

TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG  
Special Council Meeting

6:30 PM Executive Session/7:30 pm Regular Session

January 19, 2022

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The Regular 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 Belcaro, Councilman McQuade, Councilman Palitto, Council President Wright, Mayor Mengucci. Also, present were Attorney Cohen and Engineer Sterbenz.

Motion to come out of Executive Session by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Councilman Wright. All in favor.

**Public Comment:**

John Betz – Red School Lane - Truck Traffic Route would like explanation.

Donna Schneider – Meadowview Drive – Does not support Truck Traffic Route

Audra Frank – Does not support Truck Traffic Route

Patti Lienenbach – Barn Owl Way – Does not support Truck Traffic Route

Robert Bruce – Harwich Road – Does not support Truck Traffic Route

**Old Business:**

**Minutes** – Approve the Minutes of November 3 and December 1, 2021 Executive and Regular Sessions. Motion to approve by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Council President Wright.

Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilman Palitto, Council President Wright, Mayor Mengucci

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Councilman McQuade

**Mayoral Appointments** – Mayor Mengucci noted they have been volunteers who have been assigned to the various commission, boards and committees. Clerk Dilts will be in contact with those volunteers that have been selected for participation in the various boards, commissions and committees.

**Resolution No. 22-35** – Governing Body appointment – Councilman Palitto appointed to Class III Planning Board.

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY APPOINTING CLASS III PLANNING BOARD MEMBER

**2022 Governing Body Appointment**

Planning Board –

Class III – James Palitto- Councilman 12/31/2022

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby approve the appointments as listed.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, January 5, 2022.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Motion by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Council President Wright. Roll call vote:  
AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilman McQuade, Council President Wright, Mayor Mengucci  
NAYS: None  
ABSTAIN: Councilman Palitto

**Resolution No. 22-36** – Reappoint CGP&H, LLC as Affordable Housing Administrative Agent.

R 22-36

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING CGP&H, LLC AS AFFORDABLE HOUSING  
ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey that CGP&H, LLC is appointed Affordable Housing Agent for the year of 2022.

This appointment is made without competitive bidding as professional services under the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law, as provided in N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 because said office requires services performed by persons qualified to practice recognized professions and it is not possible to obtain competitive bids.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, January 19, 2022.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Motion by Mayor Mengucci, seconded by Council President Wright. Roll call vote:  
AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilman McQuade, Councilman Palitto, Council President Wright, Mayor Mengucci

NAYS: None

**Town of Phillipsburg – Designated Truck Route** – Approval by Lopatcong. Town of Phillipsburg Business Administrator sent over an email depicting a truck route they are in favor of but Mayor Mengucci indicated he is not in support of this route and made a motion of non-support seconded by Councilman Belcaro. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilman McQuade, Councilman Palitto, Council President Wright, Mayor Mengucci

NAYS: None

**Non-Condemnation Area in Need of Redevelopment Study** – Preparation of Plan. This is an authorization for Planner Ritter to work with Council on the plan. Motion by Council President Wright, seconded by Mayor Mengucci. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilman McQuade, Councilman Palitto, Council President Wright, Mayor Mengucci

NAYS: None

**Historic 1954 Oren Fire Truck - Delaware Park Engine Co. No. 1** – Request for Township Funds to restore the Historic Oren Fire Truck in the amount of \$5,000.00. Mayor Mengucci made a motion to provide the \$5,000 but any costs over and above will not be provided by the Township, seconded by Council President Wright. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilman McQuade, Councilman Palitto, Council President Wright, Mayor Mengucci

NAYS: None

**Payment of Bills** – Motion by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Councilman Palitto to pay bills as presented. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilman McQuade, Councilman Palitto, Council President Wright, Mayor Mengucci

NAYS: None

#### **Audience Participation –**

John Betz – Brakeley Gardens - Indicated the many problems that exist in the apartment complex.

Donna Schneider – Meadowview Drive – Thanked the Council for turning down the traffic pattern the Town of Phillipsburg was requesting support for. Asked if Council heard anything from the solar company.

Robyn George – Asked to be appointed to the Shade Tree Commission. She expressed that solar energy is good for us, good for trees, children, etc. The State of New Jersey has issued a regulation that says we are going to be carbon neutral by 2050. They have built a program to support farmers to continue farming underneath solar panels. They are offering funding for these projects to farm and have solar.

John Ketcherson – 38 Jade Lane – Frustrated with the truck traffic and truck stops popping up all over the place. Mayor Mengucci indicated that the owners were issued notice and are still within their time limit but after that, a summons for court will be issued.

Patty Lienenbach – Asked about an ordinance against truck stops. Mayor Mengucci said this will be addressed by our attorney. Asked about the length of time on pilot programs – 30 years and the warehouses that are under this program. Talked about our warehouse locations compared to other towns and also the DEP regulations as to which ones have been applied.

John Betz – Rent Leveling Board – additional comments.

Tim Mormz – Express support for using farms for solar.

Lou LaFord – Fire Chief. Thanked the Council for the \$5,000. Asked about the ability to take the other vehicle replaced by the Police Department for use by the Assistant Chief of the Fire Dept.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Councilman Wright, seconded by Councilman Belcaro. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC  
Clerk/Administrator

James E. Mengucci  
Mayor