

TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG  
Council Meeting

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

March 2, 2022

---

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 Campbell and Engineer Sterbenz.

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

**Public Comment: No comments**

**Old Business:**

**Minutes** – January 19th and February 2, 2022 Executive and Regular Sessions. Motion to approve by Council President Wright, seconded by Mayor Mengucci. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Councilman Belcaro

**Ordinance No. 2022-01** – Second reading and public hearing to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank. Motion to hold a public hearing by Council President Wright, seconded by Councilman Palitto. All in favor. No comments from the public. Motion to close public hearing by Council President Wright, seconded by Councilman McQuade. All in favor.

ORDINANCE NO. 22-01

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 Wednesday, March 2, 2022 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.

CALENDAR YEAR 2022

ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS  
AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK

(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

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 Council President Wright, seconded by Mayor Mengucci.

Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

**2022 Budget** – CFO Browne stated this a continuation of the budget discussion from last meeting. CFO Browne noted a four-cent increase in the local share but using more surplus, it is now two cents. A medium house \$231,000 the increase in total; local, county and school would be \$56.00 per year. Mayor Mengucci indicated the surplus would now be \$3.2 million. Mayor Mengucci said Council is looking at a park planner to evaluate the park. The tax collection rate is 98% which is a very good collection rate.

**New Business:**

**Ordinance No. 22-02** – First reading to Amend, Revise and Supplement Chapter 227 “Vehicles and Traffic”, including Section 11 “Stopping and Standing Prohibited During Certain Hours on Certain Streets” Relative to Strykers Road.

**ORDINANCE NO. 22-02**

**ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AMEND, REVISE AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 227 "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC", INCLUDING SECTION 11 "STOPPING AND STANDING PROHIBITED DURING CERTAIN HOURS ON CERTAIN STREETS" RELATIVE TO STYRKERS ROAD.**

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 227 "Vehicles and Traffic" of the Code of the Township of Lopatcong contains various parking and traffic regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to amend provisions relative to stopping and standing on Strykers Road between State Route 57 and the Greenwich Township municipal boundary to reduce impacts to residents and avoid conflicts between parked and moving vehicles in the area of various industrial uses including commercial warehouses.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey that Chapter 227 "Vehicles and Traffic", Section 11 be amended, revised and supplemented as follows:

**SECTION 1**

The portion of 227-11 relative to stopping and standing prohibitions shall be amended to include a portion of Strykers Road as follows:

<u>Name of Street</u>	<u>Sides</u>	<u>Hours/Days</u>	<u>Location</u>
Strykers Road	Both	All times.	From State Route 57 to the Greenwich Township municipal boundary.

## **SECTION 2**

**Severability.** The various parts, sections and clauses of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

## **SECTION 3**

**Repealer.** Any ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed as to their inconsistencies only.

## **SECTION 4**

**Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication as provided by law.

### **NOTICE**

NOTICE is hereby given that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced to pass on first reading at a regular meeting of the Council of the Township of Lopatcong held on March 2, 2022 and ordered published in accordance with the law. Said Ordinance will be considered for final reading and adoption at a regular meeting of the Township Council to be held on April 6, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the Township Council may hear this Ordinance at the Municipal Building, 232 South Third Street, Phillipsburg, NJ at which time all persons interested may appear for or against the passage of said Ordinance.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Motion to adopt this Ordinance on first reading by Council President Wright, seconded by Mayor Mengucci. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

**Ordinance No. 22-03** – First reading to Amend and Revise Chapter 243 entitled “Zoning and Land Use” to Amend Sections 243-5, 243-65.3 and 243-77 to Prohibit Truck Stops within the Township of Lopatcong.

### **ORDINANCE NO. 22-03**

#### **ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO AMEND AND REVISE CHAPTER 243 ENTITLED “ZONING AND LAND USE” TO AMEND SECTIONS 243-5, 243-65.3 AND 243-77 TO PROHIBIT TRUCK STOPS WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG.**

**WHEREAS**, the Lopatcong Township Council wishes to amend its Land Use and Zoning Ordinance to prohibit truck stops within the Township; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Code does not currently permit truck stops as a use; however, the Township wishes to specifically prohibit the use in the Township.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that Chapter 243 entitled “Zoning and Land Use”, Sections 5, 65.3 and 77 are amended and revised as follows:

## Section 1

Section 243-5 Definitions shall be amended to add the following:

### **Truck Stops**

Any building, premises, or land in which or upon which a business, service, or industry involving the maintenance, servicing, storage, or repair of commercial vehicles or parts thereof or commercial vehicle cargos, with more than two axles and a weight over 10,000 pounds, is conducted or rendered, including the dispensing of motor fuel or other petroleum products directly into motor vehicles and the sale of accessories or equipment for trucks and similar commercial vehicles, with more than two axles and a weight over 10,000 pounds. A truck stop also may include overnight accommodations and restaurant facilities primarily for the use of truck crews.

## Section 2

Section 243-65.3 Prohibited Uses shall be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

- A. **Cannabis:** All classes of cannabis establishments or cannabis distributors or cannabis delivery services as said terms are defined in Section 3 of P.L. 2021, c. 16, but not the delivery of cannabis items and related supplies by a delivery service.
- B. **Truck Stops:** Truck Stops as defined in Section 243-5 shall be prohibited in all zones within the Township.

## Section 3

Section 243-77(B) shall be amended to add Subsection (14) as follows:

- (14) Truck Stops are prohibited.

## Section 4

Severability. The various parts, sections and clauses of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

## Section 5

Repealer. Any ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed as to their inconsistencies only.

## Section 6

Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication as provided by law.

## **NOTICE**

NOTICE is hereby given that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced to pass on first reading at a regular meeting of the Council of the Township of Lopatcong held on March 2, 2022 and ordered published in accordance with the law. Said Ordinance will be considered for final reading and adoption at a regular meeting of the Township Council to be held on April 6, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the Township Council may hear this Ordinance at the Municipal Building, 232 S. Third Street, Phillipsburg, New Jersey, at which time all persons interested may appear for or against the passage of said Ordinance.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Motion to adopt this Ordinance on first reading by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Council President Wright. Roll call vote:

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

**Ordinance No. 22-04** – First reading to Amend Chapter 227 entitled “Vehicles and Traffic” to Add Regulations Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:5A-1 for the Private Roadway Systems within the Autumn Ridge Development.

ORDINANCE 22-04

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 227 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG ENTITLED “VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC” TO ADD REGULATIONS PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 39:5A-1 FOR THE PRIVATE ROADWAY SYSTEMS WITHIN THE AUTUMN RIDGE DEVELOPMENT

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 39:5A-1 contains provisions to allow for the regulation of vehicular movements and parking on all private property; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 227-38B of the Code of the Township contains provisions for regulating vehicular movements and parking on several private properties in the Township; and

**WHEREAS**, the roadways and parking areas have been completed in the Autumn Ridge residential development; and

**WHEREAS**, the common areas within this development, which contain the roadways and parking areas, are privately owned; and

**WHEREAS**, the Association responsible for the common areas has requested that vehicular movements and parking be regulated on roadways and parking areas in the development.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1

Section 227-38B of the Code of the Township of Lopatcong shall be amended to include a Subsection 5 as follows:

(6) Autumn Ridge

(a) All vehicles must park in designated areas between painted lines.

(b) No person shall stop or stand a vehicle upon any of the streets or parts of streets described below, except in areas covered by other parking restrictions:

<u>Name of Street</u>	<u>Sides</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Location</u>
Bo Boulevard	Both	All	As indicated on the site plan
Hyde Boulevard	Both	All	As indicated on the site plan

(c) Handicap Parking – All stalls shall have a minimum width of 8 feet with an abutting pedestrian aisle as shown on the attached site plan. All handicapped parking stalls shall be signed with the R7-8 and R7-8P (Reserved Parking Sign and Penalty Plate) signs.

(d) Through Streets – The following streets or parts of streets are hereby designated as through streets. Stop signs shall be installed on the right side of each street intersecting the through street except where yield signs are provided for in the designation:

<u>Name of Street</u>	<u>Limits</u>
Bo Boulevard	Entire Length
Hyde Boulevard	Entire Length

- (e) One-Way Streets – The following described streets or parts of streets are hereby designated as one-way streets in the direction indicated:

<u>Name of Street</u>	<u>Direction</u>	<u>Limits</u>
-----------------------	------------------	---------------

- (f) Speed Limits –

(1) The speed limit for both directions of travel on the following roadways is:

<u>Name of Street</u>	<u>Speed Limit (MPH)</u>	<u>Limits</u>
Bo Boulevard	25	Entire Length
Hyde Boulevard	25	Entire Length
All other roads and driveway aisles	15	Entire Length

(2) Regulatory and warning signs shall be erected and maintained to effectuate the above designated speed limits.

- (g) The following intersections are hereby designated as stop intersections. Stop signs shall be installed as provided thereto:

<u>Intersection</u>	<u>Stop Signs On</u>
Baltimore Street and Hyde Boulevard	Hyde Boulevard
Bo Boulevard and State Route 57	Bo Boulevard

- (h) Tow-away Zones – Any vehicles parked or standing so as to obstruct or impede a normal flow of traffic, block entrances or exitways, loading zones, oil fills, any grassy area, pedestrian walkway, or present in any way a safety or traffic hazard may be removed by towing the vehicle at the owner’s or operator’s expenses.

- (i) Violations and Penalties – Unless another penalty is expressly provided for by New Jersey statutes, every person convicted of a violation of this subsection or any supplement thereto shall be liable to a penalty of not more than \$100 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 15 days, or both.

- (j) Effect of Regulations – If any part of this regulation is for any reason held to be invalid, such decisions shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of the regulations.

**SECTION 2**

Severability. The various parts, sections and clauses of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

**SECTION 3**

Repealer. Any ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed as to their inconsistencies only.

**SECTION 4**

Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication as provided by law.

**NOTICE**

NOTICE is hereby given that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced to pass on first reading at a regular meeting of the Council of the Township of Lopatcong held on March 2, 2022 and ordered published in accordance with the law. Said Ordinance will be considered for final reading and

adoption at a regular meeting of the Township Council to be held on April 6, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the Township Council may hear this Ordinance at the Municipal Building, 232 South Third Street, Phillipsburg, NJ at which time all persons interested may appear for or against the passage of said Ordinance.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Motion to adopt this Ordinance on first reading by Councilman McQuade, seconded by Mayor Mengucci. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

**Consent Agenda:**

R 22-59

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING CONSENT AGENDA FOR COUNCIL'S  
CONSIDERATION

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby approve and authorize a Consent Agenda to move routine items of business requiring no discussion; and

WHEREAS, there are listed Items one through eight on the Consent Agenda.

1. Resolution – Authorize Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2021-015 on Block 99, Lot 1 in the amount of \$11,310.35.
2. Resolution – Authorize Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2020-055 on Block 138, Lot 30 in the amount of \$2210.07.
3. Resolution – Correct the Tax Account for Block 85, Lot 2.09.
4. Resolution – Authorize Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2021-004 on Block 34, Lot 6 in the amount of \$258.74, Premium \$8,000.00.
5. Resolution – Authorize Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2021-025 on Block 116.09, Lot 5 C0145 in the amount of \$722.61.
6. Resolution – Authorize Refund for Tax Overpayment on Block 85.02, Lot 20 in the amount of \$2,469.29.
7. Resolution – Authorize Refund for Tax Overpayment on Block 25, Lot 7 in the amount of \$1,646.32.
8. Pavilion Rental Fees for 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey approve and authorize this Consent Agenda to move routine items of business that require no discussion.

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 a meeting held on Wednesday, March 2, 2022.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Motion by Councilman Palitto, seconded by Council President Wright. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilman Palitto, Council President Wright, Mayor Menguucci.  
NAYS: None

**Resolution No. 22-52** – Authorize Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2021-015 on Block 99, Lot 1 in the amount of \$11,310.35.

R 22-52

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REDEMPTION OF TAX SALE CERTIFICATE  
NO. 2021-15 ON BLOCK 99, LOT 1

WHEREAS, at the Lopatcong Township Municipal Tax Sale held on December 14, 2021, a lien was sold on Block 99, Lot 1 also known as 198 Strykers Road for delinquent taxes; and

WHEREAS, this lien known as Tax Sale Certificate No. 221-015 was sold to US Bank Cust for Tower DB XI Trust 2021-015; and

WHEREAS, on February 22, 2022, the mortgage company for the property owner has satisfied the redemption amount on Certificate No. 2021-015 in the amount of \$11,310.35.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 222, that the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$11,310.15 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2021-015 to:

US Bank Cust for Tower DB XI Trust 2021-15  
50 South 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 2050  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

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 a meeting held on Wednesday, March 2, 2022.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

**Resolution No. 2022-53** - Authorize Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2020-055 on Block 138, Lot 30 in the amount of \$2210.07.

R 22-53

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REDEMPTION OF TAX SALE CERTIFICATE  
NO. 202-055 ON BLOCK 138, LOT 30

WHEREAS, at the Lopatcong Township Municipal Tax Sale held on December 29, 2020, a lien was sold on Block 138, Lot 30 also known as 60 Buckeley Hill Drive for delinquent sewer; and

WHEREAS, this lien known as Tax Sale Certificate No. 2020-055 was sold to US Bank Cust/Pro Cap 8/Pro Cap; and

WHEREAS, on February 7, 2022, the property owner has satisfied the redemption amount on Certificate No. 2020-055 in the amount of \$2,210.07.



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March 2022, that the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$2210.07 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2020-055 to:

US Bank Cust/Pro Cap 8/Pro Cap  
50 S 16<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 2050  
Philadelphia, PA 19102-2513

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 a meeting held on Wednesday, March 2, 2022.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

**Resolution No. 2022-54** – Correct the Tax Account for Block 85, Lot 2.09.

R 22-54

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO CORRECT THE TAX ACCOUNT FOR BLOCK 85, LOT 2.09

WHEREAS, the Township of Lopatcong has been provided with receipts for tax payments for Block 85, Lot 209 which were not applied to the taxpayer's account; and

WHEREAS, the Township wishes to apply these payments to the account and cancel any interest associated with the failure to timely post these payments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong hereby authorizes the Township Tax Office to apply the following payments to Block 85, Lot 2.09:

January 7, 2013	\$1,635.17
-----------------	------------

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Lopatcong Township Tax Office shall cancel any and all interest resulting from the failure to timely post these payments.

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 a meeting held on Wednesday, March 2, 2022.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

**Resolution No. 2022-55** – Authorize Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2021-004 on Block 34, Lot 6 in the amount of \$258.74, Premium \$8,000.00.

R 22-55

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REDEMPTION OF TAX SALE CERTIFICATE NO. 2021-004 ON BLOCK 34, LOT 6

WHEREAS, at the Lopatcong Township Municipal Tax Sale held on December 14, 2021, a lien was sold on Block 34, Lot 6 also known as 811 Rugby Road for delinquent sewer; and

WHEREAS, this lien known as Tax Sale Certificate No. 2021-004 was sold to Christiana T C/F SE 1/First Trust; and

WHEREAS, on February 7, 2022, the property owner has satisfied the redemption amount on Certificate No. 2021-004 in the amount of \$258.74, Premium \$8,000.00 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2021-004 to:

Christiana T C/F SE 1/First Trust  
P.O. Box 5021  
Philadelphia, PA 19111-5021

#### 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 a meeting held on Wednesday, March 2, 2022.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

**Resolution 2022-56** – Authorize Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2021-025 on Block 116.09, Lot 5 C0145 in the amount of \$722.61.

R 22-56

#### RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REDEMPTION OF TAX SALE CERTIFICATE NO. 2021-025 ON BLOCK 116.09, LOT 5 C0145

WHEREAS, at the Lopatcong Township Municipal Tax Sale held on December 14, 2021, a lien was sold on Block 1116.09, Lot 5 C0145 also known as 145 Limerick Lane for delinquent sewer; and

WHEREAS, this lien known as Tax Sale Certificate No. 2021-025 was sold to US Bank Global Corp. Trust SCVS; and

WHEREAS, on February 15, 2022, the mortgage company for the property owner has satisfied the redemption amount on Certificate No. 2020-025 in the amount of \$722.61.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 2022, that the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$722.61 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2021-025 to:

US Bank Global Corp Trust SCVS  
50 S 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 2050  
Philadelphia, PA 19102-2513

#### 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 a meeting held on Wednesday, March 2, 2022.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

**Resolution No. 2022-57** – Authorize Refund for Tax Overpayment on Block 85.02, Lot 20 in the amount of \$2,469.29.

R 22-57

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO ISSUE A REFUND FOR A TAX OVERPAYMENT FOR  
BLOCK 85.02, LOT 20

WHEREAS, Block 85.02, Lot 20 qualified as tax exempt (disabled veteran) on October 6, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has adjusted the tax account to cancel taxes for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021 and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2022; and

WHEREAS, the homeowner for the property made the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2022 payment of \$2,469.29 on January 26, 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong hereby authorizes a refund in the amount of \$2,469.29 to: Herman Barreto & Nereida Diaz, 581 Edward Street, Phillipsburg, NJ 08865.

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 a meeting held on Wednesday, March 2, 2022.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

**Resolution No. 2202-58** – Authorize Refund for Tax Overpayment on Block 25, Lot 7 in the amount of \$1,646.32.

R 22-58

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO ISSUE A REFUND FOR A TAX OVERPAYMENT FOR  
BLOCK 25, LOT 7

WHEREAS, Block 25, Lot 7 qualified as tax exempt (disabled veteran) on December 29, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has adjusted the tax account to cancel taxes for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2022; and

WHEREAS, before the Tax Collector could make the adjustment on the account for the homeowner made the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2021 payment of \$1,634.32 on November 8, 2021, and the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2022 payment of \$1,628.15; and

WHEREAS, the homeowner's prorated portion of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2021 in the amount of \$18.17 and the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2022 payment in the amount of \$1,628.15 should be refunded to the property owner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township of Lopatcong hereby authorizes a refund in the amount of \$1,646.32 to: Jason & Michelle Patitucci, 226 Aurora Street, Phillipsburg, NJ 08865.

#### 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 a meeting held on Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

**Pavilion Rental Fees** – Approve rental fees for 2022.

#### **Council Reports:**

Mayor Mengucci – Zoning Officer is on top of the truck traffic/parking situation  
Attorney Campbell noted that an email from the zoning officer who issued violations to the Phillipsburg Mall property and they did go to court but postponed till another day. They agreed to put up no-parking signs because they don't want the trucks there also and also stated they would clean up the property. The matter was adjourned to another date. The Twilight parking lot was put off to another date because the owner did not appear in court. The zoning officer did speak to the owner of the property and he indicated he did not know parking was not permitted on his lot and agreed to inform the person operating there to cease allowing trucks to park there. This was put off till another date as well. The truck repair shop was not issued violations because research is being done to see what was approved on those lots. The zoning officer spoke to the owner and he did admit he was renting spaces on the lot and he was put on notice to cease that.

Councilman McQuade – He informed the Council he attended a orientation for newly elected municipal officials on February 5<sup>th</sup> and will be attending another one on March 12<sup>th</sup>. He noted that he was assigned by Clerk Dilts to attend these.

Councilman Belcaro – No report.

Councilman Palitto – Reported that the Recreation Committee is meeting every third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm and additional meetings as needed. Discussion were about several events; the Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for April 9<sup>th</sup>, Community Day scheduled for September 10<sup>th</sup>, Music in the Park – grant approved- booking bands, Movies in the Park – scheduling movies and other activities. The EDAC members also attend the meetings. Both need more volunteers.

Council President Wright – No report. Thanked CFO Kim for the budget outline.

Engineer Sterbenz – Reported that there will be preconstruction meetings on Belview Road Improvement Project and the preparatory work on the 2022 Road Resurfacing Program. Both meetings will be held on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

Richard Merker – 1400 Belvidere Road – Asked about the sidewalks to be placed along his property because of a installation of a fence. Engineer Sterbenz will call him directly after he looks at the plans.

Police Chief Garcia – Indicated the Emergency Operations Plan is updated and submitted to the County and the State and approved. Sergeant Jonathan Eriksen is retiring April 1, 2022 and extended an invitation to see him out the door on March 25<sup>th</sup> his last day of work at 4:00 pm. Traffic complaints are being received and addressed on Meadowview Lane. Truck traffic is being addressed as presented.

**Department Reports** – Motion to approve by Council President Wright, seconded by Councilman Palitto. All in favor.

**Payment of Bills** – Motion to approve payment of bills by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Mayor Mengucci. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

**Audience Participation:**

Robyn George – 4 Raleigh Court – Asked about the first reading to an Ordinance. Attorney Campbell explained the procedure for adopting an Ordinance. Asked about the trail head in the park leading to the county trail. Sign says “no dogs”. The sign is in the wrong place and the trail does allow dogs. Robyn asked the Council about an official appointment to the Shade Tree Commission. Motion by Mayor Mengucci, seconded by Councilman Belcaro. All in favor.

Judy Liptak – 47 Kyle Drive – Inquired about an update to the warehouses. Asked about the infrastructure and the handling of traffic as well as the crumbling bridge over Rt. 57 on Rt. 22. She also inquired about the Phillipsburg Mall truck parking and garbage concerns including truck parking along Rt. 57.

Donna Schneider – 26 Meadowview Drive – Inquired about the increase to two cents in the budget. Thanked Council and police for following up on the traffic situation on Meadowview Drive. Thanked Council for the ordinances. Inquired about the planner hired for the park/pool/pavilion.

Merker – Belvidere Road – Complemented the Police Officers on handling the truck traffic.

Motion to adjourn by Council President Wright, seconded by Councilman McQuade. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Margaret B. Dilts, CMC  
Clerk/Administrator

James E. Mengucci  
Mayor