

BOROUGH OF LAUREL SPRINGS
REGULAR MEETING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MONDAY, March 22, 2021
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 that adequate notice of this meeting was given by emailing the Retrospect and the Courier-Post on January 5, 2021 and posting on the Borough Website and bulletin board in the Borough Hall.

ROLL CALL recorded as present: Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, DelPidio and Redstreak; and as absent: Riondino.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting of March 8, 2021 - The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilman Cruz with DiGregorio, DiMarco, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and none abstaining.

RESOLUTIONS

- #037-2021- SUPPORTING THE PROGRAMS OF THE JOINT INSURANCE FUND AND THE SAFETY INCENTIVE PROGRAM OF THE BOROUGH OF LAUREL SPRINGS
WHEREAS, the Borough of Laurel Springs recognizes the important role an effective safety program plays in lowering employee injury rates, reducing lost time accidents, and cutting insurance costs, all of which contribute to greater employee safety and lower tax rates, and that health and safety must never be compromised, with employee safety along with the safety of the public as our number one priority; and
WHEREAS, the Borough of Laurel Springs desires to achieve an accident free environment through a health a safety culture built on TRUST - we respect each other's opinions and decisions and will follow through on all health and safety concerns - CARE – we approach each day with the determination to care for ourselves, coworkers and the community we serve - KNOWLEDGE – we seek the education and skills to properly fulfill our responsibilities - COMMUNICATION – we communicate with each other in a clear, open and honest manner; and
WHEREAS, because the Borough of Laurel Springs educates its employees with regard to appropriate conduct in the workplace and encourages employees to report workplace harassment or discrimination.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Laurel Springs applaud the JIF's initiative in providing many of the safety resources needed to enhance its local safety efforts by declaring its support of the JIF's safety programs, Laurel Springs' Safety Incentive Program and Safety Coordinator, Borough Administrator, Ken Cheeseman; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following operational criteria is endorsed for the Borough of Laurel Springs:
 - The Borough Safety Committee will meet on the following Tuesdays– March 23rd, June 2nd, September 1st, and December 1st at 12:30pm.
 - "Putting Safety on Our Agenda" by including safety and risk management topics on the Governing Body agenda on a regular basis.
 - Keeping regulatory training and written programs current
 - Encouraging supervisors and crew leaders to make a "daily safety contact" with employees.
 - Managing our claims, reporting all claims in a timely manner, offering transitional duty, and investigating incidents and near misses
 - Actively promoting and supporting health and wellness activities
- The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilman Cruz, with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
- #038-2021 - AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT PURSUANT TO CAMDEN COUNTY COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM BID A-2/2020, 2ND YEAR OPTION FOR THE PROVISION OF OFFICE SUPPLIES
WHEREAS, the Borough of Laurel Springs is part of the Camden County Cooperative Pricing System; and
WHEREAS, the Camden County Board of Chosen Freeholders awarded a contract to Office Basics, Inc. for Bid A-2/2020 for office supplies commencing March 1, 2020 and through February 28, 2021, with a one-year option to renew; and
WHEREAS, the County of Camden exercised its one-year option to renew for a term commencing March 1, 2021 through February 28, 2022; and
WHEREAS, each participating Cooperative Member in the Cooperative is authorized to enter into this 2nd year option directly;

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NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Laurel Springs, County of Camden that the award for Bid A-2/2020 for office supplies to Office Basics, Inc. 22 Creek Circle, Boothwyn, PA 19061 is hereby approved.

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

- 039-2021 - TO CANCEL SEWER BILLING

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	ACCOUNT #	AMOUNT	REASON
LAUREL SPRINGS	333-0 (908 STONE RD)	\$400.00	MUNICIPAL ACQUISITION

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

- 040-2021 - AUTHORIZING THE USE OF A THREE-YEAR AVERAGE ALTERNATE CALCULATION FOR MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Pandemic had an adverse effect on anticipated revenues in the 2020 Municipal General and Utility Fund budgets; and

WHEREAS, Section 1 of P.L. 2020, c.74 amended NJSA 40A:4-26 and authorized the Director of the DLGS to promulgate new standards for the anticipation of COVID-19 affected revenues in the FY2021 budget, and, if necessary, in future years; and

WHEREAS, for FY2021, the Director has authorized the use of a three-year average for the calculation of affected revenues; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of Laurel Springs certifies that the following revenues were affected in 2020 by the COVID-19 Pandemic and that the three-year average of the amounts realized in 2018-2020 may be anticipated in the budget for FY2021:

REVENUE	2018	2019	2020	AVERAGE
Clerk Licenses	\$ 4,550.00	\$4,945.00	\$2,000.00	\$ 3,831.67
Municipal Court Fines	\$65,064.68	\$58,569.61	\$30,920.02	\$51,518.10
Construction Fees & Permits	\$17,208.00	\$31,584.00	\$17,053.77	\$21,948.59

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Laurel Springs Mayor and Borough Council, do hereby authorize that the above-referenced revenues be anticipated using the three-year average as permitted by the amendments to NJSA 40A:4-26, adopted by P.L. 2020, c.74.

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

- 041-2021 - SUPPORTING S-3522 TO ESTABLISH A NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE LOCAL PART OF THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM (PERS)

WHEREAS, county, municipal, and other local governments have met their pension obligations as employers for more than a decade while the State of New Jersey has continued to underfund the pension systems in varying degrees since 1996 and thus creating one of the worst publicly funded retirement systems in the entire nation; and,

WHEREAS, despite fulfilling their fiduciary duties in meeting their pension obligations, local governments across the State will experience double digit percentage increases in total employer pension contributions in 2021 as determined in figures recently published by the Division of Pension and Benefits in the State Department of Treasury; and,

WHEREAS, even more alarming for local government employers is the fact that the unfunded accrued liability once again increased in 2021 to a staggering \$26.6 billion for PERS alone, causing in part, a decrease in the funded ratio for the Local Part of PERS to 65.4%, the State Part to 31.2%, and the combined rate to a disconcerting 52.2% far below the target funded ratio of 75.0%; and,

WHEREAS, this legislation would protect local governing bodies from the State of New Jersey further directing property taxpayer dollars to subsidize its long mismanagement and underfunding of the pension systems as it would provide the new balanced board of trustees of PERS with the ability to determine or modify member benefits, direct policies, and investments to achieve full funding, and serve as the fiduciary of system; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Laurel Springs does hereby support S-3522, which would establish a new board of trustees for the Local Part of the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) to preserve the structure and integrity of the more solvent Local Part.

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- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution shall be forwarded to Governor Phil Murphy, Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Speaker of the General Assembly Craig Coughlin, and the c
- The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilman Cruz, with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
 - **RESOLVED TO PAY \$46,340.39 FROM CURRENT ACCOUNT AND \$14,316.45 FROM TRUST AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS**
 - The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilman Cruz, with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2021 MUNICIPAL BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,324,000

- The motion to introduce by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilman Cruz, with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
- Public Hearing and Adoption is scheduled for Monday, April 26, 2021, 7 pm in the Laurel Springs Recreation Center.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Recreation Commission**

- **Rec Commissioners**– Councilman DelPidio mentioned that with regard to the question on number of members to form Laurel Springs' type of Recreation Commission he has been made aware of a resident interested in becoming a Rec Commissioner, which he will discuss with Mayor Barbera after the meeting, but it would resolve the issue of a seventh member.
- **Use of Fields** - Additionally, he reported that the travelling team that requested waiver of the field fees is not associated with Stratford Athletic Association but is rather part of a Cal Ripken league made up of ages 11 and 12. There was discussion of the need and fees for a bathroom key, and the use of the field Tuesday and Thursdays from 5 to 6 pm with no need for lights. The team would be offering reciprocal community service by the way of field maintenance for the use.
- **#042-2021 - TO WAIVE FEES**
WHEREAS, Ordinance #850-2021 adopted the Fee Schedule for the Borough of Laurel Springs for the year 2021; and
WHEREAS, in certain instances, Borough Council may be willing and able to waive said fees;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Laurel Springs that the fees for following matters be waived:

TYPE	AMOUNT	APPLICANT
Use of Fields	\$ 250.00 per month	Stratford Strikers TSE Baseball
Key Deposit	\$ 100.00	Chris Lomax/Stratford Strikers
- The motion by Councilman Redstreak to waive fees for field use and keys, pending submission of all proper and required insurance certifications, was seconded by Councilman Cruz, with Cruz, DiGregorio, DiMarco, DelPidio and Redstreak in favor, none oppose and no abstentions.

NEW BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE

- JIF Annual Report – was distributed to Council.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – none

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- *Tuesday, March 23rd JIF Safety Meeting @12:30 @Fire Department Training Room*
- *Monday, April 5th Borough Offices are closed for Easter Monday.*
- *Tuesday, April 6th – Thursday, April 8th – Spring Cleaning special pickup of yard waste piled curbside*
- *Wednesday, April 7th, Recreation Commission Meeting @7pm @ Rec Center*
- *Saturday, April 10th Lake Cleanup @9am @Crystal Springs*
- *Monday, April 12th Regular Council Meeting @7pm @Rec Center*

ADJOURNMENT –There being no further business a motion was made by Councilman Redstreak to adjourn at 7:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Dawn T. Amadio, RMC, Municipal Clerk