

**BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST  
WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING  
NOVEMBER 7, 2024**

MEETING OPENED AT 7:30 P.M. BY MAYOR HARRY ROBBINS.

ALL STOOD FOR THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE WITH THE EXCEPTION OF COUNCILWOMAN HODGES 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 SEVENTH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS OF HALLOWEEN DECORATING CONTEST:

FIRST PRIZE: \$100	KURT & JANET VAN BUSKIRK 604 WILLOW STREET
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SECOND PRIZE: \$50   TIMOTHY & REBECCA SHANNON  
315 CEDAR STREET

THIRD PRIZE: \$25   MICHAEL & MICHELLE POPE  
303 MANAPAQUA AVENUE

Councilman McCarthy reported the Fire Department received a donation of a few commercial size machines from the local laundromat and had asked if the governing would approve of the installation of the machines in the engine bays at the ESC center. Mr. McCarthy added that the Fire Department would utilize the machines to wash their gear as needed and would obtain all proper permits for the installation.

Mayor Robbins asked how the Fire Department washes their gear now.

Mr. McCarthy responded they don't.

Council President Oglesby questioned the plumbing.

Mr. McCarthy answered there is existing plumbing available and added that an electrical outlet will have to be installed.

Councilwoman Dugan asked if turn out gear can be washed in the machines.

Mr. McCarthy responded in the affirmative.

Mayor Robbins stated that as long as there is no personal use of the machines, he has no problem with the installation of the commercial machine.

Mr. Oglesby stated that he is not opposed to the installation but did ask if the water supply is sufficient for commercial use.

Mr. McCarthy answered that the water supply is sufficient for commercial use.

Mayor Robbins confirmed that the installation will be completed by a licensed plumber and licensed electrician asking if the governing body had any concerns or questions.

All in favor of the installation of commercial machines at the ESC center for the Fire Department to wash gear as needed.

Mr. Oglesby congratulated the council candidates for a successful election night.

ADJOURNMENT OF WORK SESSION:

Motion by: James Davis

Seconded by: Bernadette Dugan

To adjourn work session. Roll call vote held.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by: Bernadette Dugan

Seconded by: Brian DiMeo

To approve minutes of October 17, 2024 Regular Meeting. Roll call vote held.

Council	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Council President Oglesby	X			
Councilman Davis	X			
Councilman DiMeo	X			
Councilwoman Dugan	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 #24-161 re: Payment of Bills
2. Resolution #24-162 re: Raffle License for VFW Post 10061
3. Resolution #24-163 re: Authorizing Adjustment to Utility Account for Block 10; Lot 7
4. Resolution #24-164 re: Authorizing Webmaster Agreement
5. Resolution #24-165 re: Best Practices Checklist
6. Resolution #24-166 re: Approving Membership of Lakehurst Fire Department for Daniel Prins
7. Resolution #24-167 re: Current Fund and Utility Fund Transfer



Community Center on November 19<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Mayor Robbins further announced that the next council meeting will be December 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC:

Time opened: 7:39 p.m.

Gerry Nieuwenhuizen, 601 Poplar Street, stated that he received a warning from the Code Enforcement Officer regarding his Lilac Bushes adding that the bushes are between 8 to 10 feet tall, and the Code Enforcement Officer stated that they need to be 2 feet tall.

Mayor Robbins responded that if the bushes do not obstruct the line of sight at the corner, then there should be no issues adding that he will reach out to the Code Enforcement Officer, William VanBerkel.

Mr. Nieuwenhuizen stated that Code Enforcement Officer stated that there are things “coming down the pike” that might make residents unhappy.

Mayor Robbins reported that he had a long conversation with Mr. VanBerkel regarding warnings, adding that there will be only one warning with 14 days to respond to the warning. Mayor Robbins stated that a majority of the residents do take care of their property; however, there are a few that do not and those who do not will be ticketed.

Bruce Margeson, 5 Geneva Road, congratulated Bernadette Dugan and all the other candidates. Mr. Margeson also congratulated Crystal Parker for stepping up, adding we certainly need more citizens to challenge each and every council member, “keeping them on their toes”. Mr. Margeson thanked the Code Enforcement Officer for having the gas station finally cleaning the property from tires, garbage, and overgrown grass. Mr. Margeson wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Sue Clark, representing the Fire Department, stated that Pizza with Santa will be December 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Lakehurst Community Center from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Adding the cost is \$7.00 for pizza, chips, and soda; however, Proving Ground Church has picked up the cost in the past. Mrs. Clark also stated that the fire department will be offering gift wrapping for a donation on December 14<sup>th</sup> at the Lakehurst Community Center. Mrs. Clark further stated that the fire department will be having another vendor fair this coming May, the same day as the Town-Wide Yard Sale.

Mr. Margeson thanked James Davis for all he has done for the Borough of Lakehurst and a happy retirement.

Crystal Parker, 206 Pine Street, congratulated Bernadette Dugan and Jeff Emmons on a successful election. Mrs. Parker also thanked everyone who had voted for her, adding she was pleasantly surprised. Mrs. Parker went on to state that the Code Enforcement Officer

needs to “pick his battles” adding he is writing tickets for things like plants being too tall or for parking on the grass. Mrs. Parker reported that she had expanded her apron so that she can expand her driveway; however, she does not have the money at this time to pave it. Mrs. Parker stated that she would rather receive a \$75 fine for parking on the grass than spend thousands to pave.

Mayor Robbins responded that an ordinance is an ordinance and if the Code Enforcement Officer sees something breaking the ordinance, he has to act on it adding there is an ordinance for no parking on the grass and an ordinance for driveways having a setback of 10 feet from the property line. Mayor Robbins also stated that there are exceptions to be taken into consideration.

Mr. Nieuwenhuizen asked how often are the borough ordinances reviewed.

Council President Oglesby responded that the ordinances were reviewed a year and a half ago.

Mayor Robbins added that he had put together an Ordinance Committee to review the ordinance and make necessary changes such as removing ones from years past, adding new ones, and amending those that seem fit.

Mrs. Parker stated that a lot of the residents are upset that they are receiving warnings or tickets, adding there are many residents that do keep the yards clean and are volunteers with the fire department.

Borough Attorney Casandra Destefano responded the Code Enforcement Officer needs to be as mutual as possible. Ms. Destefano added that there is a process that the Code Enforcement Officer has to follow, he issues a violation with a 14-day warning then the ticket is issued with a possible court appearance.

Mr. Oglesby stated that there is a criteria that the Code Enforcement Officer has to follow adding if it is a hazardous situation then it has to be dealt with immediately, if it is a normal situation then it's the 14-day, and if it is a seasonal issue or expensive issue then there has to be a timeline. Mr. Oglesby stated hypothetically, maybe the Code Enforcement Officer can give a lead way, a driveway can be expensive and now that the cold weather is starting to set in.

Mrs. Parker thanked Mr. Oglesby for the clarification of different levels of enforcement.

Mr. Nieuwenhuizen questioned parking within 50 feet of a stop sign.

Ms. Destefano answered the New Jersey statute is 25 feet.

Time closed: 7:58 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by: Brian DiMeo  
To adjourn meeting. Roll call vote held.

Seconded by: Bernadette Dugan

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

Time: 7:58 p.m.

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Maryanne Capasso, RMC  
Municipal Clerk