

BOROUGH OF LAVALLETTE(minutes)
CAUCUS/REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
LAVALLETTE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
Monday, April 6, 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: Notice of the normal Council Meeting was published in the Ocean Star on January 10, 2020. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, this meeting was 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 livestreamed Council Meeting.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: The Mayor asked for a moment of silence for Patty Bennett from West Point Island who passed away. She was the sister of Fritz Rolle also from West Point Island.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Councilman Finter led us in the Salute to the Flag.

MAYOR'S WELCOMING STATEMENT:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Caucus/Regular Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2020
Regular Meeting Minutes of March 23, 2020

A Motion to approve the minutes 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.

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC (Items not listed on agenda / not staying for remainder of meeting)

REPORTS:

- a) Construction Report for March 2020-Councilwoman Filippone
- b) Zoning Report for March 2020-Councilwoman Filippone
- c) Municipal Court Report for February & May 2020-Councilwoman Filippone
- d) Police Overtime Report for March 2020-Councilwoman Filippone
- e) Public Works Report for March 2020-Councilman Lamb
- f) Tax Account Report for March 2020-Tax Collector

g) Revenue Transaction Report for March 2020-Chief Financial Officer

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

ON CONSENT AGENDA/OFF CONSENT AGENDA, AND VOUCHERS:

RESOLUTIONS – ON CONSENT:

2020-118 requiring mandatory Governing Body certification of compliance with the US Equal Opportunity Commission’s “Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

2020-119 authorizing an interlocal shared services agreement between the Borough of Lavallette and the Toms River Fire Commissioners District #1 to provide fuel to five vehicles of the Ocean Beach Fire Company

2020-120 strongly urging Governor Murphy to fill the existing vacancy on the NJ Turnpike Authority Board of Commissioners with an Ocean County resident and to reconsider any plan that increases tolls on the Garden State Parkway and the NJ Turnpike

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

RESOLUTIONS - OFF CONSENT:

There were no resolutions off consent.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

2020-121 Bills List in the amount of \$1,370,156.25

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

ORDINANCES ON FOR FINAL ADOPTION/PUBLIC HEARING:

Ordinance No. 2020-03 (1203) Ordinance of the Borough of Lavallette, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, Amending and Supplementing Chapter 7, of the Borough Code Entitled, “Bathing and Beach Control”, Amending Section 7-9 Entitled, “Beach Badge Fees”

A Motion to open the public hearing was made by Councilman Borowski. The Motion was Seconded by Councilman Finter. Vote: All of Council was in favor. The Motion Passed.

The Mayor stated that this is for the increase of the daily and weekly badges. We already adopted an ordinance back in 2019 increasing the season badges.

No one wished to comment on this ordinance. The Mayor asked for a motion to close the public hearing.

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

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

ORDINANCES ON FOR INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-04 (1204) Ordinance to exceed the municipal budget appropriations limits and to establish a cap bank.

The Mayor stated that this ordinance is always done in conjunction with the budget every year. We have never needed to do this but we always adopt it so we always have that option, if necessary.

A Motion to introduce this ordinance 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.

Public hearing and final adoption is scheduled for April 20, 2020.

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2020 BUDGET: (Clerk to Read Budget Resolution 2020-122)

The Municipal Clerk read the budget resolution out loud.

The Mayor stated that we had a reval this year so that also changes our budget numbers. The previous assessments totaled \$1,915,425,384 and the new total is now \$2,075,500,100. This is a \$400 million in additional value. Our tax rate for this year has decreased by 18.1% from last year. We were going to try and keep the tax rate as low as we could but with all the uncertainties in conjunction with this pandemic we had to increase it a little more than we wanted to. We are still unsure about the beaches and the summer revenues. We had to increase the hourly rates for our beach personnel in order to get people to apply since a lot of the other towns were offering more. Overall, we still have a great budget even with it being too early to tell what the future holds right now for us but we are still very proud of what we have. We have a surplus that is a bit higher than usual but right now with all of the unknowns, we feel it is best to do this.

Councilman Lamb stated that we won't be receiving any state aid this year due to the pandemic so agrees.

Councilman Borowski stated that he too agrees and thinks it is smart to have the surplus there if we need it.

A Motion to introduce the 2020 Budget was made by Councilman Stogdill. The Motion was Seconded by Councilman Finter. Vote: Council Members Borowski, Filippone, Zalom, Stogdill, Finter and Lamb voted Yes. The Motion Passed.

Public hearing and final adoption is scheduled for May 4, 2020.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Councilman Lamb stated that Well #4 repairs have been started and should be done by Memorial Day.

Councilman Stogdill stated that the new mooring posts have been put in and they look great so great job to Public Works.

Councilwoman Filippone stated that the T-dock looks fantastic so great job to Public Works.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor LaCicero stated that he received some information on grants being given for green environmental type projects. He believes that our living shorelines and repairing of our bulkhead would fit under these criteria. Mr. Brice will be following up to get all the information that is needed.

Mr. Brice stated that Dr. Farrell will be sending over his proposal on the living shoreline soon.

Councilwoman Filippone stated that she thinks that the reports that are being given by the OC Health Department should include more information on these cases in each town. She knows that some other counties in New Jersey include more information on each case so she is going to see if the OC Health Dept. can do the same.

Mr. Brice stated that Lavallette has followed all guidelines from the Attorney General. Any updates we receive we post on our website. We have closed our offices to the public for the safety of our employees as well as residents. Any residents who want to pay their bills can drop them in our drop box outside the office or mail them. Our court, beach and boardwalk are closed as well as all County parks.

Mr. Brice stated that information being given on Facebook cannot be verified and not all of it is true so be careful what you hear.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Susan Kotch, 119 Camden Avenue stated that the increase in the water usage is definitely due to everyone having to remain in homes.

Greg Sharkey, 3A Bond Avenue thanked Mayor and Council for closing the beaches and boardwalk.

Marlene Chamberlin, 26 Bond Avenue stated that she has seen a lot of visitors on our dunes and benches even with the beach and boardwalk closed.

Mayor LaCicero stated that those areas are closed so there should be no one up there at all. Call the Police if anyone sees people up there.

Mr. George stated that summonses can be issued under Title 7, disorderly persons issued under the Public Trust.

Mayor LaCicero stated that the Attorney General has issued the guidelines for all of this so we have the authority.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mr. Brice stated that the Budget document has already been put on our website for review. We also put an email address up called budgetcomments@lavallette.org for all comments so anyone can start asking questions and commenting on the budget so they can be answered ahead of the budget hearing so it makes it less of a big rush of questions and comments at the public hearing. We are trying to make it as easy for our residents as possible to get their questions answered. He also stated that he is very proud of all our employees and departments during this time. We have been able to maintain our business on a daily basis without any big issues.

Council President Zalom thanked Public Works for still getting the projects done and maintaining all of our grounds and to Mr. Brice for all the updates regarding the pandemic.

Mayor LaCicero stated that he is proud of our employees as well as our residents. We are still maintaining the Borough's level of service even during these tough times.


ADJOURNMENT:

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

The Council Meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

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 6th day of April 2020.


Donnelly Amico
Municipal Clerk