

TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG  
Council Meeting

4:00 pm Special Meeting

August 19, 2021

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The Special Meeting of the Lopatcong Township Council was called to order by Mayor Mengucci. The meeting was held in the Municipal Building located at 232 S. Third St., Phillipsburg, New Jersey.

A Prayer was offered followed by the Oath of Allegiance.

Mayor Mengucci stated “adequate notice of this meeting has been provided indicating the time and place of the meeting in accordance with Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975 by advertising a Notice in The Star Ledger and The Express-Times and by posting a copy on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building.”

Present – Councilman Palitto, Council President Pryor, Mayor Mengucci. Also, present were Attorney Campbell.

Motion to come out of Executive Session by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Councilman Palitto. All in favor. Attorney Campbell noted that Council was in Executive Session for approximately 1 hour and topics were as listed on the agenda except for No. 1 and No. 6 and 8 which were not discussed and will be discussed at a later time.

**Public Comment:** No comments from the public.

**Business:**

**Ordinance No. 21-07** – Second reding and public hearing to Prohibit the Operation of Any Class of Cannabis Businesses within its Geographical Boundaries and Amended Chapter 243 “Zoning and Land Use,” Article XIII “General Regulations,” Creating Section 65.3 “Prohibited Uses,” to Add Cannabis Businesses to the List of Prohibited Uses. Motion to hold a public hearing by Councilman Wright, seconded by Councilman Palitto. All in favor. No comments from public. Motion to close public hearing by Councilman Wright, seconded by Councilman Palitto. All in favor.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-07

SECOND NOTICE OF AN ORDINANCE

NOTICE is hereby given that a regular meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey, held on Thursday, August 19, 2021 at the Municipal Building, 232 South Third Street, Phillipsburg, New Jersey, the following Ordinance was presented and passed on the final reading. The Ordinance was then ordered to be published according to law by title only.

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY PROHIBITING THE OPERATION OF ANY CLASS OF CANNABIS BUSINESSES WITHIN ITS GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES AND AMENDED CHAPTER 243 “ZONING AND LAND USE,” ARTICLE XIII “GENERAL REGULATIONS,” CREATING SECTION 65.3 “PROHIBITED USES,” OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG TO ADD CANNABIS BUSINESSES TO THE LIST OF PROHIBITED USES.**

Said Ordinance may be read and inspected at any time at the Office of the Municipal Clerk, Lopatcong Township Municipal Building, 232 S. Third Street, Phillipsburg, New Jersey Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Motion to adopt this Ordinance by Councilman Wright, seconded by Mayor Mengucci. Council President Pryor – I do have a question. Obviously, we’re prohibiting all 6 classes but then there is an exclusion that says “but not the delivery of cannabis we allow outside delivery service”, so my interpretation is we won’t allow delivery service to headquarter here, do business here but as they come

Attorney Campbell - You cannot stop, right.

Council President Pryor - in we won’t interfere with that.

Attorney Campbell - You can’t stop them at the border.

Council President Pryor - That came up at the Planning Board.

Attorney Campbell - Yes, that is correct.

Council President Pryor - By the way, Planning Board did pass the resolution saying it’s consistent with the Master Plan.

Mayor Mengucci – We have a motion and a second, roll call.

AYES: Councilman Palitto, Councilman Wright, Council President Pryor, Mayor Mengucci.  
NAYS: None

**Phillipsburg Marching Band** – Use of Pavilion on Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup> and waive fees.  
Council President Pryor made the motion to authorize, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Palitto, Councilman Wright, Council President Pryor.  
NAYS: None  
ABSTAIN: Mayor Mengucci

**Community Day Fireworks – September 4, 2021** – Approve.

Council President Pryor – Where is the money coming from?

Resident Douglas Steinhardt – Me.

Council President Pryor – Thank you.

Douglas Steinhardt - Council's not willing to do it themselves so, (inaudible) folks (inaudible).

Council President Pryor – Council can vote. I, for this my sixth year, I don't use public money for fireworks and I know how generous you are and we've appreciated that.

Douglas Steinhardt – That's fine. My only ask is that you guys, we're going to run it through the LAA cause I'm not willing to purchase an insurance rider myself. I'll raise the ten grand which which I've already done. We'll take care of it. The LAA can use their insurance rider so they'll sign the contract. The only thing I ask is that you guys send Brian out or have the DPW cleanup so I don't have to do that.

Council President Pryor – That we'll do.

Mayor Mengucci- Fair enough.

Council President Pryor – Yes, I will go over my reasons next meeting so I'm on the record why.

Douglas Steinhardt – No, no, no I get it. It is what it is. We're happy to do it.

Council President Pryor – We do, we've always appreciated your generosity.

Douglas Steinhardt – Listen, I appreciate your guy's service.

Council President Pryor – Your generosity continues and we appreciate that.

Douglas Steinhardt – Thanks.

Mayor Mengucci – Thank you very much.

Attorney Campbell – So, I would just do a motion cause there's probably a resolution needed for insurance or

Councilman Wright made a motion, seconded by Mayor Mengucci.

Roll call vote.

AYES: Councilman Palitto, Councilman Wright, Council President Pryor, Marol Mengucci.  
NAYS: None

**Bette's bounces, LLC** – Authorize Mayor Mengucci to execute contract for carnival attractions for Community Day in the amount of \$3792.60. Motion by Councilman Palitto, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Palitto, Councilman Wright, Council, President Pryor, Mayor Mengucci.

NAYS: None

**Audience Participation:**

Lori Ciesla – Community Day – Went through to get the sheets and reminded Council that they gave been raising money. She stated Doug graciously donated all this, but she did want to let Council know that she went through the account and it is all donations in there. The pet calendars she purchased and they were sold at the municipal building and that there was no reimbursement to her for her expenses. Funds raised amounted to \$9300.00 in 2019 and only spent \$6500.00 on fireworks. She confirmed Council will have a meeting to cut the checks. Invertase Brewery is willing to participate and sell beer. The paperwork will be overnighted to the ABC tomorrow. This will be run through the LAA.

Lori noted there is a Byway write up and Pohatcong has signed onto it. She will pass along through email. Councilman Wright asked if this could be done today? Mayor Mengucci asked to do it on the first.

Lori Ciesla discussed the website and the problems with some information being located. She asked for a council person to be appointed to go over the issues. Mayor Mengucci noted he would meet with Lori.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Councilman Wright, seconded by Council President Pryor.  
All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC  
Clerk/Administrator

James E. Mengucci  
Mayor