Springs Police Officers Association to begin contract negotiations – Mayor Barbera said he would be appointing a committee to negotiate a contract with the Police Officers Association.
- From Laurel Springs Board of Education regarding change of Date for Board meeting – the change of date to September 27th was noted.
- From League of Municipalities regarding convention registration – Municipal Clerk Amadio reviewed which members would be attending.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

- Tony Carozza – 224 Washington Avenue – mentioned eyesore in the center of town. Borough Administrator Cheeseman said numerous violations are being addressed and he will be staying on top of it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Tuesday, September 12th @7pm Whitman Stafford Meeting @Farmhouse
- Tuesday, September 19th @12:30 pm JIF Safety meeting @Firehouse Training Room
- Thursday, September 21st Land Use Board Meeting @7pm @Rec Center
- Monday, September 25th Work Session Meeting @7pm @Rec Center

ADJOURNMENT –There being no further business a motion was made by DelPidio to adjourn at 7:35 pm with all in favor and none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn T. Amadio, RMC, Municipal Clerk