

BOROUGH OF LAVALLETTE(minutes)
CAUCUS/REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
LAVALLETTE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
Monday, April 7, 2025-7:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Walter G. LaCicero, presiding

ROLL CALL: Council Members Borowski, Lamb, Zalom, Stogdill, Finter and Filippone
Councilman Stogdill was absent.

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 long-time resident Helen Calvanico of Bay Blvd. who passed away recently.

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. He stated he has been attending the weekly meetings regarding the beach replenishment updates. There have been some mechanical issues but they are still on schedule and will give us another update this week.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Caucus/Regular Meeting Minutes of March 3, 2025
Regular Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2025

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

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

REPORTS:

- a) Construction Report for March 2025 -Councilwoman Filippone-read report
- b) Zoning/Code Report for March 2025-Councilwoman Filippone-read report
- c) Municipal Court Report for March 2025-Councilwoman Filippone-no report
- d) Police Overtime Report for February 2025-Councilwoman Filippone-read report
- e) Public Works Report for March 2025-Councilman Lamb-read report

- f) Fire Department Report for March 2025-Councilwoman Filippone-no report
- g) Animal Control Report for March 2025-Councilwoman Filippone-no report
- h) Public Affairs-Council President Zalom-Beach Sweeps is on April 12th and this is the 40th year we have done this in Lavallette.
- i) Tax Account Report for March 2025-Tax Collector
- j) Revenue Account Status Report for February 2025-Chief Financial Officer

Mr. Burns stated that he is in the process of reviewing some of the Borough's ordinances at the request of the Ordinance Committee for some potential amendments. Some of these ordinances are regarding LOSAP and a potential question to be put on the ballot for the general election, plastic cutlery being given out at food establishments, open fire pits and chimneys, tents and ball playing on the beach. Construction code for back bungalows and/or back houses allowing homeowners to install central air in back houses/bungalows without having to go to Planning Board.

A Motion to approve the reports was made by Councilman Lamb. The Motion was Seconded by Councilman Borowski.

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

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

- 2025-99 refunding the unused balance of planning board escrow funds in the amount of \$1,297.00
- 2025-100 approving a facilities use application to K Rock Fitness to hold their fitness classes on the old basketball courts on Saturdays, starting May 24th through August 30th 2025 and T-TH starting June 24th through August 28th 2025 from 8am to 9am
- 2025-101 amending the 2025 temporary budget-Mr. Bennett stated that we had to amend for a few additional items or revenue.
- 2025-102 approving a facilities use application to Breathe Life Yoga to hold yoga classes on the Trenton and Philadelphia Avenue ocean beaches starting May 24th through September 27th 2025 from 7am to 8:30am
- 2025-103 approving a Van Cleef Proposal of Engineering Services for the 2025 NJDEP Lead Service Line Replacement Plan in the lump sum amount of \$3,000.00
- 2025-104 approving a facilities use application to Hammer Surf School to hold their surf camp on Brown Avenue starting June 23rd through August 23rd 2025 M-SA, 9am to 4pm with time frames of 9am to noon and 1pm to 4pm
- 2025-105 approving a Van Cleef Proposal of Engineering Services for Newark Avenue Road Improvements Project-Phase 2 in the total amount of \$66,800.00

- 2025-106 approving a facilities use application to Sanctuary Yoga to hold yoga and meditation classes on the President Avenue ocean beach every day starting June 22nd through August 31st 2025 from 8am to 9am and 7pm to 8pm
- 2025-107 recognizing the month of April 2025 as Child Abuse Prevention Month
- 2025-108 authorizing the Mayor to sign a blue emergency light permit for EMT Christopher Grandinetti who is a volunteer with the Lavallette First Aid Squad-Councilman Finter requested that this be put off consent.
- 2025-109 approving a shared services fuel agreement with the Toms River Fire District providing fuel services for five vehicles for the Ocean Beach Fire Company #3 commencing March 5, 2025 through April 8, 2026
- 2025-110 awarding a contract to Garden State Fireworks for our fireworks display on Sunday, July 6, 2025 with a rain date of Sunday, July 13, 2025
- 2025-111 authorizing the disposal of surplus property through GovDeals
- 2025-112 accepting the monetary donation of \$10,000 from the Lavallette School PTO for the purchase of a new scoreboard for Chandler Field
- 2025-113 opposing A4816 and S4158 which prohibits municipalities from requiring beach tags for access to the wet sandy beach below the mean high tide line for purposes of using the ocean for a recreational activity-Mayor LaCicero stated that this is just opening flood gates for everyone to not require badges.
- 2025-113A rejecting the bids for Chandler Field Improvements-Phase 1 due to all 3 bids exceeding the cost estimates

Mr. Bennett stated that regarding all facility use applications we will be requiring starting this year mandatory submission of gross receipts with their 12 ½% of proceeds and they will have to follow the rule of submitting payment within 10 days after the last day of their use of our facilities. If they do not comply with this, they will not be approved for any facility use applications in the future.

A Motion to approve the consent agenda minus 2025-108 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 minus 2025-108.

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

Motion Passed.

RESOLUTIONS - OFF CONSENT:

2025-108 authorizing the Mayor to sign a blue emergency light permit for EMT Christopher Grandinetti who is a volunteer with the Lavallette First Aid Squad-Councilman Finter requested that this be put off consent.

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

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 this resolution.

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

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

2025-114 Bills List in the amount of \$1,029,811.52

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

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

ORDINANCES ON FOR FIRST READING/INTRODUCTION:

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

Mayor LaCicero stated that this ordinance is done every year in conjunction with the budget. We never have had to use it but our Auditor always requires us to adopt it just in case.

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

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

Public Hearing and Final Adoption is scheduled for April 21, 2025.

COMMUNICATIONS:

General With No Action:

- a) State of NJ/Dept. of Environmental Protection/Water Resource Mngmt./Sheri Shifren, Environ. Scientist/Water Monitoring beginning in May at recreational bathing beaches.
- b) OC Health Dept./Noel Novak=Schulz, Assist. Environ. Health Coordinator/Fiscal Year 2026 Solid Waste Control Program Plan

General With Action:

- a) Nicole Zambell/226 Bryn Mawr Ave/proposing Mayor and Council's consideration of small rectangular aluminum street signs (24"x6") be put at the foot of each beach ramp.

Nicole Zambell, 226 Bryn Mawr Avenue stated that she is proposing these beach signs to be placed at the base of the beach walkovers mostly for the safety of the children, seniors and tourists. When I lived in Ocean Beach we did this and it saved us in a lot of emergency situations. Also, there are special stainless steel screws that are tamper proof to prevent them from being stolen and we mounted them up higher as well.

Councilman Lamb stated that our Public Works has already started this project once we received your letter because we also thought it was a great idea. They will be using vinyl and aluminum as well as the stainless steel screws.

Ms. Zambell thanked Mayor and Council for being so receptive to this idea and for the quick response.

- b) US Dept. of Interior/Fish and Wildlife Service/Ryan Braham, Field Supervisor/Protective Measures of the federally listed (threatened) plant seabeach amaranth that is on a portion of our ocean beach pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973.
- c) OC Board of Commissioners/inviting the Mayor to attend a workshop on the NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection's proposed Resilient Environments and Landscapes (REAL) rules/April 10th at 10:30 am in the County Admin. Bldg.

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2025 BUDGET: (Budget Resolution)

Mr. Burns read the budget Resolution 2025-115

Mr. Bennett stated that our CFO and Borough Auditor will be at the Council Meeting on May 5th for the Adoption and Public Hearing. The biggest issue with this budget is the health insurance which is becoming a very big expense each year as well as the pension plans. We increased the amount of appropriations from surplus of \$50,000. A home in Lavallette with a value of \$900,000 taxes increased a little over \$100 for the year. The total appropriations has actually gone down so we are still in a good place right now.

A Motion to introduce the budget was made by Councilman Finter. The Motion was Seconded by Councilman Lamb.

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

Public Hearing and Final Adoption is scheduled for May 5, 2025.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Bennett stated that the history book meeting was very productive and a good turnout. We are making progress.

Mayor LaCicero stated that with the Westmont Shores curb project, each homeowner will be able to choose where they want the curb cuts to go for their cars. Each curb cut runs 12 feet.

Councilwoman Filippone stated that there will be another memorial bench program starting soon. We already have a list for this and we will go in order of the list. We also will be doing our own projection and outdoor theater for our movies on the bay this year and we will be having our own staff in charge of showing it. We also will be getting the movies from the library at a cheaper rate than what we were paying from another company and we will stay be paying the copyright fees to ASCAP still. All in all we will be saving a decent amount of money each year.

Mr. Bennett stated that a new fence will be going up by the shuffleboard and basketball courts and a little bit of work will be done on the pickle ball courts as well.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Councilman Finter stated that the County Connection bus will be in Lavallette for all the events going on in the summer and they have a lot services available to the public. Also, Public Works still need to know what type of water pipes are under your house so please get that done.

Councilwoman Filippone stated that we have about 64 benches that we can order and about \$44,000 to spend. We will process this year and if you purchase a bench you can select a general location. Right now we have about 40 that need to go by the gazebo and the rest of them, roughly 24 benches will go to each beach access point. There are pine trees over by the shuffleboard courts that really need to be replaced with some type of evergreen trees. There are some cracks still in the pickle ball courts because of the preparation at the time. It seems that some of the public tried to repair them which caused more of an issue now. No one should be repairing our facilities except our Borough employees or a company we hired to do so.

Councilman Lamb stated that we did find a company for this and at a reasonable price so it will be done soon.

Councilwoman Filippone stated that there is an older bench over by the pickle ball courts that someone decided to put a plaque on. This bench was not purchased nor was this plaque so this plaque was removed. Under no circumstance can anyone put a plaque on any benches in the Borough of Lavallette without Borough approval. Only approved donated benches get plaques on them.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Mary Heveran, 2204 Grand Central Avenue thanked Mayor and Council for approving the beach signs for the walkovers. Would these signs be going up for this year?

Mayor LaCicero stated that they will be up for this year before the season starts.

Mark Speaker, 111 Brown Avenue questioned when the calendars were being sent out.

Mr. Bennett stated that the calendars are at the Borough Hall and you can pick them up once you receive your post card and bring it to the Borough Hall to pick it up.

Mayor LaCicero stated that he is confident that once a new Governor is elected there will be more drummed up support against this and it will go away.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was no executive session.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

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

The Council Meeting was adjourned at 8:23pm.

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 7th day of April 2025.

Donnelly Amico
Municipal Clerk

