

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

Monday, July 8, 2024

Council President Sgobba called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Christine Hablitz, Michael Murphy, Jayna Patel, and Christopher Vancheri. Also present were Mayor James Damiano, Township Attorney Joseph Wenzel, Assistant Administrator Vincent Quatrone, Municipal Clerk Cynthia Kraus, and Deputy Clerk Melissa DePiro.

Absent: None.

Township Employees present: Police Chief Bryan Prall.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG – Council President SGOBBA requested all remain standing after the Salute to the Flag to pay respect to the passing of former Fire Chief Vincent Dransfield.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE: Take notice that adequate notice of this meeting has been 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 4, 2024. A copy of the notice was mailed 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. **A link and a telephone number to join the meeting virtually can be accessed on the Township website at www.lfnj.com. Electronic provisions have been established for the public to participate during the public comment portion of the meeting.**

RECOGNITION OF PASSAIC VALLEY YOUTH SOFTBALL LEAGURE CHAMPIONS - At this time, Mayor Damiano recognized the softball teams for their winning seasons.

RECOGNITION OF TRAVEL SOFTBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONS- At this time, Mayor Damiano recognized the softball teams for their winning seasons.

PUBLIC COMMENT – GENERAL MATTERS AND AGENDA ITEMS

Anyone wishing to address the Township Council may do so through the Council President. It is preferred if you give your name and address for the record. Comments are to be limited to three minutes, however, if appropriate, you may be granted additional time in the sole discretion of the Council President.

Members of the public who have joined the meeting virtually and desire to provide comment shall raise their virtual hand in the Zoom application. The Meeting moderator will queue the members of the public that wish to provide comment and the Council President will recognize them in order. Members of the public who have joined the meeting by calling in must press *6 to mute and unmute themselves and *9 to raise their hand. Members of the public who have joined the Meeting via the Zoom application must click the Reactions icon and then the Raise Hand icon. Once the process is complete, we will return to the regular order of business.

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

Poll: Ayes: Hablitz, Patel, Murphy, Vancheri and Council President Sgobba
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

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

Poll: Ayes: Hablitz, Murphy, Patel, Vancheri and Council President Sgobba
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

MAYOR/ADMINISTRATOR:

1. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TAX APPEAL SETTLEMENTS ON SEVERAL PROPERTIES- Mayor Damiano detailed the issuance of a tax appeal on the properties located at 1 Center Ave and 117 Main Street.
2. CHAPTER 159 RESOLUTION FOR AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FIREFIGHTER GRANT – Mayor Damiano announced the Township received \$70,000 which will be used for turn out gear.
3. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH NJ COOPERATIVE PURCHASING ALLIANCE COOPERATIVE PRICING AGREEMENT – Mayor Damiano explained the nature of the Resolution.
4. RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF VINCENT QUATRONE AS TOWNSHIP BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR-Mayor Damiano stated the nature of this Resolution.

Mayor Damiano provided an update on the Stanley Street parking lot with an expected completion date of approximately three weeks. The Mayor added that the Stevens Avenue Streetscape has gone out to bid, while awaiting the final road opening permits from the County as well as the red lines from PSE&G for electrical work.

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Mayor Damiano then responded to Councilmember VANCHERI’s questions as to when the rest of the street would be fixed on Main Street near the installation of the new traffic light as well as the signage on Main Street.

ACTION ITEMS:

It was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Patel, to approve Resolution A:

Tax Appeal Settlements on Several Properties

**RESOLUTION [A] 24-07-08 - #1
TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS
PASSAIC COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

WHEREAS, appeals of the real property tax assessments of the following properties have been filed in the Tax Court of New Jersey (‘Tax Appeals’):

PROPERTY OWNER	BLOCK	LOT	ADDRESS
JSL Properties LLC	93	1	1 Center Ave
JSL Properties LLC	93	3	117 Main Street

; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Little Falls have been advised as to proposed settlements for the above Tax Appeals, and as to the merits thereof, by legal counsel, the Township Appraiser, and the Township Tax Assessor, and;

WHEREAS, the proposed Tax Appeal settlement components are set forth in the Schedule ‘A’ attached hereto and made part hereof, and;

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Township to settle the subject Tax Appeals in accordance with the settlement proposals set forth in Schedule ‘A.’

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Little Falls, that the proposed settlements of the aforesaid Tax Appeals be approved, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, with respect to the same, the Mayor, Township Administrator, Township Tax Attorney, Township Tax Assessor, Tax Collector Treasurer and/or any other appropriate Township official is hereby authorized to perform any act necessary to effectuate the purposes set forth in this Resolution.

EXHIBIT ‘A’

PROPERTY OWNER	YEAR	ORIGINAL ASSESSMENT	PROPOSED SETTLEMENT ASSESSMENT
JSL Properties LLC (Block 93, Lot 1)	2022	\$725,000	\$150,900
	2023	\$725,000	\$150,900
	2024	\$725,000	\$150,900
JSL Properties LLC (Block 93, Lot 3)	2024	\$814,000	\$571,400

Poll: Ayes: Hablitz, Murphy, Patel, Vancheri and Council President Sgobba
Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

It was moved by Councilmember Hablitz, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, to approve Resolution B:

Chapter 159 Resolution – American Rescue Plan Firefighters Grant

**TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS
PASSAIC COUNTY NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION [B] 24-07-08 - #2
SPECIAL ITEMS OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION**

WHEREAS, NJS 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, the Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for equal amount;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Council of the Township of Little Falls in the County of Passaic, New Jersey, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2024 in the sum of \$70,000.00, which is now available from Miscellaneous Revenues – Section F – Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with prior written consent of Director of Local Government Services - Public & Private Revenues Offset with American Rescue Plan Firefighter Program

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the like sum of \$70,000.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption:

General Appropriations

- (A) Operations – Excluded from “CAPS”
 - Public & Private Programs Offset by Revenues
 - American Rescue Plan Firefighter Program
- \$70,000.00

Poll: Ayes: Hablitz, Murphy, Patel, Vancheri and Council President Sgobba
Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

It was moved by Councilmember Murphy, seconded by Councilmember Hablitz, to approve Resolution C:

Agreement with NJ Cooperative Purchasing Alliance Cooperative Pricing Agreement

**RESOLUTION [C] 24-07-08 - #3
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS
TO ENTER INTO THE NEW JERSEY COOPERATIVE PURCHASING ALLIANCE COOPERATIVE PRICING AGREEMENT**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5) authorizes contracting units to establish a Cooperative Pricing System and to enter into Cooperative Pricing Agreements for its administration; and

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WHEREAS, the County of Bergen, hereinafter referred to as the "Lead Agency " has offered voluntary participation in the New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Alliance # CK04- a Cooperative Pricing System for the purchase of goods and services;

WHEREAS, on July 8, 2024 the governing body of the Township of Little Falls, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey duly considered participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the provision and performance of goods and services;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

TITLE

This **RESOLUTION** shall be known and may be cited as the Cooperative Pricing Resolution of the (CONTRACTING UNIT)

AUTHORITY

Pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5)*, the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency.

CONTRACTING UNIT

The Lead Agency shall be responsible for complying with the provisions of the *Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.)* and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

Poll: Ayes: Hablitz, Murphy, Patel, Vancheri and Council President Sgobba
Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

It was moved by Councilmember Hablitz, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, to approve Resolution D:

RESOLUTION [D] 24-07-08 - #4

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF VINCENT QUATRONE AS TOWNSHIP BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS EFFECTIVE JULY 8, 2024

WHEREAS, Section 3-2.8 of the Little Falls Township Code provides that the Business Administrator shall be appointed by the Mayor, with the advice and consent of the Council; and

WHEREAS, the Township Administrator shall serve as the Department Head of the Department of Administration; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor desires to appoint Vincent Quatrone to the position of Business Administrator, effective July 8, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council does hereby consent to this appointment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Township of Little Falls, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, as follows:

- 1. The Mayor does hereby appoint Vincent Quatrone to the position of Business Administrator, effective July 8, 2024,
- 2. The Governing Body does hereby grant consent to this appointment.

This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Poll: Ayes: Hablitz, Vancheri and Council President Sgobba
Nays: Murphy, Patel

The Council President declared the motion passed.

It was moved by Councilmember Patel, seconded by Councilmember Murphy, to approve Resolution E:

Bill List

RESOLUTION [E] 24-07-08 - #5

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: Hablitz, Murphy, Patel, Vancheri and Council President Sgobba
Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

COUNCIL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Councilmember PATEL discussed the collaborative effort with the Clifton Health Department to provide more programs to residents. Additionally, a program entitled, "the Essential Role of Sleep and Promoting Well-Being" will be offered on July 23rd.

Councilmember HABLITZ reviewed Library events including Noon in the Know, an author reading by John D'Amore on July 11th, and the Historic NJ Series on Facebook Live. This week's events at the Farmers Markets were also reviewed. The Outdoor Movie Nights will be at Wilmore Park and begin on July 31st.

Councilmember VANCHERI expressed his condolences to the family of Vincent Dransfield. Councilmember VANCHERI then recalled the recent PBA Street Fair.

Councilmember MURPHY also expressed his condolences regarding the loss of Vinent Dransfield. Councilmember MURPHY reported the Domestic Violence Prevention Committee plans to sponsor a Dine to Donate on July 25th at Cuban Breeze. Lastly, the initial meeting with the printer for the Township Calendar for next year has been scheduled.

Chief Prall reported on the success of the Junior Police Academy and details of the National Night Out to be held on August 6th. Chief Prall then reviewed a recent social media post on the Blue Envelope program and expressed his condolences regarding the passing of Vincent Dransfield. Lastly, Chief Prall announced Patrolman Yannuzzi was awarded the 2023 MADD Top Cop Award and Patrolman Piedrabuena was recognized for being the number two DWI enforcer for the Police Department.

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Council President SGOBBA announced a meeting will be held to streamline expenses for Committee members for reimbursement.

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

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Council President SGOBBA stated the public may speak even at this time even if the topic is not on the Agenda.

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

Poll: Ayes: Hablitz, Murphy, Patel, Vancheri and Council President Sgobba
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Debbie Trapanese- questioned how the Streetscape project would affect traffic and pick up/drop off for school students. Mayor Damiano stated there will be very little change except for aesthetics. In response to Ms. Trapanese, the Mayor stated Warren Street will remain as it is. The Mayor further discussed the Resolution passed by Council to make it a pedestrian plaza however, it is not part of the current project.

John Veteri- The Mayor responded to Mr. Veteri’s query regarding curb cuts at the old Town Hall location. Per Council President SGOBBA’s request, Mr. Veteri then provided an update on the Historical Society.

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

At this time, Councilmember VANCHERI read a letter from the Mayor of Montvale regarding the fourth round of State affordable housing mandate and comprehensive plan. According to the letter, the Mayor of Montvale advocated that the 62 towns categorized as Urban Aid communities share in the responsibility for constructing affordable housing. Mayor Damiano responded to Council President SGOBBA that the State affordable housing mandates are unrealistic, that he did not disagree with the Montvale Mayor’s point, and understood his concerns. Council President SGOBBA then responded to Councilmember VANCHERI, indicating he would reach out to the Mayor of Montvale to speak with the Council as well as hold a private meeting.

Poll: Ayes: Hablitz, Murphy, Patel, Vancheri and Council President Sgobba
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was moved by Councilmember Murphy, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, that the meeting be and it was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Cynthia Kraus
Municipal Clerk