

**BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 7, 2024
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:

“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 SEVENTH DAY OF MARCH, 2024, 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: ABSENT	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: 7:31 p.m.

NO PUBLIC COMMENT

Time closed: 7:31 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT OF WORK SESSION:

Motion by: Patricia Hodges
To adjourn work session. Roll call vote held.

Seconded by: Bernadette Dugan

Motion by: Brian DiMeo
To approve consent agenda. Roll call vote held.

Seconded by: Bernadette Dugan

Council	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Council President Oglesby	x			
Councilman Davis				x
Councilman DiMeo	x			
Councilwoman Hodges			X B	
Councilman McCarthy	x			

COMMITTEE/COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilwoman Hodges reported that Public Works has started to put down compost along the new bulkhead adding she is pleased with the way it is coming together. Mrs. Hodges stated that more compost is needed and that Dave Winton, Public Works Department Head, will acquire more from the county to finish the project and that the planting will begin soon.

Councilman DiMeo reported that the Youth and Recreation Committee met this past Monday adding that they have set a meeting schedule for the remaining year. Mr. DiMeo stated that there is a new Lakehurst Community Coalition group that meets every other month, the same day and time as the Youth and Recreation Committee adding the meeting place will alternate between the Community Center and the Emergency Service Complex.

Mayor Robbins asked if the Youth and Recreation Committee will be held in conjunction with the Lakehurst Community Coalition Group.

Mr. DiMeo responded that both groups will be working together and added that there are other organizations that are also present such as the Police Department, Fire Department, and the First Aid Squad, with the idea to help grow community involvement.

Mr. DiMeo also reported that the laptops for the governing body are in and are set up adding a plan for distribution is being worked on.

Council President Oglesby reported that Councilman McCarthy and himself met with Police Chief Kline to discuss some of Chief Kline's concerns adding they listened, talked, and will move forward.

Councilwoman Dugan reported that she attended the Board of Education meeting on February 20th and added that the Board of Education bid opening for the roof and cafeteria improvements is scheduled for March 12th. Ms. Dugan also reported that Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst visited the school, and a mobile dental lab was scheduled

to arrive at the school yesterday with 60 students registered. Ms. Dugan further reported that state testing will be in May. Ms. Dugan wished Deputy Clerk Amy Lowe a Happy Birthday.

Councilman McCarthy reported that after meeting with Police Chief Kline, Council President Oglesby and himself met with the borough's Chief Financial Officer Wayne Sibilio to discuss Chief Kline's concerns. Mr. McCarthy stated that a "piece of the puzzle" was solved and is moving in the direction to align all pieces; however, it could be two to three years for the turn around. Mr. McCarthy also reported that the Public Safety Committee met with the Police Department, Fire Department, and First Aid Squad as a group, adding the meeting went well. Mr. McCarthy further reported there are some building concerns at the Emergency Service Complex as well as equipment concerns. Mr. McCarthy stated that Fire Chief Parker asked if it is possible to change vendors and added that he will talk with Deputy Clerk Lowe in regard to state contract agreements with vendors. Mr. McCarthy went on to report that there was a minor issue reported to Fire Chief Parker regarding procedures and after speaking with the Joint Insurance Fund making sure all parties were insured correctly, the procedure may continue.

Mr. Oglesby questioned the concerns raised months ago in regard to the flooring at the Emergency Service Complex.

Mr. McCarthy responded that the process of obtaining a new floor has begun with the Fire Department looking into donations.

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC:

Time opened: 7:40 p.m.

Bruce Margeson, 5 Geneva Road, asked with the warm weather approaching, has the borough arrived at a solution to the sand issues at Lake Horicon.

Mayor Robbins responded that Public Works has been busy with the bulkheading project and now that has ended, he will reach out to Dave Winton, Public Works Department Head.

Council President Oglesby added that there was talk about mixing heavier sand with a lighter sand that is less expensive.

Mr. Margeson also stated that Governor Murphy approved money to be disturbed to Fire Departments to purchase new equipment asking if the borough will receive such money.

Mayor Robbins responded that the money has to be obtained through a grant.

Fire Chief Parker added that the fire department is behind on the paperwork to obtain this year's grant; however, he is working on getting all paperwork ready for next year's grant.

Mayor Robbins stated that Councilman McCarthy and himself are looking at acquiring a grant writer so that when a grant does become available and the fire department is in a position to apply for the grant, the grant writer will assist in the application process.

Mr. McCarthy also pointed out that the new vehicle grants that are available are for electric vehicles which require the surrendering of the “fossil fuel” vehicles, adding some grants are not always good as it looks.

Time closed: 7:44 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by: Bernadette Dugan

Seconded by: Patricia Hodges

To adjourn meeting. Roll call vote held.

Council	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Council President Oglesby	x			
Councilman Davis				x
Councilman DiMeo	x			
Councilwoman Hodges	x			
Councilman McCarthy	x			

Time: 7:44 p.m.

Maryanne Capasso, RMC
Municipal Clerk