

**BOROUGH OF LAVALLETTE(minutes)**  
**CAUCUS/REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
**LAVALLETTE MUNICIPAL BUILDING**  
**Monday, April 21, 2025-7:00 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, 2025. Notice was also posted on our municipal bulletin board and municipal website.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:** The Mayor asked for a moment of silence for a moment of silence for longtime resident Vincent DeMuro of Philadelphia Avenue who recently passed away. Mr. Demuro was a retired Dr. and loved being retired in Lavallette. He was an avid fisherman and fished along with my father-in-law. His son, Vinnie De Muro is here tonight and also lives here now and plays our Santa during Christmas. He also asked for a moment of silence for Gary McMillian of Pennsylvania Avenue who passed away recently and also for the Pope.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Council President Zalom led us in the Salute to the Flag.

**MAYOR'S WELCOMING STATEMENT:** The Mayor welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting. He stated that he sees some new faces here tonight. The beach replenishment project is almost complete here. The barge will be out of here by end of this week and moving onto Bay Head.

He stated that he is going to do something different tonight in case anyone has any comments and doesn't want to stay for the entire meeting. So if anyone would like to comment on any items that are not on the agenda and they do not want to stay for the remainder of the meeting they could do so now.

Debra Lane, 805 Bay Blvd. stated that there are so many more people using our pickle ball courts and so many more cars on Bay Blvd. and they just don't seem to want to stop at the crosswalks for the pedestrians.

Mayor LaCicero stated that he will advise the Chief of Police to have some patrols down there more often.

Vincent De Muro, 15 Washington Avenue thanked Mayor and Council for the remembrance of his father. This town was so special to him and was his life and now it has become mine.

## **PROCLAMATION DECLARING THE MONTH OF MAY 2025 WATER SAFETY MONTH-JUDITH JOSEPHS**

Council President Zalom read aloud the Proclamation.

Judith Josephs, 114 New York Avenue thanked Mayor and Council and Donnelly for the Proclamation. She stated that we are the first town to declare it Water Safety Month in the State after the Governor so she is very happy about that. She stated that she is so excited to be a part of the ADA and Recreation Committees now. Lavallette's Beach Captain, Jack Caucino does an exceptional job with water safety strategy. The Supt. of the Lavallette School has also started sending some students to the Neptune Aquatic Center so they can learn how to swim and get stronger with swimming. At least 10 children and 20 adults drown each year. The people in this town have donated 217 bathing suits through my charity and also 99 suits were donated by B & B as well. She is so proud of this town and the people who live here.

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

#### **RESOLUTIONS – ON CONSENT:**

- 2025-116      authorizing the Treasurer to refund the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter property tax payment in the amount of \$1,510.53 to the previous owner due to the sale of the property
- 2025-117      approving a facilities use application to This Is Yoga to hold yoga classes on Kerr Avenue ocean beach starting May24th through September 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 on M-F-Sa mornings from 7:30am to 9am and T-W-TH nights from 6pm to 7:30pm
- 2025-118      approving 7 individuals to attend the OC Police Academy Class I Training commencing May 19, 2025
- 2025-119      approving a facilities use application to Vibe Sessions with Kate to hold meditation sound bath classes on the Virginia Avenue ocean beach starting May26th through September 29<sup>th</sup> 2025 on M-W-F from 8am to 9am
- 2025-120      establishing the official beach season for 2025 starting Saturday, June 14, 2025 through Monday, September 1, 2025 including Memorial Day Weekend, Saturday, May 24, 2025 through Monday, May 26, 2025-Councilwoman Filippone requested that this be put off consent for discussion.
- 2025-121      designating the hours bicycles are permitted on the boardwalk during the 2025 “bathing season”
- 2025-122      proclaiming the week of April 20<sup>th</sup> through April 26<sup>th</sup> as “National Volunteer Week” in the Borough of Lavallette
- 2025-123      awarding a contract to Earle Asphalt Company for the Drainage Improvements Contract B Project in the amount of \$1,033,013.13.00-Mayor LaCicero stated that

this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the drainage improvement project which is new roll curbing for the bay side sections of the 3 streets in Westmont Shores.

- 2025-124 approving the Proposal for Engineering Services for the 2025 Lavallette NJDEP Asset Management Plan from Van Cleef Engineering in the amount of \$10,000
- 2025-125 authorizing the redemption of a tax sale certificate in the amount of \$22,984.44
- 2025-126 awarding a contract to TC Landscape Construction Group for the Chandler Field Improvements-Phase 1 in the amount of \$69,900.00-Mayor LaCicero stated that these improvements will be for the infield and the dugout. We will also have a new scoreboard as well donated by the Lavallette School PTO.
- 2025-127 awarding a contract to Quad Construction Company for the Construction of Replacement Well #6 and Replacement of the Water Treatment Plant and the Well's Electrical System in the amount of \$4,528,350.00-Mayor LaCicero stated that this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> time we have gone out to bid for this project. This is also being funded by the County through a grant in the amount of \$2.2 million to help offset the Borough's costs.
- 2025-127A approving a facilities use application to Waves of Impact to hold a skim boarding fundraiser on Saturday, July 19, 2025 with a rain date of Sunday, July 20, 2025 from 8am to 12 noon-Councilman Borowski stated that this raised a number of funds last year and are looking to raise just as much, if not more, this year.
- 2025-127B approving a raffle license to the Lavallette PTO to hold a 50/50 off premise raffle on May 26, 2025 at 2:45pm at the Lavallette Elementary School

A Motion to approve the consent agenda minus 2025-120 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.

Vincent Marino, 1501 Bay Blvd. questioned if the drainage project also include the boat ramp area.

Mayor LaCicero stated that it does not.

The Mayor closed the floor to the public and asked Council for a vote on the consent agenda minus 2025-120.

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

## **RESOLUTIONS - OFF CONSENT:**

2025-120        establishing the official beach season for 2025 starting Saturday, June 14, 2025 through Monday, September 1, 2025 including Memorial Day Weekend, Saturday, May 24, 2025 through Monday, May 26, 2025

Councilwoman Filippone stated that the ordinance needs to be changed before we can charge for badges on Memorial Day. I mean I guess we can just vote on the dates and then do the ordinance change for both May meetings before Memorial Day. This is why we need to discuss these issues before hand.

Mr. Burns stated that we can approve the summer season dates now and then you guys can figure Out what you want to do about Memorial Day Weekend and we can get an ordinance and/or the Resolution back on for approval at the next meeting.

A Motion to approve this resolution minus Memorial Day Weekend was made by Councilman Lamb. The Motion was Seconded by Councilwoman Filippone.

The Mayor opened the floor to the public and asked if anyone wished to comment on this resolution.

No one wished to comment. The Mayor closed the floor to the public and asked Council for a vote on this resolution minus Memorial Day Weekend dates.

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

#### **APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:**

2025-128        Bills List in the amount of \$3,549,693.87

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

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

#### **ORDINANCES ON FOR PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL ADOPTION:**

**Ordinance No. 2025-04 (1268)** Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriations Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank

Mayor LaCicero stated that this is an annual ordinance we do in conjunction with our budget just in case we need it but we never have.

A Motion to open the public hearing was made by Councilman Finter. The Motion was Seconded by Councilman Borowski.

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

The Mayor asked if anyone wished to comment on this ordinance.

No one wished to comment.

A Motion to close the Public Hearing was made by Councilman Stogdill. The Motion was Seconded by Councilman Finter.

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

A Motion to adopt this ordinance was made by Councilman Lamb. The Motion was Seconded by Councilman Finter.

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

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Councilman Lamb stated that Public Works added some additional parking spaces by the pickle ball courts.

Mr. Bennett stated that the history book committee is still in the process of getting pictures together and the ads to go into the book. We should be hearing if we were approved for the Jake's Playground grant on April 25<sup>th</sup> so let's cross our fingers.

Mayor LaCicero stated that our Engineer, Bob Chankalian, is here for any questions needed answered regarding any of our open projects right now. The roll curb project on the bay streets of Westmont Shores will be able to choose where there curb cuts will go. If you have a one car garage it's a 12 foot curb cut and if you have a two car garage it's a 24 foot curb cut.

Councilman Lamb questioned Mr. Chankalian about the repair to well #4 and when it will be resolved.

Mr. Chankalian stated that the reconstructed filter failed causing the back wash to clog but we are taking care of it now and it should be resolved very soon.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Discussion on a Residential Parking Permit Application**

The Municipal Clerk stated that this is a 2<sup>nd</sup> request for a residential parking permit for this address. This property is at 18A Kerr Avenue. The previous owner, was Mr. Rabke and now his daughter owns the property. Mr. Rabke requested a permit because his neighbor at 18 Kerr Avenue received one. There is an easement which is a common shared driveway in between the houses that both owners share. We told Mr. Rabke that since there is a driveway and we didn't know this when we

gave his neighbor the parking permit, we will advise his neighbor that since she has a parking permit she cannot utilize the driveway. We cannot issue him a parking permit but he will have sole use of the driveway.

The Municipal Clerk stated that she explained this to the new owner and she advised me she still wanted to go ahead with the application so she can have a parking permit space as well and she and the neighbor use the shared driveway now to help with dropping off groceries.

Councilman Lamb stated that he thinks we need to hold off on this until we look at the records from the previous owner and what we exactly approved in writing.

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

Councilman Borowski requested an excused absence for the next meeting.

Councilwoman Filippone stated that we will be keeping the price at \$1,100 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the memorial bench program. These benches are all weather proof except for the bottom of the arm rests which can rust. We can remove the arms if necessary. When you purchase a bench this time, you can also request a location, which will be the gazebo area, all the recreation areas, playgrounds and bathing beaches.

Mayor LaCicero stated that we will be having a lot of Engineer work going on in town for the next few months so just be patient.

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

Meg Geer, 104 Brown Avenue stated that she is taking an Environmental class and she would like to comment regarding a statement made at the last meeting regarding the pine trees down by the shuffle board courts. Pine trees are tolerant of salt air and wind conditions and provide shelter for birds and animals. They provide health benefits allowing cooling for dogs, children and seniors. Pine trees might be messy but they are strong and are long lasting.

Councilman Lamb stated that during the hurricane, the pine trees saved that bay area by the gazebo. He thinks we should leave them where they are as well.

Judith Josephs, 114 New York Avenue stated that 12 ½ % for the use of our facilities is a real bargain compared to a lot of other towns. In reading these applications, it seems like there are more people coming from out of town to use our facilities. The Recreation Committee can help with this as well.

Mark Speaker, 111 Brown Avenue stated that it seems that the contractor has finished the drainage on Brown Avenue but they didn't take care of some of them on our street. I am not sure if these were not on the list or if they might be coming back to our street again.

Mr. Bennett stated that he will need the additional addresses to see if they were on the list.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

### Potential Litigation-Attorney Client Privilege

Mr. Burns stated that there exists a need to go into closed session to discuss some pending litigation matters and attorney-client privilege. There will be no action to be taken.

A Motion to adjourn the meeting to go into executive session was made by Councilman Finter. The Motion was Seconded by Councilman Lamb.

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

The Council Meeting was adjourned to go into executive session at 8:18pm.

A Motion to reconvene the Council Meeting was made by Councilwoman Filippone. The Motion was Seconded by Councilman Finter.

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

Mr. Burns stated that while in executive session there were discussions regarding some potential litigation, some discussion on potential new ordinances and potential changes in some ordinances as well as attorney-client privilege matters.

There was no action taken at this time.

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

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

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

The Council Meeting was adjourned at 9:24 pm.

## **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 21<sup>st</sup> day of April 2025.

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**Donnelly Amico**  
**Municipal Clerk**