

TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG
Special Meeting Minutes
6:30 pm Executive Session/7:30 Regular Session

January 17, 2024

The Special Meeting of the Lopatcong Township Council was called to order by Mayor Wright. 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 Wright 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 Warren County Zone and by posting a copy on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building.”

Motion to resume Regular Session by Mayor Wright, seconded by Council President Palitto. All in favor.

Attorney Cohen summarized Executive Session stating interviews took place to fill vacancy on Council. This is a temporary appointment to fill the seat. This person would serve until the General Election in November of 2024. Whomever wins that seat would then be certified and sworn in. Three names have been provided by the Republican Party to which Council would select from one of those three names to serve. Anyone interested in running for Council would do so in the 2024 General Election.

Council President Palitto made a motion to appoint and swear in Scott Marinelli as Councilman, seconded by Councilman McQuade. Roll call vote:

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

Clerk Dilts swore in Scott Marinelli as Councilman.

Present: Councilman Belcaro, Councilman McQuade, Council President Palitto, Mayor Wright. Also, present were Attorney Cohen and Engineer Wisniewski.

Public Comment – Agenda Items Only.

Donna Schneider – 26 Meadowview – questioned the appointment being personnel in Executive Session. She stated this is the first time she has seen minutes being approved for Executive Session Minutes – It always say Regular Session. Clerk Dilts explained that was not true and Executive Session minutes have always been on the agendas for approval.

Judy Liptak = 47 Kyle Drive – Requested to know what the Recreation Improvement Grant. Does this have anything to do with the park. Clerk Dilts explained the grant noting the approval this evening will give the engineer the go ahead to apply before the deadline of February 27th.

Old Business:

Minutes – Approve Executive and Regular Session Minutes for December 6, 2023 on motion by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by McQuade. Roll call vote:

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

ABSTAIN: Councilman Marinelli

Councilman Belcaro left the meeting.

Delaware Park Engine Co. No. 1 – Jim Marinelli, Martin Olsen were present to discuss the purchase of a 20-year-old ladder truck. The apparatus is 20 years. A packet of information was

handed to each of the Council. The delivery of this type of equipment of approximately 36 to 40 months. A refurbishment is a possibility but at the end you are not changing the motor or every electrical component; it is just refurbishing the ladder itself and rebuilding the pump. The truck can be traded in again the new one. Mayor Wright and Councilman Marinelli offered to be on a committee to meet with the firemen for further discussions.

State Recreation Improvement Grant – Council provided authorization to the engineer to follow through with the grant application due February 27, 2024. Motion by Councilman McQuade, seconded by Councilman Palitto. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman McQuade, Council President Palitto, Mayor Wright

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Councilman Marinelli

Samson Septic and Excavating, LLC – Engineer Wisniewski recommendation letter dated January 12, 2024 approved a reduction in the Bond. Motion by Council President Palitto, seconded by Mayor Wright. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman McQuade, Council President Palitto, Mayor Wright

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Councilman Marinelli

Resolution No. 24-39 - Authorize Refund of Sewer Overpayment on Block 85, Lot 11 in the amount of \$45.00.

R 24-39

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO ISSUE A REFUND FOR A SEWER OVERPAYMENT FOR
BLOCK 85 LOT 11

WHEREAS, it has been found that on December 18, 2023, the resident paid \$45.00 for their 4th Quarter 2023 sewer; and

WHEREAS, the resident's title company then paid \$90.00 on December 18, 2023 which forced an overpayment of \$45.00 after a Final Sewer Bill was issued.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby authorize the CFO to process a refund at the request of the resident in the amount of \$45.00 to: Joseph and Valerie Lusardi, 834 Green 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, January 17, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

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

AYES: Councilman McQuade, Council President Palitto, Mayor Wright

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Councilman Marinelli

Resolution No. 24-40 - Authorizes Governing Body appointment of William Vine to the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

R 24-40

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY ESTABLISHING

2024 Governing Body Appointments

Zoning Board of Adjustment –
William Vine – 12/31/2027

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 17, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Mayor Wright's Appointment – Read into the record appointing Anita Caughy a full member of the Planning Board. Motion by Council President Palitto, seconded by Councilman McQuade. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Councilman Marinelli

Payment of Bills – Motion by Council President Palitto, seconded by Councilman McQuade to approve the payment of bills. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Councilman Marinelli

Public Comment:

Robert Bruce – 11 Harwich Road – Inquire of the Mayor and Council – updates on 2 Strykers Road properties that as a result of citizens appearing before the Council were deemed not in compliance with their site agreements or agreed with Police Dept. to strengthen their efforts to deter ongoing traffic violations and mail trucks parking at the asphalt plant.

Lyn Strouse – 110 South Sixth Street – Asked about the vacation alleyway request list in a past Exec. Session.

Judy Liptak – Kyle Drive – Taking notes and hoped that the truck for the firemen is sufficient for the warehouses if needed. Also hoped that Pilot Program money is used for the purchase of equipment.

Donna Schneider – 26 Meadowview – Had differences in the past with purchasing of fire equipment but in this circumstance and what is coming into the area, hopes that the Council grants them what they need.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC
Clerk/Administrator

William D. Wright
Mayor