

**BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 17, 2021**

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 PUBLISHED IN TWO NEWSPAPERS AND POSTED ON THE BOROUGH WEBSITE, THAT A WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL IS SCHEDULED FOR THE SEVENTEENTH DAY OF JUNE, 2021, 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 (7:41 pm) COUNCILMAN LOWE: ABSENT
COUNCILMAN DiMEO: PRESENT COUNCILMAN McCARTHY: PRESENT
COUNCILWOMAN HODGES: 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 COMMENTS

Time closed: 7:32 p.m.

Councilman DiMeo asked about the progress of the demolition of the building located at 6 Union Avenue.

Municipal Clerk Capasso responded that the property owner of 6 Union Avenue has all the paperwork completed for the demolition and is now in the process of correlating a date for the demolition with the demolition company and the Lakehurst Police Department.

Councilman McCarthy asked if the Borough finances the police officers for the demolition project.

Mrs. Capasso responded the property owner applies for off-duty police officers at the site and pays the fees.

Council President Oglesby reported the tree removal and repair of the sidewalks are progressing. Mr. Oglesby also reported the rock-climbing equipment at Lake Horicon Park has cracked and Public Works Department has patched it; however, the patch is not lasting long, and the equipment is going to need to be replaced.

Mr. Oglesby stated the Historical Society has reached out to him regarding the 100th Anniversary celebration for next year adding they would like to join the council in making a huge celebration for next year.

Mr. McCarthy reported the police department's attempt to hire a lifeguard has been unsuccessful. Mr. McCarthy stated the Municipal Clerk Capasso had reached out JIF with concerns of no lifeguard on duty and stopping potential swimmers. Mr. McCarthy further stated JIF suggested the Mayor and Councilmembers speak with the Borough Attorney on the proper verbiage on the signs posted at the lake. Mr. McCarthy went on to say the attorney might suggest a sign that says "Swimming Prohibited" adding "Swim at Your Own Risk" is an invitation that could possibly return more liability to the Borough. Mr. McCarthy asked that the Public Works Committee reach out to Dave Winton, Public Works Department Head, to advertise "Lifeguard Positions Available" on the electronic signs.

Mr. McCarthy also reported Chief Kline would like permission to use Lake Horicon for National Night Out as opposed to using Fuccile Park due to the irrigation system. Mr. McCarthy suggested reaching out to the Board of Education to utilize the school's playground for the State Police helicopter landing and closing off Union Avenue for vendors and "foot traffic".

Councilwoman Hodges stated National Night Out has always had a good response from the residents.

Mayor Robbins asked if everyone was in agreement to holding National Night Out at Lake Horicon.

All in agreement.

COMMITTEE/COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilman DiMeo reported the Youth and Recreation Committee met Monday night adding they discussed potential events for the children this summer. Mr. DiMeo stated the committee is looking to do a Nerf War at the Fuccile Park, a game night with ice cream in August, and a scale down version of the 4th of July Car Show in September.

Councilman Davis stated the car show will be more of a Cruise Night at Lake Horicon adding the lake has more parking and has the pavilion to possibly have live music. Mr. Davis further stated the committee is looking at the second or third week of September from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. so that there is no competition with bathers or a lack of a lifeguard. Mr. Davis went on to say he would like to keep the Borough of Lakehurst name “in the game”.

Mr. DiMeo reported Coastal Solutions is working on the migrating support for the new phone system and new security that needs to take place. Mr. DiMeo stated there are government programs that help monitor our emails adding he will review the programs and will make recommendations as he see fits. Mr. DiMeo also stated the government programs are free.

Mayor Robbins stated the importance of computer safety and thanked Mr. DiMeo for staying “on top” of it.

Council President Oglesby stated that there have been zero personnel issues in past few weeks.

Councilman McCarthy reported the Board of Education meeting was June 16th adding all vendors, professional services, tenure, and non-tenure support staff were approved. Mr. McCarthy also reported the Business Administrator received a one-year contract, the Superintendent received a three-year contract, there were a couple resignations, and a few new hires. Mr. McCarthy further reported the Bills List for June 16th was \$386,619.64 and the May balance was \$1,412,829.58.

Mr. McCarthy reported for Public Safety, the police department is committed releasing more press releases adding it is an on-going effort. Mr. McCarthy also reported although the police department has yet to receive the official word from the state on the body cam grant, all indications are good for the police department to outfit all officers for the next five years. Mr. McCarthy further reported Chief Kline will be auctioning vehicles that were either impound or forfeited adding all funds from impound go to the borough and funds from forfeited go to the police department.

Mr. McCarthy stated the On-Point Program is going well adding Chief Kline has stated it is removing the police officers from situations that they should not be in; instead, the officer assesses the situation, obtains the necessary help for that situation, and then the social worker takes over. Mr. McCarthy also stated the situations have included homeless issues and addiction problems. Mr. McCarthy further stated the On-Point Program is a

one year grant, next year it will be \$20,000 adding it is being utilized and is a specific tool for our residents and our officers.

Mayor Robbins added the program hinders liability issues as well.

Mr. McCarthy responded the potential for litigation is reduced drastically for the officers.

Mr. McCarthy reported the fire hoses that were going to be donated to a mutual aid company because they were no longer needed due to the transition of lower pressure hoses was successful.

MAYOR COMMENTS:

Mayor Robbins reminded everyone this Saturday, June 19th, is the Annual Bike Rodeo. Mayor Robbins also reminded everyone that the next Council Meeting is July 15th.

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC:

Time opened: 7:51 p.m.

David Burton, 501 Lilac Street, stated the crossings at Lilac Street and Poplar Street have no markings for a crosswalk.

Councilman Davis responded he will reach out to Public Works.

Mr. Burton suggested checking the foundation under the playground equipment adding this could be the cause of why the equipment is cracking.

Councilman McCarthy thanked Mr. Burton and added he will investigate.

Mr. Burton stated the request for the state police to use the school playground for the helicopter landing will be well received.

Time closed: 7:55 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION:

Resolution to go into closed session read by Municipal Clerk Capasso:

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**

