

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

Monday, October 7, 2024

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

Absent: Councilmember Michael Murphy.

Township Employees present: Police Chief Bryan Prall.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

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.**

ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH PROCLAMATION - Mayor Damiano read the Proclamation recognizing October 2024 as Italian American Heritage Month in the Township of Little Falls.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION – Mayor Damiano then read the Proclamation recognizing October 2024 as Breast Cancer Awareness Month in the Township of Little Falls.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION – Mayor Damiano read the Proclamation recognizing October 2024 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the Township of Little Falls.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK PROCLAMATION – Mayor Damiano read the Proclamation recognizing October 6th-12th, 2024 as Fire Prevention Week in the Township of Little Falls.

NATIONAL FIRST RESPONDERS' DAY PROCLAMATION – Lastly, Mayor Damiano read the Proclamation recognizing October 28, 2024 as National First Responders Day in the Township of Little Falls.

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

Poll: Ayes: Hablitz, Patel, 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 Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Patel, that the meeting be and it was closed to the public.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

MAYOR/ADMINISTRATOR:

1. TAX REFUND RESOLUTION – Mayor Damiano reviewed the routine nature of the Resolution for two separate overpayments being refunded to two separate taxpayers.
2. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AFFORDABILITY ASSISTANCE GRANT WITH RENTER OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNIT – Mayor Damiano also reviewed the routine nature of this Resolution. Mayor Damiano stated the last of the affordable housing units are being filled.
3. RESOLUTION RENEWING LIQUOR LICENSE FOR 2023-2024 LICENSE TERM – The Mayor also noted the routine nature of this Resolution.

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4. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF YOUTH FOOTBALL HELMETS FOR THE LFFPA FOOTBALL PROGRAM UNDER THE ESCNJ CO-OP – Mayor Damiano indicated the Township does provide some monetary contributions to the LFFPA on an annual basis, and this year they are looking to purchase helmets.
5. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF NEW EQUIPMENT FOR SUCHORSKY PARK UNDER THE ESCNJ CO-OP – Mayor Damiano discussed the damage and insurance reimbursement for flood damage to Suchorsky park. The Mayor stated insurance monies and some Open Space funds will be used to pay for the purchase and installation of playground equipment.

Mayor Damiano then provided an update on the downtown parking lot with respect to pedestrian access on the north section of the lot closest to Stevens Avenue and the widening of the driveway apron, noting that the concerns raised have been addressed.

ACTION ITEMS:

It was moved by Councilmember Patel, seconded by Councilmember Hablitz, to approve Resolutions A-F:

Tax Refund Due to Overpaid Taxes in 2024

RESOLUTION [A] 24-10-07 - #1

WHEREAS, the following properties in the Township of Little Falls, New Jersey have overpaid real estate taxes in 2024; and **WHEREAS** the Tax Collector is requesting that the Township Council direct the Treasurer to refund said amounts overpaid listed below due to taxes being overpaid; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Little Falls, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey that the following listed tax refunds be made by the Township Treasurer:

<u>Tax Year & Qtr.</u>	<u>Block Lot/Q</u>	<u>Taxpayer/ Location</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2024/3	88.05/1 C410	Alejandro Lazcano 300 Main St, Unit 410	Atlantic Title & Settlement Service, LLC 130 Clinton Rd, Suite 201 Fairfield, NJ 07004	OP	\$2,090.08
2024/3	187/1	Turan & Sevcan Koc 150 Browertown Rd	Turan & Sevcan Koc OP 150 Browertown Rd Little Falls NJ 07424	OP	<u>2,038.50</u>
				Total Refund	\$4,128.58

Affordability Assistant Grant – 405 Main St. Unit 134

RESOLUTION [B] 24-10-07 - #2

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AFFORDABILITY ASSISTANCE GRANT WITH THE RENTER OF AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNIT LOCATED 405 MAIN ST, UNIT 134, LITTLE FALLS, NJ 07424

WHEREAS, Bruny I Ceballos [will rent/rents] property located at 405 Main St, Unit 134, Little Falls, NJ 07424, which property is governed by the statutes, ordinances, rules and regulations restricting ownership and use of the property as an Affordable Housing unit; and

WHEREAS, the tenant has requested an Affordability Assistance Program grant from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Township is willing to extend a grant to the tenant in the amount of \$1,098.00.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED on this 7th day of October, 2024, by the Township Council of Little Falls, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, that:

1. The Mayor, Administrator, Clerk and attorney are hereby authorized to execute an Affordability Assistance Program grant with the renter of an Affordable Housing unit at 405 Main St, Unit 134, Little Falls, NJ 07424.

Plenary License Renewal July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024

**TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS
PASSAIC COUNTY NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION [C] 24-10-07 - #3**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Little Falls Township Council as follows:

WHEREAS, an application for renewal of a PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSE has been filed as follows:

<u>License No.</u>	<u>License and/or t/a name</u>	<u>Fee</u>
1605-33-011-012	Bask 2, Inc.	\$2,200.00

and **WHEREAS**, it appears that the said application is in satisfactory form; that the applicant has complied with all necessary requirements; that the application is for renewal by the same person for the same stands; and that no objections, in writing or otherwise, have been made or filed to said application; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council is familiar with the aforementioned applicant and the place for which they apply and sees no objection; and

WHEREAS, the applicant has been granted 12.18 relief from the Director of the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control for the 2023-2024 license term for the license, which is in pocket;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the above-listed application be and the same is hereby granted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the license be issued accordingly, to become effective on July 1, 2023 and expire on June 30, 2024.

Purchase of Football Helmets Under ESCNJ Cooperative

RESOLUTION [D] 24-10-07 -#4

**ACCEPTING BID AND AWARDING CONTRACT
FOR THE VENDORS LISTED BELOW FOR THE PURCHASE OF YOUTH FOOTBALL HELMETS
Under ESCNJ Cooperative Pricing System**

WHEREAS, the ESCNJ Cooperative Pricing System has advised that pursuant to advertising duly made, bids were received by the ESCNJ as lead agency for Athletic Equipment Reconditioning and Repair for the purchase of Flex Youth Football Helmets,

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WHEREAS, the ESCNJ as lead agency, based on review of bids and the resulting recommendation, has awarded a master contract for this commodity; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Little Falls wishes to participate in the master contract for the purchase of Flex Youth Football Helmets because the price under Bid No. ESCNJ 22/23-13 is lower than the prices quoted to the Township by other suppliers; and

WHEREAS the Township Treasurer has provided a Certification of the Availability of Funds pursuant the Local Finance Board; and **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Little Falls as follows:

- 1) That the following purchase is approved through the ESCNJ contract:
Riddell
Flex Youth Football Helmets
\$7,000.00

- 2) That the Mayor and Recreation Director be and they are hereby authorized to execute a contract for the purchase of the within designated goods at the bid price hereinabove cited.

Purchase of New Playground Equipment For Suchorsky Park Under ESCNJ

**RESOLUTION [E] 24-10-07 - #5
ACCEPTING BID AND AWARDING CONTRACT
FOR THE VENDORS LISTED BELOW FOR THE PURCHASE OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT
Under ESCNJ Cooperative Pricing System**

WHEREAS, the ESCNJ Cooperative Pricing System has advised that pursuant to advertising duly made, bids were received by the ESCNJ as lead agency for Playground Equipment, Site Furnishings, Outdoor Circuit Training Equipment & Related Products for the purchase of Playground Equipment,

WHEREAS, the ESCNJ as lead agency, based on review of bids and the resulting recommendation, has awarded a master contract for this commodity; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Little Falls wishes to participate in the master contract for the purchase of Playground Equipment because the price under Bid No. ESCNJ 24/25-01, Co-op No. 65MCESCCPS is lower than the prices quoted to the Township by other suppliers; and

WHEREAS the Township Treasurer has provided a Certification of the Availability of Funds pursuant the Local Finance Board; and **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Little Falls as follows:

- 1) That the following purchase is approved through the ESCNJ contract:
Ben Schaffer Recreation
Playground Equipment
\$52,805.94

- 2) That the Mayor and Recreation Director be and they are hereby authorized to execute a contract for the purchase of the within designated goods at the bid price hereinabove cited.

Bill List

RESOLUTION [F] 24-10-07 - #6

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, Patel, Vancheri and Council President Sgobba
Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

It was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Hablitz, to approve the following:

APPLICATIONS

NJ STATE FIREMEN’S ASSOCIATION APPLICATION, AIDAN J. O’HALLORAN, LITTLE FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

LITTLE FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY APPLICATION, TARAS HERYCH, LITTLE FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

BINGO, G’S KITCHEN IN DOM’S HOUSE, 11/15/24, 6:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M., 61 MAIN STREET, LITTLE FALLS, NJ

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 1499- The public hearing on Ordinance No. 1499, “**ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS, IN THE COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, REGULATING TOWING AND STORAGE SERVICES WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP,**” be and it was opened.

As no comments from the public were received, the public hearing on Ordinance No. 1499 be and it was closed.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

It was moved by Councilmember Patel, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, that Ordinance No. 1499 be and it was adopted.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

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Ordinance No. 1500- The public hearing on Ordinance No. 1500, “**ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS, IN THE COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, REGULATING HEAVY TOWING AND STORAGE SERVICES WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP,**” be and it was opened.

As no comments from the public were received, the public hearing on Ordinance No. 1500 be and it was closed.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

It was moved by Councilmember Hablitz, seconded by Councilmember Patel, that Ordinance No. 1500 be and it was adopted.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Ordinance No. 1501- The public hearing on Ordinance No. 1501, “**ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS, IN THE COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO AMEND CHAPTER 3 (ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT) OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS,**” be and it was opened.

As no comments from the public were received, the public hearing on Ordinance No. 1501 be and it was closed.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

It was moved by Councilmember Hablitz, seconded by Councilmember Patel, that Ordinance No. 1501 be and it was adopted.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Ordinance No. 1502- The public hearing on Ordinance No. 1502, “**ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS, IN THE COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AMEND CHAPTER 7 (ON-STREET REGULATIONS) OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS**” be and it was opened.

As no comments from the public were received, the public hearing on Ordinance No. 1502 be and it was closed.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

It was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Hablitz, that Ordinance No. 1502 be and it was adopted.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Ordinance No. 1503- The public hearing on Ordinance No. 1503, “**CAPITAL ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS, COUNTY OF PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE LITTLE FALLS TOWNSHIP MAIN STREET STREETScape PROJECT FROM VAN NESS AVENUE TO PECKMAN BRIDGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT 16 BY AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP, APPROPRIATING THEREFOR THE SUM OF \$644, 137.00 AND THAT SUCH SUM SO APPROPRIATED SHALL BE FUNDED BY A GRANT FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**” be and it was opened.

As no comments from the public were received, the public hearing on Ordinance No. 1503 be and it was closed.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

It was moved by Councilmember Patel, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, that Ordinance No. 1503 be and it was adopted.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

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Ordinance No. 1504 The public hearing on Ordinance No. 1504, “**ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS, IN THE COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO RELEASE, EXTINGUISH AND VACATE THE RIGHTS OF THE PUBLIC IN A PORTION OF PAPER STREETS (AMITY STREET AND CROSS STREET)**” be and it was opened.

As no comments from the public were received, the public hearing on Ordinance No. 1504 be and it was closed.

Poll: Ayes: Hablitz, 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, that Ordinance No. 1504 be and it was adopted.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

COUNCIL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Councilmember VANCHERI thanked all who participated in the flag raising in honor of Italian American Heritage Month.

Council President SGOBBA announced the Senior Advisory Committee will host the Harvest Moon Dinner dance on October 11th. Council President then announced the latest additions to the Hometown Hero program:

LITTLE FALLS HOMETOWN HERO PROGRAM:
ANGELO E. VERRONE – SPEC 4. US ARMY INFANTRY – VIETNAM – PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT
ANGELO M. VERRONE – PRIVATE US ARMY - WWI

Councilmember PATEL announced the Health and Wellness Fair will be at the Clifton Boys and Girls Club on Oct. 11th, the Fall Rabies Clinic for dogs at the Clifton DPW on Nov. 16th and Nov. 20th, and the Flu Vaccination Clinic will be on Oct. 23rd and Oct. 30th. The Clifton Health Department will be at Town Hall to administer flu shots on Oct. 21st. Councilmember PATEL reminded residents that Health Department reports and updates are now available on the Township website.

Councilmember HABLITZ reviewed Library events including an Italian Music Show on Oct.17th, a Medicare Education Meeting on Oct. 8th, and a Classic Movie Night on Oct. 10th, and encouraged residents to check out the Library’s YouTube channel. Councilmember HABLITZ announced the Township has been awarded another City Green Dig In grant to plant 3000 daffodils and 10 additional trees which the Shade Tree Commission and DPW will coordinate. Councilmember HABLITZ then reviewed Farmers Market events and provided progress reports on the Run Club as well as the Spooky Sprint.

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

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 at 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 Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Hablitz, that the meeting be and it was opened to the public.

Poll: Ayes: Hablitz, Patel, 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 Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Hablitz, that the meeting be and it was closed to the public.

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

The Council President declared the motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Patel, that the Council approve the following:

RESOLUTION [EX]
WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 allows for a Public Body to go into executive session during a Public Meeting; and

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WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Township of Little Falls has deemed it necessary to go into executive session to discuss certain matters which are exempted for the Public; and

WHEREAS, the regular meeting of this Governing Body with reconvene;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Little Falls will go into executive session for the following reason(s) – items of contract negotiation– no action will be taken.

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

Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

The Council entered Executive Session at 7:28 p.m.

At 8:08 p.m. the Council returned and it was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Hablitz that the meeting return to Open Session.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Patel, that the meeting be and it was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Cynthia Kraus
Municipal Clerk