



**CITY OF LAMBERTVILLE
VOTING SESSION
OCTOBER 5, 2021, 7:00 P.M.
LAMBERTVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL
200 NORTH MAIN STREET
MINUTES**

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Mayor Fahl called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 notice into the record.

The meeting notice was provided to the Hunterdon County Democrat, the Trenton Times, department heads, various individuals on the listserv and the meeting agenda was posted to the City's website at www.lambertvillenj.org and on the bulletin board at city hall.

This meeting will be recorded.

The meeting agenda provides for action items at the extent known at the time of publication.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk called the roll as follows:

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

Also present: William Opel – City Attorney, Cynthia Ege – City Clerk, Michael Drulis, Budget Consultant.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Fahl led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance and she asked members of the public to remain standing for a moment of silence in honor of those serving in the United States Armed Forces, those serving on the front lines of COVID and for those impacted by Tropical Storm Ida.

BILLS LIST: Approval to pay Maple Direct \$1,040.39 for postage to mail out the 2021/2022 tax bills.

Mayor Fahl asked for a motion to approve the bills list. Councilman Sanders made the motion and Councilwoman Lambert seconded the motion. An affirmative voice vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present. MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Halloween to formalize the road closures: Sunday, October 31, 2021 from 6 to 8 p.m. the following road will be closed: North Union Street from York Street to Buttonwood Street

Mayor Fahl asked for a motion to close North Union Street on Sunday, October 31, for trick or treating. Council President Taylor made the motion to close North Union Street

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for trick or treating. Councilman Stegman seconded the motion. An affirmative voice vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present. MOTION CARRIED.

Hunterdon County Economic Development Grant Update

The City Planner was present to give an update on the progress of the grant funded by the County of Hunterdon to improve how businesses open, operate and succeed in Lambertville.

Emily Goldman, the city planner, gave the following presentation to the members of the governing body and public.

The grant was ready to kick off in March of 2020 when COVID hit and this caused a delay in the schedule.

A power point presentation was given to the members of the governing body and public who were present. This will be uploaded to the City's website at www.lambertvillenj.org.

The goal of the grant is to focus on improving the opening and success of businesses in Lambertville and to identify and address problem areas. Councilman Stegman led the group and with the City Planner held roundtables to gain information from the business community. The following three areas were identified: principal uses, parking, and outdoor dining. From this, the recommendation was made to create specific lists of permitted principal uses within each of the three commercial districts. A list of potential new principal uses was created and discussed with the governing body. Parking requirements and outdoor dining were discussed with the members of the governing body. The other areas identified through the business roundtables include customer service, absenteeism of membership on Zoning Board, and rezoning request for residential properties in the commercial district.

Next steps: the governing body wanted some time to review and digest the information presented. Council President Taylor will work with the City Planner to present an ordinance to the governing body for introduction and adoption.

Historic Preservation Ordinance: designation of individual historic landmarks and historic districts.

The Historic Preservation Commission drafted an ordinance to designate individual historic landmarks and historic districts. The goal is to protect landmarks in our community, such as: city hall and the library, through stronger preservation options with the input of the property owner. The goal is to introduce it at the October 21st session for first reading.

Tropical Storm Ida Update: Mayor Fahl informed the members of the public present that the city has been working with our engineers to assess and total the damages to the city's infrastructure caused by Tropical Storm Ida. This includes damages to our waterways, roads, catch basins, and to the buildings owned by the city. This will take 18

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months for the minor repairs to be completed and engineering on the major repairs. It could take up to seven years for us to rebound economically.

Mayor Fahl is working with the legislature on a grant opportunity for property owners to help offset the cost of hazard mitigation for repetitive loss property owners. We are requiring repetitive loss properties to raise mechanicals (electric, furnace, water heaters, etc.) to two feet above the base flood elevation. They will be given six months to accomplish this requirement.

PennEast Pipeline – Update: Councilman Sanders reported that the PennEast Pipeline stated they were not going to pursue the pipeline due to extraordinary challenges and public opposition. There was enormous opposition to this regionally with democrats, republicans, board of freeholders, and local officials of all political areas. Councilman Sanders thanked the PennEast Pipeline Committee for their months of work against the pipeline. Mayor Fahl recognized Liz Magill Peer for her many efforts against the pipeline.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were on the agenda:

Convenience Center Hours for October:

Saturday, October 2, 2021 from 9 am to 12 Noon

Saturday, October 16, 2021 from 9 am to 12 Noon

Wednesday, October 20, 2021 from 3 – 5 pm

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Fahl asked for public comment.

Judy Gleason asked the following:

Halloween: will people need to move their car for trick or treating? Mayor Fahl responded that they do not need to move their car but once trick or -treating begins, they will not be able to move it until the event has ended.

FEMA's DRC: how long will it be open? Mayor Fahl responded that they will be here for 60 days from the date of opening or until they are no longer needed.

Hunterdon Economic Development Grant: was the entire business community involved? Councilman Stegman said the city reached out three times, and sent out a mailing. The plan is to do another round of door knocking before the ordinance is introduced.

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Parking requirement issue for applications to the boards: this is the only way residents can voice their issues around development in the city. It pushes a lot of buttons for a lot of reasons.

Zoom: will the city ever return to using Zoom. Council President Taylor responded that some council people are very committed to it but we don't have an answer yet.

Janine MacGregor asked for more information about the 18-month process and expressed her frustration with the condition of Swan and Studdiford Street. Mayor Fahl responded that the less intense moderate work will be bid as part of our 2020 road project and will be completed in-kind, meaning that they will be replaced with using the same materials that were there before the storm. The more complicated jurisdictional issues will take more time.

Ms. MacGregor asked if the city was planning on doing a debrief on what happened. Mayor Fahl said she has started the process with Council President Taylor. Mayor Fahl also credited Lt. Brown for the incredible job he did as the OEM Coordinator.

CLOSED SESSION: Closed Session of the Governing Body of the September 23, 2021 Lambertville City Council Meeting to discuss Attorney/Client Issues related to Contracts pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)(7).

Mayor Fahl asked for a motion to go into closed session 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 October 5, 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 October 5, 2021, held at the Lambertville Public School located at 200 North Main Street in the City to discuss 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 8:46 p.m. with a motion made by Councilwoman Lambert and seconded by Councilman Stegman. An affirmative voice/roll call vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present. MOTION CARRIED.

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Mayor Fahl and City Council re-convened in regular session at 10:20 p.m. with a motion made by Councilman Stegman and seconded by Council President Taylor. An affirmative voice/roll call vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present. MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m. with a motion made by Councilman Sanders and seconded by Council President Taylor. An affirmative voice vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Ege
CMR, RMC, City Clerk