

**WORKSHOP MEETING
OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS WAS
HELD THIS EVENING IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

Monday, April 13, 2015

Council President Louis Fontana called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. with the following members present: Pamela Porter, Joseph Maceri, William Liess, and James Damiano. Also present were Mayor Darlene Conti, Township Attorney Leslie London, Township Engineer Dennis Lindsay and Township Administrator Charles Cuccia.

Absent: Municipal Clerk Cynthia Kraus

Township Employees present: DPW Superintendent Phillip Simone, Clifton Health Department Nino Intilli, Clifton Health Department, Jennifer Kidd, Clifton Health Department, Leslie Leonard, Police Chief John Dmuchowski, Sgt. James Minella, and Sgt. James Briggs

Following the Salute to the Flag, the Statement of Public Notice was read.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE: Take notice that adequate notice of this meeting was provided in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-10 as follows: A notice of the meeting was prominently posted on the bulletin board at the Municipal Building, located at 225 Main Street, Little Falls, N.J. on January 6, 2015; a copy of the notice was faxed to the North Jersey Herald and News and The Record on the same date; additionally, a copy of the notice was filed in the office of the Township Clerk on said date.

At this time, Councilmember DAMIANO requested the public portion could be moved to the end of the meeting, after the business for all Workshop meetings from this point forward. There were no objections from Council.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

MUNICIPAL CLERK:

It was moved by Councilmember Porter, seconded by Councilmember Maceri, that the appointment of Deputy Clerk Charles Cuccia be approved in Municipal Clerk Cynthia Kraus's absence.

Poll: Ayes: Porter, Maceri, Liess, Damiano, and Council President Fontana
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

ADMINISTRATOR:

1. TRANSIT VILLAGE ZONING ORDINANCE – Mr. Janota provided a slide show presentation, explaining different aspects of zoning in the transit village. A draft ordinance will be presented to the Council this evening to consider for introduction at the next meeting on April 27, 2015. It will then be offered for public hearing and adoption on May 18, 2015. In response to questions raised by Councilmember DAMIANO regarding height restrictions in different areas, Mr. Janota and Mr. Lindsay explained costs and ratables vary within the area. In response to Councilmember Liess' query about building style, Mr. Janota explicated the ordinance includes architectural guidelines to guide the development process. Council President FONTANA invited the public up for questions at this time.

Louis Fernandez, Harrison Street, asked if certain areas would be permitted to be four or five stories. Mr. Janota stated any set back can be authorized.

John Veteri, Prospect Street, raised concerns regarding the mapping of the transit village zone to which Mr. Janota will verify.

Renea Shapiro, Walnut Street, queried how the height of the buildings are calculated and how many ratables it would bring to the Township. Mr. Cuccia explained that there is a formula based on the assessed value of the properties.

2. RESOLUTION AWARDED CONTRACT TO HOGAN APPRAISAL, LLC FOR CDBG DR - IRENE LAND & STRUCTURE APPRAISALS AND REVIEW APPRAISALS- Mr. Cuccia explained that this resolution is slated to be approved at the next Council meeting on April 27, 2015.

3. RESOLUTION TO WITHDRAW CONTRACT AWARD AND AUTHORIZATION TO RE-BED FOR ELEVATION OF 10 LOUIS STREET AND 176 WILLIAM STREET- Mr. Cuccia explained that this resolution is slated to be approved at the next Council meeting on April 27, 2015.

4. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDERS TO RVT CONSTRUCTION FOR ELEVATIONS - Mr. Cuccia explained the resolution slated to be approved at the next Council meeting on April 27, 2015.

5. PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS FOR REFUND OF HOMESTEAD BENEFIT CREDIT ON THE 2ND QUARTER 2015 TAXES TO PROPERTY OWNERS OF TWO PROPERTIES – Mr. Cuccia provided an update on the FEMA Buyout Program and further explained that depending on the program, prospective buyers may be able to elevate. There are currently two acquisitions and two elevations related to the SRL 10 programs.

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

1. ANNUAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT- Jennifer Kidd gave a year-to-date verbal report, asking the Council for feedback to identify areas of potential improvement. The state recently opened up the portal for submission of statistics; a formalized report will be provided at the end of May, 2015.

Leslie Leonard, Clifton Health presented a report on communicable disease and other programs available to Little Falls residents.

Nino Intilli, explained the licensing and inspection requirements for all food establishments in the Township.

POLICE CHIEF:

1. NEW POLICE OFFICERS- Chief Dmuchowski provided an extensive report of Department staffing trends since 2009. He also elaborated on the two methods of obtaining new hires: the alternate route track and the academy track. The current staff total in the Department is 26 with a goal of 27, based on staffing workload calculations. Councilmember DAMIANO, referenced the upcoming plans for transit village, questioned whether police could be stationed on foot. The Chief stated it is not possible at this time due to inadequate staffing.

Sgt. Minnella discussed the benefit of expanding community programs and having police presence in the three schools, noting current staffing limits expansion at this time.

Sgt. Briggs presented a report of all of the matters the detective bureau handled in 2014. There were 29 incidents last year where a detective was called in after hours, generating more overtime. He proposed more personnel to staff the department 24/7.

Councilmember DAMIANO requested the Department's total overtime hours for last year. Chief Dmuchowski explained the process for calculating an officer's hours and overtime. A discussion ensued regarding hiring alternate route vs. academy personnel, and the benefits of new hires vs. established personnel with regard to vacation days.

2. FRANCISCO AVENUE DETOUR REPORT - Chief Dmuchowski explained the detour situation at Francisco Avenue, noting that nixels have been sent out by some of the surrounding towns to notify residents.

DPW SUPERINTENDENT:

1. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR RECREATION WINDOW REPLACEMENT- Mr. Simone explained that this is going for attorney review with plans to award at the next meeting on April 27, 2015.

2. BASKETBALL HOOP ORDINANCE- Mr. Simone presented the ordinance and discussion ensued with regard to whether the ordinance should exclude cul de sac areas and if fines should be instituted. Mr. Simone recommended requiring the equipment to be on the curb with the hoop hanging over the curb be a compromise to the current situation, but that there should be no exclusions to cul de sacs as they require similar snow maintenance as all other streets. Mr. Simone, Mr. Cuccia, and Ms. London to re-review ordinance and re-present at a future date.

3. RESOLUTION REJECTING RECYCLING MARKETING BID AND AUTHORIZATION TO RE-BID- Mr. Simone stated that as a result of attorney review, there will be a resolution at the next meeting to reject the recycling bid and request a re-bid as the current bid did not meet expectations. In response to Councilmember DAMIANO, Mr. Simone explained the current recycling contract generates some revenue but it is not substantial. It was further explained that it is beneficial to maintain the garbage and recycling services separately.

4. NO PARKING RESTRICTIONS REPORT- Mr. Simone distributed a report to the Council on the streets measured relevant to the proposed parking restrictions. He recommended these streets be included in an ordinance for introduction at the next meeting. Councilmember DAMIANO questioned signage restrictions; however, Mr. Lindsay explained that the Council enforces this.

5. SOMERSET COUNTY COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM- Mr. Simone recommended the Council join the Somerset County Coop Pricing System in conjunction with the current system with Morris County. The need to bid will be reduced as more contract options are available.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER:

1. STORMWATER MASTER PLAN RE-EXAMINATION - Mr. Lindsay informed the Council no changes are required, therefore the Council must adopt a resolution stating such. Also, by law, when the Township updates the Master Plan, it must also update the Storm Water Master Plan.

2. LITTLE FALLS LIBRARY PARKING REPORT- Mr. Lindsay discussed methods to increase parking by narrowing the driveway on Warren Street. The Council discussed the possibility of using the old municipal building lot considering emergency vehicles require access as well. Mr. Simone and Mr. Lindsay to assess the area to devise other potential strategies.

3. SACRED HEART CHURCH/HEMLOCK ROAD REPORT- Mr. Lindsay stated Hemlock road is not a municipal roadway; therefore, it is not a municipal issue. Mr. Cuccia reported he had contacted the church about the road with no response to date. Council President FONTANA questioned whether the Township could enforce maintenance of the road. Mr. Cuccia explained there is a process if the church no longer wanted the road. Council President FONTANA suggested asking residents for their thoughts prior to making any recommendations.

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Mr. Lindsay stated he met with Council regarding the Clove Road plan to see how they wanted to proceed. He wrote a letter on behalf of the Council and has not received a response. Mr. Lindsay will reach out again.

Ms. London stated the Township is regulating the basketball hoops. Unless the ordinance is shown to be incorrect, the liability is somewhat limited if the regulation is based on good, sound principles. Councilmember MACERI added enactment of these regulations will enhance safety.

Council President FONTANA agreed a notification via website of how the ambulance process works would be beneficial.

Councilmember DAMIANO questioned whether 154 Woodcliffe Avenue was a possible abandonment. Mr. Cuccia explained the state is taking the property, however there is a process that must be completed.

There being no further business to come before the meeting it was moved by Councilmember Porter, seconded by Councilmember Maceri, that the meeting be and it was adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Cynthia Kraus
Municipal Clerk