

**BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST
WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 15, 2020
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 FIFTEENTH DAY OF OCTOBER 2020, 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:

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

WORK SESSION:

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA:

Municipal Clerk Capasso review the regular meeting agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Time opened: 7:32 pm

NO PUBLIC COMMENTS

Time closed: 7:32 pm

Council President Oglesby reported the Personnel Committee met with the Chief Financial Officer, Bill Antonides, to discuss the benefits of having a QPA, Qualified Purchasing Agent. Mr. Oglesby stated having a QPA would increase the borough's bid threshold adding the borough averages going out to bid once to twice a year. Mr. Oglesby

also added the borough will save money on the first item bought. Mr. Oglesby further stated Mr. Antonides recommended the borough's Tax Collector, John Antonides, and requested resolution for the QPA to be added to the consent agenda.

Mr. Oglesby reported he attended a pre-con meeting for Phase 2 of the Watermain Replacement Project. Mr. Oglesby stated there was concern of the expense being the project was for Union Avenue adding it was decided to reline the sewer lines instead of replacing them. Mr. Oglesby also stated he was assured the relining is just as efficient as replacing. Mr. Oglesby further stated the first step is to make sure the sewer lines are intact which will be done by inspecting the sewer lines with televised cameras being placed in them. Mr. Oglesby went on to say the relining will help any minor defects and added any major defect will be dealt with at that time. Mr. Oglesby stated the replacement project will consist of Union Avenue as well as Pine Street and Center Street to eliminate the water line that runs through the alley way between Borough Hall and the neighboring building.

Mayor Robbins stated the water line in the alley way is the dedicated line to the water tank adding if something should happen to that line the borough will lose 25,000 gallons of water.

Mr. Oglesby reported the proposed Wawa is moving forward adding the Land Use Board had approved the application at Tuesday night's meeting.

Mr. Oglesby reported the Shade Tree Committee met with a tree expert adding it was recommended that the best trees for along Union Avenue are the Kousa Dogwood and the Amanogawa Cherry. Mr. Oglesby stated these trees are low maintenance, require little water, are ideal for growing under utility lines, and are specifically adapted to small spaces of 30 inches or less. Mr. Oglesby also stated the cost of trees depends on the size of the tree adding the bigger the tree the bigger the cost.

Mayor Robbins asked when the best time is to plant the trees.

Mr. Oglesby stated now is the ideal time to plant.

Discussion continued regarding the trees.

Mayor Robbins stated he will reach out to the Ocean County Shade Tree Commission to inquire what trees they have "on hand".

Councilman DiMeo asked the status of the building at 6 Union Avenue.

Borough Attorney Ian Goldman responded a letter was sent out on August 27th giving the property owner 60 days to demolish the building adding as of tonight no response has been made.

Councilman DiMeo reported this Saturday is the Fall Festival at the Proving Ground Church adding the Youth and Recreation Committee will be in attendance to lead a helping hand. Mr. DiMeo also reported the Annual Halloween Parade is on October 24th at 11:00 am on Union Avenue.

Council President Oglesby reported the Personnel Committee wanted to remind the council with the absence of the administrator, to continue to have monthly meetings with the department heads. Mr. Oglesby also reminded council that they are to be evaluating the department heads as well as department heads are evaluating the employees. Mr. Oglesby stated the Personnel Committee offered that they are available to department heads if their respected committee is not available.

Councilman McCarthy reported he was invited to a fire department drill adding they showcased their new equipment that was recently purchased. Mr. McCarthy stated the new hose minimizes friction lose, fire fighter injury as well as property damage.

Mr. McCarthy report the Board of Education is preparing for the possibility of the students returning to a “normal” schedule adding the school has had no positive cases of COVID-19. Mr. McCarthy stated the board approved a superintendent bonus adding the monthly bill statement was \$348,693.57 and the cash balance as August 31st was negative \$178,438.34. Mr. McCarthy also stated their tax levy is being approved tonight adding that they will be receiving \$244,354 to help “bail them out”. Mr. McCarthy further stated the board claims slow state funding keeps the cash balance in the negative adding the board did receive money from the state for the mold remediation. Mr. McCarthy went on to say two parental transportation contacts were approved for \$19,600 adding the cost is half of what they usually cost.

Mr. Oglesby asked if residents attended the board of education meeting.

Mr. McCarthy stated no residents were in attendance adding there was one teacher as well as himself in the audience.

MAYOR COMMENTS:

Mayor Robbins stated Manchester Township has extended the outdoor dining and added it would be in the best interest of the borough to do the same.

Mayor Robbins reported the Veteran’s Day celebration will go on as planned and reminded everyone to get out and vote.

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC:

Time opened: 8:00 pm

Bruce Margenson, 5 Geneva Road, questioned the portable bathrooms.

Councilwoman Hodges responded the portable bathrooms have been ordered and added it will be installed and ready next season.

Mr. Margenson asked if the sewer lines that will need to be replaced, will the cost be covered with tax money or funded money.

Council President Oglesby responded the borough will be borrowing the money and added if the project goes over a million dollars the borough will have to go to the local finance board to justify the borrowing.

Mr. Margenson questioned rent control.

Borough Attorney Ian Goldman responded the law allows landlords to increase the rent reasonably.

Mr. Margenson stated the rent in Lakehurst has “skyrocketed”.

Mayor Robbins responded legally the borough can not control rent on a private property.

Councilman Davis stated rental control is housing authority owned property.

Mr. Margenson thanked the Mayor and council for their time and all that they do for the borough.

Time closed: 8:15 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:

