



City of Lambertville
SPECIAL SESSION
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021, 6:00 PM
VIRTUAL MEETING USING THE ZOOM MEETING PLATFORM
MINUTES

COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Mayor Fahl called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and she 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 notice provided on Monday, February 22, 2021 to the Hunterdon County Democrat, the Trenton Times, various individuals on the list serve, department heads and the City Engineer and City Attorney.

This meeting will be recorded using Zoom.

The meeting agenda offers the planned action items of the Governing Body to the extent known at the time of publication.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilwoman Lambert, Councilman Sanders, Councilman Stegman, Council President Taylor, Mayor Fahl.

Also Present: William Opel – City Attorney, Cynthia Ege – City Clerk, Kristina Majeski – Deputy Clerk.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Fahl led the members of the public in Pledge of Allegiance. She asked everyone to continue standing for a moment of silence in honor of those serving in the United States Armed Forces in Country and Abroad and for those serving on the front lines of COVID.

CLOSED SESSION: *Authorizing a Closed Session at the February 25, 2021 Session of the Lambertville City Council to Discuss Attorney/Client Issues Related to Contracts Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)(7).*

RESOLUTION

“Authorizing a Closed Session at the February 25, 2021 Lambertville City Council Meeting to Discuss Attorney/Client Issues Related to 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 25, 2021, using the virtual meeting

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platform Zoom, to discuss the following matters: *Attorney/Client Issues Related to Contracts Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)(7)*.

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:

Mayor Fahl and City Council convened in closed session at 6:08 p.m. with a motion made by Councilman Sanders and seconded by Councilman Stegman. An affirmative voice/roll call vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Fahl and City Council re-convened in regular session at 7:02 p.m. with a motion made by Councilman Sanders and seconded by Councilman Stegman. An affirmative voice/roll call vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present. MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NUMBER 50-2021: A Resolution to Award a Contract for Professional Services for the Relocation of the Police Station through the Non-Fair and Open Process.

The resolution is going to be tabled until March 2. At this time, we don't have any other business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - none

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Councilwoman Lambert asked where we are with an appraisal for the Closson property. Mayor Fahl responded that the previous council chose not to get an appraisal due to various reasons: concerns about the appraisal process; the City will need to obtain appraisals for the Green Acres application and the application to the Hunterdon County Land Trust for the open space; the City received input from information about different kinds of values. Councilwoman Lambert asked if that information was shared with the public. The City Attorney clarified that the information was presented to council; and is not shared directly with the public because of some proprietary documents, attorney client privileged, and if we don't acquire we don't want to hurt their ability to negotiate another sale.

Evan Lide: with regard to the Closson property, a lot of discussion about elementary school, questioning if we might be able to build a school on there. I would assume that limits. Has there been discussion about buying it a different way to build a school? Mayor Fahl responded that the City has not had a request from the school; but this is in hands of the board of education. This would limit the professed goal that this council had to maintain the rural of our community but the City is willing to hear them out.

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Councilman Sanders responded that if we were to purchase the property and if it were used for the new school, it would be used by West Amwell and Stockton as well, and that is a different tax base.

Discussion regarding an appraisal for the Closson property ensued. The discussion regarding spending funds, approximately \$15,000, for the appraisal continued. This will be on the March 18 meeting agenda for discussion.

Paul Stevens: asked about the resolution on the agenda for adoption that was moved to Tuesday, will the particulars be updated prior to the meeting? Mayor Fahl responded that we received the information hours before this meeting and we have been trying to provide agendas that are 20 or 30 pages long, to give sunlight, we couldn't hit the mark because how quickly this project turned around. We will post it as soon as it becomes available.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 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

Cynthia L. Ege
CMR, RMC, City Clerk

The February 25, 2021 Special Session Minutes were approved at the March 18, 2021 Voting Session of the Governing Body.