BOROUGH OF LAVALLETTE(minutes)
CAUCUS/REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
LAVALLETTE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
Monday, March 23, 2026-7:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Walter G. LaCicero, presiding

ROLL CALL: Council Members Borowski, Zalom, Stogdill, Finter, Shenewolf and Filippone
Council President Zalom and Councilman Borowski were absent.

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 9, 2026. Notice was also posted on our municipal bulletin board and municipal website.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: The Mayor stated that there were no residents who passed away recently that we know of so let's keep our loved ones in our thoughts.

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

MAYOR'S WELCOMING STATEMENT: The Mayor welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting. We have our introduction to the budget tonight and he thinks everyone did a pretty good job on keeping the costs and taxes low for another year.

PROCLAMATION FOR NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

ON CONSENT AGENDA/OFF CONSENT AGENDA, AND VOUCHERS:

RESOLUTIONS – ON CONSENT:

2026-87 approving a facilities use application to Soccer Shots to hold their children's soccer program on Chandler Field on Mondays, starting March 23rd through June 1st and June 22nd through August 10th 2026

2026-88 approving the hiring of a Class II Special Officer at an hourly rate of $19.00 effective March 16, 2026

2026-89 approving a facilities use application to Beach House Studio to hold yoga classes on the ocean beach at Pennsylvania Ave starting May 22nd through October 1st 2026 M-Th-F-S-Sun from 7:45am to 8:45am and Tue from 6:30pm to 7:30pm and on Wed on the Camden Avenue grassy area by bay beach from 6:30pm to 7:30pm

2026-90 appointing Charles Farrah as Acting Public Works Superintendent effective April 1, 2026

2026-91 approving a facilities use application to Breathe Life Yoga to hold yoga classes on the Trenton and Philadelphia ocean beaches starting May 23rd through September 30th 2026, Mon through Sun 7am to 8:30am

2026-92 approving the employment of three individuals for the Department of Public Works at an hourly rate of $16.25

2026-93 approving the facilities use application to K Rock Fitness to hold exercise fitness classes on the old basketball courts starting May 23rd through September 5th 2026 T-Th-Sat from 8am to 9am

2026-94 establishing the allocation of salaries of certain employees within the Borough

2026-95 approving 6 individuals to attend the OC Police Academy Class I training commencing May 18, 2026

2026-96 approving 1 individual to attend the OC Police Academy Class II training commencing April 24, 2026

2026-97 authorizing the appointment of John Novak as Public Defender for the Lavallette Municipal Court

A Motion was made by Councilman Stogdill to approve the consent agenda. 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 Finter, Shenewolf, Stogdill and Filippone voted Yes. The Motion Passed.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

2026-98 Bills List in the amount of $1,504,021.55

A Motion was made by Councilman Stogdill to approve the bills list. The Motion was Seconded by Councilman Finter.

Vote: Council Members Finter, Shenewolf, Stogdill and Filippone voted Yes. The Motion Passed.

RESOLUTIONS - OFF CONSENT:

There was no resolutions off consent.

ORDINANCES ON FOR FIRST READING/INTRODUCTION:

Bond Ordinance No. 2026-02 (1287) Bond Ordinance Providing for the Chandler Park Jake's Law Improvements Project, Appropriating $163,000 Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of $154,850 Bonds and Notes to Finance a Portion of the Costs Thereof

Mr. Bennett stated that this is in regards to the loan for Chandler Park playground.

A Motion was made by Councilman Stogdill to introduce this ordinance. The Motion was Seconded by Councilwoman Filippone.

Vote: Council Members Finter, Shenewolf, Stogdill and Filippone voted Yes. The Motion Passed.

Public Hearing and Final Adoption is scheduled for April 6, 2026.

Ordinance No. 2026-03 (1288) Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriations Limits and To Establish a Cap Bank

Mayor LaCicero stated that this ordinance is always done along side the budget just in case we need but we have never needed it yet.

A Motion was made by Councilman Stogdill to introduce this ordinance. The Motion was Seconded by Councilman Finter.

Vote: Council Members Finter, Shenewolf, Stogdill and Filippone voted Yes. The Motion Passed.

Public Hearing and Final Adoption is scheduled for April 6, 2026.

Ordinance No. 2026-04 (1289) Ordinance Amending Chapter 90 entitled, "Zoning" of the Code of the Borough of Lavallette to Add Article XIV, entitled "Providing for a Municipal Exemption from Zoning and Planning Restrictions for Borough-Owned Property and Municipal Governmental Functions"

Mayor LaCicero stated that we were advised by the State DCA to update our code book regarding the Borough being exempt from getting these permits for any of our Borough-owned property.

A Motion was made by Councilman Finter to introduce this ordinance. The Motion was Seconded by Councilman Stogdill.

Vote: Council Members Finter, Shenewolf, Stogdill and Filippone voted Yes. The Motion Passed.

Public Hearing and Final Adoption is scheduled for May 4, 2026.

Ordinance No. 2026-05 (1290) Ordinance Amending Chapter 7 entitled, "Bathing and Beach Control" and Chapter 9 entitled, "Bicycles and Skateboards" of the Code of the Borough of Lavallette to Prohibit the Operation of All Motorized Vehicles on the Borough Boardwalk, with the Exemption for Mobility Devices Use by Persons With Disabilities or Handicaps

Mayor LaCicero stated that this is to include all electric e-bikes and any motorized scooters because they are becoming far too dangerous for our boardwalk.

A Motion was made by Councilman Stogdill to introduce this ordinance. The Motion was Seconded by Councilman Finter.

Vote: Council Members Finter, Shenewolf, Stogdill and Filippone voted Yes. The Motion Passed.

Public Hearing and Final Adoption is scheduled for April 6, 2026.

Ordinance No. 2026-06 (1291) Ordinance Amending Chapter 90 entitled, "Zoning" of the Borough Code to Delete the Permit Fee for Roofing and Siding for All Applicants and Property Owners; and Separately Amending All Chapters of the Borough Code to Exempt the Borough of Lavallette From All Permit, License, and Application Fees When the Borough is the Applicant for Work Performed Within The Borough of Lavallette

Mayor LaCicero stated that the state did away with requiring a roof and siding permits for awhile now so we are just doing some housekeeping of our code.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Filippone to introduce this ordinance. The Motion was Seconded by Councilman Stogdill.

Vote: Council Members Finter, Shenewolf, Stogdill and Filippone voted Yes. The Motion Passed.

Public Hearing and Final Adoption is scheduled for May 4, 2026.

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2026 BUDGET: (Budget Resolution) 2026-99

Mayor LaCicero stated that the 2026 budget appropriations has decreased by $169,464 which gives us a 1 cent increase of our tax rate. He considers this still a great job since health benefits have increased to $450,000 for the year. We have also included $250,000 in our capital budget for our boardwalk restoration that we are hoping to have done for this year from Ortley Avenue to President Avenue.

A Motion was made by Councilman Finter to introduce the budget. The Motion was Seconded by Councilwoman Filippone.

Vote: Council Members Finter, Shenewolf, Stogdill and Filippone voted Yes. The Motion Passed.

Public Hearing and Final Adoption is scheduled for April 20, 2026.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilman Finter stated that Public Works will be flushing hydrants for the next few weeks. The scoreboard on Chandler Field has been put up. It was donated by the Lavallette School PTO. Lavallette Avenue has been newly paved and the next street to start will be Newark Avenue-Phase II.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

There were no comments.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mayor LaCicero stated that we will be paving our streets on West Point Island in addition to our usual grants this year. The County will be paving their streets on West Point Island as well. I believe our next street to be done after Newark Avenue is Pennsylvania Avenue.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was no executive session.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

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

The Council Meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm.

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 **23rd** day of **March 2026.**

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Donnelly Amico
Municipal Clerk