

**BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST
WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
MAY 16, 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 SIXTEENTH DAY OF MAY, 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.”

4. ROLL CALL:

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

WORK SESSION:

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA:

Municipal Clerk Capasso reviewed the regular meeting agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Time opened: 7:33 pm

Allen Hurley, 219 Cedar Street, questioned resolution regarding the self-examination of 2019 Municipal Budget.

Mayor Robbins introduced the Borough’s Chief Financial Officer William Antonides adding he is here tonight to answer all budget questions.

Chief Financial Officer William Antonides stated the state reviews our budget once every three years adding the other two years, we self-examine the budget. Mr. Antonides

Council President Oglesby stated the ordinance is about the percentage amount not the dollar amount adding the dollar amount is there for informational purposes.

Timothy Sinkewitz, 613 Poplar Street, asked if the taxes he is currently paying are going up 3.5%.

Mr. Antonides replied no; taxes are not going up 3.5% adding the “cap” ordinance is banking ability to utilize additional funds if need be.

James Malden, 201 Cedar Street, if the borough hasn’t used the money in the past four years then why raise it.

Mr. Antonides replied that the borough is allowed by statute adding “you are not sure what is around the corner”.

Mr. Malden asked the money that is inside the budget form the 3.5% cap can be pulled out at any time.

Mr. Antonides replied the money is not in the budget adding the borough has to appropriate money every year, that appropriation last only two years, and then the borough loses it.

Mr. Malden asked are these funds.

Mr. Antonides replied no funds are involved.

Mr. Malden asked if you need to pull money to pay employees where does that money come from.

Mr. Antonides explained that would come from taxes adding the “cap” ordinance is not money.

Councilwoman Hodges stated the “cap” ordinance gives the borough the ability to increase the budget if need be.

David Burton, 501 Lilac Street, questioned the amount of \$735,000.

Mr. Antonides explained the \$735,000 is the amount the borough can raise the future budget by in case we need to adding the borough does not put money away.

Mr. Oglesby explained the borough is limited by state law on how much the borough can raise taxes.

Time opened: 8:12 pm

Chief Financial Officer William Antonides stated the 2019 municipal budget was introduced at the council meeting of April 18th and can be adopted tonight.

Dona Sinton, 501 Rose Street, asked about the salary and wage adjustments.

Mr. Antonides responded salary and wage adjustments are for contractual changes adding the AFSCME and PBA contracts have not been settled yet.

Mrs. Sinton questioned the contribution to public employee's retirement system.

Mr. Antonides responded public employee's retirement system is the borough's share towards pensions that is calculated by the state.

Mrs. Sinton questioned the surplus.

Mr. Antonides stated surplus is to offset any increase in taxes.

Timothy Sinkewitz, 613 Poplar Street, asked what the amount the taxes are being raised.

Mr. Antonides responded the tax increase is 1.14%.

Mr. Sinkewitz stated Lakehurst is the highest taxed municipality in Ocean County asking if the mayor and council ever think about how the borough can keep taxes from going up until other municipalities "catch up".

Mayor Robbins responded one of the main problems in the borough is there is no industries.

Mr. Sinkewitz stated the borough should think about layoffs.

Council President Oglesby responded every year council does discuss possible ways of saving money.

Mr. Sinkewitz suggested the borough should stop purchasing a borough vehicle every year.

Councilwoman Hodges reported reach department has a long-range plan on replacing vehicles adding it is not done at the spare of the moment.

Discussion continued on the 2019 Municipal Budget.

Time closed: 8:32 pm

Motion by: Steven Oglesby

Seconded by: Robert McCarthy

To close public hearing on 2019 Municipal Budget. Roll call vote held. All votes affirmative.

ADOPTION OF 2018 MUNICIPAL BUDGET:

Motion by: Patricia Hodges

Seconded by: Steven Oglesby

To approve resolution #19-089 adopting 2019 Municipal Budget. Roll call vote held. All votes affirmative.

COMMITTEE/COUNCIL REPORTS:

Council President Oglesby reported the personnel committee had another meeting with the AFSCME representatives adding the contract is in the works. Mr. Oglesby also reported the police contract has been approved on both sides adding they are just waiting on the final format and signatures.

Councilman Lowe stated he received a preliminary drawing of Fuccile Park adding the borough engineer will be reviewing the drawing. Mr. Lowe questioned who will be responsible for maintaining the fields.

Mayor Robbins stated the planning committee will work out the details.

Councilman McCarthy stated there was a Board of Education meeting this past Tuesday evening adding there will be an extended school year program July 1st through August 1st, Monday through Thursday. Mr. McCarthy also stated the 8th grade graduation will be June 20th at 6:30 pm in the gymnasium. Mr. McCarthy reported the bills for the month as of May 14th totaled \$495,607.62. Mr. McCarthy also reported members of the Board of Education are still voting no on two portions of the finance, adding one is for the certificate of over expenditures and the other for accepting the financial reporting due to potential overages from the remediation projects. Mr. McCarthy further reported there was no comment on the remediation payment process.

MAYOR COMMENTS:

Mayor Robbins reminded everyone of the Town Wide Sale this Saturday.

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC:

Time opened: 8:36 pm

James Malden, 201 Cedar Street, asked who is paying public works employees for cleaning resident's yards with borough equipment after work hours.

Mayor Robbins responded the borough is paying; however, a lien is placed on the property to recover the cost.

Mr. Malden asked if the cleanup is on foreclosures only.

Mayor Robbins stated it is not only foreclosure adding it also homes in disrepair where homeowners are ignoring the code enforcement officer's summons.

David Burton, 501 Lilac Street, asked what if the home doesn't sell.

Chief Financial Officer William Antonides responded the will go to tax sale.

Mr. Burton questioned the company that is handling the curb and sidewalk project on Pine Street poured concrete for sidewalk at Lake Horicon.

Borough Administrator Childers responded they are two different projects.

Dona Sinton, 501 Rose Street, stated at Dunkin Donuts car constantly going in the driveway that is for exit only adding the police could bring in revenue if they were to sit there.

Mayor Robbins responded the borough only gets 20% of the motor vehicle tickets where as the state gets 80%.

Mrs. Sinton asked if there is an agenda for the Land Use.

Mayor Robbins reported no applications have been filed.

Mrs. Sinton asked if a Wawa was coming to the Borough of Lakehurst.

Mr. Childers stated there is talk of Wawa coming adding the sale of the property is in negotiations.

Timothy Sinkewitz, 613 Poplar Street, asked when is Watermain Project Phase I beginning.

Mr. Childers stated the contractor will be in next week to some test holes and the following week they will begin.

Mrs. Sinton asked what is being sold at the auction this Saturday.

Mr. Childers responded holiday items.

Time closed: 8:46 pm

CLOSED SESSION:

Municipal Clerk Capasso read resolution to go into closed session read:

