

**BOROUGH OF LAVALLETTE(minutes)**  
**CAUCUS/REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
**LAVALLETTE MUNICIPAL BUILDING**  
**Monday, December 16, 2024 2024-7:00 pm**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Walter G. LaCicero, presiding

**ROLL CALL:** Council Members Borowski, Lamb, Zalom, Stogdill, Finter and Filippone

Also present: Bill Burns, Borough Attorney  
Donnelly Amico, Municipal Clerk  
John Bennett, Borough Administrator

**READING OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT:** Notice of this meeting was published in the Ocean Star on January 10, 2024. Notice was also posted on our municipal bulletin board and municipal website.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:** The Mayor asked for a moment of silence for victims and their families affected by the Wisconsin school shooting.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Councilman Lamb led us in the Salute to the Flag.

**MAYOR'S WELCOMING STATEMENT:** The Mayor welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting. Tonight we have our Chief of Police here to present a special lifesaving award and proclamation to three of his officers. He stated that the County has approved \$2.2 million to the Borough to go towards our Well project. Morgan Engineering helped us secure this funding so for that we are grateful.

**HONORING THREE POLICE OFFICERS FOR THEIR LIFESAVING EFFORTS**

Chief Christian LaCicero stated that since he took over as Chief he has implemented an awards program for his officers to give them formal recognition for their excellent lifesaving efforts.

The Mayor read aloud the Proclamation and the Chief gave them their Certificate of Commendation. Pictures were taken by the reporter from the Ocean Star.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Regular Meeting Minutes of October 21, 2024  
Caucus/Regular Meeting Minutes of November 12, 2024  
Executive Session Minutes of November 12, 2024  
Caucus/Regular Meeting Minutes of December 2, 2024

A Motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilman Filippone. The Motion was Seconded by Councilman Lamb.

Vote: Council Members Borowski, Filippone, Zalom, Stogdill, Finter and Lamb voted Yes. The Motion Passed.

**ON CONSENT AGENDA/OFF CONSENT AGENDA, AND VOUCHERS:**

**RESOLUTIONS – ON CONSENT:**

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 2024-250  | approving a raffle license for St. Pio of Pietrelcina to be held on September 20, 2025  |
| 2024-251  | authorizing the cancellation of 2024 current fund appropriation balances in the amount of \$300,000   |
| 2024-252  | authorizing the cancellation of 2024 water operating fund appropriation balances in the amount of \$50,000  |
| 2024-253  | authorizing the cancellation of 2024 sewer operating fund appropriation balances in the amount of \$40,000  |
| 2024-254  | authorizing the cancellation of 2024 electric operating fund appropriation balances in the amount of \$220,000  |
| 2024-255  | refunding the unused balance of planning board escrow funds to various applicants totaling \$5,295.00   |
| 2024-256  | approving a proposal from Van Cleef Engineering for additional surveying and engineering services for the Drainage Improvements Project in the amount of \$62,000 due to 17 additional sump pumps being added to the scope of the project |
| 2024-257  | authorizing the refund of a 2024 tax overpayment in the amount of \$1,729.35  |
| 2024-258  | amending the annual stipends for two public works supervisors for their licenses/certifications for year 2024 increasing the stipend by \$250.00  |
| 2024-259  | awarding a contract to Good Friend Electric for the purchase of light poles and fixtures for the bay front area in the amount of \$34,923.69  |
| 2024-259A | authorizing the appointment of Morgan Municipal Engineering for the preparation of of a grant application through Jake’s Law for a handicap accessible playground by Chandler Field   |
| 2024-259B | authorizing the Mayor to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the Borough of Lavallette and the Teamsters Local #469  |

A Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Councilman Lamb. The Motion was Seconded by Councilman Finter.

The Mayor opened the floor to the public and asked if anyone wished to comment on the consent Agenda.

No one wished to comment. The Mayor closed the floor to the public and asked Council for a vote On the consent agenda.

Vote: Council Members Borowski, Filippone, Zalom, Stogdill, Finter and Lamb voted Yes. The Motion Passed.

### **RESOLUTIONS - OFF CONSENT:**

There were no resolutions off-consent.

### **APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:**

2024-260 Bills List in the amount of \$654,909.81

A Motion to approve the bills list was made by Councilman Lamb. The Motion was Seconded by Councilman Stogdill.

Vote: Council Members Borowski, Filippone, Zalom, Stogdill, Finter and Lamb voted Yes. The Motion Passed.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Councilman Stogdill stated that the pre-season badge sales start January 1, 2025; however, this year sales will be in person only. There will be no pre-order forms or sales. He stated that as of today, our holiday badge sales total \$132,305.00

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Mayor LaCicero stated that NJ American Water are replacing water mains in Westmont Shores on certain blocks of the 3 streets. The project also include repaving the streets as well. Those streets are a bit narrower and they have roll curbing. We should really look into getting a price on replacing the curbs including Sterling Avenue with new ones since we won't have to repave those sections of streets.

Councilwoman Filippone stated that all the sections of the streets should be consistent with the curbing if we are going to do some areas we should do them all at the same time.

Mayor LaCicero stated that we will discuss with the Engineer and have them go out and do an assessment.

Councilman Borowski stated that Public Power has been prepping us the last few months trying to prepare us regarding a large increase in the capacity charges each year. Extreme cold and hot temperatures provide power peaks and valleys and the costs are \$2.2 million this year. There also has been a \$14.7 billion decrease in supply of fossil fuel. This year 2024 the capacity budget was

\$196,000 but they have anticipated next year's budget for 2025 to be \$646,000. To accommodate for this increase, we have come up with having the towns within the Public Power Association to add a capacity charge to the electric rates ordinance to help offset the extreme increase. Since we anticipate this charge to increase extremely for the next few years, we also think we should include in the ordinance that we can increase this charge every year with only a resolution so we don't have to open the ordinance every year. Keep in mind, even with this added capacity charge to the electric bill, the costs for electric for our residents is still lower than JCP & L rates.

Mr. Burns stated that he will review the electric ordinance and amend accordingly for the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in January.

### **COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

Mayor and Council wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The Reorganization Meeting will be held on Monday, January 6, 2025 at 7pm.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

Bob Astorino, 2 Elizabeth Avenue questioned if golf carts are going to remain banned in town.

Mayor LaCicero stated that none of us up here have been willing to change that ordinance to allow them any time it has come up. This town in the summer is so congested with cars, bicycles, electric scooters, electric bicycles and pedestrians and nobody follows any of the rules. We have had a few accidents between cars, bicycles and pedestrians already so to add golf carts to the mix would just create so much more chaos. It's already too dangerous as it is.

Mark Speaker, 111 Brown Avenue questioned how the snow fence is going to be with the replenishment project for the sand between the dunes and the boardwalk.

Mayor LaCicero stated that the Army Corps. Has determined that we don't need a tremendous amount of sand in that area and no extra sand will even be needed beyond Vance Avenue.

Rob Cincotta, 12 Brown Avenue stated that the receptacles on the beach block blow down every week from the wind so he thinks we might need to look into getting heavier ones on those blocks.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

There was no executive session.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

A Motion to adjourn the Council Meeting was made by Councilman Lamb. The Motion was Seconded by Councilman Finter.

Vote: All of Council was in favor. The Motion Passed.

The Council Meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

**CERTIFICATION**

I, Donnelly Amico, Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Lavallette, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, does hereby attest these to be a true copy of the minutes of the Council meeting held on the **16<sup>th</sup>** day of **December 2024**.

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Donnelly Amico  
Municipal Clerk