

I. Monday, October 2, 2023 Work Meeting of the Governing Body of the Borough of Lincoln Park, the Borough Clerk called the Work Meeting to order and announced the meeting was duly advertised in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. ROLL CALL

On the Roll Call, Council Members present were: Antonetti, Gurkovich, Moeller, Ross, Thompson, and Seise

ABSENT: Gemian

Present from Administration: Mayor Runfeldt and Chris DiLorenzo, Borough Attorney

III. COUNCIL AGENDA:

Council President Seise acknowledged the passing of former Councilman Ray Kerwin. Services are Thursday, October 5, 2023 at Keri-Lozito Funeral Home from 4 – 8 PM. Funeral Mass is at St. Joseph's R.C. Church on Friday, October 6, 2023 at 11 AM.

1. Discussion: LOSAP

Council President Seise spoke about LOSAP contributions. The contribution per qualifying individual is \$1,150.00 that we put in per year. It is sort of like a 4K type of program. Some Municipalities included almost like a cost-of-living increase over the years. It is a small increase, but it goes up year to year. We did not do that, and we did not increase it since it was established. It would be nice for the volunteers on the Fire Department and the First Aid Squad to build something like that in. It was created as a recruitment thing and a retention of members. I do not know how well it does that, but I think it is a nice thing to do for our volunteers.

Mayor Runfeldt said that there are some requirements that were passed by a referendum by how much we can increase it. There are some limitations on how it can be increased.

Council President Seise said to change it now, I do not know how to do that.

Mayor Runfeldt said that we may have to go through referendum to change it. If it is different than what our referendum was, than it would have to be changed by referendum.

Chris DiLorenzo, Borough Attorney, said that he will look into this.

2. Discussion: Short-Term Rental Units

Chris DiLorenzo, Borough Attorney, said that when he spoke to Perry Mayers, Borough Administrator, it was confirmed that there were one (1) or two (2) locations in Lincoln Park that were short-term rental units.

Councilwoman Thompson said that they are not in Lincoln Park via Air B&B. Maybe it is VRBO but not Air B&B.

Chris DiLorenzo, Borough Attorney said that this is coming up a lot in other towns. It is coming up a lot in towns near the city and it is becoming more of an issue over there. They had more of a problem with it because they are protecting the hotel industry. There have been some towns in Bergen County that started to prohibit these. It is up to you guys, but I do not think there is an issue for us, yet. We can wait and see if this becomes a problem and in the meantime monitor Air B&B.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS/ COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Antonetti: Centennial Park phase #3 is almost complete. The ground was too wet for the machine to enter the playground. Hopefully, by the end of this week. Scheduling grand reopening for the end of October.

Pickleball courts are under construction. Asphalt has been poured and is curing. The top court is tentatively scheduled for mid-October. Replacement LED lights for poles will be installed in the next two (2) weeks.

Ping pong program began today. There were two (2) residents and two (2) nonresidents.

Upcoming events: October 14, 2023 – 5K, October 29, 2023 – Trunk or Treat in the PAL parking lot, November 18, 2023 – Pantry Plunge at the Lake, and December 2, 2023 – Winter Wonderland at the Lake with fireworks.

Discussion on how the program of ping pong will be run regarding fees took place. Recreation had sent an email on how they feel the program should be run. As of 2023 rates, walk-ins would be \$2.00 for residents and \$4.00 for non-residents. The program would be open to anyone 16 years of age and older. Starting in 2024 they will rework the program and include pickleball and ping pong together as one rate.

Chris DiLorenzo, Borough Attorney, said that we are going to have to do a fee Ordinance to adjust these fees. We can do that in the beginning of 2024 to have it in writing.

Council did not agree with charging a fee for seniors to play ping pong. If we start charging people to play, no one is going to want to play. We bought the table to be used. Only seniors are playing.

Council decided as a new program to waive the fee now and see how it goes. They will revisit it in January 2024.

A Resolution supporting this will be on the October 16, 2023 Meeting Agenda for approval.

Chris DiLorenzo, Borough Attorney, said that if we are going to charge any fee, that by the end of the year we should pass a fee Ordinance to specifically say the fee and what it is for.

Gemian: Absent.

Gurkovich: The grand opening at the library is Saturday, October 14, 2023 from 7-9 PM.

Moeller: The DPW is working on the 2024 budgets. This week they will be looking at a roadside machine, they need to get a new one. They are also looking at replacing the bucket truck. The centennial walking track work will start this week. They finished the basins for the streets that are being paved.

Ross: No report.

Thompson: No report.

Seise: No report.

V. MAYOR'S AGENDA:

I. Request Resolution Authorizing Reimbursement of Sewer Service Charge

- A. Account No. – 3987-0
- B. Property location – 11 John Street
- C. Amount - \$516.17

Council concurred and a Resolution will be on the October 16, 2023 Agenda.

II. Request Resolution Authorizing Return of Escrow Funds Deposited

- A. 65 Minnehaha Path
- B. Property owners – Scott & Kim Greenfield
- C. Amount to be returned - \$3,000

Council concurred and a Resolution will be on the October 16, 2023 Agenda.

III. Request Resolution Approving Modified Employment Agreement – Joseph Zammit

- A. Chief of Police
- B. Modifications to Article XIV – Salary
 - i. 2023 salary increase from \$182,343 to \$184,131 (previously approved on Sept. 18, 2023)
 - ii. 3.5 % increase on January 1, 2024 (previously 2%)
 - iii. 3.5% increase on January 1, 2025 (previously 2%)
 - iv. All other provisions remain the same.

Council concurred and a Resolution will be on the October 16, 2023 Agenda.

IV. Request Resolution Authorizing Submission of Request to NJ DLGS to Approve Insertion of Item of Revenue into 2023 Budget

- A. Source – NJ DCA FY 2023 Lead Grant Assistance Program
- B. Purpose – To assist municipalities with costs associated with compliance under P.L. 2021, c. 182
- C. Amount - \$3,800.00

Council concurred and a Resolution will be on the October 16, 2023 Agenda.

V. Resolution Authorizing Return of Fire Safety Permit Fee

- A. Shoprite of Lincoln Park
- B. Fee Amount - \$54.00
- C. Reason – Lincoln Park Day canceled

Council concurred and a Resolution will be on the October 16, 2023 Agenda.

VI. PUBLIC HEARING:

Thompson: Motion to go to Public

Ross: Second

Council President Seise asked for a Voice Vote. The Public Hearing was Opened.

Christine Connelly, 111 Gettysburg Way, mentioned the post about the traffic light at Two Bridges Road.

Councilman Gurkovich said that he will talk to Perry Mayers, Borough Administrator, tomorrow and he will also meet with the Passaic County Engineer.

Mayor Runfeldt said that the traffic light is run by the County, and it is not in our control to do anything at this time. Once we get control of the light, we can do something about it.

Mayor Runfeldt has said that himself, Administration, Police Department, and the Morris County Engineer has reached out about this issue.

Christine Connelly also mentioned Lincoln Park Day being cancelled due to the weather. She was wondering if there was a plan b to help support our local businesses by saying hey this event is cancelled but these vendors are still participating, please support them. I was just curious if there were a list of people who had a list that we could support.

Lincoln Park Day Association was present and said that they can try to put together a list.

Thompson: Seeing no one else wishing to speak I Move we close the Public Hearing.

Ross: Second

Council President Seise asked for a Voice Vote. The Public Hearing was Closed.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

Thompson: Motion to Adjourn.

Ross: Second

There being no further business to discuss the Work Meeting of October 2, 2023, was Adjourned at 7:57 PM.

ATTEST:

Courtney Fitzpatrick, Borough Clerk

Andrew Seise, Council President

Mayor David Runfeldt