

**BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 2, 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 SECOND DAY OF MAY, 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: 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: 7:32 p.m.

NO PUBLIC COMMENT

Time closed: 7:32 p.m.

Councilwoman Hodges stated that she met with Public Works Supervisor Dave Winton and that he wants to meet with the Ordinance Committee to review some of the fees.

Councilman DiMeo wanted to commend everyone on the cleanup. Mr. DiMeo stated that they had a decent turnout and cleaned up a good portion of town.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by: James Davis

Seconded by: Brian DiMeo

To approve minutes of April 18, 2024 Regular 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			

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.

A. RESOLUTIONS:

1. Resolution #24-088 re: Payment of Bills
2. Resolution #24-089 re: Equal Employment Opportunity
3. Resolution #24-090 re: Self-examination of 2024 Municipal Budget

B. ORDINANCES APPROVED OF FIRST READING:

“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” (#2024-02)

Motion by: Patricia Hodges

Seconded by: Bernadette Dugan

To approve consent agenda. 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			

COMMITTEE/COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilwoman Hodges reported that the paving of Union Avenue and Pine Street is completed, and 28 water services were replaced. Mrs. Hodges stated that the Public Works Department is continuing with the pear tree project and the sidewalk inspections. Mrs. Hodges went on to say that mulch would be brought in for the playground at the lake and that the seed was put down around the lake. Mrs. Hodges also stated that herself and Andrew Hodges planted nine seedlings at the lake as well. Mrs. Hodges stated that she is looking into holding the rain barrel workshop in conjunction with the composting workshop again.

Councilman DiMeo stated that Monday at 7:00 pm Youth and Recreation Committee will have their meeting and that May 18th is town wide yard sale.

Councilwoman Dugan reported that school introduced their budget and that there is a 2.65% increase which equates to \$26.00 to the average household. Mrs. Dugan also stated that there is an increased student enrollment at the school and that the school received \$900,000.00 in State Aid. Mrs. Dugan went on to say there is a 2.90% tax increase for the town which equates to \$88.00 to the average household per year or \$1.71 per week. Mrs. Dugan went on to wish Mrs. Hodges a Happy Birthday, whose birthday is next Monday.

Councilman McCarthy stated that saga continues, and they are actively seeking a lifeguard.

Councilman Oglesby said the Personnel Committee is working and results are forthcoming.

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC:

Time opened: 7:49 p.m.

Bruce Margeson, 5 Geneva Road, asked if he understood correctly that the towns taxes are going up because the school tax is going up? Mr. Margeson stated that this concerns him because taxes should be going down from the pot shop and Wawa.

Mayor Robbins responded the cannabis retail shop was only opened for one month and the borough can not anticipate that in the budget because we do not have a true representation of the revenue. Mayor Robbins went on to say that everything is going up, insurance, salaries, and cost of living always goes up.

Councilwoman Dugan stated that Cap Bank Ordinance is a procedural thing and we do it every year. Mrs. Dugan also went on to say that combined the average household will see a \$114.00 increase per year.

Mr. Margeson went on to question enrollment at the school.

Councilman Oglesby told him this was not the forum and that he would need to go to a School Board Meeting.

Mr. Margeson brought up having a crosswalk in front of Mrs. Walkers and stated that people walk across the street all the time.

Mayor Robbins said that this is a County Road and that this would need to be addressed to them as well as the business owners because they would be losing parking spots.

Time closed: 8:01 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by: Bernadette Dugan

Seconded by: James Davis

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: 8:01 p.m.

Amy Lowe, RMC
Deputy Municipal Clerk