

City of Lambertville REGULARLY SCHEDULED SESSION TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2020, 7:00 PM VIRTUAL MEETING USING ZOOM MINUTES

Please use this like to obtain information for meeting participation: <u>http://lambertvillenj.org/virtualmeetings</u>

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Mayor Fahl called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. She asked for five minutes to allow the members of the public to sign on. At 7:05 p.m. Mayor Fahl 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 Trenton Times, provided to the Hunterdon County Democrat and Trenton Times, the posting of the meeting agenda on the Bulletin Board at City Hall, on the City's website at <u>www.lambertvillenj.org</u>, on the exterior door of the Elevator Entrance at City Hall, and to department heads and the listserv.

Instructions on how to participate in the meeting were emailed through the City's listserv, provided on a call-in message at City Hall, posted on the City's website at <u>www.lambertvillenj.org</u> and will be read into the record at the beginning of the meeting and again during Public Participation.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PUBLIC ON HOW TO PARTICIPATE USING ZOOM VIA PHONE AND THROUGH THE WEBINAR FEATUR

The Deputy Clerk read the instructions into the record before public comment.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk called the roll as follows:

Present: Councilman Sanders, Councilwoman Taylor, Councilwoman Urbish, Mayor Fahl

Absent: Council President Asaro was not at the meeting due to a family emergency.

Also present: Alex Torpey – Business Administrator, Cynthia Ege – City Clerk, Kristina Majeski – Deputy Clerk, Christopher Battaglia – Certified Municipal Finance Officer, William Opel – City Attorney and Emily Goldman – City Planner.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Fahl led the members of the public in the Pledge of Allegiance while the Deputy Clerk displayed the American Flag on the shared screen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Fahl asked all to remain standing for the Moment of Silence in honor of those serving in the United States Armed Forces and for those on the front lines of COVID19.

CITY ATTORNEY STATEMENT REGARDING COUNCIL SESSIONS

The City Attorney, William Opel, read the following statement into the record:

Based on the public health emergency caused by the COVID-19 virus, the State of New Jersey and the City of Lambertville have taken necessary action to ensure the continued regular operation of government.

Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, formal action by the Governing Body must be taken in public, at a meeting that is adequately noticed to invite public participation and maximum transparency. Such requirements are not set aside during times of emergency, and therefore the City and its Governing Body MUST proceed with conducting these necessary meetings, in accordance with State law, and in a manner that ensures optimum transparency.

Despite recent amendments to OPMA providing for electronic notice of any meeting, the City will continue to provide the standard statutory notice for its meetings by posting such notice in City Hall and publishing notice with The Trenton Times and Hunterdon County Democrat.

We would like to note the following, as the City has formulated a specific plan as to how to proceed with Governing Body meetings for the foreseeable future:

The OPMA, as amended, authorizes governing bodies to conduct public meetings through use of streaming services and other online meeting platforms. The City will utilize Zoom video conferencing, which also provides a dial-in feature if residents would prefer to participate by phone rather than video, as well as teleconferencing for those who wish to connect by phone only.

The City will continue to rely on the procedures currently in place for public comments directed to City officials during all meetings. There will be no change to the City's public comment policy for virtual meetings.

The City, at all times, will act within the requirements of the OPMA for meetings conducted during this public health emergency so that the City government can continue to provide services to the community, and the public can continue to participate and provide comments, without interruption.

MAYOR'S STATEMENT REGARDING ONGOING PROTESTS AND THE NEXT STEPS TOWARDS SYSTEMIC RACISM

Mayor Fahl commented that she was going to take a couple minutes to talk about some of the actions that happened in Lambertville over the last two weeks, including two very well attended protests due to national issues regarding police violence and the killing of black people because of their race.

The City addressed it head on and worked with organizers to ensure they were done safely and with caution because of the ongoing health crisis.

But, making a public statement is not enough. She is outlining the work this administration is doing to keep this at the forefront of our government and looks forward to hearing from community to add to list

1: The Business Administrator and the Mayor are going to working on an assigned reading for every member of our city government and will be providing comp time for work to be done and in conjunction with one city one book policy. She plans to work with members of our community who are experts in the field to guide discussions

2: The City is working with members of the Human Rights Council (Council President Asaro, and Roni Todd-Marino) between now and July to come up with a list of recommendations for direct feedback on how we can address racial inequity and police better in our community. Police representation already on committee and the Chair of the Human Rights Commission expects to move forward on what that plan looks like by July voting session.

3: The Mayor met with local artists to do small installations between now and end of summer to continue to spark with important citywide conversation and internal reflection for what we are all struggling to address right now.

These are a few concrete steps.

Council members expressed their appreciation for the Mayor's comments and offered to help with the implementation of the Mayor's plan.

PROCLAMATIONS

Frank J. Fuzo

Mayor Fahl asked Councilman Sanders to read the following proclamation into the record and asked for a motion to adopt the proclamation honoring the dedication and service of Frank J. Fuzo, a former Mayor of the City of Lambertville. She commented that this is a significant loss, Frank Fuzo, we are going to adopt a proclamation in honor of frank.

Councilman Sanders read the proclamation into the record. He commented that this hits home for him. Frank was somebody I spent a lot of time with; he was an avid fan of his grandchildren; he spent a lot of time in uncomfortable seating at games and always had a lot to say. This is a loss for the city and the county.

WHEREAS, Frank J. Fuzo was born in Whitehouse Station, New Jersey and resided in the City of Lambertville for many years where he raised his daughter Amanda Fuzo McCaffrey; *and*

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Frank was the Grandfather to Cooper and Tanner McCaffrey; and

WHEREAS, Frank J. Fuzo served in the New Jersey Army National Guard, Attended Somerset County College and was employed as the Assistant Vice President of the Yardville National Bank; *and*

WHEREAS, Mr. Fuzo served the City of Lambertville as a Councilmember in 1987, Mayor from 1988 to 1991, and as a Charter Member of the Lambertville Recreation Commission; *and*

WHEREAS, Frank was a Freeholder with the County of Hunterdon first elected in 1990; a member of the Hunterdon County Utilities Authority, New Jersey Association of Counties, and the New Jersey League of Municipalities from 1988 to 1991; *and*

WHEREAS, he served on the following boards and donated countless hours of his time for the better of our combined communities: Board Member - Hunterdon Crime busters, Vice President – 200 Club of Hunterdon County, Coach-Board Member – Lambertville Ramblers Youth

Football, Official for the New Jersey Interscholastic Athletic Association, Exempt-Member – Whitehouse First Aid Squad, Contributing Member of the Union Fire Company, Member of the Hunterdon County Emergency Management, Former Board Member of the Central Jersey Chapter, American Diabetes Association, Former Board Member of Hunterdon County United Way, Former Board Member of Hunterdon Drug Awareness; *and*

WHEREAS, Frank was an avid fan of his grandsons' sporting events and was a fixture at their football, basketball, and baseball games regardless of whether the games were local or hours away;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the City of Lambertville in the County of Hunterdon, that Frank J. Fuzo is hereby remembered for his many years of service to the City of Lambertville and the County of Hunterdon; *and*

BE IT FURTHER RESOVLED that the Mayor and Council of the City of Lambertville commits to the minutes of the June 9, 2020 Session this remembrance of Frank J Fuzo in recognition of his service and dedication to improving the quality of life of the residents and businesses in the City of Lambertville and the County of Hunterdon.

ADOPTED: June 9, 2020

Julia Fahl, Mayor

Mayor Fahl asked for a motion to adopt the proclamation. Councilman Sanders made the motion and Councilwoman Urbish seconded the motion. An affirmative roll call vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present.

The City Clerk fondly remembers Frank Fuzo for his many contributions to the City of Lambertville. She stated that Frank was always available as a resource and informed the members of the public that his Administration appointed her to her first position on the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

RESOLUTIONS

<u>RESOLUTION NUMBER 74-2020</u>: A Resolution to Authorize the Shared Services Agreement with the Lambertville Municipal Utilities Authority for Training and Hosting of a Zoom Meeting in an Amount Not to Exceed \$135.00.

Mayor Fahl read the resolution into the record by title.

NOW THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the City of Lambertville, in the County of Hunterdon, that the Business Administrator is authorized to execute the shared services agreement with the Lambertville Municipal Utilities Authority for the training and hosting of Zoom Meeting is hereby Authorized in an amount not to exceed \$135.00.

Mayor Fahl asked for a motion to adopt Resolution Number 74-2020.

Councilwoman Urbish made the motion and Councilman Sanders seconded the motion. An affirmative roll call vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present. MOTION CARRIED.

PROJECT BUDGET REGARDING COMMUNTIY DEVELOPMENT AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING PIECES

Mayor Fahl announced that the discussion on the project budget regarding Community Development and Affordable Housing will be on the meeting agenda for June 10.

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Fahl informed the members of the public that Ordinance Number 04-2020 is being carried to the June 10, 2020 Special Session.

<u>Ordinance Number 04-2020</u>: A Bond Ordinance Providing for Various Actions Including Planning and Investigation Costs in Furtherance of a Scattered Site Study in and By the City of Lambertville, in the County of Hunterdon, in the State of New Jersey, Appropriating \$18,000 Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of \$18,000 Bonds or Notes of the City to Finance Part of the Cost Thereof.

Please note: Ordinance Number 04-2020 is being carried to the June 10, 2020 Special Session of the Governing Body. The meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 07-2020: A CAP Bank Ordinance

The City Clerk read the Ordinance into the record by title.

CALENDAR YEAR 2020

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. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget up 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 City Council of the City of Lambertville in the County of Hunterdon finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2020 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 City Council hereby determines that a 3.5% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$127,307.87 more than the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

WHEREAS the City 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 City Council of the City of Lambertville, in the County of Hunterdon, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2020 budget year, the final appropriations of the City of Lambertville shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.5%, amounting to \$127,307.87, and that the CY 2020 municipal budget for the City of Lambertville 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.

Mayor Fahl opened the public hearing for Ordinance Number 07-2020.

The Deputy Clerk reviewed the hand raising procedure for participating.

Mayor Fahl asked for Council comments regarding the CAP Bank Ordinance. There being no comments from the Governing Body, Mayor Fahl asked for public comments regarding the CAP Bank Ordinance.

Mayor Fahl asked for a motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance Number 07-2020, establishing a CAP Bank for the 2020 Calendar Year. Councilman Sanders made the motion and Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion. An affirmative roll call vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Fahl asked for a motion to adopt on second Reading Ordinance Number 07-2020. Councilman Sanders made the motion and Councilwoman Urbish seconded the motion. An affirmative roll call vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present. MOTION CARRIED.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

2020 Budget Review/ PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE 2020 BUDGET

https://lambertvillenj.org/government/documents/council-meetingagendas/2020/agendas-47/05-05-2020-city-council-meeting

The Business Administrator shared the screen titled "What does the 2020 Budget include?"

Mayor Fahl made the following comments:

1: The City stopped the practice of authorizing new debt to pay for existing debt. It is expensive and the irresponsible practice to have a reserve for debt service to borrow money.

2: includes operational and capital budget;

3: if we had a properly funded surplus, we could have used that money to address significant decline in revenue because of covid19.

4: adds dental and prescription coverage and key raises for some staff and will pay all the staff a reasonable wage.

5: Capital Spending will address only necessities.

6: Policies are set to put Lambertville back on good footing. This will not happen in 2020 or 2021, it is a long-term slog to get us back.

Council Questions and Comments

"What was moved over from capital to operating that should have already been in operating but was being funded through debt?"

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE SIDE – this will take several years to accomplish.

Project Related: specific to a project funded through capital

Non-project related: City Planner. The cost is \$30,000 there is now an account under Administrator Operating Expense to fund this position.

We are not paying for professional services that are doing capital projects with operations, but we are dividing into separate accounts.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS (investing in employees) - comprehensive health coverage, cost of living raises, and benefits, concern for what that looks like with economic consequences of the pandemic.

Cost of living adjustments and key raising to bring members of our staff up to market rate, dental and prescription, Approximately \$32,000 of cost for this budget.

Additional benefits: additional vacation days, 2% raise, dental, and prescription coverage.

COST SAVINGS:

What are some of those specific reductions and dollars from moving Capital to Operations side of the budget?

Professional Services reduction from 2018 budget by \$100,000 and in 2020, will see about \$200,000 in reduction.

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This does not include other savings: reducing energy cost, new phone system, the total cost of professional service is \$200,000 in 2020.

COVID19: The Governing Body decided to not include any of the impact from covid19 this year.

TAX INCREASE: of the \$134 tax increase we are hearing tonight, approximately, \$60 is just to address the structural deficit that has been created by years of borrowing for our debt.

PRE-COVID 2020 BUDGET OVERVIEW was shared and discussed with the members of the public.

The following is an overview of the public comment and question period:

- According to best practices and information obtained from the State League of Municipalities, the debt should be 5 8% of budget obligation.
- Raises are at a 2% cost of living, dental, and prescription coverage.
- Grants are not projected in the budget. The City applied for a grant for car chargers from the State of New Jersey, received a grant from the County of Hunterdon for economic development; applied for \$200,000 from State of NJ which has been delayed a little bit.
- Concern was expressed for those who are unemployed or on a fixed income right now, they are listening to the budget and numbers and they are overwhelmed, they are scared. Members of the public also commented that the 3-5-year plan to transition to the new budget process is too soon.
- we are the highest paid city for a Business Administrator, it is based on per resident \$39.4 the cheapest is Hoboken \$1.30 per resident.
- a third-party review of the budget was requested to obtain input on other ways of cutting the budget and that way the community will feel they got treated fairly.
- Council members were asked if they knew how bad the debt was. Mayor Fahl, Councilwoman Urbish and Councilwoman Taylor all responded that they were newly appointed/elected and had concerns but did not know how bad the debt issue was. Councilman Sanders and Councilwoman Asaro commented that they were not aware of the implications of the debt issue.
- Includes:
- banked hours for employees to cover retirements.
- dental and vision,
- Business Administrator line is new, and it did not exist before
- Concern was expressed for the cost spent on the Community Development Fair.

Mayor Fahl asked for a motion to close the public hearing for the 2020 Budget. Councilwoman Urbish made the motion to close the public hearing and Councilwoman

Taylor seconded the motion. An affirmative roll call vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Fahl asked for a motion to adopt the 2020 Budget as presented. Councilwoman Urbish made the motion to adopt the 2020 Budget. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion. An affirmative roll call/voice vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present. MOTION CARRIED.

2020 CAPITAL PROJECTS DISCUSSION (action may be taken)

The Business Administrator shared the screen titled 2020 critical Capital for June 9th.

The total request from the staff was over \$3 million. This is a huge triage

1: FUEL TANK REMOVAL/PUBLIC WORKS: The City cannot replace them this year. We will use the County and it is not as convenient but can be used to bridge while we plan for possible replacement next year. The cost is: \$6,200.

2: POLICE NEW VEHICLE –just budgets for it, does not authorize the purchase. The cost is: \$55,000.

3: IT UPGRADES: this includes new computers, key fobs for entrance to buildings. The cost is: \$10,000.

4: DPW/POLICE VEHICLE UPGRADES: this covers major upgrades and major equipment replacement, things that are too big to come out of operating. The cost is \$30,000.

5: RECREATION UPGRADES: there is a dangerous bridge on hillside that is wildly unsafe, and it includes light upgrades to basketball court. The cost is \$20,000.

6: ROAD RESURFACING: George street phase I: the cost is \$28,000.

7: DISCRETIONARY CAPITAL AUTHORIZATIONS: SDL Software at \$64,250, Scattered Sites at \$18,000, COAH/Fair Share at \$35,000, and Redevelopment at \$85,000.

TOTAL: \$351,450: includes an increased budget for road repair, potholes, and crack sealing,

GOVERNING BODY QUESTIONS

POLICE CARS: The number of police cars the City maintains? 5 patrol vehicles

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION: concern for safety, bridge is dangerous and needs to be addressed. People should not pass on that. Focus on areas of safety and high use (basketball court) support efforts to increase availability.

The City will look to fund this through grants.

The following is an overview of the questions or comments from the public:

- Request to see the full Redevelopment Plan
- Do we need five vehicles for the Police Department? If the Governing does not approve the bond ordinance for the Scattered Sites, it means the funds are not authorized and less capital available to us.

Mayor Fahl asked for a motion to ratify the 2020 Capital Projects as presented/amended.

Councilman Sanders made the motion to ratify the 2020 Capital Projects as present/amended. Councilwoman Urbish seconded the motion. An affirmative roll call/voice vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present. MOTION CARRIED.

COVID19 REOPENING OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Mayor Fahl asked the Governing Body if they had any object to moving the COVID19 Reopening discussion to the June 10th meeting agenda. She expressed concern because of the late hour and the number of people who left the meeting. The following resolution was moved to the June 10 meeting agenda: RESOLUTION NUMBER 75-2020: RESOLUTION TEMPORARILY RELAXING EXISTING ORDINANCES AND PROCEDURES ASSOCIATED WITH REVIEW AND APPROVAL FOR EXISTING RESTAURANTS AND FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS PROVISION FOR OUTDOOR DINING TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE UNDER THE CURRENT SOCIAL DISTANCING RESTRICTIONS ENACTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE ONGOING, CORONAVIRUS PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY AND SUBJECT TO THE RESCISSION AND/OR RELAXATION OF THE CURRENT "STAY AT HOME."

COUNCIL MEMBER UPDATES

ONGOING DISCUSSION ON RECORDING COUNCIL MEETINGS – postponed to the June 25, 2020 Meeting Agenda

CENSUS – Councilman Sanders: our numbers leaching upwards, Hunterdon County has a 60.8% response rate, NJ's overall response rate is 63%, Lambertville's response rate is 70.4.

ART PROJECT/SHRSD – Councilwoman Urbish gave a brief overview of the program for the students at South Hunterdon Regional High School.

CORRESPONDENCE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENSUS: Cut and paste this link in your browser: https://2020census.gov/?msclkid=d5669b5e0b1d1fd97e13c5343c771c39

CONVENIENCE CENTER HOURS: The Public Works Department is open the First Saturday (June 6) and the Third Saturday (June 20) from 9 a.m. to noon for residents to drop off leaves and brush. They will also be open on Wednesday, June 17, from 3 to 5 p.m. For additional information, please visit the city's website at:

https://lambertvillenj.org/newsfeed-pages/389-the-city-of-lambertville-conveniencecenter

SPARKLE WEEK UPDATE: Sparkle Week will be held the first two weeks of August. Details can be found on the City's website: <u>https://lambertvillenj.org/sparkle-week</u>

ZONE ONE, TUESDAY PICK-UP – AUGUST 4: Begins at Church Street and goes south to Route 29, includes Bridge Street, Ferry Street, Swan Street, Mount Hope Street and Canal Street. It also includes Curley Lane, Grants Alley and Washington Street.

ZONE TWO, WEDNESDAY PICK-UP – AUGUST 5: Includes Cottage Hill, Connaught Hill, and Music Mountain.

ZONE THREE, THURSDAY PICK-UP –AUGUST 13: Begins at Church Street, runs north to Delaware Avenue.

ZONE FOUR, FRIDAY PICK-UP – AUGUST 14: Begins the north side of Delaware Avenue, runs north to Cherry Street, and includes Lamberts Hill and Blair Tract.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC CONCERN

Council President Asaro asked the Deputy Clerk to read the instructions for participation into the record.

The Deputy Clerk read the following instructions into the record:

PARTICIPATION BY COMPUTER: If you are currently utilizing a computer to participate, you would click the "Raise Hand" button on the bottom of the screen. This will place you in a queue that I can see for when it is time to take public comments. People are sorted in the order they raised their hands. When I call on you, a message will pop-up asking if you want to unmute yourself. If you choose to move forward and place a public comment or question, choose to unmute, if you have changed your mind then choose to deny.

PARTICIPATION BY PHONE: If you are dialing in on your phone, dial *9 to be placed in the queue. When called on, the system will ask you to confirm being un-muted to proceed.

You will be asked to state your full name and address into the record, then please feel free to make your comment or ask a question. You will remain unmuted while the governing body responds. Please make sure there is no background noise such as the T.V. on, music or loud chatter.

When public comments are finished, participants will be placed back on mute for the duration of the meeting.

Members of the Governing Body will raise their hand to make a comment or ask a question.

Stephen Harris informed the members of the public present that the City of Lambertville is up by .1 over New Hope in the Census race.

Elycia Lerman: thanked the council and residents because this is what democracy looks like.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:04 pm with a motion made by Councilman Sanders and seconded by Councilwoman Urbish. 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

Note: Public attendance included 95 attendees, 10 panelists.

Approved at the July 23, 2020 Council Session.