



N BOROUGH OF LEONIA

COUNCIL- Regular Meeting
~ Minutes ~

Trina Lindsey, Borough Clerk

312 Broad Avenue
Leonias, NJ 07605
<http://www.leonianj.gov/>

May 15, 2023

7:30 pm

Leonias Senior Center

A Work Session Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Leonias was held in person at the Leonias Senior Center at 305 Beechwood Place, Leonias, NJ, and virtually via GoToMeeting on May 15, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by Councilman Fusco.

Those present were led in the Flag Salute by Councilwoman Davis.

Mayor Zeigler read the following statement: "In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the notice requirements have been satisfied. Notice of this meeting by the January 8, 2023 Sunshine Notice containing the time, date, and access information was published in the Record, Star Ledger and has been posted at Borough Hall and on the Borough website."

PRESENT: Council President Grandelis, Councilwoman Maureen Davis, Councilman Pasquale Fusco, Councilman Christoph Hesterbrink, Councilwoman Joanne Terrell, and Councilman William Ziegler

ABSENT: Mayor Judah Zeigler

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Attorney Brian Chewcaskie
Borough Administrator Andrea Wardrop
Borough Clerk Trina Lindsey
Borough Engineer Drew Di Sessa
Deputy Borough Clerk Jonathan Mandel

Public Comment

Lydia Maurice, 392 Grand Avenue, thanked the Borough of Leonias for a wonderful weekend and applauded the events hosted. Ms. Maurice was amazed by the student who ran the Mental Health Awareness Day event and wished to know if there were any plans to host another event in the future. Ms. Maurice also spoke as to her concerns relating to traffic within the Borough of Leonias.

Alec Melman, 172 Highwood Avenue, complimented Borough Engineer Drew Di Sessa and his team for the stellar work performed on Broad Avenue through its various paving projects. Mr. Melman wished to ask Councilwoman Davis if the Police Department could begin

tracking their number of summonses for failure to yield or come to a complete stop, to better understand and improve upon enforcement.

Mr. Melman questioned what the Community Block Grant for Dudley Allen Park consisted of, stating that Sylvan Park is another park in need of attention.

Councilman Fusco acknowledged Ms. Maurice's concerns and spoke as to potential solutions to the traffic issue.

Councilman Fusco appreciated Mr. Melman's recognition of the progress made in road improvements and also thanked the Borough Engineer for his efforts.

The record will reflect that no further comments were entered into the chat window accessible through GoToMeeting nor via the United States Postal Service or Email.

Appointments

RES. 2023-124 Appointment of Chief Financial Officer **[2023-124_Resolution_CFO_Appointment_05.15.2023.pdf](#)**

Motion by Councilman Ziegler, second by Councilwoman Davis, that Resolution #2023-124 be approved.

Councilman Hesterbrink inquired as to the vetting process that was implemented in bringing a name forward for Chief Financial Officer. Council President Grandelis explained as to the process of filling positions such as that of the Chief Financial Officer. Borough Administrator Wardrop provided further information.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Council President Grandelis:	aye	Councilman Hesterbrink:	aye
Councilwoman Davis:	aye	Councilwoman Terrell:	aye
Councilman Fusco:	aye	Councilman Ziegler:	aye

RES. 2023-125 Appoint Acting Chief Financial Officer **[2023-125_Appoint Acting CFO_5.15.23.pdf](#)**

Motion by Councilwoman Terrell, second by Councilman Hesterbrink, that Resolution #2023-125 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Council President Grandelis:	aye	Councilman Hesterbrink:	aye
Councilwoman Davis:	aye	Councilwoman Terrell:	aye
Councilman Fusco:	aye	Councilman Ziegler:	aye

Proclamation**2023 Borough Proclamation Declaring the First Friday in June to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day**[Wear Orange Proclamation 2023.pdf](#)

Councilman Fusco read the proclamation into the record, declaring June 2, 2023 to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day.

Introduction of Ordinances**Ordinance 2013-07 Noise**

The Borough Clerk read the title of the ordinance into the record:

“AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 181 ENTITLED “NOISE”, ARTICLE II ENTITLED “TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT, SECTION 10 ENTITLED “RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT” OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF LEONIA TO PROVIDE FOR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF INTERNAL COMBUSTION LEAF BLOWERS TO CORRECT THE DESIGNATION OF THE SECTION NUMBERS IN THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF LEONIA”

Let the record reflect that Council President Grandelis left the meeting.

Motion by Councilwoman Terrell, Second by Councilman Ziegler that ordinance 2023-07 be introduced and passed on first reading, and setting June 7, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard for second reading and adoption.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Council President Grandelis:	absent	Councilman Hesterbrink:	aye
Councilwoman Davis:	aye	Councilwoman Terrell:	aye
Councilman Fusco:	aye	Councilman Ziegler:	aye

Non-Consent Resolutions**RES. 2023-126 Authorize Bid for Lease of Borough-Owned Property for Leaf Composting Facility – Block 102, Lot 3**[2023-126_LEASE OF BOROUGH-OWNED PROPERTY – LEAF COMPOSTING – BLOCK 102, LOT 3_5.15.23.pdf](#)

Borough Attorney Chewcaskie explained the resolution.

Motion by Councilwoman Davis, second by Councilwoman Terrell, that Resolution #2023-126 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Council President Grandelis:	absent	Councilman Hesterbrink:	aye
Councilwoman Davis:	aye	Councilwoman Terrell:	aye
Councilman Fusco:	aye	Councilman Ziegler:	aye

RES. 2023-127 Authorize Bid for Lease of Borough-Owned Property for Installation of Outdoor Advertising Signs – Block 102, Lot 3

[2023-127_LEASE OF BOROUGH-OWNED PROPERTY – OUTDOOR ADVERTISING – BLOCK 102, LOT 3_5.15.23.pdf](#)

Borough Attorney Chewcaskie explained the resolution.

Motion by Councilwoman Terrell, second by Councilwoman Davis, that Resolution #2023-127 be approved.

Councilman Ziegler questioned the impact the sign would have on residents. Councilman Fusco replied that during studies performed the location chosen was found to be far enough from most of the residents and would cause little to no impact. Councilman Fusco noted that the Borough of Leonia is obligated by federal law to allow for the billboard and it will allow for the acquisition of an additional revenue stream.

Councilman Hesterbrink asked additional questions on the billboard. Councilman Fusco replied that the location chosen is one of only a few locations that could sustain or allow for this type of advertising.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Council President Grandelis:	absent	Councilman Hesterbrink:	aye
Councilwoman Davis:	aye	Councilwoman Terrell:	aye
Councilman Fusco:	aye	Councilman Ziegler:	aye

RES. 2023-128 Adopt Purchasing Manual

[2023-128_Adopting the Purchasing Manual_5.15.23.pdf](#)

Borough Administrator Wardrop and Borough Attorney Brian Chewcaskie both explained the resolution.

Motion by Councilwoman Terrell, second by Councilman Ziegler, that Resolution #2023-128 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Council President Grandelis:	absent	Councilman Hesterbrink:	aye
Councilwoman Davis:	aye	Councilwoman Terrell:	aye
Councilman Fusco:	aye	Councilman Ziegler:	aye

Consent Resolutions

~~RES. 2023-129 Authorize Bill List
2023-129_Authorize Bill List_5.15.23.pdf
2023-129_Bill List Backup.pdf~~

RES. 2023-130 Authorize Tax Refund for Exempt Veteran
2023-130_Authorize Veteran Tax Refund_5.15.2023.pdf

~~RES. 2023-131 2023 Open Space Grant Application – Park Development: Dudley Allen Park
2023-131 Authorization to Apply for the Bergen County Open Space Grant Application.pdf~~

RES. 2023-132 Authorize GPC Inc. – Change Order 27
2023-132_Change Orders #27 – New Municipal Building Construction Project_5.15.23.pdf

~~RES. 2023-133 Authorize Consumption of Alcohol in Wood Park for Leonia Day
2023-133_Resolution authorizing alcoholic beverages Wood Park – Leonia Day 2023-
5.51.2023.pdf~~

RES. 2023-134 Authorization to Serve Alcohol at Pool – Sportsboosters
2023-134 AUTHORIZATION TO SERVE ALCOHOL AT POOL – SPORTSBOOSTERS.pdf

Motion by Councilman Hesterbrink, second by Councilman Ziegler, that the Consent Agenda be approved.

On a roll call, the vote on the Consent Agenda was recorded as follows:

Council President Grandelis:	absent	Councilman Hesterbrink:	aye
Councilwoman Davis:	aye	Councilwoman Terrell:	aye
Councilman Fusco:	aye	Councilman Ziegler:	aye

RES. 2023-129 Authorize Bill List
2023-129_Authorize Bill List_5.15.23.pdf
2023-129_Bill List Backup.pdf

Pulled by Councilwoman Terrell for a separate vote.

Motion by Councilman Hesterbrink, second by Councilwoman Davis, that RES. 2023-129 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote on RES. 2023-129 was recorded as follows:

Council President Grandelis:	absent	Councilman Hesterbrink:	aye
Councilwoman Davis:	aye	Councilwoman Terrell:	abstain
Councilman Fusco:	aye	Councilman Ziegler:	aye

RES. 2023-131 2023 Open Space Grant Application – Park Development: Dudley Allen Park

[2023-131 Authorization to Apply for the Bergen County Open Space Grant Application.pdf](#)

Pulled by Councilman Ziegler for further discussion.

Councilman Ziegler stated that he wishes to ensure that what is being proposed in Dudley Allen Park is something that the municipality wants to do. Councilman Ziegler also wishes to know if the Borough is obligated to accept money from the county if any action is taken tonight.

Recreation Superintendent Sean Krakower explained that the resolution itself is authorization to apply for the grant and that the project being proposed is to accommodate the popular sport pickleball. As it stands, the Recreation Department is incredibly restricted on court space and the demand for the sport is increasingly growing.

Further discussion was held as to the deadlines of the project and its parameters.

Councilman Hesterbrink expressed concern about paving over green space for the courts and wished to see a more detailed plan before approving any potential projects.

Borough Administrator Wardrop expressed concerns over the deadlines for the grant opportunity.

Councilman Fusco acknowledged the concerns of Councilman Ziegler and Councilman Hesterbrink.

Councilwoman Davis wished to know if the application can be made for the grant but denied later if it is decided that the Borough does not wish to pursue the project. Councilwoman Davis echoed the Mayor and Council's wish for more information as to the specifics of the project before a decision is made.

Councilman Hesterbrink reiterated his opposition to paving over green space.

Recreation Superintendent Krakower provided more information on the specific requirements of the project.

Borough Administrator Wardrop provided further information as to the specifics of the grant and its requirements.

Councilman Fusco asked for a motion to table RES. 2023-131. Motion by Councilman Ziegler, Second by Councilwoman Terrell.

On a roll call, the vote on RES. 2023-131 was recorded as follows:

Council President Grandelis:	absent	Councilman Hesterbrink:	aye
Councilwoman Davis:	aye	Councilwoman Terrell:	aye
Councilman Fusco:	aye	Councilman Ziegler:	aye

RES. 2023-133 Authorize Consumption of Alcohol in Wood Park for Leonia Day
[2023-133_Resolution authorizing alcoholic beverages Wood Park – Leonia Day 2023-5.15.2023.pdf](#)

Pulled by Councilman Ziegler for further questions.

Councilman Ziegler inquired as to whether a similar resolution was adopted in the past. Borough Administrator Wardrop explained that this is something that has been performed in the past.

Councilman Ziegler asked if the municipality must work with the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control. Recreation Superintendent Krakower explained that he has already been in contact with them and is currently working with them.

Motion by Councilman Ziegler, Second by Councilwoman Terrell that RES. 2023-133 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote on RES. 2023-131 was recorded as follows:

Council President Grandelis:	absent	Councilman Hesterbrink:	aye
Councilwoman Davis:	aye	Councilwoman Terrell:	aye
Councilman Fusco:	aye	Councilman Ziegler:	aye

Unfinished Business

Bulk Trash Pickup – Pat Fusco/Christoph Hesterbrink

Councilman Fusco stated that Bulk Trash Pickup continues to be a topic of discussion within the DPW Committee and the issue is still under investigation. Findings will be presented at a future Mayor and Council Meeting.

Councilman Hesterbrink explained that many municipalities within Bergen County have a monthly schedule with some others combining bulk trash pickup with regular garbage pickup. The Borough of Leonia performs bulk trash pickup twice a month and with less restrictions on the quantity and content of what may be picked up.

Discussion shall continue within the DPW Committee before suggestions are brought to the Law and Ordinances Committee.

Chapter 53 Department of Public Works – Codification – Joanne Terrell/Brian Chewcaskie

It was decided to bring the conversation on this topic to a future Mayor and Council Meeting.

Sidewalk Policy – Bill Ziegler/Mayor Zeigler

This topic of discussion will be brought to a future Mayor and Council Meeting

New Business**2021 Open Space Grant Repurposing of Funds – Wood Park Basketball Courts – Sean Krakower**

Recreation Superintendent Krakower explained the decision to repurpose previously acquired grant funds into a different project. Open Space accepted the repurposing of funds but asked that the Borough of Leonia submit another application. The Recreation Commission has suggested that the grant funds be repurposed for the repair of the Wood Park Basketball Courts. At this time, it is being asked of the Mayor and Council for their thoughts and permission to proceed as recommended.

Councilman Fusco inquired as to whether the repurposing of funds would compromise the grant funds. Recreation Superintendent Krakower explained that it would not.

Further discussion occurred as to if the basketball courts could also be used for other purposes such as Pickleball.

Councilman Hesterbrink asked if permeable asphalt could be used for the project. Borough Engineer Di Sessa will perform research into the subject.

Councilman Ziegler noted that the new municipal center's parking lot and adjacent road are permeable pavers.

Leonía Retirement Housing – Flood Mediation – Andrea Wardrop/Drew Di Sessa

Borough Administrator Wardrop explained that there was concern within the Leonia Retirement Housing complex about flooding after Hurricane Ida. It was asked that the Borough Engineer and DPW take a look into the curbing on Glenwood Avenue. Borough Engineer Di Sessa suggested a berm be created temporarily to reduce flooding. Borough Administrator Wardrop spoke more as to the discussions held.

Borough Engineer Di Sessa provided context as to the drainage and flooding issues of the area and the proposed solutions.

Further discussion was held as to the proposal.

Outdoor Dining – Andrea Wardrop

Borough Administrator Wardrop explained that the owner of Fontana Tritone asked if it would be permissible for the restaurant to use a portion of the Borough of Leonia's parking lot behind the Borough Hall for outdoor dining once again. As the COVID-19 pandemic has subsided and restrictions are no longer in place, the Borough Administrator wished to bring the request forward to the Governing Body for their approval.

The Borough Administrator confirmed that accommodating for the outdoor dining has not been a hardship in the past and only affects a handful of parallel parking spaces.

Councilman Fusco stated that he does not see any issue with the continued use of the space for outdoor dining.

Borough Administrator Wardrop in addition stated that the owner must undergo the annual permitting process through the health inspector, fire prevention, and police department.

Beekeeping at Leonia Community Garden Risk Management – Bill Ziegler

Councilman Ziegler provided a background as to the discussion, stating that beekeeping is not something that can be insured by the JIF and thus it is the responsibility of the community garden to get their own.

IT Provider – Andrea Wardrop/Christoph Hesterbrink

Borough Administrator Wardrop explained the process that was undergone for the search for a new IT Provider. After discussion and research, it was decided to bring forward Aton Computing of Hawthorn, NJ as a potential provider.

Councilman Hesterbrink provided his thoughts as to the vendor from his discussions with them.

Borough Administrator Wardrop explained that after a discussion with the Police Chief, they agree that Aton Computing is the group that they wish to bring forward to the Mayor and Council. Details that are wished to be seen in an agreement will be brought to Aton Computing. What is being requested at this point is permission to continue these discussions.

Councilman Fusco stated that the consensus seems to be to move forward with Aton Computing.

Councilwoman Terrell requested that certain care be taken to ensure that the proper language is used to note that what is being shown at this point is a proposal and not an agreement.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilman Ziegler, second by Councilman Hesterbrink, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Mandel,
