

TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG
MEETING MINUTES
6:30 PM Executive Session/7:30 pm Regular Session

August 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 and a moment of silence for Gary VanVliet who passed away this past month. 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 Marinelli, Councilman McQuade, Council President Palitto, Mayor Wright. Also, present were Attorney Baldwin and Engineer Wisniewski.

Motion to return to Regular Session by Council President Palitto, seconded by Councilman McQuade. All in favor.

Attorney Baldwin summarized Executive Session Items one through four; Personnel matter regarding Zoning Official; Attorney/Client Privilege matter regarding the EMS update; Contractual - General Code Recodification Project update; Attorney/Client Privilege, pending Tax Appeal settlement matter with CICF II. No action was taken.

Sworn In – Daryl Strother as Class III Police Officer

Chief Garcia welcomed Officer Strother and gave a summary of his remarkable career and welcomed him as a School Resource Officer for the Lopatcong School District.

Public Comment: Agenda Items Only

Bob Bruce – 11 Harwich Road. I have questions concerning tonight’s agenda for the first readings of Ordinance 24-17 and 24-18. I have some questions and comments about tonight’s agenda. Why are we purchasing the property and what is it going to be used for. Commenting on Ordinance 24-19 Violations and Penalties wants to know what the increased penalties for violations would be. Wants an explanation of 24-20 the new Senior Account Clerk why we need this position, are we shifting responsibilities, or someone new taking the position.

Attorney Baldwin/Mayor Wright – Reminded Mr. Bruce it’s public comment and that questions were not going to be answered during this time.

Old Business:

Minutes – Approve Executive and Regular Sessions for July 3, 2024 on motion by Council President Palitto, seconded by Councilman McQuade. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

Ordinance No. 24-14 - Second reading and public hearing to Amend, Revise and Supplement Chapter 227 Section 20A “Vehicles Over Designated Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) Excluded from Certain County Streets” to Include Additional County Roads. Motion to hold a public hearing by Councilman McQuade, seconded by Councilman Marinelli. All in favor.

Comments from the public:

Mr. Bruce – I just rise to support this ordinance and I would like to hear what roads specifically would be impacted by this ordinance. I understand it's just County roads.

Mr. Baldwin – It's in the ordinance.

Clerk Dilts - Liberty Road between CR 519 and NJ Route 57. Belvidere Road between Harmony boundary line and Lincoln Road between mile marker 42.05 to mile marker 29.95 at Route 57.

Mr. Bruce - Excellent, thank you.

Mayor Wright – Anyone else? Any other comments?

Motion to close the public hearing by Councilman Marinelli, seconded by Councilman McQuade– All in favor.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-14

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, August 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 SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 227
SECTION 20A “VEHICLES OVER DESIGNATED GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT
RATING (GVWR) EXCLUDED FROM CERTAIN COUNTY STREETS” TO INCLUDE
ADDITIONAL COUNTY STREETS**

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

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

NAYS: None

Ordinance No. 2024-15 - Second reading and public hearing to Amend and Supplement Section 173-191 “Information to be Given to All Tenants”, Require Landlords to Provide Hard Copies of All Notices Pertaining to the Lease to Tenants and Create Section 173-19.2 entitled “Property Management Companies” Imposing the Requirements of the Chapter onto Property Management Companies Retained by Landlords. Motion to hold a public hearing by Council President Palitto, seconded by Councilman McQuade – All in favor.

Comments from the public:

Mr. Bruce – I rise to commend and support this Ordinance. It has made me proud to witness the concern shown and the actions taken by Council President Palitto has undertaken on behalf of tenants that have had to deal with landlords to try to use their property management company as legal protection against legitimate complaints raised by their tenants. I want to give a shout out to John Betz. I've seen him here for over two years come here and support those tenants.

Mayor Wright – Anyone else? Any other comments?

Motion to close the public hearing by Councilman McQuade, seconded by Councilman Marinelli. All in favor.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-15

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, August 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 COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING SECTION 173-191 “INFORMATION TO BE GIVEN TO ALL TENANTS” OF CHAPTER 173 – RENT CONTROL – TO REQUIRE LANDLORDS TO PROVIDE HARD COPIES OF ALL NOTICES PERTAINING TO THE LEASE AGREEMENT(S) TO THE TENANTS AND TO CREATE SECTION 173-19.2 ENTITLED “PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMPANIES” IMPOSING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CHAPTER ONTO PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMPANIES RETAINED BY LANDLORDS

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 by Council President Palitto, seconded by Councilman McQuade. Roll Call Vote:

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

NAYS: None

Ordinance No. 24-16 – Second reading and public hearing to Establish Chapter 41 entitled “Personnel Policy and Practices” to Create Section 41-01 entitled “Anti-Nepotism Policy”.

Motion to hold a public hearing by Councilman Marinelli seconded by Council President Palitto. All in favor.

Comments from the public –

Mr. Kecherson – 38 Jade Lane – Can you just give us the essence of what this Ordinance is and why the Council?

Mr. Baldwin – The real reason it’s enacted is because the Police Department the Township is civil service. There’s an alternate route to appoint officers rather than a testing period, which you have to wait for the results and testing. If the Township enacts this Anti-Nepotism Policy it will allow them to take a secondary route of appointment for officers. It’s streamline for the ease of them.

Mr. Kecherson – Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Wright – Anyone else? Any other comments?

Motion to close the public hearing by Council President Palitto, seconded by Councilman Marinelli. All in favor.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-16

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, August 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 ESTABLISHING CHAPTER 41 ENTITLED “PERSONNEL POLICY AND PRACTICES” OF THE LOPATCONG TOWNSHIP CODE TO CREATE SECTION 41-01 ENTITLED “ANTI-NEPOTISM POLICY”

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 by Councilman McQuade, seconded by Councilman Marinelli.

Roll Call Vote:

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

NAYS: None

New Business:

Ordinance No. 24-17 – First reading Authorizing the Acquisition of Property Commonly Known as 1301 Belvidere Road and Shown as Lot 1 in Block 30 on the Official Tax Map of the Township of Lopatcong.

**TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG WARREN
COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-17

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY COMMONLY KNOWN AS 1301 BELVIDERE ROAD AND SHOWN AS LOT 1 IN BLOCK 30 ON THE OFFICIAL TAX MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-5 et. seq., the Township of Lopatcong, Warren County, New Jersey (the “Township”) may acquire lands and real property for public purposes through negotiated agreement, and

WHEREAS, the Township desires to enter into a Contract for Sale of Real Estate with Lopat EMS for the acquisition of (and to consummate such acquisition of) property commonly known as 1301 Belvidere Road and shown as Lot 1 in Block 30 on the official tax map of the Township of Lopatcong (the “Property”); and

WHEREAS, the Township desires to acquire and utilize such Property for use as recreation and open space; and

WHEREAS, the Township has the assessed value of the property in the amount of \$446,500; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the assessed value, the property owner requested an amount equal to the full payoff of mortgages and other encumbrances on the property, an amount not to exceed \$300,000; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that additional interest and fees will accrue on the property up to and including the time of closing that will be included in the purchase price; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council has determined the purchase property is in the best interest of the Township.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that it hereby authorizes the acquisition of the real property commonly known as 1301 Belvidere Road and shown as Lot 1 in Block 30 on the official tax map of the Township of Lopatcong from the owner Lopat EMS for an amount equal to the full payoff of mortgages and other encumbrances on the property, an amount not to exceed \$300,000, subject to the drafting of a contract containing normal and customary contractual provisions; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Property shall be conveyed to the Township by Bargain and Sale Deed with covenants against grantor's acts to be reviewed and approved by the Township Attorney; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized to execute and deliver any document as it would be necessary to effectuate said acquisition and conveyance; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be judged by the Courts to be valid, such adjudication shall apply only to the section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision so adjudicated, and the remainder of the Ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any Ordinance or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are repealed to the extent of such conflict; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this Ordinance shall take effect upon the passage and publication in accordance with the applicable 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 August 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 September 4, 2024, at 7:30 PM, or as soon thereafter as the Township Council may hear this Ordinance, at the Municipal Building, 232 South 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 by Councilman Marinelli, seconded by Council President Palitto. Roll call vote:
AYES: Councilman Marinelli, Councilman McQuade, Council President Palitto, Mayor Wright.
NAYS: None

Ordinance No. 24-18 – First reading of Capital Ordinance for Acquisition of the Emergency Services Building located at 1301 Belvidere Road for the Township of Lopatcong and Appropriating \$200,000 for such purpose.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-18

TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR ACQUISITION OF THE EMERGENCY SERVICES BUILDING LOCATED AT 1301 BELVIDERE ROAD FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG AND APPROPRIATING \$200,000 FOR SUCH PURPOSE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, IN THE COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Township of Lopatcong, in the County of Warren, New Jersey, authorizes for acquisition of the emergency services building located at 1301 Belvidere Road, including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto, all as shown on and in accordance with the plans and specifications thereon on file in the office of the Clerk and hereby approved for the Township of Lopatcong to be funded from the source specified in Section 2 of the Ordinance.

Section 2. The amount of \$200,000 is hereby appropriated for the purposes stated in Section 1 of the Ordinance and which amount was funded from the Reserve for Purchase of EMS Building in the amount of \$200,000.

Section 3. In connection with the purpose and the amount authorized in Sections 1 and 2 hereof, the Township determines the purpose described in Section 2 hereof is not a Current Expense and is an improvement which the Township of Lopatcong may lawfully make as a general improvement.

Section 4. All ordinances or parts of ordinances which are inconsistent with the terms of this Ordinance be and the same are hereby repealed to the extent of their inconsistency.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon due passage and publication according to law.

NOTICE OF PENDING ORDINANCE

The ordinance, the title of which is published herewith, was introduced and passed upon first reading at a meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong, in the County of Warren, New Jersey, held on August 7, 2024. It will be further considered for final passage after public hearing thereon, at a meeting of said Township Council to be held in the Municipal

Building, 232 South 3rd Street in said Township on September 4, 2024 at 7:30 o'clock P.M., and during the week prior to and up to and including the date of such meeting, copies of said ordinance will be made available at the Clerk's Office in the Municipal Building said Township to the members of the general public who shall request the same. The purpose of said ordinance is to make an appropriation in the amount of \$200,000 for acquisition of the emergency services building located at 1301 Belvidere Road, including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto, all as shown on and in accordance with the plans and specifications thereon on file in the office of the Clerk.

/s/ M. Beth Dilts
Township Clerk

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

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

NAYS: None

Ordinance No. 24-19 – First reading to Amend, Revise and Supplement Chapter 227 Titled “Vehicles and Traffic” Section 4 “Violations and Penalties” to increase penalties for violations.

ORDINANCE: 2024-19

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 227 TITLED “VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC” SECTION 4 “VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES”

WHEREAS, The Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong passed ordinances to regulate vehicles and traffic which are codified in Chapter 227 of the Township Code; and

WHEREAS, The Township Council desires to increase the penalties for violations of Chapter 227 to \$120 plus court costs to more effectively prevent violations of the code; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that the above recitals are hereby incorporated by reference; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong that Section 227 of the Township Code entitled “Vehicles and Traffic” Section 4 is amended as follows:

§ 227-4 Violations and penalties.

SECTION 1

Unless another penalty is expressly provided by statute, every person convicted of a violation of a provision of this chapter or any supplement thereto shall be liable to a penalty of not more than \$120 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 15 days or both, plus court costs.

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 August 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 September 4, 2024 at 6:30 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
Township Clerk

Motion to adopt by Councilman McQuade, seconded by Councilman Marinelli. Roll call vote:
AYES: Councilman Marinelli, Councilman McQuade, Council President Palitto, Mayor Wright.
NAYS: None

Ordinance No. 24-20 – First reading to Establish Job Title Senior Account Clerk and Salary Range.

2024-20

AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE TITLE, SALARIES, RETAINERS AND WAGE RATES OF 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 as follows:

Section 1:

Ordinance 2024-03 is hereby amended by creating and adding the position of Senior Account Clerk and establishing a salary range of \$75,000 to \$115,000.

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 off 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. (N.J.S.A. 40:69A-181(b)).

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 August 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 September 4, 2024 at 7 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, MMC

Motion to adopt by Council President Palitto, seconded by Councilman Marinelli. Roll call vote:
AYES: Councilman Marinelli, Councilman McQuade, Council President Palitto, Mayor Wright.
NAYS: None

Consent Agenda:

Motion to adopt this Consent Agenda by Councilman Marinelli, seconded by Council President Palitto. Roll call vote:
AYES: Councilman Marinelli, Councilman McQuade, Council President Palitto, Mayor Wright.
NAYS: None

Resolution No. 24-105 – Consent Agenda 1 through 18.

R 24-105

**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 eighteen on the Consent Agenda.

1. Authorize Partial Payment to Top Line Construction for work completed through June 21, 2024 on Belview Road Improvement Project Phase II Project in the amount of \$186,194.36.
2. Authorize Final Payment to Top Line Construction for work completed on Jade Lane Improvement Project in the amount of \$87,952.74 and approve Final Change Order.
3. Resolution – Authorize Payment of invoice in the amount of \$2,410.00 to KeyTech for Core Sampling and Testing
4. Resolution – Approve compensation in the amount of \$532.46 representing 2% raise to Kayla Marconi during the period of employment January through April 2024.
5. Resolution – Memorialize action taken to increase in compensation to Beth Dilts for additional duties in the Clerk’s Office at the 7/3/2024 Council Meeting.

6. Resolution – Authorize title change for Don Obley from Class III to Class II Police Officer at a rate established
7. Resolution – Authorize hire of Daryl Strother as Class III Police Officer.
8. Resolution – Authorize Cancellation of Grant Receivable in the amount of \$2,996.29 and Grant Appropriated Reserves in the amount of \$2,439.91.
9. Resolution – Authorize Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2023-005 on Block 99, Lot 128 Qualification C0088 in the amount of \$2,852.23, Premium \$700.00.
10. Resolution – Authorize Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2020-027 on Block 99, Lot 50 Qualification C0260.
11. Resolution – Issue a Refund for Tax Overpayment for Block 109, Lot 6 due to a Disabled Veteran Exemption in the amount of \$948.16.
12. Resolution – Issue a Refund for Tax Overpayment for Block 124, Lot 8 due to a Disabled Veteran Exemption in the amount of \$350.31.
13. Resolution – Authorize Extending the Grace Period for the 2024 Third Quarter Taxes to August 23, 2024.
14. Resolution – Authorize Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2023-001 on Block 47, Lot 7 in the amount of \$358.03, Premium \$100.00.
15. Resolution – Authorize Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2023-008 on Block 116.12, Lot 9 Qualification C0071 in the amount of \$1,456.23, Premium \$500.00.
16. Resolution – Appoint Jeffery Hill as Plumbing Official Provisional pending Civil Service procedures.
17. Resolution – Approve Final Payment to Top Line Construction in the amount of \$87,952.74 for work completed on Jade Lane.
18. Approve Payment to Traffic Planning & Design, Inc., in the amount of \$37,887.48 for work completed on the Upper Belvidere Road Transportation Alternatives Program Project.

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, April 3, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Belview Road Improvement Project – Authorize Partial Payment to Top Line Construction for work completed through June 21, 2024 on Belview Road Improvement Project Phase II Project in the amount of \$186,194.36.

Jade Lane Improvement Project – Authorize Final Payment to Top Line Construction for work completed on Jade Lane Improvement Project in the amount of \$87,952.74 and approve Final Change Order.

Key Tech Invoice – Authorize payment of invoice in the amount of \$2,410.00 to Key Tech for Core Sampling and Testing.

Resolution No. 24-106 – Approve compensation in the amount of \$532.46 representing 2% raise to Kayla Marconi during the period of employment January through April 2024.

R 24-106

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF TWO PERCENT ON SALARY OF KAYLA MARCONI WHILE EMPLOYED JANUARY THROUGH APRIL 2024.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey authorized a raise in salary for employees at a rate of two percent from January through December 2024; and

WHEREAS, Kayla Marconi was employed with the Township during the period of January through April 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council do hereby authorize payment of two percent increase in compensation to Kayla Marconi.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey that Kayal Marconi be compensated with a two percent raise in salary for the period of January through April 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, August 7, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 24-107 – Memorialize action taken to increase in compensation to Beth Dilts for additional duties in the Clerk’s Office at the 7/3/2024 Council Meeting.

R-24-107

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO MEMORIALIZE INCREASE TO THE MUNICIPAL CLERK’S SALARY BY \$10,000.00 AND VACATION TIME OF AN ADDITIONAL SIX WEEKS.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council recognize the additional duties the Municipal Clerk has is providing within the Office of the Municipal Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council voted to increase her salary by \$10,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council voted to increase her vacation time by providing two additional weeks per year for 2024, 2025, and 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council voted in favor of the additional compensation and vacation time at the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, July 3, 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby memorialize action taken on Wednesday, July 3, 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 Resolution adopted by Council at a meeting held on Wednesday, August 7, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 24-108 – Authorize title change for Don Obley from Class III to Class II Police Officer at a rate established.

R 24-108

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING TITLE CHANGE FOR DONALD OBLEY PART-TIME CLASS III POLICE OFFICER TO BE TITLED CLASS II POLICE OFFICER IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey hereby authorize a Title change for Don Obley from a Class III Police Officer in the Police Department to a Class II Police Officer; and

WHEREAS, Donald Obley shall be paid a salary as established in the Salary Ordinance; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey hereby approve the Title change for Donald Obley part-time as a Class II Police Officer in the Police Department.

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, August 7, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 24-109 – Authorize hire of Daryl Strother as Class III Police Officer.

R 24-109

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY MEMORIALIZING HIRE OF DARYL STROTHER PART-TIME AS CLASS III POLICE OFFICER IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey hereby authorized the hire of one part-time Class III Police Officer in the Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Daryl Strother shall be paid an hourly rate in accordance with the Salary Ordinance; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey hereby approve the hire of Daryl Strother part-time as Class III Police Officer in the Police Department and shall be paid an hourly rate as established in the Salary Ordinance.

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, August 7, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 24-110 – Authorize Cancellation of Grant Receivable in the amount of \$2,996.29 and Grant Appropriated Reserves in the amount of \$2,439.91.

R-24-110

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE CANCELLATION OF GRANTS RECEIVABLE AND GRANT APPROPRIATED RESERVES.

WHEREAS, there exists various Grants Receivables and Grant Appropriated Reserves on the balance sheet of the Grant Fund; and

WHEREAS, the funds creating these receivables and reserves have been investigated and it has been determined that these receivables and reserves should be cancelled;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Lopatcong, that the following Grants Receivable and Grant Appropriated Reserves are hereby cancelled;

Grants Receivable:

NJ Community Forestry Program – 2022	\$2,996.29
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Grant Appropriated Reserves:

NJ Community Forestry Program – 2022	\$2,996.29
	\$2,439.91

I, Margaret Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, in the County of Warren, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren, State of New Jersey at a Council meeting of said Council held August 7, 2024.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of The Township of Lopatcong in the County of Warren and State of New Jersey this 7th Day of August, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 24-111 – Authorize Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2023-005 on Block 99, Lot 128 Qualifications C0088 in the amount of \$2,852.23, Premium \$700.00

R-24-111

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZE REDEMPTION OF TAX SALE CERTIFICATE NO. 2023-005 ON BLOCK 99, LOT 128 QUALIFICATION C0088 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,852.23, PREMIUM \$700.00.

WHEREAS, at the Lopatcong Township Municipal Tax Sale held on December 12, 2023 a lien was sold on Block 99 Lot 128 Qualifications C0088 also known as 88 Overlook Drive for delinquent tax and sewer; and

WHEREAS, this lien known as Tax Sale Certificate No. 2023-005 was sold to ARTHUR FRUSTACI; and

WHEREAS, on July 31, 2024 the Certificate No. 2023-005 has been satisfied in the amount of \$2,852.23, premium \$700.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 7th day of August, 2024 that the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$2,852.23, premium \$700.00 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2023-005 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, August 7, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 24-112 – Authorizing Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2020-027 on Block 99 Lot 50 Qualification C0260.

R-24-112

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REDEMPTION OF TAX SALE CERTIFICATE NO. 2020-027 ON BLOCK 99 LOT 50 QUALIFICATION C0260.

WHEREAS, at the Lopatcong Township Municipal Tax Sale held on December 29, 2020 a lien was sold on Block 99 Lot 50 Qualification C0260 also known as 260 Bald Eagle Drive for delinquent sewer; and

WHEREAS, this lien know as Tax Sale Certificate No. 2020-027 was sold to WSFS AS CUSTODIAN FOR ACTLIEN HOLDING INC; and

WHEREAS, on July 29, 2024 the Certificate No. 2020-027 has been satisfied in the amount of \$3,883.76, premium \$1,500.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 7th day of August, 2024 that the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$3,883.76, premium \$1,500.00 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2020-027 to:

WSFS AS CUSTODIAN FOR ACTLIEN HOLDING INC.
PO BOX 71539
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19176-1539
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, August 7, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 24-113 – Issue a Refund for a Tax Overpayment for Block 109 Lot 6 due to a Disabled Veteran Exemption.

R-24-113

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO ISSUE A REFUND FOR A TAX OVERPAYMENT FOR BLOCK 109 LOT 6 DUE TO A DISABLED VETERAN EXEMPTION.

WHEREAS, the Tax Assessor has approved a Disabled Veteran Exemption for Block 109 Lot 6, on 5/9/2024;

WHEREAS, the 2nd Quarter 2024 property taxes will be partially credited in the amount of \$948.16, as well as cancelling taxes for Quarter 3 and Quarter 4 of 2024, and Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 of 2025 due to the exempt status;

WHEREAS, the homeowner of the property paid the 2nd Quarter 2024 Taxes in the amount of \$1,673.23 on May 3, 2024 resulting in an overpayment; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 7th day of August, 2024 that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong hereby authorize the Chief Financial Officer a refund in the amount of \$948.16 to: Alfred R. Bates, II, 55 Lynnfield Terrace, 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, August 7, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 24-114 – Issue a Refund for a Tax Overpayment for Block 124 Lot 8 due to a Disabled Veteran Exemption.

R-24-114

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO ISSUE A REFUND FOR A TAX OVERPAYMENT FOR BLOCK 124 LOT 8 DUE TO A DISABLED VETERAN EXEMPTION.

WHEREAS, the Tax Assessor has approved a Disabled Veteran Exemption for Block 124 Lot 8, on 6/12/2024;

WHEREAS, the 2nd Quarter 2024 property taxes will be partially credited in the amount of \$350.31, as well as cancelling taxes for Quarter 3 and Quarter 4 of 2024, and Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 of 2025 due to the exempt status;

WHEREAS, the homeowner of the property paid the 2nd Quarter 2024 Taxes in the amount of \$1,751.53 on May 7, 2024 resulting in an overpayment; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 7th day of August, 2024 that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong hereby authorize the Chief Financial Officer a refund in the amount of \$350.31 to: Michael Suszko, 31 Wordsworth Lane, 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, August 7, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 24-115 – Authorizing Extending the Grace Period for the 2024 Third Quarter Taxes.

R-24-115

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AUTHORIZE EXTENDING THE GRACE PERIOD FOR THE 2024 THIRD QUARTER TAXES TO AUGUST 23, 2024.

WHEREAS, the annual tax bills were not mailed by the statutory mailing date pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-66; and

WHEREAS, the mailing of the annual tax bills occurred July 24, 2024; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Statute, no interest may be charged until after 25 days of mailing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey, that the third installment of the 2024 tax bills shall be due and payable by August 23, 2024 without penalty.

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, August 7, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 24-116 – Authorizing Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2023-001 on Block 47 Lot7 in the amount of \$358.03, Premium \$100.00.

R-24-116

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AUTHORIZE REDEMPTION OF TAX SALE CERTIFICATE NO. 2023-001 ON BLOCK 47 LOT 7.

WHEREAS, at the Lopatcong Township Municipal Tax Sale held on December 12, 2023 a lien was sold on Block 47 Lot 7 also known as 106 Rosehill Avenue for delinquent sewer; and

WHEREAS, this lien known as Tax Sale Certificate No. 2023-001 was sold to ARTHUR FRUSTACI; and

WHEREAS, on July 25, 2024 the Certificate No. 2023-001 has been satisfied in the amount of \$358.03, premium \$100.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 7th day of August, 2024 that the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$358.03, premium \$100.00 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2023-001 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, August 7, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 24-117 – Authorizing Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2023-008 on Block 116.12 Lot 9 Qualification C0071 in the amount of \$1,456.23, Premium \$500.00.

R-24-117

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AUTHORIZE REDEMPTION OF TAX SALE CERTIFICATE NO. 2023-008 ON BLOCK 116.12 LOT 9 QUALIFICATION C0071.

WHEREAS, at the Lopatcong Township Municipal Tax Sale held on December 12, 2023 a lien was sold on Block 116.12 Lot 9 also known as 71 Limerick Lane for delinquent sewer; and

WHEREAS, this lien known as Tax Sale Certificate No. 2023-008 was sold to PRO CAP 8 FBO FIRSTRUST BANK; and

WHEREAS, on July 2, 2024 the Certificate No. 2023-008 has been satisfied in the amount of \$1,456.23, premium \$500.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 7th day of August, 2024 that the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$1,456.23, premium \$500.00 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2023-008 to:

PRO CAP 8 FBO FIRSTRUST BANK
PO BOX 774
FORT WASHINGTON, PA 19034-0774

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, August 7, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 24-118 – Authorizing Appointment of Jeffrey Hill as Plumbing Subcode Official Part-Time Provisionally in the Construction Department pending Civil Service Commission Procedure.

R 24-118

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF JEFFREY HILL AS PLUMBING SUBCODE OFFICIAL PART-TIME PROVISIONALLY IN THE CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT PENDING CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION PROCEDURE

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey hereby authorize the appointment of Jeffrey Hill provisionally part-time in the Construction Department pending successful completion of the Civil Service Commission procedure; and

WHEREAS, Jeffrey Hill will be paid a salary according to the 2024 Salary Ordinance; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey that Jeffrey Hill is hereby appointed Plumbing Subcode Official pending Civil Service Procedures.

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, August 7, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Announcements – Community Day – August 24, rain date August 31; Shred Event – September 14; Yard Sale Event – September 21; Fall Clean Up – October 5, Check Website www.lopatcongtp.com for more details.

Council Reports:

Councilman McQuade – Nothing additional to report.

Councilman Marinelli – National Night Out - Thank you to the police and all of their hard work organizing/planning for it. Unfortunately, it was cancelled this year.

Council President Palitto – Community Day - The Car Show is back on and the proceeds are going to the Fire Department as well as the proceeds from the Townwide Yard Sale Event. Flyers will be going out this week.

Mayor Wright – We have a part-time traffic enforcement officer for the past two weeks out on the roads. I have been seeing him stop cars everywhere and have heard it on the radio as well. He must stop 20 cars a day and/or tractor trailers on our roads. I'm sure the Chief will talk a little bit about it. It's working out really well. We did have the squad respond to my house today and the Police Department, did it in a very timely manner. It was really amazing to see guys from Phillipsburg and Lopatcong they were right on the scene and I really appreciate that.

Engineer Wisniewski – So the most visible project that we've had over the last month was the Belvidere Road Sidewalk Project. Right around Phillipsburg High School on the Lopatcong side. That work has now been substantially completed. Currently, we've requested an inspection of the project by NJDOT there are some minor items which need to be finalized and completed. Generally, the project has gone very smoothly and we expect the project to be finalized in the coming weeks. Shouldn't be any major disruptions anymore traffic and we don't expect any major disruptions unless some corrective work needs to be done. The next project that I've already spoken on is Jade Lane Project. That work is complete in terms of the drainage repair, sidewalk repairs, manhole repairs there. We are still coordinating on the contractor for milling paving. As soon as we have an update, we will provide that when they give us a date and when they will be in town to do the work. Finally, the Belvidere Road Project has also been completed, the next phase or step in Park progress is we have completed the design of the Pickle Ball Courts at this time and we are finalizing the documents and getting everything ready to get the project in the paper. We hope to have that advertised in the next two weeks. Shortly after that will be open bids and then coordinate on with building the new project in the fall. The next phase of the design of that park project will be to design the pool which we are starting that design process, I believe, in the next two weeks.

Chief Garcia – As you said Mayor effective July 24th, we were able to dedicate traffic enforcement to our roadways and hope to continue with this through the month of August. If I can bring it a little bit future into the month of September, I will but as of right now, we will do it until the end of August. We have seen a lot of vehicles being stopped. It is working and our numbers are increased as you will see slightly just in the week that he was out there. It is making a difference. E-ticketing – E-Ticketing Program is in every patrol car that we have now. So, it's going to be cutting down the time the officers have to be on a traffic stop and holding up the violator so, it's been working great for us so far and it's been running for the last week now. As Councilman Marinelli had indicated that National Night Out was canceled last night due to the inclement weather it's a shame and there are so many people that do work very hard and put that together. I would be remised if I did not thank them. For the businesses that have been phenomenal to our township to make that happen for us every year. So, I would like to thank them in general but also

to our Lopatcong Fire Department Chief LaFord our Lopatcong DPW and Superintendent Brian Weeks, and our Police Department. National Night Out is run by Sergeant, Stephen Gabos, countless hours go into that and it's unfortunate that it had to be cancelled, but we'll see everyone again next year. Our traffic report for the month of July, the Police Department saw a total 198 stops throughout the month of July and then 46% of those stops were issued a summons. Then 36% of those summonses issued were tractor trailers. That's my report for the month of July.

Brian Weeks – DPW Superintendent noted that he has given his report and wants to let them know what's coming down the pike for us. I'm not sure if you've noticed it but we are watching leaves drop and we are going to watch over where Gary VanVliet on Dryden Terrace they will be picked up not too far down the road. We are planning on different things. We've took the dirt from the project up here and made a better area of the leaves so it meets Storm Water Regulations a lot better. It's not going over the hills and right now a lot of it is maintaining and getting everything ready for Community Day. We are also working on all the equipment when it's raining out. We also went out and made sure all of the storm drains were open to eliminate the floods, made sure the detention basins, everything is open before that flood water hits rain wise.

Fire Chief LaFord – For the month of July, the Fire Dept. responded to 14 incidents with an average response time of 7 minutes; our on-scene time was about 40 minutes with 8 personnel and 3 apparatus responding; year-to-date 130 calls. That's down about 3% from last we were at 135 for the same time frame. Our response time for the year 6 minutes with an average incident duration of 32 minutes with 9 people and 4 apparatus.

EMS Report – Month of July the Phillipsburg EMS ran 440 calls of which Lopatcong Township was 105; which was 23.6% of our call volume. Year-to-date the call total is 3,178 of which Lopatcong was 840 – 26.4% of the call volume.

Department Reports - Council President Palitto made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman McQuade. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

Payment of Bills – Councilman Marinelli made a motion to approve the bills for payment, seconded by Council President Palitto. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

Public Comment:

Bob Bruce – Harwich Road – I wanted to thank Council for listening to the public's calls for restoring Mayor Mengucci's ability for residents to raise comments and questions on agenda items that are in the interest of every resident to clearly and plainly understand what its government is doing and why. I again want to thank the Council for initially adopting the presentation of the monthly traffic reports by Chief Garcia given all the truck traffic and the influx of warehouses has brought to our little Township that was something we asked as residents that you present each month. It has helped to know that the level of enforcement of traffic violations continues if not actually having increased along with the number of trucks. I'd also like to thank Council for adding monthly reports concerning Fire and EMS calls, something I believe that Council independently implemented by themselves without being asked by the residents. Tonight, I'd like to ask the Council to further expand the sharing of monthly reports by beginning short monthly reports on the status of any warehouses known to be planned or thought to be planned. I am aware that additional warehouses on Strykers and an additional warehouse plan behind the mall are

already going in. Can the Council provide monthly reports of the status of these or other warehouses even if it's just to say no change to this warehouse. Just kind of share with the residents where we are regarding warehouses being planned or considered. Can I also ask this Council or perhaps Mr. Lavery who is not here tonight for each month simply note the status of any new or ongoing litigation that we are either defending or prosecuting. I realize what you can say about ongoing litigation is quite limited and that's ok; it's not what I asked that you report on. Also, videos have yet to be posted of the June 26th Planning Board meeting or the June 27th Special Council Meeting.

Lynn Strouse – 110 S. Sixth Street – Due to my persistence with no help from Council at all the dumpster issue with Key City Diner has been resolved. Key City Diner management has been very attentive to this matter. Second, I would like to thank Department of Public Works for painting my handicap space and installing the proper signage.

John Betz – 225 Red School Lane I'd like to thank Council for getting this Ordinance 24-15 second reading and bringing forth the ordinance. I'd like to make a rhetorical statement. What are the intentions of the Rent Board enforcing the Ordinance. There is a tenant that I spoke with today that has an attorney, their attorney has not been responded to either. So, that puts a personal attorney not responding to. I know for the longest time Lopatcong's attorney had responded to by our group.

Richard Markle– 1400 Belvidere Road – First, I think the Police Department having a designated traffic person is needed. I live right there on the corner of Red School Lane and Belvidere Road. There are continuous trucks coming through, they're overweight and I don't know what we should do about the speed limit. They are coming through there at 50 + mph. September, October, November, December we should keep the continuous traffic cop to handle that. Second comment is, I don't know what our policy is in Lopatcong with illegal immigration. It's not a Texas issue, it's not an Arizona issue it's everywhere but I've never heard a conversation about it in our town. Are they coming to our schools? If we're not already talking about it, we should be. Comment number three, is the sidewalk going all the way down to Red School Lane. Is that happening next year? Are the plans finalized?

Mayor Wright – Indicated he would find out and get back to him.

Pam Thomas – 6 Wordsworth Lane – I do need to say any comments or ideas I have are strictly my own and not as a representative of the school board, which I am a member of. So, first of all I would like to say I just love to see the sidewalks on Belvidere Road and I have a question about Charles and Belvidere Road. Will there be a crossing guard or is there discussion of a future traffic light there? It's a tough situation. So, now the sidewalks are there for the kids so they can get to the high school, but how do they get across Belvidere Road. I'm concerned about their safety.

Mayor Wright – I will check on it and get back to you.

Mayor Wright called for an adjournment of the meeting. Motion by Council President Palitto, seconded by Councilman McQuade. All in favor.

Submitted by:

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC
Clerk/Administrator

William D. Wright
Mayor