

**BOROUGH OF LAUREL SPRINGS  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2016  
AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE BOROUGH HALL  
MAYOR THOMAS A. BARBERA PRESIDING  
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SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND MOMENT OF SILENCE was led by Mayor Barbera

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW – Mayor Barbera stated that adequate notice of this meeting was given by emailing the Record breeze and the Courier-Post on January 6, 2016 and posting on the Borough Website and bulletin board in the Borough Hall.

ROLL CALL recorded as present: Letts, McCunney, Mochel, DiGregorio, Cruz and Redstreak; absent: none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Work Session Meeting of February 22, 2016 – the motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak, was seconded by Councilman McCunney, with Letts, McCunney, Cruz and Redstreak, in favor, Mochel and DiGregorio abstaining and none opposed.

RESOLUTIONS

- **#037-2016- CONFIRMING SUPPORT FOR SUBMISSION OF GRANT APPLICATION FOR AMERICAN WATER 2016 ENVIRONMENTAL GRANT PROGRAM**  
**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Laurel Springs have authorized the submission of a grant application; and  
**WHEREAS**, the said grant will be utilized for surface and groundwater protection education, aka “WaltFEST” on the first Saturday following Walt Whitman’s birthday, to positively impact every individual and community with the historic and environmental significance of Timber Creek; and  
**WHEREAS**, no one has more expansively expressed nor deeply esteemed the precious natural resource of this waterway than Walt Whitman; and  
**WHEREAS**, it is anticipated that this event will draw lovers of nature, of Whitman and of art from many quarters who will become aware of the importance of protecting and maintaining this significant and historic waterway; and  
**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Laurel Springs that they confirm their support for surface and groundwater protection education and to apply to American Water for their Environmental Grant.
- The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilwoman Mochel, with Letts, McCunney, Mochel, DiGregorio, Cruz and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions
- **#038-2016- FOR RENEWAL OF MERCANTILE LICENSE**

**WHEREAS**, Mayor and Council of the Borough of Laurel Springs have passed an ordinance establishing Chapter 169 of the code of the Borough of Laurel Springs, known as “Mercantile License”; and

**WHEREAS**, a license is required to operate or conduct any business establishment in the Borough of Laurel Springs;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by Mayor and Council of the Borough of Laurel Springs that the proper investigation has been made and the following applicants have complied with the general laws and statutes of the state and the ordinance of the Borough of Laurel Springs.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that approval has been granted by Mayor and Council for RENEWALS OF “MERCANTILE LICENSE” for:

Lisa Ward Photography  
654 E. Atlantic Avenue

Bella Vita Pizza  
809 W. Atlantic Ave

Gregorio Deli  
817 W. Atlantic Avenue

iRepair Wireless  
805A W. Atlantic Avenue

J & R Rebuilders  
330 Washington Avenue

- The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilwoman Mochel, with Letts, McCunney, Mochel, DiGregorio, Cruz and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

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- **#040-2016- DESIGNATING RECIPIENTS FOR THE CAMDEN COUNTY HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING CAMDEN COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AS ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT**

**WHEREAS**, the Laurel Springs Housing Rehabilitation Agency, hereinafter referred to as “Agency” has received applications by certain homeowners specified herein for rehabilitation of their dwelling under the Camden County Improvement Authority Block Grant Program; and

**WHEREAS**, said Agency has determined that said homeowners are eligible under the guidelines of said program; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Camden has been authorized by Cooperation Agreements between the Improvement Authority and the various participating municipalities to administer the Housing Rehabilitation Program from funds received under Community Development Block Grant Program;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by Mayor and Council of the Borough of Laurel Springs as follows:

1. That the following homeowners are hereby determined eligible for assistance under the Camden County Home Improvement Program:

File #: 16-D-053

2. That the Camden County Improvement Authority is hereby authorized to process the aforementioned homeowner’s application for rehabilitation of their dwellings as specified herein.

3. That the Camden County Improvement Authority is further authorized to do the following:

- a) Execute any and all documents and perform all administrative functions which may be required or desired in order to carry out the terms and
  - i. conditions of the Community Development Block Grant Program.
- b) Make payments to the homeowners and contractors in amounts determined by
- c) Community Development for services performed in rehabilitating the dwelling
- d) specified herein.

- The motion to approve by Councilman McCunney was seconded by Councilman Redstreak, with Letts, McCunney, Mochel, DiGregorio, Cruz and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions

- **#041-2016- COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FOR YEAR 38 (2016-2017)**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Laurel Springs is entitled to Community Development Block Grant funding; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council have chosen to submit an application for {program Year 38 (2016-2017)}; and

**WHEREAS**, the grant allocation for YEAR 38 (2016-2017) for the Borough of Laurel Springs is \$14,200.00; and

**WHEREAS**, the governing body has agreed to apply for funding for the following activity(s);  
***CORD MANSION***

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Laurel Springs that the Mayor is hereby authorized to sign the Project Description Form for Year Program Year 38 (2016-2017).

- The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilwoman Mochel, with Letts, McCunney, Mochel, DiGregorio, Cruz and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions

- **#042-2016- SUPPORTING THE PROGRAMS OF THE JOINT INSURANCE FUND AND THE SAFETY INCENTIVE PROGRAM OF THE BOROUGH OF LAUREL SPRINGS**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Laurel Springs recognizes the important role an effective safety program plays in lowering employee injury rates, reducing lost time accidents, and cutting insurance costs, all of which contribute to greater employee safety and lower tax rates, and that health and safety must never be compromised, with employee safety along with the safety of the public as our number one priority; and

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**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Laurel Springs is desires to achieve an accident free environment through a health a safety culture built on TRUST - we respect each other's opinions and decisions and will follow through on all health and safety concerns - CARE – we approach each day with the determination to care for ourselves, coworkers and the community we serve - KNOWLEDGE – we seek the education and skills to properly fulfill our responsibilities - COMMUNICATION – we communicate with each other in a clear, open and honest manner; and

**WHEREAS**, because the Borough of Laurel Springs educates its employees with regard to appropriate conduct in the workplace and encourages employees to report workplace harassment or discrimination.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Laurel Springs applaud the JIF's initiative in providing many of the safety resources needed to enhance its local safety efforts by declaring its support of the JIF's safety programs, Laurel Springs' Safety Incentive Program and Safety Coordinator, Chief Carmen Rabottino; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the following operational criteria is endorsed for the Borough of Laurel Springs:

- The Borough Safety Committee will meet on the following Tuesdays – March 1<sup>st</sup> , June 7<sup>th</sup> , September 6<sup>th</sup> and December 6<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm in the Borough Hall
- “Putting Safety on Our Agenda” by including safety and risk management topics on the Governing Body agenda on a regular basis
- Establishing a Motor Vehicle fleet safety program
- Keeping regulatory training and written programs current
- Encouraging supervisors and crew leaders to make a “daily safety contact” with employees
- Managing our claims, reporting all claims in a timely manner, offering transitional duty and investigating incidents and near misses
- Actively promoting and supporting health and wellness activities

The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilwoman Mochel, with Letts, McCunney, Mochel, DiGregorio, Cruz and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions

- RESOLVED TO PAY \$378,321.26 FROM CURRENT ACCOUNT AND \$26,925.12 TRUST AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS
- The motion to approve by Councilman Redstreak was seconded by Councilwoman Mochel, with Letts, McCunney, Mochel, DiGregorio, Cruz and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions

**ORDINANCES – First Reading and Introduction:**

- #797-2016- AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE SALARIES OF THE POLICE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF LAUREL SPRINGS, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, FOR YEAR
  - Mayor Barbera opened the meeting to the public for comments and questions. Hearing none, he closed the meeting to the public.
  - The motion to adopt by Councilman Redstreak, was seconded by Councilwoman Mochel with Letts, McCunney, Mochel, DiGregorio, Cruz and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions
- #798-2016- AN ORDINANCE TO MANDATE DIRECT DEPOSIT FORMUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES BY THE BOROUGH OF LAUREL SPRINGS TO C.52:14-15f et. Seq
  - Mayor Barbera opened the meeting to the public for comments and questions. Hearing none, he closed the meeting to the public.
  - The motion to adopt by Councilman Redstreak, was seconded by Councilwoman Mochel with Letts, McCunney, Mochel, DiGregorio, Cruz and Redstreak in favor, none opposed and no abstentions
- #799-2016- AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 80 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF LAUREL SPRINGS ENTITLED, “VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

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- Mayor Barbera opened the meeting to the public for comments and questions. Hearing none, he closed the meeting to the public.
- The motion to adopt by Councilman Redstreake, was seconded by Councilwoman Mochel with Letts, McCunney, Mochel, DiGregorio, Cruz and Redstreake in favor, none opposed and no abstentions

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY – POLICE AND FIRE – Councilwoman Mochel read the Police Reports for the month of February, 2016, copies of which are on file and available for review.
- DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, BOARDS, SERVICES/PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL – Council President Redstreake commented that he received a March 17, 2016 letter from the State of New Jersey Office of Workforce Development regarding the follow up inspection at Public Works saying all hazards have been successfully abated.
- DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilman McCunney had no report.
- DIRECTOR OF MUNICIPAL COURT – Councilwoman DiGregorio read the Municipal Court for January and February, 2016, copies of which are on file and available for review.
- DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE – Councilman Letts read the CFO Report for the month of February, 2016. Borough Administrator Ken Cheeseman distributed the most recent updated proposed budget for 2016. The budget is scheduled to be introduced at the next meeting. Council was encouraged to review and direct any questions to him. He gave highlights of the budget saying it is under the 2% budget cap and \$92,000 under levy cap. It proposes a 5.5 cent increase \$53 per year on average house assessed at \$115,000. The majority of the increase is a couple of separate issues with the debt service, which will be flat for several years after this, and then will drop off. There was discussion of the use of the increasing surplus. The surplus is due to sale of some borough assets and the increased diligence with vacant properties. The capital budget is detailed in the smaller packet. This is not a budget year to fund a car for the Police Department. There are several grants anticipated which are offset by capital which will be paid off by the receipt of the grants. There was conversation about what the School and the County might be anticipating. Councilman Redstreake said he had heard that the School might be looking at a 7 cent increase. There was discussion of the comparable increases of previous years which were more, and the introduction and date of the next meeting.
- DIRECTOR OF RECREATION – Councilman Cruz read the Recreation Report for February, 2016. Opening day will be April 9<sup>th</sup>. There was discussion of submitting a Recreational Enhancement Grant for a pavilion at the Ballfield. There were questions about the use of the pavilion, such as use of bathroom facilities, scheduling and the prohibition of renting it because of the receipt of grant funds. Those questions will be given closer consideration when the application period approaches.
- MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Barbera read the Mayor's Report covering his activities for February, 2016, a copy of which is on file and available for review.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Cord Mansion Project –With regard to CDBG Supplemental Funds, \$50,000 has been awarded for installation of an elevator to facilitate Americans with Disabilities. Mayor Barbera explained the confines of the Community Development Funding.

**NEW BUSINESS-**

- Inspection of Laurel Springs Dam, NJDEP Dam #31-36 – The State requires dams be inspected at a set interval, and the time to inspect has come, and the Borough Engineer has offered a quote on the cost to inspect.
- Recreation Commission Requests
  - I. Application to Camden County Open Space for Recreation Enhancement project to construction pavilion

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- II. Paint mural on back of Candy Stand – The Recreation Commission had suggested that the “O’TannenBOMB” event be used as the theme of the mural. There were questions as to why that one event was being singled out.

**ITEMS RECEIVED AFTER THE AGENDA WAS PRINTED**

A confirmation was received from Covenant House in memory of Sally Letts, Councilman Letts mother. Councilman Letts thanked Council for their gift on her behalf.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> Economic Improvement, 4 pm @ Borough Hall
- Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> School Board, 7 pm @ Laurel Springs School
- Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup> Combined Land Use Board, 7 pm @ Borough Hall (Cancelled)
- Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup> Easter Monday, Borough Offices are closed.
- Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> Work Session of Mayor and Council, 7 pm @ Borough Hall.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –**

- **Ken Lippincott - 511 Park Avenue** – Asked if Laurel Springs owned dam completely. Councilman Redstreak offered to sell Mr. Lippincott the dam, saying that it was something that was decided upon in the first half of the twentieth century by some unknown group of Borough Officials, but that the dam is wholly owned by Laurel Springs.

**ADJOURNMENT** –There being no further business a motion was made by Councilman Redstreak, which was seconded by Councilwoman Mochel to adjourn at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn T. Amadio, RMC,  
Municipal Clerk