

BOROUGH OF LAVALLETTE(minutes)
CAUCUS/REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
LAVALLETTE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
Tuesday, September 8, 2020-7:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Walter G. LaCicero, presiding

ROLL CALL: Council Members Borowski, Lamb, Zalom, Stogdill, Finter and Filippone

Also present: Phil George, Borough Attorney
Donnelly Amico, Municipal Clerk
Robert Brice, Borough Administrator

READING OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT: Due to the coronavirus pandemic, this meeting has been closed to the public physically and will be livestreamed via YouTube with comment period for the public. Notice of this remote meeting was posted on our website with instructions on how the public can connect to this livestream Council Meeting.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: The Mayor asked for a moment of silence for Barbara D'Amato, a longtime resident on Philadelphia Avenue, who was Councilman Lamb's neighbor.

Council President Zalom gave a 9/11 tribute by reading the names aloud from the 9/11 Memorial Plaques of Lavallette homeowners who perished.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Council President Zalom led us in the Salute to the Flag.

MAYOR'S WELCOMING STATEMENT: Mayor LaCicero thanked everyone for joining our meeting remotely. Another summer season for the books. Definitely a bit different than the normal, but we still made it through with not many issues. Due to a lot of the schools, continuing remote learning, our fall rentals for September and October have increased as well and our school has also seen an increase in students.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Caucus/Regular Meeting Minutes of August 3, 2020
Minutes of Executive Session of August 3, 2020
Minutes of Regular Meeting Minutes of August 17, 2020

A Motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilman Stogdill. The Motion was Seconded by Councilman Borowski. Vote: Council Members Borowski, Filippone, Zalom, Stogdill, Finter and Lamb voted Yes. The Motion Passed.

REPORTS ACCEPTED AS SUBMITTED:

- a) Construction Report for August 2020-Councilwoman Filippone-read report
- b) Zoning Report for August 2020-Councilwoman Filippone-read report

- c) Municipal Court Report for August 2020-Councilwoman Filippone-no report
- d) Police Overtime Report for July & August 2020-Councilwoman Filippone-read reports
- e) Public Works Report for August 2020-Councilman Lamb-read report
- f) Public Affairs Report for August 2020-Council President Zalom-Mary Jo Austin has agreed to repair and repaint the Clam and store it in her garage until it is done.
- g) Beach Badge Report for through Labor Day 2020-Councilman Stogdill
- h) Tax Account Report for August 2020-Tax Collector
- j) Revenue Transaction Report for July 2020-Chief Financial Officer

Motion: Second: Vote:

ON CONSENT AGENDA/OFF CONSENT AGENDA, AND VOUCHERS:

RESOLUTIONS – ON CONSENT:

- 2020-207 approving the hiring of two badge checkers and two lifeguards at an hourly rate of \$14.50 for the remainder of the 2020 summer season.
- 2020-208 approving a facilities use application to Northern Habitat for Humanity to do a short video on the boardwalk on September 12, 2020 from 8am to 8:30am
- 2020-209 urging Governor Murphy to appoint a qualified individual from Monmouth or Ocean County’s shore region to the NJ Board of Public Utilities
- 2020-210 approving a facilities use application to Vibe Sessions with Kate, LLC to hold meditation classes on the Virginia Avenue ocean beach on Thursdays, September through November 2020 from 6:30pm to 7:30pm
- 2020-211 strongly encouraging the right of in-person machine voting for the General Election in November 2020
- 2020-212 approving a facilities use application to Hailee Valtin to hold a wedding ceremony on the bay t-dock/pier on Magee Avenue on October 15, 2020 at 4:30pm
- 2020-213 approving Clean Ocean Action to hold their fall beach sweeps on Saturday, October 24, 2020 from 9 am to 12 noon
- 2020-214 authorizing a credit of \$125.00 to be put towards boat mooring costs for the 2021 summer season for Robert Kowalski due access not being available to the mooring for this year caused by the County outfall pipe project

A Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Councilman Lamb. The Motion was Seconded by Councilman Stogdill. Vote: Council Members Borowski, Filippone, Zalom, Stogdill, Finter and Lamb voted Yes. The Motion Passed.

RESOLUTIONS - OFF CONSENT:

2020-215 authorizing the approval of our Beachfront Rescue Response Team for the remainder of year 2020

Mayor LaCicero stated that since we have been advised that our rentals have increased in Lavallette for the month of September as well, we have decided that we should keep a lifeguard response team on hand to remain at lifeguard headquarters only for an as need basis in case of any emergencies arise that will need rescue. Our beaches will not be guarded but we will have some guards on duty on an as needed basis strictly for emergency situations through at least the month of September.

Councilwoman Filippone stated that there should be no misconceptions for this. Our beaches will not be guarded at all so this means that everyone is subjected to swimming at risk.

Councilman Lamb questioned how long we will have these guards for emergencies?

Mayor LaCicero stated that, right now, we will take it on a day to day basis. Right now, we are only looking to keep them until the end of this month.

Councilman Borowski questioned if the water rescue team will still be activated as well when calling 911?

Mayor LaCicero stated that yes it would still be activated but with our guards on call it will start the rescue much quicker.

Mr. Brice stated that Shorebeat and the Ocean Star have reported that most of the shore towns have ceased normal lifeguard operations and are only keeping some lifeguards on for emergency purposes only.

A Motion to approve this resolution was made by Councilman Stogdill. The Motion was Seconded by Councilman Lamb. Vote: Council Members Borowski, Filippone, Zalom Stogdill, Finter and Lamb voted Yes. The Motion Passed.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

2020-216 Bills List in the amount of \$1,254,796.87

A Motion to approve the bills list was made by Councilman Lamb. The Motion was Seconded by Councilman Stogdill. Vote: Council Members Borowski, Filippone, Zalom Stogdill, Finter and Lamb voted Yes. The Motion Passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Councilman Borowski stated that he had a meeting with the Electrical Engineer Consultant regarding our commercial meters and he did see some concerns with the integrity of our commercial metering system. We are going to need to get what is needed for our electricians to get these meters

functioning properly. Also, right now our new residential meter installation is 70% to 80% complete.

Mr. Brice stated that our curfew for minors has expired and there is no need for any extensions on this as of right now.

Mr. Brice stated that he finally was able to get in contact with a Senior Director representative at Altice/Optimum regarding the Wi-Fi and customer service issues. She has informed me that they are in the process of updating a lot of their system. Right now, the Wi-Fi is functioning at a slower pace because of congestion. They are adding some additional nodes right now to increase and improve the Wi-Fi and zoom issues. The customer service issues, unfortunately, is due to most of their customer service reps still working from home due to the pandemic issues and also due to a lot of the reps choosing not to continue working so there have been a number of turnovers. The best way to contact them is to utilize the form on their website which will create a 72-hour response. They have also had success with their Twitter acct to resolve some of those issues as well. The Borough now has a direct number for any issues that we need resolved.

Mr. Brice stated that the County is waiting on information from the DEP on the dredging of the channel by WPI Bridge.

Mayor LaCicero stated that right now the WPI Bridge area has been closed to any boating due to it needed to be dredged.

Mr. Brice stated that there is a preconstruction meeting on September 18th for the NY Ave road improvements.

NEW BUSINESS:

Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ Requesting to deploy a game-style camera somewhere on the Borough's upper beach area to study beach predators.

Mr. Brice stated that they only want to put a camera in one location for a 24-hour period to monitor for any beach predators.

Mayor LaCicero stated that there is no problem with that but we should be advised where the location is as well as if they found any predators on our beaches.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Rich Poccia, 1307B Grand Central Avenue thanked Mayor and Council for a great 2020 season but thinks that they should revisit increasing badge prices for next year and picking up the garbage on the beach later in the day. Also, need cans up there with closed lids.

Mary Chyb, 1106 Ocean Front thanked everyone for the concerts.

Mark Speaker, 111 Brown Avenue stated that the badge office at the ballfield was a great idea and worked wonderfully as well as the curfew.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Councilman Finter stated that everyone should fill out their surveys online for the Census. The LBA Soups of the Shore was cancelled. The LBA will still be doing trunks & treats for Halloween so far. The flu shots will not be given in Lavallette this year. Check with the Board of Health website to see other options for other sites.

Councilman Borowski stated that he was present this year for the final whistle to close the 2020 summer season with the guards and checkers and there was much applause. It was great to watch.

He also stated that the badge checkers communicated with their phones through an app called Ninja for coverage and lunch breaks and it was created by a resident in town JR Guerrero who lives on the Ocean Front.

Councilwoman Filippone stated that the mail in ballots will start to be mailed on September 27th.

Councilman Stogdill thanked all the beach staff for a knockout job this year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was no executive session.


ADJOURNMENT:

A Motion to adjourn the Council Meeting was made by Councilman Lamb. The Motion was Seconded by Councilman Stogdill. Vote: All of Council was in favor. The Motion Passed.

The Council Meeting was adjourned at 8:11pm.

CERTIFICATION

I, Donnelly Amico, Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Lavallette, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, does hereby attest these to be a true copy of the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 8th day of **September 2020**.


Donnelly Amico
Municipal Clerk