

2007 MUNICIPAL BUDGET HEARING

Mayor Coles opened the meeting to the public.

David Drukaroff, 1433 Laurelwood Avenue – Stated he read in last week’s Asbury Park Press a number of complaints about increasing municipal taxes, and then read his response.... in part, that it is prudent business practice to set aside money in case assessment appeals are successful, or some tax payers fail to pay their taxes....etc.

Joanne LaRocca, 22 Brian Street – Commented with regard to property taxes. Spoke in opposition to the increase in her taxes due to the revaluation. Requested she be permitted to file a tax appeal. Also, objected to the change in meeting time for this meeting.

Bill Hobday – Commented on the many tax appeals that have been filed, due to the revaluation.

Seeing no one else wishing to be heard, Mayor Coles closed the Budget Hearing to the public.

At this point in time, Mayor Coles advised they would proceed with the meeting, but would go out of the order of the Agenda, to give Mr. Cunliffe a chance to arrive.

CONSENT AGENDA

The below listed items are considered to be routine by the Township of Lakewood and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no formal discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, this item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

1. Resolution authorizing The Award of Professional Services Contract to Ronald Schneider and Associates, PC.
Resolution No. 2007-165
2. Resolution supporting the donation and acquisition of parcels in the Township of Lakewood by the Ocean County National Land Trust Advisory Committee.
Resolution No. 2007-166
3. Resolution authorizing the award of a Professional Services contract to T & M Planning proposal for local transit services.
Resolution No. 2007-167
4. Resolution authorizing the award of a Professional Services contract to T & M Planning Proposal for a strategic downtown parking report.
Resolution No. 2007-168

5. Resolution authorizing the award of a Professional Services contract to T & M Planning Proposal for the preparation of a traffic circulation improvement action plan.
Resolution No. 2007-169
6. Resolution authorizing the Liquor License Renewal for Kimball Diner and Restaurant Inc. T/A Chianti Ristorante; year 2007-2008 – License #1514-33-010-003
Resolution No. 2007-170
7. Resolution authorizing The Liquor License Renewal for A Better Liquor Corp. T/A Parkway Liquors and Brandy's Tavern; year 2007-2008 – License #1514-32-022-009
Resolution No. 2007-171
8. Resolution authorizing The Liquor License Renewal for Matrix Woodlake, LLC t/a Woodlake Golf and Country Club; year 2007-2008 – License #1514-33-029-005
Resolution No. 2007-172
9. Resolution authorizing The Liquor License Renewal for The American Legion Post No. 166; year 2007-2008 – License #1514-31-036-001
Resolution No. 2007-173
10. Resolution authorizing The Liquor License Renewal for Zach Corporation, t/a Plaza Liquors; year 2007-2008 – License #1514-44-017-008
Resolution No. 2007-174
11. Resolution authorizing The Liquor License Renewal for Ocean Lanes, Inc., t/a Ocean Lanes; year 2007-2008 – License #1514-33-014-008
Resolution No. 2007-175
12. Resolution authorizing The Liquor License Renewal for Ruby Tuesday, Inc.; year 2007-2008 – License #1514-33-012-005
Resolution No. 2007-176
13. Resolution authorizing The Liquor License Renewal for Laketon Associates, Inc. t/a Laketon Inn; year 2007-2008 – License #1514-33-034-004
Resolution No. 2007-177
14. Resolution authorizing The Liquor License Renewal for KCB Liquors, Inc. t/a Buckingham Liquors; year 2007-2008 – License 1514-44-019-009
Resolution No. 2007-178
15. Resolution authorizing The Liquor License Renewal for Jay Prabhu, Inc. t/a Rite Liquors; year 2007-2008 – License #1514-44-013-004
Resolution No. 2007-179
16. Resolution authorizing The Liquor License Renewal for Wines and Liquors R Us; year 2007-2008 – License #1514-44-005-010
Resolution No. 2007-180

17. Resolution authorizing The Liquor License Renewal for S & G Associates, Inc.; year 2007-2008 – License #1514-44-011-011
Resolution No. 2007-181
18. Resolution authorizing The Liquor License Renewal for Joseph E. Stephens, Inc. t/a Gerard's Buy-Rite Liquors West; year 2007-2008 – License #1514-44-003-007
Resolution No. 2007-182
19. Resolution authorizing The Liquor License Renewal for Charlie Brown's of Lakewood, Inc.; year 2007-2008 – License #1514-33-018-004
Resolution No. 2007-183
20. Resolution authorizing The Liquor License Renewal for Country Club Caterers, Inc. t/a Lakewood Country Club; year 2007-2008 – License #1514-33-009-004
Resolution No. 2007-184
21. Resolution awarding a contract to Earle Asphalt Company for a road project known as Raintree Phase III pursuant to and in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 ET SEQ.
Resolution No. 2007-185
22. Resolution authorizing submission of application to New Jersey Urban Enterprise Zone Authority for Enterprise Zone Assistance Funds for the year 2007-2008.
Resolution No. 2007-186
23. Resolution authorizing the Lakewood Township Tax Collector to cancel any and all taxes, penalties, interest due on Block 524.03, Lot 4.
Resolution No. 2007-187
24. Resolution authorizing the Lakewood Township Tax Collector to cancel taxes as listed on attached Schedule A.
Resolution No. 2007-188
25. Resolution supporting the Internet Radio Equality Act.
Resolution No. 2007-189
26. Resolution authorizing the Execution of a Fourth Lease Amendment agreement with American Baseball Company, LLC
Resolution No. 2007-190
27. Resolution of the Township of Lakewood, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, authorizing emergency temporary appropriations for the period between the beginning of the current fiscal year and the date of the adoption of the 2007 Budget.
The above Resolution was removed from the consent Agenda.

Mr. Edwards advised that since they are having some unusual circumstances, one of the items on the Agenda, which is the last Resolution on the Consent Agenda, is a temporary budget Resolution that would carry the Township's funding through the end of June. That Resolution was put on the Agenda in the event that the Budget did not get adopted. But

they have not voted on the Budget, so he would request that Resolution No. 27 be removed from the Consent Agenda and held until the end of the meeting.

Motion by Senator Singer, second by Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein, to approve Resolution Nos. 1 through 26 on the Consent Agenda.

On Roll Call – Affirmative: Senator Singer, Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein and Mayor Coles.
Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein abstained on Resolution Nos. 12 and 18.

Resolution Nos. 2007-165 through 2007-190 – Adopted.

PRESENTATIONS: None

ORDINANCES FOR DISCUSSION: None

ORDINANCES SECOND READING

• **An Ordinance of the Township of Lakewood, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:21-1, et. seq., granting an abatement to local property taxes to SES Holdings, LLC, for facilities located at Block 103, Lots 3 & 5, and authorizing the Mayor and Township Clerk to execute any and all documents necessary and proper to enter into a Tax Abatement Agreement. (1601 Madison Avenue)**
Read by title only for second reading.

Mayor Coles opened the meeting to the public.

Joe LaRocca, 22 Brian Street – Asked who owned and applied for the application status for getting tax abatements on commercial properties.

Mayor Coles advised that tax abatements are only given on commercial properties. This particular application is for the new Commerce Bank that is located at the corner of Route 9 and County Line Road. In this town, they have an abatement, which is a five-year tax break for businesses that open up in town. They get, in the first year, a hundred percent off on the building and improvements; they pay the full price on the land. Then each year, for the next five years, it goes up by twenty percent. That is strictly a commercial abatement to attract businesses and jobs to this town. Mrs. LaRocca was talking about a tax appeal, which is completely separate; it is not an abatement. An abatement is a delay of taxes.

Seeing no one else wishing to be heard, the hearing on this Ordinance was closed to the public.

The above Ordinance was offered by Senator Singer, second by Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein.

On Roll Call – Affirmative: Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein and Mayor Coles.
Negative: Senator Singer

Ordinance No. 2007-31 adopted on second reading.

ORDINANCE FIRST READING (Second reading and public hearing on 6/28/07)

- **An Ordinance of the Township of Lakewood, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, establishing the annual salaries for the Firemen's Mutual Benevolent Association Local 380 classified Service Emergency Medical Technicians.**
Read by title only for first reading.

The above Ordinance was offered by Senator Singer, second by Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein.

On Roll Call – Affirmative: Senator Singer, Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein and Mayor Coles. Ordinance No. 2007-32 adopted on first reading. Second reading and public hearing to be held on June 28, 2007.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Missionary Pentecostal Church of God requesting permission to use Town Square on June 16, 2007 and July 21, 2007, for Evangelical Services.

Letter from Bethel Spanish Pentecostal Church Assemblies of God, Inc., requesting permission to use Town Square on July 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2007, for social outreach.

Letter from Spirit Filled Life Outreach Ministries requesting permission to use Town Square on July 5 and 6, 2007 and July 19 and 20, 2007 for a Summer Outreach Program.

Letter from Mrs. Schwartz requesting Tuxedo Terrace be closed between Laurelwood and Oakwood Avenues on Sunday, June 10, 2007.

Motion by Senator Singer, second by Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein, and carried, that the above correspondence is approved, conditioned upon the approvals of the Manager, Police Department, and Department of Public Works.

PARKS AND EVENTS CORRESPONDENCE

Per schedule of twenty-four (24) items attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein, second by Senator Singer, and carried, to approve the above requests.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC will be heard for a limit of one (1) hour. Each speaker will have four (4) minutes and shall be limited to one time at the podium.

Mayor Coles opened the meeting to the public.

David Drukaroff, 1433 Laurelwood Avenue – Commented on a recent newspaper article published in April in the Indianapolis Star.

Joanne LaRocca – Asked about tax appeals. As she was unaware of the process, she asked that she be permitted to file an appeal at this time.

Mayor Coles explained that the appeal statute is out of their control. It is a state statute, and the Township does not have the ability to alter it. The state law says that you have to get it done by April 1st.

Bill Hobday – Commented on the street congestion in the downtown area, with regard to the day laborers.

Pat DeFillipes, 314 Fifth Street – Asked about a temporary CO, and how long is it good for.

Mayor Coles explained that it is when a structure is nearly ready to be occupied, and the Inspection Department issues a temporary CO so the folks can move in. Usually there are only minor things to be completed. There are many circumstances by which a temporary CO may be issued. It is a preliminary certificate of occupancy to allow someone to occupy the structure, whether a homeowner or a business, waiting for the final CO to be issued.

Mr. Secare added there is no specific duration. It is a discretionary act on the part of the inspector. It is up to them to decide whether or not to issue a temporary CO and ultimately whether they issue a final CO. He has never seen a situation where a homeowner was evicted, but there is that possibility, if the final CO criteria are not met. But there is no definite time span.

Mrs. DeFillipes also complained about the downtown area, and the Town Square.

Joanne LaRocca – Asked if senior citizens receive a property tax break.

Mayor Coles advised she could apply to the state; they have to meet certain income criteria.

Mr. Edwards advised that the forms are available in the Tax Collector's Office.

Joe LaRocca, 22 Brian Street – Commented with regard to commercial tax abatements. He asked if there were special assessments given to not-for-profit organizations.

Mayor Coles answered that many of the not-for-profits, if they have a 501(c)(3), they would be tax exempt. That is also covered under state statute. If they meet the criteria, they can apply for tax exemption status.

Mr. LaRocca continued that he heard that the Court ordered a fifteen (15) percent across the board cut for six hundred residences because they were places of worship.

Mr. Secare advised each property has to be individually assessed and ultimately ruled on by the Tax Court. There is no such thing as an across the board reduction.

(Mr. Cunliffe arrived at the meeting.)

Mr. Cunliffe explained that when he first moved into town, he was a part of a neighborhood group who appealed their taxes, and explained the process.

Seeing no one else wishing to be heard, Mayor Coles closed the meeting to the public.

Mayor Coles asked for a Motion to approve this year's Budget.

Adoption of 2007 Municipal Budget

Motion by Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein, second by Mr. Cunliffe.

On Roll Call – Affirmative: Mr. Cunliffe, Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein and Mayor Coles.

Negative: Senator Singer

Resolution No. 2007-164 – Adopted.

(It is noted that Resolution No. 27 that was removed from the Consent Agenda, died due to lack of action.)

MOTION TO APPROVE BILL LIST OF: 6/05/07

Motion by Senator Singer, second by Mr. Cunliffe, to approve the above Bill List.

On Roll Call – Affirmative: Senator Singer, Mr. Cunliffe, Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein and

Mayor Coles.

Bill List approved.

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Cunliffe commented with regard to the large tract of land that was cleared for development on Route 9. Initially everyone thought that the builder was involved in that clearing, but as it turns out, it was the utility company who did the clearing, the New Jersey American Water Company. He wanted to let everyone know, that if they are in the area, to please take a look at the road by the soccer and baseball complex, and look at the aggressive replanting that was done in that area of different species of trees, to match what was there originally. He believes the developer was Marshall Weisman, and everyone always likes to say the worst things about developers. But in this case, you have to take a look at the replanting effort. It was not his contractors; it was the utility company that did it. But he said he would stand behind it. The people in that neighborhood will now have the three hundred foot buffer, as promised. He suggested that a letter be written from the Committee, or some type of public commendation would be appropriate, because he has gone above and beyond and has restored that area to its natural state. He invited everyone to visit the site at 1000 Vine Avenue and take a look at the large amount of trees being planted in the area.

Mayor Coles asked Mr. Edwards to please have one of the secretaries in his office draft a letter thanking Mr. Weisman for going above and beyond, and taking care of the concerns of the residents.

Senator Singer congratulated Mayor Coles and his family on his daughter's graduation.

Senator Singer further commented on the LTRAP letter that was received by Township residents. LTRAP runs a portion of the Section 8 HUD Housing for Lakewood. They did obtain a one hundred percent score on the Section 8 review by HUD. It is good to know that the units are being operated in the proper manner.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Senator Singer, second by Mr. Cunliffe, and carried, to adjourn the meeting.
Meeting adjourned at 5:55 PM.