

**BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST
WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 20, 2020
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 TWENTIETH DAY OF AUGUST, 2020, 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: JOINED AT 7:42 PM VIA PHONE
COUNCILMAN DiMEO: PRESENT
COUNCILWOMAN HODGES: PRESENT
COUNCILMAN LOWE: PRESENT
COUNCILMAN McCARTHY: 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 pm

Dona Sinton, 501 Rose Street, asked if the Revitalization money will be paying for the portable bathrooms.

Mayor Robbins responded the portable bathrooms are being funded by the Community Development Block Grant.

Mrs. Sinton question the Tax Collector being the Chief Financial Officer.

Mayor Robbins responded the Tax Collector and the Chief Financial Officer have the same last name but are two different people.

Time closed: 7:34 pm

Councilwoman Hodges stated it has been the intentions of the council to honor the wishes of the Revitalization Committee to have portable bathrooms at Lake Horicon. Mrs. Hodges also stated that although the Revitalization money did not fund the bathrooms, the council saw that the Community Development Block Grant did.

Mrs. Hodges stated she has concerns in regard to Resolution #20-124 adding the council is voting on something that is already in place. Mrs. Hodges also stated we are in a global pandemic and added mail-in voting has to be utilized. Mrs. Hodges went on to say the words “concern about voter fraud and voter disenfranchisement” is casting a suspension on the whole process; therefore, she will be voting no to Resolution #20-124.

Councilman DiMeo stated now that state guidance has increased the gathering inside and added we can safely socially distance in the community center, the council no longer needs to conduct the meetings through Microsoft TEAMS.

Council President Oglesby stated he too has concerns with Resolution #20-124. Mr. Oglesby went on to say by title, “The Right to Vote In-Person” sounds wonderful and is giving the choice but the resolution itself is not giving choice.

Mr. Oglesby reported the Personnel Committee and the Mayor met with Chief Kline to go over the police department’s 5-year plan. Mr. Oglesby stated the plan covered what the needs are and what the plans are for the department. Mr. Oglesby also stated the meeting was productive and gave kudos to Chief Kline for looking ahead.

Councilman Davis reported the disease Pear Trees along Union Avenue have been removed. Mr. Davis stated he looks forward to seeing what will replace the trees.

Mayor Robbins reported the owner of the property located at 800 Route 70, formerly LaBove Grande, will be attending next council meeting to address any concerns the council or the residents may have and what their plans are.

ADJOURNMENT OF WORK SESSION:

Motion by: James Davis

Seconded by: Steven Oglesby

To adjourn work session. Roll call vote held. All votes affirmative.

Councilman McCarthy reported the Board of Education had three meetings since his last report. Mr. McCarthy stated at the July 21st meeting a new member, Amy Lowe, was sworn in and a retirement was announced that of Dr. Clifford Barneman. Mr. McCarthy also stated the Board of Education voted to accept the CARES grant in the amount of \$95,469 and the bills list in the amount of \$378,560.69.

Mr. McCarthy stated the Board of Education meeting held on August 11th was not held virtually adding the information he is reporting is from the agenda. Mr. McCarthy reported the meeting was to address some resignations and hiring. Mr. McCarthy stated the meeting held on August 18th was the discussion of the plans for the 2020-2021 school year. Mr. McCarthy stated the students will be split in to two groups were one group will go to school Monday and Tuesday while the other group will be going Thursday and Friday adding Wednesday the school will be sanitized. McCarthy further stated the days students are not in school they will have virtual learning.

Mr. McCarthy reported the Board of Education made an application to the County for facilities approvals concerning the trailers and Pre-K accommodations. Mr. McCarthy further reported the bills list for the middle of the month was \$137,587.81 showing a negative of \$396,971.94 due to the state being slow with the funding.

Mr. McCarthy reported the Public Safety Committee will have a report during closed session.

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC:

Time opened: 8:01 pm

Mr. Swartz, property manager for 12 Brown Avenue, stated he received a high utility bill in January 2020 due to a leak in the basement adding he had a plumber come out to the property on February 18th to repair the leak. Mr. Swartz requested an adjustment to sewer portion of the utility bill.

Mayor Robbins responded the borough has no way of knowing if the water went through the sewer and added he should have called Public Works Department to verify. Mayor Robbins stated the water was meter which means the leak was after the meter. Mayor Robbins also stated the borough pays the Ocean County Utility Authority to treat the wastewater and the borough can not absorb the cost. Mayor Robbins recommended that Mr. Swartz call Borough Hall to arrange a payment plan.

Bruce Margenson, 5 Geneva Road, stated there is no reason why we cannot vote by machine adding we can go shopping at ShopRite and Walmart. Mr. Margenson also stated a machine is more accurate.

Mr. Margenson reported that the trash is still a problem at Barker's Village.

Mayor Robbins responded the Code Enforcement Officer has been informed about the trash adding he does give 14 days after notice is sent.

Mr. Margenson asked if the town can help with rent control adding many of the residents are living on a fixed income.

Mayor Robbins tasked the Borough Attorney to investigate.

Dona Sinton, 501 Rose Street, stated the dock at Lake Horicon is starting to be taken over by vines and also added some of the sewer drains are collecting debris causing flooding.

Mayor Robbins responded he will reach out to Dave Winton Public Works Department Head.

Time closed: 8:19 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:

PERSONNEL MATTERS CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

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

Seconded by: Patricia Hodges

