

TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG
MEETING MINUTES

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

February 7, 2024

The Regular 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.”

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

Attorney Cohen summarized Executive Session to discuss Items 1 thru 5.

Old Business:

Minutes – Approve Executive and Regular Sessions for December 28, 2023, January 3rd and 17th, 2024. Motion by Councilman McQuade, seconded by Councilman Marinelli. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Council President Palitto – December 28, 2023

Ordinance No. 24-01 – Second reading and public hearing to Amend and Revise Chapter 165 entitled “Public Meeting Decorum,” to Amend Section 4 entitled “Length of Presentation”. Motion to hold a public hearing by Council President Palitto, seconded by Councilman Belcaro. All in favor. John Kecherson – 38 Jade Lane asked why this is being changed? Mayor Wright noted that 3 minutes is common amongst the surrounding communities which makes for a more orderly meeting. Motion to close the public hearing by Council President Palitto, seconded by Councilman Marinelli. All in favor.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-01

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, February 7, 2024 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.

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND CHAPTER 167 ENTITLED “PUBLIC MEETING DECORUM” TO AMEND SECTION 4 ENTITLED “LENGTH OF PRESENTATION”

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, MMC

Motion to adopt this Ordinance on second reading by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Councilman McQuade. Roll call vote:

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

Ordinance No. 24-02 – Second reading and public hearing of an Ordinance to Regulate, Control and Stabilize Rents in Creating a Rent Leveling Board by the Mayor and Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey for an additional three-year period. Motion to hold a public hearing by Council President Palitto, seconded by Councilman Marinelli. All in favor. No questions from the public. Motion to close public hearing by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Councilman McQuade. All in favor.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-02

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, February 7, 2024 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 TO REGULATE, CONTROL AND STABILIZE RENTS IN CREATING A RENT LEVELING BOARD BY THE MAYOR AND TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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, MMC

New Business:

Resident Lyn Strouse – Discussion regarding vacation of alleyway bordering his property. 110 South Sixth Street – lived there 42 years and maintained the alleyway running parallel to his home. He asked not to vacate the alleyway for reasons; owner’s son said he would do whatever he wants, demolish existing retaining wall and install a new one 10 feet back to his property and lower the grade to the diner’s existing elevation. He noted overhead utility wires, and other issues relating to that. Moving the dumpster caused him to deal with stench and rat problem. Has no problem installing retaining wall in existing location. Gregg Theodoropoulos representing the Key City Diner – the wall will stay where it is. Leave garbage container where it was with a fence around it but not moving the garbage towards his house. Would like to vacate alleyway. Mr. Strouse parks his truck and boat on the wall. Asked him not to park there. Engineer Wisniewski – reconstructing an existing wall would require some disturbance to the alleyway as it currently exists. It would essentially be a temporary disturbance that would occur during the reconstruction of the wall; temporary construction easement. Legally, in terms of what agreements would have to be in place, that would have to be discussed. Mr. Strouse agreed to not park on the wall. Engineer Wisniewski also stated that through correspondence and discussion with the zoning official this would be as part of the renovation currently to the diner this would be a minor site plan application. Mr. Theodoropoulos indicated this application would be here to the Township by Tuesday. The reconstruction of the wall and where the trash enclosure would be installed would be part of the site plan application as well as the sign.

Ordinance No. 24-03 – First reading to Adjust/Establish Wage Rates for certain employees.

2024-03

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH/ADJUST THE SALARIES, RETAINERS AND WAGE RANGES OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES IN THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey that the salaries, retainers and wage rates of officers and employees are as follows:

MAYOR	\$5,000.00 – 12,000.00
COUNCILMAN	\$2960.00 - 8,000.00

MUNICIPAL CLERK	\$120,000-148,000
TAX COLLECTOR	\$120,000-130,000
QUALIFIED PURCHASE AGENT	\$15,000-25,000
KEYBOARDING CLERK 3	\$58,000-68,000
KEYBOARDING CLERK 2	\$55,000-65,000
KEYBOARDING CLERK 1	\$53,000-58,000
SEWER APPEAL BOARD SECRETARY	\$2,000-5,000
SHADE TREE BOARD SECRETARY	\$2,000-5,000
ZONING OFFICIAL	\$40 - 45/Hr.
HERBICIDE LICENSE	\$2,000-3,000
CLEAN COMMUNITIES	\$2,000-3,000
POLICE CHIEF	\$150,000 - 175,000
RECORDS TECHNICIAN	\$53,000-58,000
PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT	\$93,000 -115,000
DPW DEPUTY SUPERVISOR	\$78,000 - 85,000
RECREATION COMMISSION BOARD SECRETARY	\$8,800-12,000
SR. PUBLIC WORKS REPAIRER	\$66,000-78,000
DOG REGISTRAR	\$3,000-8,000
DEPUTY REGISTRAR VITAL STATISTICS	\$2,500-3,500
ACCOUNT CLERK	\$53,000-58,000
CUSTODIAN MUNICIPAL BLDG.	\$23.00-30.00
MEAL REIMBURSEMENT: Breakfast - \$10.00 Lunch \$15.00 Dinner \$20.00	

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage and publication according to law (N.J.S.A. 40:69A-181(b)).

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced for first reading at a meeting of the Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey to be held on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 and will be considered for adoption upon second and final reading at a regular Township meeting to be held at 7:30 pm or shortly thereafter on Wednesday, March 6, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Motion to adopt Ordinance on first reading by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Councilman Marinelli. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

Ordinance No. 24-04 – First reading to Establish Yearly CAP Bank under the Local CAP Bank Law in preparation of annual budget.

**ORD. 24-04
CALENDAR YEAR 2024
ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS
AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK
(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)**

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget to 2.5% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year’s final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation

and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong in the County of Warren finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2024 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Council hereby determines that a 3.5% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$257,709.90 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

WHEREAS the Township Council hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong, in the County of Warren, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2024 budget year, the final appropriations of the Township of Lopatcong shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.5%, amounting to \$257,709.90 and that the CY 2024 municipal budget for the Township of Lopatcong be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

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 February 7, 2024 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 March 6, 2024 at 7:30 pm or as soon thereafter as the Township Council may hear this Ordinance in 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, MMC

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

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

NAYS: None

Ordinance No. 24-05 – First reading on Vacation of Paper Street known as Block 95, Lot 18.01 to become part of adjacent lots.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-05

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, VACATING A LOT KNOWN AS LOT 18.01 IN BLOCK 95 TO BECOME PART OF ADJACENT LOTS

WHEREAS, there exists in the Township of Lopatcong (“Township”) a Lot dedicated to the Township known as Lot 18.01, Block 95; and

WHEREAS, there has been a request to have the Township vacate said Lot as depicted

on the Lopatcong Township Tax Map Sheet 5 and in the Boundary Survey for 876 Strykers Road Lot 19, Block 95, prepared by Wayne Ingram, PLS, of French and Parrello Associates dated August 25th, 2023, unrevised, annexed hereto; and

WHEREAS, the matter has been referred to the Township Engineer who has recommended that the Township proceed with the vacation since the Lot proposed to be vacated is not needed by the Township for public purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council does hereby determine that the aforementioned lot as identified on Tax Map Sheet 5 and on the Boundary Survey for 876 Strykers Road Lot 19, Block 95, prepared by Wayne Ingram, PLS, of French and Parrello Associates dated August 25th, 2023, unrevised and set forth in the plan attached hereto is no longer needed for public purposes; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40:67-1(b) and -19 authorizes the municipality to release and extinguish the public's rights arising from the dedication of a Lot; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION A

1. The rights of the public and the Township in and to Lot 18.01 in Block 95 as depicted on the Tax Map Sheet 5 and in the Boundary Survey for 876 Strykers Road Lot 19, Block 95, prepared by Wayne Ingram, PLS, of French and Parrello Associates dated August 25th, 2023 are hereby extinguished and vacated; however, expressly reserved and excepted from vacation are all rights and privileges now possessed by public utilities, as defined in R.S.48:2-13, and by any cable television company, as defined in the "Cable Television Act," P.L.1972, c. 186 (C.48:5A-1 et seq.), to maintain, repair and replace their existing facilities in, adjacent to, over or under the street to be vacated.

2. At least one week prior to the time fixed for the consideration of this Ordinance for final passage, a copy thereof, together with a notice of the introduction thereof and the time and place when and where the Ordinance will be further considered for final passage, shall be mailed to every person whose land may be affected by this Ordinance so far as may be ascertained. Said notices shall be mailed by the Township Clerk in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40:49-

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3. The Township Clerk shall, within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this

Ordinance, file a copy of this Ordinance certified by her under the seal of the municipality, to be a true copy thereof, together with proof of publication thereof, in the office of the Clerk of the County of Warren in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40:67-21.

SECTION B

All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistencies.

SECTION C

If any article, section, subsection, paragraph, phrase or sentence is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional or invalid, said article, section, subsection, paragraph, phrase or sentence shall be deemed severable.

SECTION D

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final 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 February 7, 2024, 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 March 6, 2024 at 7:30 PM or as soon thereafter as the Township Council may hear this Ordinance at the Municipal Building located at 232 So. Third St., Phillipsburg, New Jersey, at which time all persons interested may appear for or against the passage of said Ordinance.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Motion to adopt this Ordinance on first reading by Belcaro, seconded by Councilman McQuade.

Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

DPW Policy Amendment – Brian Weeks, DPW Superintendent requested the Boot allowance be increased to \$550.00 due to the increase in the cost of the boots themselves. Handbook would have to be Motion by Council President Palitto, seconded by Councilman McQuade. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

Consent Agenda:

Item No. 7 removed - Motion to approve Items 1-6 by Council President Palitto, seconded by Councilman McQuade. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

Resolution No. 24-42 – Consent Agenda

R 24-42

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 seven on the Consent Agenda.

1. Mayor Wright – appointment to Planning Board – Robyn George as Alternate Member No. 2.
2. Resolution – Governing Body appointment of Joan Maingrette to the Recreation Committee.
3. Resolution – Authorize transfer between the 2023 Budget Appropriation Reserves in the amount of \$2100.00.
4. Resolution – Authorize Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2023-007 on Block 116.10, Lot 9 Qualification C0121 in the amount of \$9,516.58, Premium \$4,000.00.
5. Resolution – Authorize Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2023-010 on Block 129, Lot 20 in the amount of \$1,552.04, Premium \$1,300.00.
6. Resolution to memorialize Appointment of Scott Marinelli to vacant Council Seat.
7. Approve payment of Gamka Sales Invoice in the amount of \$1,884.07 submitted by LAA for light towers rented during football season.

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, February 7, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Planning Board Appointment – Mayor Wright appointed Robyn George as Alternate Member No. 2 to the Planning Board.

Resolution No. 24-43 – GB Appointment Recreation Committee – Joan Maingrette

R 24-43

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY APPOINTING JOAN MAINGRETTE TO THE RECREATION
COMMITTEE

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Body appoints Joan Maingrette to the Recreation Committee.

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, February 7, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 24-44 – authorize transfer between the 2023 Budget Appropriation Reserves in the amount of \$2100.00.

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING TRANSFER BETWEEN THE 2023 BUDGET
APPROPRIATION RESERVES

WHEREAS, various 2023 bills have been presented for payment this year, which bills represent obligations of the prior fiscal year and were not covered by order number and/or recorded at the time of transfers between the 2023 Budget in the last two months of 2023; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-59 provides that all unexpended balances carried forward after the close of the fiscal year are available until lapsed at the close of the succeeding fiscal year and allow transfers to be made from the unexpended balances to those which are expected to be insufficient during the first three months of the succeeding year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey, (2/3 of the majority of the full membership concurring herein) that the transfers in the amount of \$2,100.00 be made between 2023 Budget Appropriation Reserves as follows:

ACCOUNT:	FROM:	TO:	
OTHER EXPENSES			
Building & Grounds	\$1,500.00		
Roads	\$175.00		
Police & Fire Retirement	\$291.00		
PERS	\$134.00		
OTHER EXPENSES			
Police		\$600.00	
Bldg. Sub-Code		\$1500.00	
TOTAL			\$2,100.00

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, February 7, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 24-45 – Authorize Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2023-007 on Block 116.10, Lot 9 Qualification C0121 in the amount of \$9,516.58, Premium \$4,000.00.

R 24-45

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REDEMPTION OF TAX SALE CERTIFICATE
NO. 2023-007 ON BLOCK 116.10 LOT 9 QUALIFICATION C0121

WHEREAS, at the Lopatcong Township Municipal Tax Sale held on December 12, 2023, a lien was sold on Block 116.10 Lot 9 Qualification C0121 also known as 121 Limerick Lane for delinquent taxes and sewer; and

WHEREAS, this lien known as Tax Sale Certificate No. 2023-007 was sold to Arthur Frustaci; and

WHEREAS, on January 24, 2024, the Certificate No. 2023-007 has been satisfied in the amount of \$9,516.58, Premium \$4,000.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 7th day of February 2024, that the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$9,516.58, Premium \$4,000.00 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2023-007 to:

Arthur Frustaci
712 Rugby Road
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, February 7, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 24-46 – Authorize Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate no. 2023-010 on Block 129, Lot 20 in the amount of \$1,552.40, Premium \$1,300.00.

24-46

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REDEMPTION OF TAX SALE CERTIFICATE
NO. 2023-010 ON BLOCK 129, LOT 20

WHEREAS, at the Lopatcong Township Municipal Tax Sale held on December 12, 2023, a lien was sold on Block 129, Lot 20 also known as 36 Kyle Drive for delinquent sewer; and

WHEREAS, this lien known as Tax Sale Certificate No. 2023-010 was sold to BALA Partners, LLC; and

WHEREAS, on January 24, 2024, the Certificate No. 2023-010 has been satisfied in the amount of \$1,552.04, Premium \$1,300.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 7th day of February 2024, that the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$1,552.04, Premium \$1,300.00 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2023-010 to:

BALA Partners, LLC
P.O. Box 303
Pottersville, NJ 07979

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, February 7, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 24-47 – Memorialize appointment of Scott Marinelli to Vacant Council seat – term expires 12/31/2024.

R 24-47

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY MEMORIALIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF SCOTT
MARINELLI TO THE VACANT SEAT ON COUNCIL UNTIL A CANDIDATE IS ELECTED
AT THE NOVEMBER 2024 GENERAL ELECTION

WHEREAS, a vacant seat on Council occurred with the election of William D. Wright to Mayor; and

WHEREAS, Council selected a candidate to fill the position from three names submitted by the Republican Party; and

WHEREAS, Council interviewed candidates and selected Scott Marinelli to fill the position until the November 2024 election when a candidate is elected to fill the term ending 12/31/2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey voted to appointed Scott Marinelli to fulfill the vacant seat on Council until a candidate is elected in the General Election in November of 2024.

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, February 7, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Gamka Sales Invoice – LAA – Submitted by LAA for light towers during football season - \$1,884.07. TABLED.

Council Reports:

Councilman McQuade – No report.

Councilman Belcaro – No report.

Councilman Marinelli – No report

Council President Palitto – Recreation/Economic Development – looking for members and change the meeting to the second Tuesday of every month. Special thanks to the Police Dept., DPW and Fire Depts. for their assistance with the falling utility pole on January 19th located at Strykers and Meadowview Roads.

Mayor Wright – Reported that Councilman Marinelli and himself attended a meeting with some of the firefighters last evening and obtained costs of a fire truck. This is an ongoing process but moving forward.

Engineer Wisniewski – 2024 Road Improvement Program – Jade Lane Project is out to bid due in about a week. Local Aid Grant – Belview Road Improvements Phase II from Strykers to Uniontown Road is in process to be bid late spring. Update on K&S Enterprises – a report was prepared after visiting the site on October 31, 2023 to which concerns were outlined. They have improvements to be done and encroachments to remedy in outdoor storage areas. Trucks unrelated to their operation have been observed on their site. They indicated that there are times that trucks arrive at their facility wherein people are sleeping in cabs but they are requested to leave their facility.

Chief of Police Garcia – Reported that a rash of burglaries took place a few weeks ago and reminded everyone to lock their cars and remove any valuables as well. Traffic Report – 167 motor vehicle stops.

Department Reports – Motion by council President Palitto to approve, seconded by Councilman Marinelli. All in favor.

Payment of Bills – Councilman McQuade made a motion to pay bills, seconded by Mayor Wright. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

Audience Participation:

Robert Bruce – 11 Harwich Road – Thanked Engineer Wisniewski for his report on K&S. He asked Mayor Wright about the missing Comments on Agenda Items Only on the agenda and asked if it would be back in. Mayor indicated that it would not be on the agenda going forward. Remarked that he liked the give and take between the Council and the public.

Bob Miller – Delaware Crossing – Comments – traffic on 22 and 57 and people coming on the turnabout – suggested the traffic light be timed better to prevent this from happening.

Lyn Strouse – South Sixth Street – Would like to see a police presence on South Sixth Street – vehicles are speeding.

John Betz – Brakeley Gardens – Is the Rent Leveling Board constituted with manpower.

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Councilman Palitto. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC
Clerk/Administrator

William D. Wright
Mayor