

**BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2019
MINUTES**

MEETING OPENED AT 7:30 PM BY MAYOR HARRY ROBBINS.

ALL STOOD FOR THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE.

PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT READ INTO RECORD BY MUNICIPAL CLERK CAPASSO:

“IN COMPLIANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 10:4, OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT, NOTICE WAS GIVEN TO TWO NEWSPAPERS, AND POSTED, THAT A WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL IS SCHEDULED FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST DAY OF MARCH, 2019, WITH THE WORK SESSION TO BEGIN AT THE HOUR OF 7:30 P.M. AND THE REGULAR MEETING TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING AT THE LAKEHURST COMMUNITY CENTER, 207 CENTER STREET, LAKEHURST, NEW JERSEY, AT WHICH TIME, THE BUSINESS OF THE BOROUGH WILL BE CONDUCTED.”

ROLL CALL:

COUNCILWOMAN BUSCH: PRESENT	COUNCILMAN LOWE: PRESENT
COUNCILMAN DAVIS: ABSENT	COUNCILMAN McCARTHY: PRESENT
COUNCILWOMAN HODGES: PRESENT	COUNCILMAN OGLESBY: PRESENT
MAYOR HARRY ROBBINS: PRESENT	

WORK SESSION:

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO POLICE OFFICER CHRISTIAN HERNANDEZ BY BOROUGH ATTORNEY IAN GOLDMAN.

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA:

Municipal Clerk Capasso reviewed the regular meeting agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Time opened: 7:38 pm

Allen Hurley, 219 Cedar Street, questioned the amount on the bills list is not mentioned during review of the regular meeting agenda.

Mayor Robbins responded will take into consideration.

CONSENT AGENDA:

All matters to be considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If any discussion is desired by Council, that particular item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. #19-067: Resolution re: Payment of Bills
2. #19-068: Resolution re: Resolution Supporting the 2019 UDrive. UText. UPay. Distracted Driving Crackdown
3. #19-069: Resolution re: Resolution regarding an adjust to utility account #657-0, Block 60, Lot 1
4. #19-070: Resolution re: Ratification of Police Contract

RESIGNATIONS:

Acceptance of resignation of Police Officer Zachary Schulte.

Motion by: Patricia Hodges Seconded by: Gary Lowe
To approve consent agenda. Roll call vote held. All votes affirmative.

COMMITTEE/COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilwoman Busch stated the Finance Committee met with the Chief Financial Officer to go over the budget. Mrs. Busch added they are still waiting on a few numbers from the state and once they are in, the budget will be introduced.

Council President Oglesby gave kudos to Councilwoman Hodges' hard work on the Police Contract adding the contract is extremely fair to both sides.

Councilman Lowe stated new tires were put on the trash trucks adding there was a blow out that was replaced along with a few others.

Councilman McCarthy stated he attended the Board of Education meeting. Mr. McCarthy also stated the overall budget is down due to the stabilizing the per pupil amount paid to Manchester. Mr. McCarthy further stated the state will be providing the money for the remediation adding the amount and terms have not been specified at this time. Mr. McCarthy reminded everyone there is currently a referendum that was passed for a new mechanical system adding an annual payment is being made on that now and the last payment will be made this year when the payment for remediation will pick up having no impact. Mr. McCarthy stated he had asked the Board of Education should the residents

expect a large “hit” monetarily with their taxes adding the Board of Education stated that the tax payers would not expect anymore the two percent annual which is the cap.

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC:

Time opened: 7:55 pm

Bruce Margenson, 5 Geneva Road, asked if the Mayor and Council heard from the County in regard to repairing the Borough roads.

Mayor Robbins responded that all county roads are in disrepair. Mayor Robbins stated he and Borough Administrator Childers did met with the County Road Department and Freeholder in regard to the road repairs adding they were told Union Avenue, Manapaqua Street, and Center Street will be taken care of.

Borough Administrator Childers stated the County Road Department said Lakehurst Borough is on the “C” list for going out to bid. Mr. Childers also stated the County Road Department goes out three times a year to bid on road repairs adding “A” list goes first, “B” list goes second, and “C” list is third.

Mr. Margenson asked with the state increasing minimum wage to \$15 an hour, how does the Borough plan to offset a tax hike.

Mayor Robbins responded the Chief Financial Officer is working on it.

Dona Sinton, 501 Rose Street, asked if there will be a Land Use meeting this coming Monday.

Mayor Robbins responded there is no agenda for Monday.

Mrs. Sinton asked if it is the Land Use meeting were all ordinances are being discussed adding at the last council meeting it was mentioned that the Ordinance Committee began to review all ordinances.

Mayor Robbins responded the ordinances will be discussed within the Ordinance Committee adding once the Ordinance Committee finalizes something it will then go to the Land Use Board for review and lastly the Governing Body to be passed.

Mrs. Sinton stated at the last council meeting the Mayor and counsel went into closed session adding was daytime meetings, going to lunch, and paying for lunch for all that attend the meetings.

Mayor Robbins responded closed session meetings are private.

Tim Sinkewitz, 613 Poplar Street, asked what is in the contract between the Board of Education and the Borough of Lakehurst in regard to Fuccile Park.

Mayor Robbins responded the Borough received \$53,000 for the sale of land adding 75% of that will go into updating Fuccile Park.

Mr. Sinkewitz asked if the contracts says what type of project will done at the park.

Mayor Robbins responded in the contract it says a committee that consists of two members of the Board of Education and two members of the governing body will meet and discuss what will be done at Fuccile Park.

Mr. Sinkewitz asked if the contract says what the Board of Education is to do with their portion of the money they received.

Mayor Robbins responded that is not in the contract.

Mr. Sinkewitz asked if a report could be given on the renovations being done at Borough Hall.

Mayor Robbins responded renovation are about completed.

Council President Oglesby responded Borough Hall is being renovated to make it safe. Mr. Oglesby added when renovations started it was found the wiring was a disaster, the heat and air conditioning savings will be monumental now that the building is well insulated as well as the heating and air conditioning have been upgraded. Mr. Oglesby also added it is no longer an embarrassment when you walk into Borough Hall.

Mr. Sinkewitz asked about the water main project.

Mr. Childers responded NJIT, the company financing the project for the state, will have an answer at the end of the month adding the contractor of the project will hold his price till then.

Police Chief Higgins stated he met with the Public Safety Committee about five years ago about his concerns to map out a plan to stop the revolving door on the police department. Chief Higgins also stated he heard great things from the police officers in regards to the new contract adding salaries are now comparable to other police departments. Chief Higgins also added the hiring of Police Officer Hernandez was a part of the plan adding they wanted to replace all temporary police officers. Chief Higgins stated there are now nine civil service officers adding that is the highest number the police department has had. Chief Higgins further added the governing body opened up the contract, took out steps, gave pay raises, and made lateral moves to keep police officers in the Borough of Lakehurst. Chief Higgins thanked the governing body for keeping their promise.

Dave Burton, 501 Lilac Street, also vice-president of the Board of Education, stated he came to the governing body for help in regards to the remediation adding, legally, the governing body could not help. Mr. Burton also stated the Superintendent of Lakehurst

Elementary School talk to the state adding there is 100% guarantee the money will be there for the school to pay back for the remediation adding taxes will be affected by two percent that state does allow.

Councilman McCarthy asked Mr. Burton to define the money that is being paid for remediation.

Mr. Burton stated when the remediation began other problems were found like asbestos.

Mr. Burton also stated there seems to a big disconnect between the Board of Education and the governing body adding he hopes from this point on there well be a better relationship.

Debbie Pease, 305 Manapaqua Street, stated OBCO's Donuts will be having their soft opening tomorrow at 6:00 am.

Time closed: 8:10 pm

CLOSED SESSION:

Municipal Clerk Capasso reads resolution to go into closed session:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P. L. 1975, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances, **and**

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Lakehurst, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, as follows:

The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the hereinafter specified subject matter.

The general nature of the subject matters to be discussed is as follows:

PERSONNEL MATTERS NEGOTIATIONS

It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter will be made public.

This resolution shall take effect immediately.

