

**BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 21, 2022
MINUTES**

MEETING OPENED AT 7:30 P.M. BY MAYOR HARRY ROBBINS.

ALL STOOD FOR 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 APRIL, 2022, 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	COUNCILWOMAN HODGES: PRESENT
COUNCILMAN DiMEO: ABSENT	COUNCILMAN McCARTHY: PRESENT
COUNCILWOMAN DUGAN: 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 p.m.

NO PUBLIC COMMENT

Time closed: 7:33 p.m.

Council President Oglesby stated a resident approached him regarding a streetlight that is out on Church Street questioning the protocol for reporting streetlight outages.

Municipal Clerk Capasso responded she will report the outage to Police Chief Kline.

B. ORDINANCES APPROVED ON FIRST READING:

“AN ORDINANCE BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST AMENDING THE BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST CODE OF ORDINANCES TO REPEAL CHAPTER XXIII; TO ADOPT A NEW CHAPTER XXIII; TO ADOPT FLOOD HAZARD MAPS; TO DESIGNATE A FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE” (#2022-05)

Motion by: Patricia Hodges

Seconded by: Bernadette Dugan

To approve consent agenda. Roll call vote held. All votes affirmative with the exception of Council President Oglesby who abstained to Resolution #22-089 for he is a member of the First Aid Squad.

ORDINANCES NOT ON CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion by: James Davis

Seconded by: Steven Oglesby

To approve on second reading and open the public hearing of Ordinance #2022-03 entitled: "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK." Roll call vote held. All votes affirmative.

Time opened: 7:37 p.m.

David Burton, 501 Lilac Street, asked if the borough was establishing a cap bank due to the increase of taxes.

Wayne Sibilias, Borough Chief Financial Officer, responded every year the state statutorily allows municipalities to establish a bank so whatever the municipality does not utilize between what was raised by taxes and what the statutory maximum taxes were, the municipality can reserve for up to three years to utilize in future years in order to help provide for additional revenue. Mr. Sibilias stated an example would be the state allows the municipality to raise taxes 2% a year but if the municipality only use 1% that year, they are allowed to use the other 1% the following year if needed. Mr. Sibilias went on to say establishing a cap bank is an accounting procedure the municipality must do every year to keep that bank open.

Time closed: 7:39 p.m.

Motion by: Bernadette Dugan

Seconded by: James Davis

To adopt Ordinance #2022-03. Roll call vote held. All votes affirmative.

Mr. Sibiliala responded yes adding that is due to the county ordering a reassessment.

Mrs. Robinson asked when will the reassessment take place.

Mr. Sibiliala answered it will take place gradually over the course of this year.

Municipal Clerk Capasso added Borough Tax Assessor Martin Lynch will be sending a letter to all residents that explains the reassessment process and added the letter will also state that he will be holding an informational meeting for all questions that residents may have.

Joann Edgar, 500 Union Avenue, questioned paying more taxes due to the reassessment.

Mr. Sibiliala responded not necessarily adding if everyone is under assessed the same percentage then the taxes will remain the same. Mr. Sibiliala stated due to residents selling their homes, this “triggered” the reassessment.

Ms. Edgar stated resident’s taxes are being raised \$50, then the reassessment happens asking if there is a possibility of having their taxes being raised again.

Mayor Robbins answered in the affirmative.

Alan Hurley, 219 Cedar Street, asked if the reassessment will affect this year’s taxes or next years.

Mr. Sibiliala responded next year.

David Burton, 501 Lilac Street, asked when was the last assessment completed.

Mayor Robbins responded ten years ago.

Mr. Burton asked how often must a municipality complete a reassessment.

Council President Oglesby answered it is ten years adding there is a state mandate that says if there is a wide disparity between assessed value and real estate market value then the municipality must reassess. Mr. Oglesby stated the idea of a reassessment is to do one more frequently so that no one is “hit” with a large increase.

Mr. Burton asked if the real estate market goes down, does the borough reassess.

Mr. Oglesby responded if the market goes down, the homeowner can request a revaluation.

Mr. Burton stated the market has gone up and the borough is doing a reassessment asking why the borough will not do a reassessment if the market goes down.

Mayor Robbins responded the borough is conducting a reassessment because the county order it adding the borough would rather not spend the money on the reassessment.

Mr. Burton, a school board representative, stated the board of education has completed the school budget adding taxes will not be raised.

Maranda Salas, 208 Church Street, questioned the borough paying for the reassessment yet the county order it.

Mayor Robbins responded that is correct.

Mr. Hurley asked what the cost for the reassessment is.

Mr. Sibilia answered the cost is estimated to be \$57,000.

Mr. Oglesby stated the last reassessment cost the borough \$105,000 due to not being able to do it in-house. Mr. Oglesby asked that all residents to please cooperate with the assessors, to let them in so that they are not guessing what has been in the home as far as home improvements. Mr. Oglesby further stated that if the home is reassessed for more than what is worth and you appeal the assessment, the judge will ask if you allowed the assessor in the home.

Lystra Andrews, 102 Brown Avenue, stated that she does not mind paying higher taxes adding she enjoys the benefits that it offers. Mrs. Andrews asked why the roads are not being repaired, mainly Brown Avenue and Union Avenue.

Mayor Robbins responded the Union Avenue, Brown Avenue, and Center Avenue will be repaved by the county this May.

Ms. Edgar asked if anything is happening with the Burger King.

Mayor Robbins responded at the moment, no adding the owner did mention a dispensary but at this time the state is only allowing medical dispensary to sell recreational cannabis.

Robert Robinson, 519 Willow Street, stated that the CFO mentioned earlier Public Works and Police Department's needs asking what items do they need.

Mayor Robbins responded where the budget began, it was cut more than half adding a lot of work went into the budget.

Councilwoman Hodges stated when a department head formulates their budget, they consider salary, equipment, and any other expenses the department accrues. Mrs. Hodges commended all department heads and the CFO for the hard work that went into this budget adding they had to consider things that were not necessary such as replacing vehicles or hiring new employees.

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC:

Time opened: 8:07 p.m.

Corinna Robinson, 501 Willow Street, asked why the street signs were replaced.

Mayor Robbins responded the street sign were no longer readable and could not be restored.

Maranda Salas, 208 Church Street, asked now that the governor has lifted ban on no turning water services off due to nonpayment, is the borough collecting back payments.

Wayne Sibilia, Chief Financial Officer, responded part of the governor's plan is that the borough has to provide a payment plan to those that have fallen behind and added they have 12 months in order to make up on past balances and stay current. Mr. Sibilia stated the borough is anticipating to receive past money owed.

Bruce Margenson, 5 Geneva Road, stated the trees that have been planted look nice.

Mr. Margenson stated now that hurricane and tornado season is upon us, is there a plan in place for shelter; and if so, it needs to be publicized.

Mayor Robbins stated he believes the closes place for shelter is Jackson Liberty School adding he will investigate. Mayor Robbins further stated when a disaster is near, a reverse 911 will be put out to the residents.

David Burton, 501 Lilac Street, stated "things are getting out of control" in some resident's yards around his block adding his hope is that the Code Enforcement Officer is made aware of the situation.

Mayor Robbins responded the Code Enforcement Officer first gives the resident 14 days to correct the violation, he then goes back, if the situation is not taken care of, then a ticket is issued. Mayor Robbins stated some people just pay the ticket, do not correct the issue, and are ticketed again.

Councilman McCarthy stated in this month's Police Chief Kline's report, it states that there were two dozen code enforcement violations.

Mr. Burton reported the Lakehurst Board of Education has an agreement with the Manchester Board of Education to line both the baseball field and soccer field.

Mayor Robbins asked if Lakehurst could work on having the fields fertilized as well.

Mr. Burton responded he will ask them. Mr. Burton reported the bases have been set on the baseball field adding the school will be researching the possibility of starting a

baseball team and softball team. Mr. Burton thanked the mayor and council for all work that was done at the fields.

Time closed: 8:18 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by: Bernadette Dugan

Seconded by: Steven Oglesby

To adjourn meeting. Roll call vote held. All votes affirmative. Time: 8:18 p.m.

Maryanne Capasso, RMC
Municipal Clerk