

**BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST  
REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 2, 2023  
MINUTES**

MEETING OPENED AT 7:30 P.M. 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 SECOND DAY OF MARCH, 2023, 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: PRESENT	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: 7:35 p.m.

NO PUBLIC COMMENT

Time closed: 7:35 p.m.

Borough Attorney Ian Goldman introduced Attorney Casandra DeStefano. Mr. Goldman stated that Ms. DeStefano has worked in his law firm for a few months and added Ms. DeStefano has a strong background in government, an exceptional resume, and is great to work with. Mr. Goldman explained that Ms. DeStefano will be working alongside him within regard to the borough. Mr. Goldman further explained he will be unable to attend

the next few meetings and added Ms. DeStefano will be filling in on his behalf. Mr. Goldman asked that when emailing him, that Ms. DeStefano is copied as well to ensure that all questions are answered.

Councilwoman Hodges reported after speaking with Mayor Robbins and Public Works Department Head Dave Winton, she will be revitalizing the Community Garden. Mrs. Hodges stated the Community Garden has been idle for some time now and added she will coordinate with public works and volunteers to bring the garden back.

Mayor Robbins responded that the governing body is here to help as well.

Councilman DiMeo voiced his concerns with 6 Union Avenue. Mr. DiMeo stated that the property has a huge hole where the building once stood and although there is caution tape in place, it is a hazard to pedestrians.

Borough Attorney Ian Goldman asked if the project stalled at some point.

Mayor Robbins responded that the property owner did come in front of the Land Use Board with questions about what can be done with property but never came back with plans. Mayor Robbins asked if the borough could fill the hole and place a lien on the property.

Mr. Goldman responded he will send a letter to property owners giving them a time frame of 60 days to apply to the Land Use Board.

Mr. Dimeo suggested including in the letter the number of times the Code Enforcement Officer has issued citations.

Mayor Robbins stated according to Police Chief Kline's monthly report, no citations have been issued.

Mr. DiMeo responded that is concerning that the property has been a hazard for over a year, and nothing has been done.

Mayor Robbins stated that at this point the borough wants the hole filled in and leveled, making the property safe and secure.

Council President Oglesby recommended having a meeting with the Code Enforcement Officer so that the governing body understands what he is doing, and he understands what the governing body is looking for, so that there is consistency with the Code Enforcement process.

Mayor Robbins tasked Municipal Clerk Capasso with setting up a meeting with Code Enforcement Officer and the Ordinance Committee.



ORDINANCES NOT ON CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion by: Steven Oglesby

Seconded by: Bernadette Dugan

To approve on second reading and open the public hearing of Ordinance #2023-03 entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, FIXING AND DETERMINING THE AMOUNT OF SALARIES AND WAGES FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES AND OFFICIALS IN THE BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST" Roll call vote held. All votes affirmative.

Time opened: 7:46 p.m.

NO PUBLIC COMMENT

Time closed: 7:46 p.m.

Motion by: Bernadette Dugan

Seconded by: Brian DiMeo

To adopt Ordinance #2023-03. Roll call vote held. All votes affirmative.

COMMITTEE/COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilwoman Hodges reported the Public Works Committee met with Department Head Dave Winton. Mrs. Hodges stated that Mr. Winton reported the borough will be receiving a \$278,800.00 2023 NJDOT Grant for reconstruction of Pine Street and Union Avenue in the Westlake area and added the 2022 NJDOT project for Pine Street, between Orchard and Elm Street, and Rose Street will begin sometime this month. Mrs. Hodges also stated that the ice machine for the Community Center has been delivered and will be installed shortly. Mrs. Hodges further stated that the leak detection project has been completed, adding Mr. Winton had a concern about lost water due to leaks that he is unaware of. Mrs. Hodges went on to say that Mr. Winton was able to detect five leaks through the project and was able to repair three of the leaks, adding that he has seen a decrease in usage of 50,000 gallons a day.

Mayor Robbins stated Bryan LeVance, License Operator, must file an Unmetered, Unaccounted for Water report to the DEP adding the leak detection project helps with getting reported numbers lowered.

Councilman DiMeo reported the Youth and Recreation Committee will be having a meeting on Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center.

Council President Oglesby reported the Cannabis Committee had a meeting to review the cannabis applications submitted for the western corridor of Route 70. Mr. Oglesby stated the committee had questions in regard to site location, adding Clerk Capasso reached out to get clarification. Mr. Oglesby further stated Mrs. Capasso also reached out to existing approvals to obtain updated status on their projects. Mr. Oglesby went on to say that the

committee will be reviewing again and hopefully will have a recommendation at the next council meeting.

Mayor Robbins reported that today he noticed activity at the former Burger King site.

Councilwoman Dugan reported the Finance Committee anticipate introducing the budget at the March 16<sup>th</sup> council meeting.

Councilman McCarthy reported signs that are being updated to coordinate with the new ordinances and to be installed at all public use areas of the borough, are being reviewed and added the signs will be printed by the next meeting.

Mayor Robbins asked if Manchester Township will be printing the signs.

Mr. McCarthy responded Manchester Township sign department has agreed to print the signs for the borough.

#### MAYOR COMMENTS:

Mayor Robbins reported that he will be meeting with both the Manchester Township Mayor and Administrator to discuss the water interconnection, buying fuel from Manchester, and renewal of the Shared Service Agreement for Court Services for a three-year term. Mayor Robbins also reported that Council President Oglesby will be joining him at the meeting.

#### COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC:

Time opened: 7:53 p.m.

Bruce Margeson, 5 Geneva Road, stated he is disappointed in the governing body for approving the No Smoking Ordinance that does not allow smoking in parking lots. Mr. Margeson also stated that designated areas are great; however, when there is inclement weather, there is no place to smoke, including your own vehicle. Mr. Margeson further stated that when the borough approved the sale of cannabis in the borough, he voiced his concerns of cannabis smoking in the borough but was told that would not happen, yet the governing body approved no smoking on borough property including Lake Horicon.

Mayor Robbins responded that the consumption of cannabis is not allowed anywhere in public just like the consumption of alcohol. Mayor Robbins explained that the No Smoking Ordinance and the Cannabis Ordinance are two separate ordinances.

Mr. Margeson acknowledge the difference of smoking cannabis verse smoking a cigarette or cigar but pointed out the difficulties of finding a place to smoke a cigarette or cigar.

Allen Lawyer, a resident of Holiday City West, stated he has had trouble with the Veterans Administration since 1990 and is looking to the governing body for assistance.

Mayor Robbins responded he understands the frustration adding his son is also a veteran who has had difficulty getting assistance. Mayor Robbins stated that a Veteran's Hospital is being built in Toms River, adding this will be a help for the veterans in our area.

Mr. Lawyer asked the governing body to represent the veterans in Washington, D.C.

Mayor Robbins responded that needs to be done at a higher level. Mayor Robbins stated the microphone is open for public comments in regard to the Borough of Lakehurst.

Mr. Lawyer asked the governing body to make a visit to Joint Base McQuire-Dix-Lakehurst to see what is taking place.

Mayor Robbins responded that the governing body can not get on the base adding they are civilians.

Borough Attorney Ian Goldman respectfully asked Mr. Lawyer to limit his comments to the Borough of Lakehurst.

Time closed: 8:09 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by: Bernadette Dugan

Seconded by: James Davis

To adjourn meeting. Roll call vote held. All votes affirmative. Time: 8:09 p.m.

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Maryanne Capasso, RMC  
Municipal Clerk