

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

Monday, March 24, 2014

Council President Louis Fontana called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the following members present: Joseph Maceri, Pamela Porter, William Organisciak and John Vantuno. Also present were Mayor Darlene Post, Township Attorney's Associate Leslie London, Township Engineer Dennis Lindsay and Municipal Clerk Cynthia Kraus.

Absent: None

Township Employees present: DPW Superintendent Phillip Simone and Deputy Registrar Marlene Simone

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. 10:4-8 and 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 8, 2013; 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.

REMARKS FROM CHAIR

Council President FONTANA said the annual Easter egg hunt will be held at the Recreation Center on 4/19/14 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. He also informed that he received a letter from the Senator's Office requesting the DEP Commissioner to drawdown the reservoirs before the spring; he was hopeful that they would follow through with this. He also reminded of the following meetings to be held with the Army Corps of Engineers: Fairfield on 3/25/14; Lyndhurst on 3/27/14 and 4/3/14. He explained that Ordinance No. 1192 allows the Township to bank the difference between the half percent and the three and a half percent cap.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Councilmember ORGANISCIAC said they have updated the Council meeting videos on the website, explaining that there were some technical issues. He also informed that email blasts will be sent out from the Little Falls Admin email address.

Councilmember VANTUNO informed that he would be attending a Transportation Committee meeting after tonight's Council meeting.

Councilmember MACERI had nothing to report.

Councilmember PORTER informed that the fifth and sixth grade dance is scheduled for 4/25/14, adding that they collect canned goods in lieu of a fee. On 5/13/14, the Municipal Alliance will host *Staying on the Right Track Day*, where the eighth graders learn about drug and alcohol abuse. She thanked Mr. Simone for adding the numbers to the Civic Center to reflect the address.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Post said she attended the second strategic planning session at School No. 1 a few weeks ago; the results of that meeting will be posted on the School website. The last session is scheduled to be held on 4/7/14; she encouraged all to attend. Last week she had the pleasure of having the students of the Banyan School come to visit Town Hall. She also informed that she and Mr. Simone met with the Flood Board in Woodland Park last week, where they discussed the Peckman River and a grant that was jointly awarded to Little Falls and Woodland.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mrs. London had nothing to report.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Simone explained each of the items on the agenda for the Council and the public.

PUBLIC PORTION

It was moved by Councilmember Porter, seconded by Councilmember Vantuno, that the meeting be and it was opened to the public.

Poll: Ayes: Maceri, Organisciak, Porter, Vantuno and President Fontana
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Greg Thorne, 47 Zelif Avenue, explained that he recently had water coming into his house. After calling the Township Health Department, the Passaic Valley Water Commission and NJ American Water, he was unable to obtain any information in a reasonable amount of time. His water was shut off today. He called the Police and was assisted by a dispatcher. However, none of the emergency notification systems alerted him of the water shut off. He explained he is also here to inquire about the parking situation on his street. There are two households on his street who cannot park in their driveway. The number of parking spaces on Zelif Avenue has been reduced due to a petition from Rare the Steakhouse to park their trucks there. He noticed another no parking sign on the street today.

Al Attianese, 27 Dewey Avenue, thanked the Council members who decided not to approve the appointment of Mr. John Inglesino as the Township Attorney, noting that his name has been in the newspaper several times in recent weeks, supporting a teen who is suing her parents. Parsippany has paid over \$3 million to his firm in the three years he has been attorney there. He suggested that the Township do a better job of vetting in the search for a Business Administrator.

Maria Cordonnier, 648 Upper Mountain Avenue, informed that she attended all master plan meetings, including the last meeting with the Planning Board. Planner Jeff Janota gave several presentations; at each meeting, he would speak of the things that were easy to do. The Planning Board seemed to be asking about ordinances and zoning. It seems to her that these things could have been addressed prior so that they could be answered at the meeting; they had no plan. Regarding the transit village, she referred to the Township's request to have an extended parameter of the transit village compared to what is usually approved in other towns. She pointed out that this should've been brought up in an open forum previously.

James Damiano, 24 Sigtim Drive, asked if the Council would consider reinstating a second public comment, as well as Workshop meetings. He explained that these were both helpful to the residents regarding upcoming agendas. He questioned when agenda items are now discussed. With regard to Inwood's pending tax appeal, he voiced his understanding that no decision will be made until 2015. He asked if the residents will end up paying for a miscalculation of Inwood's taxes. He asked if the town has a plan in place in the case that they have to bond this money so the residents will not have to pay more money. He also asked if it will affect the Township's Moody's rating. He also explained that PSE&G is doing work on his street and they are using steam rollers with a vibrate feature, which shakes everything in his house. He asked whether the town could address this or if he should call them personally.

Arnold Korotkin, Long Hill Road, thanked Mr. Damiano for raising this issue regarding the Inwood tax appeal; this is an act of fiscal irresponsibility by the Council. He reminded that Inwood has always won their appeal cases in the past, noting that this current appeal will surely affect the Township residents in the future. The town should reassess and look at the value of homes in Inwood. He asked for a status update regarding ratables on Rose Street. Referring to the Fire Department's request for two new fire engines, he pointed out that approximately 30% of the calls from the department go to the MSU. He suggested that the Township ask the college to help bond the cost of the new engines.

Renea Shapiro, Little Falls ABC, said she has been getting a lot of emails as to what is happening in the Town Hall. No one is in the Tax Office for days at a time. There are documents that must be filled out for taxpayers in Little Falls. She would like to know what is happening with this department. She also pointed out that there was a prior

request to move the army trucks, which still have not been moved. There is no police security for the trucks in that location. She asked when they will be moved.

Victor Nowak, Stephen Place, had concerns about excessive speeding on his street and surrounding streets. There are young children who play in the street and there is a lot of traffic. The cars do not slow down when they come through his street and it is very dangerous. He has complained about this in the past. He asked that someone look into this.

No one further having come forward to be heard, it was moved by Councilmember Vantuno, seconded by Councilmember Organisciak, that the meeting be and it was closed to the public.

Poll: Ayes: Maceri, Organisciak, Porter, Vantuno and President Fontana
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Mr. Simone informed that both incidents with the water were due to the construction on Louis Street. When they come to do the repair, they don't notify the town; notification can be requested in the future. He received a call from the Police dispatcher today about the water shut-off. He will send an email to the water company asking for notification in the future so the Police Department can send out the information.

Regarding the no parking sign on Zelif Avenue, he informed that this is a statutory issue. After receiving a complaint from a resident, they didn't have a choice but to erect the sign.

He informed that when this street was reconstructed, parking was changed to one-sided street parking. Some parking was allowed on the westerly side by Rare. However, it was not done for the restaurant; it was done for the residents after receiving many complaints. Two spots were taken away from what was originally there.

Council President FONTANA explained that they are working on overnight parking ordinance. They will talk with the Police Chief about doing something differently. This is also a topic of the Transportation Committee meeting tonight.

Mayor Post asked for clarification that trucks are coming up Zelif now. She will bring this to the attention of the Police Chief.

Council President FONTANA thanked Mr. Attianese for his comments.

Council President FONTANA said they had originally approved a much bigger budget for the master plan items, which is why they didn't seem to have a plan at that meeting. There are costs attached to everything, so they need to be as smart as possible. They need to figure out a priority list. The Transit Village expansion was discussed several times. Mr. Lindsay clarified this and said there was a map with a radius show, as well as reasons for why they wanted to expand the radius.

Council President FONTANA pointed out that Mr. Damiano is the first person who has mentioned the second public comment this year. In the past, it didn't seem like anything new was being raised during the second public session. Mayor Post said they would have to get further comment from the tax appeal attorney regarding the handling of the Inwood tax appeal. This is not something that is driven by the Council. They will reach out about this and have an answer at the next meeting.

Mr. Simone said he will speak with the contractor working in the area of Sigtim Drive regarding the steam rollers.

Mayor Post said she can schedule a meeting with President Cole at MSU regarding the request to have the college help bond the fire engines. She informed that she had a discussion with them last year regarding the fire engines, which was not well accepted. The college was looking to reduce the price they contribute for calls for the Township. She will let him know the outcome of this matter.

Mr. Lindsay said there was a question regarding the opinion from the NJDEP that additional studies needed to be performed on Rose Street. He spoke to the engineer's office and explained his opinion of it; the engineer agreed and said he would get back to the DEP about this. If those studies go away, then the costs for studies will be reduced. He will follow up on this.

Council President FONTANA said please send all people from ABC meetings to council meetings to ask questions. He is aware of the staffing issues, specifically in the tax office. Mayor Post said the Tax Collector was out ill for seven days; unfortunately, they did not have anyone else who was qualified to collect the monies or filling out forms. She has someone helping out answering phones right now, and they are addressing the staffing issue as well. Mr. Nowak voiced concern regarding the senior tax freeze documents that have to be completed.

Mr. Simone said he would speak with the Police Chief about the trucks and the trailer being moved from the old police station.

In response to Mr. Nowak’s concerns of speeding on his street, Mr. Simone suggested the idea of a speed hump on that road. Council President FONTANA said they would look into this.

C O N S E N T A G E N D A

All items on the Consent Agenda were considered to be routine and were enacted with a single motion. Any items under REQUISITIONS carried a Treasurer’s certification as to sufficiency of funds.

APPLICATIONS

Blue Light Permit – Adam Hamdan, Jani Court, Clifton, Little Falls Fire Department
- Steven Wojnice, Woodland Drive, Woodland Park, Little Falls Fire Department

Little Falls Fire Department Auxiliary – Sarah Cochran, Old Rifle Camp Road, Woodland Park, Eagle Hose Fire Co. #1

Raffle – American Legion Henry Buikema Post #121, Pull Tab Raffle, 4/1/14 – 3/31/15, 4:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m., 55 Van Ness Avenue, Little Falls, NJ 07424

It was moved by Councilmember Organisciak, seconded by Councilmember Vantuno, that the Consent Agenda be approved as printed.

Poll: Ayes: Maceri, Organisciak, Porter, Vantuno and President Fontana
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

R E G U L A R A G E N D A

The following items were individually considered.

CORRESPONDENCE

REQUEST FROM ENTERPRISE FIRE COMPANY #2 FOR PERMISSION TO PERFORM A BOOT DRIVE ON SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2014, WITH A RAIN DATE OF SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2014, AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF MAIN STREET/STEVENS AVENUE AND MAIN STREET/UNION AVENUE BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 10:00 A.M. AND 5:00 P.M.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL

Finance – It was moved by Councilmember Vantuno, seconded by Councilmember Organisciak, that the Council approve the following:

RESOLUTION [A] 14-03-24 #1

WHEREAS, Title 40:4-58 of the New Jersey Statutes provides that should it become necessary, during the first three months of the reserve year to expend for any of the purposes specified in the budget an amount in excess of the respective sums appropriated therefore and there shall be an excess in any appropriation over and above the amount claimed to be necessary to fulfill the purpose of such appropriation, the Governing Body may by resolution setting forth the facts (adopted by not less 2/3 vote of the full membership thereof), transfer the amount of such excess of those appropriations deemed to be insufficient.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the governing body of the Township of Little Falls, not less than 2/3 of the members thereof affirmatively concurring, that the Treasurer be and is authorized to make the following transfers in the 2012 Budget Appropriations:

<u>Current Fund</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Liability Insurance	40,000	
Group Health		15,000

Poll: Ayes: Maceri, Organisciak, Porter, Vantuno and President Fontana
Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

It was moved by Councilmember Porter, seconded by Councilmember Maceri, that the Council approve the following:

RESOLUTION [BL]

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Little Falls the Council having received the Treasurer's certification of the availability of funds for payment of all bills presented, that payment of all bills approved by the Finance Committee be and is hereby authorized, subject to the availability of funds and subject to the appropriate and available appropriation in the line item.

Poll: Ayes: Maceri, Organisciak, Porter, Vantuno and President Fontana
Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was moved by Councilmember Organisciak, seconded by Councilmember Vantuno, that the meeting be and it was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Cynthia Kraus
Municipal Clerk