

**BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST
WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 2021
MINUTES**

MEETING OPENED AT 7:30 P.M. BY MAYOR 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 OCTOBER 2021, 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: PRESENT
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 reviewed the regular meeting agenda.

Mayor Robbins introduced guest speaker Gary Lowe, Jr.

Gary Lowe Jr., Boy Scout Troop 10, stated he is seeking the governing body’s approval to build a half mile fitness trail at Lake Horicon to obtain his Eagle Merit Badge. Mr. Lowe handed out a sketch of the trail to the governing body and explained he will clear out all the brush to make an existing path wider. Mr. Lowe stated the project will take about four days, two weekends, and would appreciate any help from the governing body. Mr. Lowe further stated he will seek assistance from fellow scouts, family and friends and will fund the project through fundraising and donations. Mr. Lowe also asked if the First Aid Squad could “be on hand” in case of any accidents.

Mayor Robbins applaud Mr. Lowe’s presentation and asked when the project would start.

Mr. Lowe responded next month.

Mayor Robbins stated he met with Mr. Lowe and the Scout Leader at the lake to view the area of the proposed project and added it looks great but there were some concerns of it being in the back of the lake. Mayor Robbins also stated they then reached out to Chief Kline who stated he too felt it is a great idea.

Councilwoman Hodges had questioned the location of the property line.

Mayor Robbins stated just beyond the turn around in back of the lake becomes Manchester Township.

All in agreement of Mr. Lowe building a fitness trail at the back of Lake Horicon with the exception of Councilman Lowe who abstained.

Mayor Robbins asked Mr. Lowe to let him know when he will begin the project so that he can lend him “a helping hand”.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Time opened: 7:36 p.m.

NO PUBLIC COMMENTS

Time closed: 7:36 p.m.

Councilwoman Hodges reported the Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual was completed last night and emailed to the governing body adding this copy is the same document that the governing body received previously just a few items were “fined tuned”. Mrs. Hodges thanked the committee and Municipal Clerk Capasso for the hard work that was put into the manual.

Councilman DiMeo reported that all the new phones have been installed and are now being used internally adding inbound lines will be installed next Wednesday. Mr. DiMeo stated the alarm at the water plant and the security systems are with a separate vendor adding they will be completed early next week.

Council President Oglesby extended his gratitude to Councilwoman Hodges and Clerk Capasso for all the hard work adding they put in a lot more hours than the committee. Mr. Oglesby stated the Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual is over two hundred pages adding it was not a small task to complete.

Councilman Lowe reported he reviewed the Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual and added it looked good.

Councilman Davis stated a job well done on the manual.

ADJOURNMENT OF WORK SESSION:

Motion by: Steven Oglesby

Seconded by: Gary Lowe

To adjourn work session. Roll call vote held. All votes affirmative.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by: James Davis

Seconded by: Patricia Hodges

To approve minutes of October 7, 2021 Regular Meeting. Roll call vote held. All votes affirmative with the exception of Council President Oglesby who abstained due to his absence at the October 7th regular meeting.

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. Resolution #21-127 re: Payment of Bills
2. Resolution #21-128 re: Civil Rights

ORDINANCES APPROVED ON FIRST READING:

“AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, MAKING THE PROVISIONS OF SUBTITLE ONE OF TITLE 39 WITH VARIOUS TRAFFIC REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO 800 ROUTE 70, BLOCK 15 LOT 1 AND REGULATING THE USE OF SAID ROADWAYS, STREETS, DRIVEWAYS, AND PARKING LOTS BY MOTOR VEHICLES”

Motion by: Brian DiMeo

Seconded by: Steven Oglesby

To approve consent agenda. Roll call vote held. All votes affirmative.

COMMITTEE/COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilwoman Hodges reported now that the Policy and Procedure Manual is complete, the next step is to be sure the Employee Handbook is in align with the manual and added once that is completed, the Ordinance Committee will be meeting weekly to finish the codification.

Councilman DiMeo reported the Halloween Parade is this Saturday, line-up is at 10:45 in front of Borough Hall adding judges are needed. Mr. DiMeo stated the Youth and Recreation Committee will be holding a Paranormal Discussion with a Paranormal Team on October 29th at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center. Mr. DiMeo further stated the team had asked for a “head count” so for those who are interested, please call Borough Hall.

Council President Oglesby asked if the event is for all ages.

Mr. DiMeo stated the event is not a spooky event, it is for all ages adding the Team is an actual team that investigates paranormal activities at homes and businesses.

Mr. DiMeo reported Cruise Night turned out well adding there was a decent number of cars that were on display.

Mayor Robbins reported he had a few residents come up to him saying they loved it and hope to see it again next year.

Mr. Oglesby reported the Ordinance Committee have been meeting on Wednesday nights for several hours and added they have made great progress. Mr. Oglesby stated the committee has updated the ordinances, changed some wording to be consistent throughout. Mr. Oglesby added the committee will continue to move forward.

Mr. Oglesby also reported the Personnel Committee will be meeting tomorrow night with Chief Kline and the Chief Financial Officer, Wayne Sibia, adding he will discuss more in executive session.

Mr. Oglesby asked if there was any movement on the bathroom repairs.

Councilman Lowe responded the materials have been ordered.

Mr. Oglesby asked if the bathrooms will be removed during the winter months.

Mr. Lowe answered the bathrooms are permanent and will be winterized after Veteran’s Day.

Mr. Oglesby questioned the cameras at Lake Horicon.

Mr. Lowe replied the cameras have been ordered, just waiting to hear as to when they will be in and installed.

Mr. Lowe reported on behalf of the Public Safety Committee the fire trucks’ hose, ladder, and pump testing is complete and added Engine 6201 needed all the tires replace due to age and wear. Mr. Lowe also reported all the Public Works trucks are getting their bi-annual service as well and added one garbage truck is also being serviced for the compressor and the other garbage truck is being serviced for the altitude sensor.

Councilman Davis reported the County was at the Public Works yard to haul away the brush pile adding it does not cost the borough any money. Mr. Davis also reported Public Works rented a stump grinder to grind down all the stumps from the Pear Trees that were removed adding approximately thirty trees have been removed. Mr. Davis further reported the ladder for the playground equipment will be installed next week. Mr. Davis went on to report the sidewalks and ADA ramps at the corners of Route 70 and Orchard Street are repaired.

Councilman McCarthy reported he attended the Board of Education meeting on October 19th adding the meeting was routine. Mr. McCarthy stated the monthly bills totaled \$118,397 with a balance showing \$684,337. Mr. McCarthy also stated the superintendent reported the school is doing very well concerning the pandemic besides a couple quarantines that were due to incidental contacts. Mr. McCarthy further stated the school will be holding their annual Halloween Parade.

Mr. McCarthy also reported the police department had five on-point referrals this past month adding the program is working well. Mr. McCarthy stated he has a few items for executive session regarding the police department.

Mr. McCarthy further reported the fire department was out on Tuesday night doing pre-planning around the borough at larger sites such as the Dollar General Plaza and Three B's Plaza. Mr. McCarthy stated the fire department is in the process of trying to develop some planning on long-term purchasing replacements that are aging out or become damaged beyond repair. Mr. McCarthy also stated he spoke with Councilwoman Hodges, Chair for the Finance Committee, in regard to the potential issue with the fire department's plans adding Mrs. Hodges will reach out to the Chief Financial Officer to see if the plan is possible.

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC:

Time opened: 7:51 p.m.

NO PUBLIC COMMENTS

Time closed: 7:51 p.m.

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**

