



City of Lambertville
Regularly Scheduled Council Meeting
February 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 meeting schedule advertised in the Trenton Times, meeting notice was given to the Hunterdon County Democrat, the Trenton Times, members of the public on the listserv, and department heads. The meeting agenda was posted on the city's bulletin board and on the city's website at www.lambertvillenj.org.

This meeting is being streamed live and will be recording using the Zoom Meeting Platform.

The meeting agenda includes actions known at the time of publication, and are subject to change.

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 40-2022: A Resolution to Authorize the Submittal of a Grant Application to the USDA-NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Program in the Amount of \$1,739,000, With a Required Match of 25% or \$434,750.00

Mayor Nowick informed the members of the governing body and public that this is authorization to file the grant application with the USDA for the waterway cleaning of Ely Creek and Swan Creek. The city's obligation is \$434,750.00. After we receive the formal award letter, the city will need to adopt a bond ordinance to fund the project. We only have 220 days from January 24th to complete the project.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 40-2022

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A Resolution to Authorize the Submittal of a Grant Application to the USDA-NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Program in the Amount of \$1,739,000, With a Required Match of 25% or \$434,750.00

WHEREAS, Hurricane IDA hit the city with a force in the evening of August 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the city's waterways were left with debris creating an eminent hazard for all of those who reside on Upper York Street and Swan Creek in the city; and

WHEREAS, all construction is to be complete within 220 days from January 24, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the USDA has identified three areas that they will fund and that includes:

Upper York Street: Ely Creek beginning at Route 179 and ending east of North Franklin Street in the city;

Swan Creek: portions that begin at the Lambertville border on Quarry Street and ending at the South Union Street Bridge; and

WHEREAS, the project is estimated to cost \$1,739,000.00 with a 25% match or in-kind contributions in the amount of \$434,750.00 with an allowance for \$130,425.00 in soft costs, which the city will need to fund.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of the city of Lambertville, in the County of Hunterdon, in the State of New Jersey, that the grant application to the USDA-NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Program in the amount of \$1,739,000 is hereby authorized.

ADOPTED: February 1, 2022

Mayor Nowick asked for a motion to adopt Resolution Number 40-2022 authorizing the grant application to the USDA. Council President Taylor made the motion and Councilwoman Lambert seconded the motion. An affirmative voice vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present. MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mayor Nowick led the governing body in the following topics:

2022 Holiday Schedule: the members of the governing body discussed the holiday schedule. Mayor Nowick asked the city clerk to give a background on the holiday schedule. The City Clerk stated that the administration prior to 2018 would close the office prior to holidays, but didn't notify the public. The total number of holidays in 2018 was 13. The administration elected in 2019, decided to give the staff additional holidays to compensate for the salary deficiency. The total number of holidays in 2021 was 21.

Council comments included:

- a concern for the number of holidays approved for 2022 and for decrease in the amount of hours of public service.

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- Benefits were increased to include prescription drug, dental (paid for by the employees), and for City Hall employees, one evening (Tuesday nights to 7:30 pm) and an early closure on Fridays (9 am to 12:30 pm).
- Salaries: a review of salaries for all staff. This was previously requested, partially completed. The city clerk will work with Council President Taylor on collecting data and putting it into a spreadsheet which will be shared with the governing body. The goal is to have this completed for the fall of 2022.

Public Comment: the governing body discussed public comments. They felt it was important to match the city's ordinance to actual practice of the governing body. They also felt it was important to not engage members of the public while they are asking questions. All questions or comments should be directed to the Mayor who is presiding over the meeting. Email conversations were discussed and the governing body felt it was important to continue to respond to members of the public if they received an email. However, they will not engage in conversation via email. The governing body will review the ordinance for amendments.

City Facebook Account: the members of the governing body were supportive of using social media as a bulletin board to push out notices for the members of the public. Concern was expressed for messages that had profanity, vulgarity, or were violent. The governing body will work on a social media policy which will be shared and used with Facebook, Twitter and Hometown.

Cherry Street/North Union Street Park: Council President Taylor gave an overview of the North Union Street Park acquisition of 2011, the initial plans prepared in 2012, and the work that was completed in 2014.

Mary Anne Borge, Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission was present to review the grant application to Sustainable Jersey to plan trees at the park. The Parks and Recreation Commission will host visioning sessions with members of the public. The governing body will need to approve a resolution for the grant application at the February voting session.

Hybrid Meetings for boards and commissions: Mayor Nowick informed the governing body that the city attorney advised there were no issues with boards and commissions holding hybrid meetings. The governing body was supportive of boards and commissions hosting hybrid meetings (in-person and virtually). The overall consensus was that each individual board would decide if they wanted to do a hybrid meeting; decide who was going to assist with the technical side of Zoom; publish the information on our website, and report to the governing body.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Judy Gleason commented that she wanted the members of the governing body to review the holiday schedule and she felt that city services were an issue with granting 21

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holidays. She also asked that the governing body use social media to drive people to the city's website.

CLOSED SESSION: Closed Session of the Governing Body of the November 30, 2021 Lambertville City Council Meeting 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 February 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 February 1, 2022, at the Phillip L. Pittore Justice Center located at 25 South Union Street in the city to discuss matters related to potential contracts.

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: February 1, 2022

Mayor Nowick and City Council convened in closed session at 8:46 p.m. with a motion made by Council President Taylor and seconded by Councilwoman Lambert. 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 9:02 p.m. with a motion made by Councilman Stegman and seconded by Councilwoman Lambert. An affirmative voice/roll call vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present. MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m. with a motion made by Councilman Stegman and seconded by Councilwoman Lambert. 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