

**BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST  
WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 3, 2019  
MINUTES**

MEETING OPENED AT 7:30 PM 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 THIRD DAY OF OCTOBER 2019, 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:

COUNCILWOMAN BUSCH: ABSENT      COUNCILMAN LOWE: ABSENT  
COUNCILMAN DAVIS: ABSENT      COUNCILMAN McCARTHY: PRESENT  
COUNCILWOMAN HODGES: PRESENT      COUNCILMAN OGLESBY: PRESENT  
MAYOR HARRY ROBBINS: PRESENT

WORK SESSION:

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA:

Municipal Clerk Maryanne Capasso reviewed the regular meeting agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Time opened: 7:31 pm

Dona Sinton, 501 Rose Street, questioned the separation agreement for Stephen F. Childers.

Mayor Robbins responded Mr. Childers resigned from his position and the Borough did a separation agreement with Mr. Childers. Mayor Robbins added that the separation agreement states Mr. Childers will be paid 120 days, further adding, that is 30 days more

than the statute states. Mayor Robbins stated the 30 extra day pay is “next to nothing” considering his salary was \$14,000.

Mrs. Sinton asked how is Mr. Childers entitled to pay when he resigned from office adding that the statute reads when the administrator is removed, he is entitled to 3 months of his salary.

Borough Attorney Goldman responded Mr. Childers was asked to resign adding the Borough informed Mr. Childers if he resigns, there will be a separation agreement.

Mrs. Sinton responded the statute “clearly says” a removal of office is due severance pay adding Mr. Childers resigned.

Mr. Goldman responded a removal of office is much worse than a resignation. Mr. Goldman stated a removal of office is entitled to a separation agreement adding under that theory, a resignation is entitled to it as well. Mr. Goldman further stated a separation agreement was made between the Borough and Mr. Childers that is legal.

Mrs. Sinton asked if an employee is asked to resign, is that different then removing them from office.

Mr. Goldman answered in the affirmative.

Mrs. Sinton asked why not then remove the employee instead of asking them to resign.

Mr. Goldman responded when you remove an employee from office, that employee is entitled to all types of due process adding due process would be time, energy, resources, liability, exposure.

Mrs. Sinton responded it is less expensive to ask for a resignation than it is to remove from office.

Mr. Goldman responded it is in the best interest of the Borough.

Timothy Sinkewitz, 613 Poplar Street, questioned the quote given by Mayor Robbins in the Manchester Times saying the administrator “did nothing improper or wrong” and “it was time to move on”

Mayor Robbins responded although the administrator did a great job in the Borough does not mean “everything was roses”.

Mr. Sinkewitz asked will the Borough be hiring a new administrator.

Mayor Robbins responded the Borough will not be hiring right now adding the Borough had gone without an administrator before. Mayor Robbins added the Borough was getting overwhelmed and hired Mr. Childers because of his experience with the county and civil



Motion by: Steven Oglesby

Seconded by: Patricia Hodges

To approve consent agenda. Roll call vote held. All votes affirmative with exception of Steven Oglesby who abstained from Resolution #19-156 due to he is a member of the Lakehurst First Aid Squad.

#### COMMITTEE/COUNCIL REPORTS:

Council President Oglesby stated he has personnel matters to discuss during closed session.

Councilman McCarthy reported he was unable to attend the Board of Education meeting last month.

Mr. McCarthy reported a permit was receive to lower Lake Horicon on October 7<sup>th</sup>. Mr. McCarthy also reported Public Works has been holding off on planters along Union Avenue due to the excessive heat adding they will plant the mums next week. Mr. McCarthy further reported the Chestnut Street water main installation is complete and the residential connections are being completed today.

#### MAYOR COMMENTS:

Mayor Robbins announced Lakehurst Borough will be holding their annual Halloween Parade on October 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM. Mayor Robbins stated the borough is looking for volunteers to judge costumes following the parade adding if anyone is interested please contact Borough Hall.

#### COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC:

Time opened: 7:42 pm

Timothy Sinkewitz, President of the Lakehurst First Aid Squad, announced the Lakehurst First Aid Squad will be holding a gift auction on October 12<sup>th</sup> at the Lakehurst Community Center. Mr. Sinkewitz stated doors at 5:00 pm adding admission is \$5.00.

Time closed: 7:43 pm

#### 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**

**WHEREAS**, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Lakehurst, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, as follows:

The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the hereinafter specified subject matter.

The general nature of the subject matters to be discussed is as follows:

### CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS PERSONNEL MATTERS

It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter will be made public.

This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Motion by: Steven Oglesby  
To approve resolution to go into closed session. Roll call vote held. All votes affirmative.

Seconded by: Robert McCarthy

Time into closed session: 7:48 pm

Time out of closed session: 8:14 pm

Motion by: Patricia Hodges  
To end closed session. Roll call vote held. All votes affirmative.

Seconded by: Steven Oglesby

### ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by: Robert McCarthy  
To adjourn meeting. Roll call vote held. All votes affirmative. Time: 8:14 pm

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Maryanne Capasso, RMC  
Municipal Clerk