

BOROUGH OF LAVALLETTE(minutes)
CAUCUS MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
LAVALLETTE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
Monday, September 16, 2024-7:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Walter G. LaCicero, presiding

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

Also present: Bill Burns, Borough Attorney
Donnelly Amico, Municipal Clerk
John Bennett, Borough Administrator

READING OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT: Notice of this meeting was published in the Ocean Star on January 10, 2024. Notice was also posted on our municipal bulletin board and municipal website.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: The Mayor asked for a moment of silence for any loved ones who have passed.

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

MAYOR'S WELCOMING STATEMENT: The Mayor welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting. He stated the weekend was a good one. The weather is starting to get a bit cooler. He stated that he and Mr. Burns will be attending the mediation in Trenton with Verizon so he will update everyone at the next meeting.

PRESENTATION FROM THE GIRL SCOUTS

Two young ladies from the Girl Scout Troop 50293 who also go to the Lavallette Elementary School made a presentation regarding creating an ordinance to only allow garbage receptacles for garbage and not allowing just garbage bags to be put out without being in a secure garbage receptacle to prevent the seagulls from ripping them open and causing a mess. They presented flyers that we will post on our website and make copies to put in our lobby.

Councilwoman Filippone stated that she is in the process of setting up an ordinance committee meeting for next month maybe the week of the 7th and once the date is set we will send you an email so you can attend to discuss.

ON CONSENT AGENDA/OFF CONSENT AGENDA, AND VOUCHERS:

RESOLUTIONS – ON CONSENT:

2024-208 approving two applicants to attend the OC Police Academy SLEO II training commencing November 8, 2024

- 2024-209 approving the employment agreement between the Borough of Lavallette and the Chief of Police
- 2024-210 authorizing the employment of Arthur Bott as a full-time electric lineman commencing September 12, 2024 at an annual salary of \$90,700
- 2024-211 authorizing the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to sign and attest to the shared services agreement with the Borough of Seaside Park for the services of Lavallette's Municipal Court Administrator

A Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Councilman Stogdill. The Motion was Seconded by Councilman Finter.

The Mayor opened the floor to the public and asked if anyone wished to comment on the consent Agenda.

No one wished to comment. The Mayor closed the floor to the public and asked Council for a vote on the consent agenda.

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:

- 2024-212 Bills List in the amount of \$692,332.36

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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Bennett stated that Mr. Burns did two draft ordinances increasing the water and sewer rates for your review. We have no choice but to increase these rates because as of right now there is a deficit in both accounts and we are going to need money for the new well replacement that is in process. This is a fairly large increase but keep in mind, we haven't had an increase in 14 years. If there are no issues with the draft ordinances, they will be on for introduction at the next meeting.

Mayor LaCicero stated that we have been in constant discussions with the well issue. We had to reject two bids due to some amendments to the specs and procurement and also because the 2nd bid

only had one bidder and the price was way over budget. The bond for this project is at \$3 ½ million so this increase is to help fund this bond payoff. We will be going out to bid one more time and hopefully it comes in within our budget.

Mr. Bennett stated that our Engineer will be at the next meeting to give us an update on the well project. He also stated that the agreement with the County regarding drainage improvements was approved. There are roughly 32 sump pumps included in this agreement and some issues will be easy to fix and some will be somewhat harder but hopefully it will work out in our best interest.

Mayor LaCicero stated that the grant we received from the County for drainage improvements was \$2.7 million. Our road improvement projects every year have always tried to help with the sump pump issues but there is just too many issues so we are hoping this project takes care of all of them.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:

There were no comments.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

There were no comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was no executive session.

ADJOURNMENT:

A Motion to adjourn the Council Meeting was made by Councilman Finter. The Motion was Seconded by Councilman Stogdill.

Vote: All of Council was in favor. The Motion Passed.

The Council Meeting was adjourned at 7:44pm.

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 16th day of **September 2024**.

Donnelly Amico
Municipal Clerk