



City of Lambertville
Regularly Scheduled Council Meeting
March 1, 2022, 7:00 P.M.
Phillip L. Pittore Justice Center, 25 South Union
Street, Lambertville
MINUTES

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Mayor Nowick called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and he asked the City Clerk to read the statement of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act into the record.

The City Clerk read the following statement into the record: This meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act with the annual notice advertised in the Trenton Times and provided to the Hunterdon County Democrat. The meeting agenda was posted on the city's website and bulletin board at city hall and the meeting notice was sent out to members on the list serve, department heads, and the city engineer.

The meeting agenda provides for all action items known at the time of publication and is subject to change and will be streamed live and recorded using the Zoom Meeting Platform.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk called the roll as follows:

Present: Councilwoman Lambert, Councilman Sanders, Councilman Stegman, Council President Taylor, Mayor Nowick

Also Present: Cynthia Ege – City Clerk, Michael Humphrey – Deputy Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Nowick led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NUMBER 54-2022: A Resolution Urging the Swift Passage of S-330 which restores Energy Tax Receipts.

Mayor Nowick asked for a motion to adopt Resolution Number 54-2022 urging the swift passage of S-330 to restore energy tax receipts.

He informed the members of the public that this will have a negative impact on the city's budget in a year that already has challenges due to COVID and Hurricane Ida. In 2021, the city received \$308,854.00.

Urging the Swift Passage of S-330 which restores Energy Tax Receipts

WHEREAS, taxes on gas and electric utilities were originally collected by the host municipalities to be used for local purposes and to compensate the public for the use of their rights of way; and

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WHEREAS, when the State made itself the collection agent for these taxes, it promised to dedicate the proceeds to municipal property tax relief; since, just as municipalities collect property taxes for the benefit of school districts, counties, and other entities, the State is supposed to collect Energy Taxes for the benefit of municipal governments; and

WHEREAS, for years, though, State budget makers have diverted funding from Energy Taxes to fund State programs; and instead of being spent on local programs and services and used to offset property taxes, the money has been spent as successive Legislatures and Administrations have seen fit; and

WHEREAS, the diversion of dedicated energy tax receipts to the State's General Fund further jeopardizes this critical property tax relief funding in future years; and

WHEREAS, by reducing Consolidated Municipal Property Tax Relief Act (CMPTRA), which is also comprised of revenues that should be returned to municipalities, State Budget makers have been able to continue collecting Energy Taxes, while keeping additional revenue that should have been returned to provide property tax relief; and

WHEREAS, the cumulative impact of years of underfunding has left many municipalities with serious needs and burdensome property taxes; and

WHEREAS, local elected officials are in the best position to decide the best use of these resources, which were always intended to fund local programs and services; and

WHEREAS, Senator Singleton and Senate President Scutari have introduced legislation (S-330) that will restore, over a five-year period, Energy Tax Receipts to municipalities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the governing body of the (*insert name of municipality*) in the county of (*insert name of county*) urges the Legislature to swiftly pass this legislation and Governor Murphy sign the legislation prior to passage of the FY2023 State budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution is forwarded to (*insert names of municipality's Assembly representatives and Senator*), Senate President Scutari, Assembly Speaker Coughlin, Governor Murphy, and the League of Municipalities.

Mayor Nowick asked for a motion to adopt Resolution Number 54-2022. Councilman Sanders made the motion and Council President Taylor seconded the motion. An affirmative voice vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present.
MOTION CARRIED.

Cannabis Applications – March 7, 2022 meeting agenda.

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Mayor Nowick informed the members of the public that the governing body will hold a special session on Monday, March 7, 2022 to review the applications filed by the following people to operate a Cannabis Business in Lambertville: Baked by the River Cannabis Application, Union Chill Cannabis Application, and Jersey Girlz Cannabis Application.

ORDINANCE FIRST READING

ORDINANCE NUMBER 03-2022: *An Ordinance to Amend the Lambertville City Code, 2014, Chapter II – Administrative Code, Section 2-3.10, i. Addressing Council, 2. Changing the time for remarks and questions from five minutes to three minutes.*

Mayor Nowick read the Ordinance into the record by title.

An Ordinance to Amend the Lambertville City Code, 2014, Chapter II – Administrative Code, Section 2-3.10, i. Addressing Council, 2. Changing the time for remarks and questions from five minutes to three minutes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of the city of Lambertville that Chapter II, Administrative Code, of the Lambertville City Code, 2014, section 2-3.10, letter i., is hereby amended to read:

Except upon consent of the Council, each person addressing the Council pursuant to this section shall be required to limit his remarks to three minutes and shall at no time engage in any personally offensive or abusive remarks. The chair shall call any speaker to order who violates any provision of this rule.

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING: March 1, 2022

PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING: March 17, 2022

Mayor Nowick asked for a motion to introduce on first reading Ordinance Number 03-2022. Councilman Sanders made the motion and Councilman Stegman seconded the motion. An affirmative voice vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Nowick informed the members of the governing body and public that the public hearing is scheduled for March 17.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Social Media Policy

Mayor Nowick informed the members of the public that the governing body has been working on a social media policy for the city so that we can effectively communicate with the public. This is designed to reintroduce us to Facebook in a way that is significant, helpful and informative with the public.

The plan is to post this to the website and begin using Facebook in the next week.

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NOTE: During the meeting, the city's zoom account was bombed by members of the public using vulgar language and inappropriate photos. The governing body logged off and logged back on to give people an opportunity to log back on.

The use of Facebook and other social media will be limited to power outages, and Lambertville Matters will not be posted on Facebook. We may post a notice informing people how to sign up for Lambertville Matters.

Rainbow Crosswalk

Mayor Nowick informed the members of the governing body and public that the New Hope Celebrates Committee has requested consideration for a rainbow crosswalk in the city.

The State of New Jersey's Department of Transportation responded that this is not possible, and there is a rule prohibiting any type of painting. We asked for clarification. It looks like it cannot be on Bridge Street or a state highway. Council members had questions and concerns about this and we will discuss this further at the March 17th session.

Greater Lambertville Chamber of Commerce – Shad Festival

Mayor Nowick informed the members of the public that the Police Department, City Clerk and Mayor met with the Greater Lambertville Chamber of Commerce to finalize the details pertaining to Shad Festival.

Parking Lots and Road Closures:

- a. North Union Street Parking Lot from Friday, April 22, 2022 through Monday, April 25, 2022;
- b. Bank Parking Lot on Saturday, April 23, 2022 beginning at 8 am and ending at 8 pm on Sunday, April 24, 2022;
- c. Suspended parking for the following streets:
 - i. Main Street from York to Ferry Street
 - ii. Bridge Street from Lambert Lane to Main Street
 - iii. Phillip L. Pittore Justice Center
 - iv. Lambertville Free Public Library Parking Lot for handicapped parking
- d. Road Closures from 9 AM to 8 PM on April 23, 2022 and again on Sunday, April 24, 2022.
 - i. Union Street from York to Ferry Street
 - ii. Church Street from Union to Main Street
 - iii. Kline's Court from Bridge to Ferry Street
 - iv. Ferry Street from Kline's Court to Union Street

Additional Police Coverage

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Public Works Assistance with Garbage, Recycling and the Third Can Food Waste Recycling Program
Reimbursement for the cost of garbage, recycling and the third can food waste fees.

With the following provisions:

SECTION A. COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

1. The "GLCC" agrees to reimburse the City of Lambertville for the following:
 - a. All overtime incurred for the Event;
 - i. Police Personnel
 - ii. Public Works Personnel
 - b. Cost of Garbage, Recycling and the Third Can Food Waste Recycling which will be logged by the Public Works Department;
The "GLCC" will either pay the City directly or require the vendors pay for all fees associated with licensing for the event which include but may not be limited to:
 - c. Temporary Food Licenses: All food vendors will participate in the City's food waste program.
 - d. Fire Safety Permits
 - e. Parking Meters: 220 parking meters for 2 days at \$12.00 per day for a total of \$5,280.00.

The "GLCC" agrees to pay the bill within ten (10) days of receipt of invoice from the "City."

Mayor Nowick asked for a motion to approve the request from the Greater Lambertville Chamber of Commerce, and approval to sign the memorandum of understanding. Councilwoman Lambert made the motion and Councilman Sanders seconded the motion. An affirmative voice vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present. MOTION CARRIED.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Nowick read the announcement into the record.

Job Opportunity: Parking Enforcement Part-time Position (20 hours each week, \$15 per hour) is open in the police department.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mayor Nowick asked for public comment.

The City Planner asked if the public comment policy should be posted on the city's website under boards and commissions. Mayor Nowick will look into it and will act appropriately.

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CLOSED SESSION: Closed Session of the Governing Body of the March 1, 2022 Lambertville City Council Meeting to discuss Issues related to Potential Contracts pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)(7).

Mayor Nowick asked for a motion to go into closed session to discuss issues related to potential contracts pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)(7).

RESOLUTION

“Authorizing a Closed Session at the March 1, 2022 Lambertville City Council Meeting to Discuss Issues related to Potential Contracts Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)(7).”

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Lambertville is subject to certain requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, provides that a closed session, not open to the public, may be held for certain specified purposes when authorized by N.J.S.A 10:4-12(b).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Lambertville that a closed session shall be held on March 1, 2022, using the virtual meeting platform Zoom, to discuss Issues Related to Potential Contracts Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)(7).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the deliberations conducted in closed session may be disclosed to the public upon the determination of the Lambertville Mayor and City Council.

ADOPTED: March 1, 2022

Mayor Nowick and City Council convened in closed session at 7:38 p.m. with a motion made by Councilwoman Lambert and seconded by Councilman Sanders. An affirmative voice/roll call vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Nowick and City Council re-convened in regular session at 8:54 p.m. with a motion made by Councilwoman Lambert and seconded by Council President Taylor. An affirmative voice/roll call vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present. MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

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The Meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m. with a motion made by Councilwoman Lambert and seconded by Council President Taylor. An affirmative voice vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Ege
CMR, RMC, City Clerk