



**LAKE COMO BOROUGH  
1740 MAIN STREET  
LAKE COMO, NJ 07719  
(732) 681-3232  
MINUTES**

**DATE: MARCH 2, 2021 – VIRTUAL MEETING  
REGULAR MEETING**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Mayor Higgins called the meeting to order at 7:30pm

**SALUTE TO FLAG AND MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**SUNSHINE LAW**

Introduction as required under the Sunshine Law: Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by the adoption of a Resolution by the Mayor and Council on the fifth day of January 2021 in which Resolution the time and place of Agenda and Regular Meetings commencing with January 5, 2021 were set forth. Notice of same was delivered to the Asbury Park Press the Coast Star and TAPinto and a copy of the notice was posted on the borough website at [www.lakecomonj.org](http://www.lakecomonj.org) and on the bulletin board in Borough Hall. All meetings are open to the public.

**ROLL CALL**

|                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Douglas Witte         | Present |
| Virginia Kropac       | Present |
| Hawley Scull          | Present |
| Christopher D'Antuono | Present |
| Nick DeMauro          | Present |
| Peter Ventrice        | Present |

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilman D'Antuono made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 16, 2021 Regular Meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Kropac, Councilwoman Scull abstained. All others are in favor.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

None on the agenda

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

- Councilwoman Kropac read a letter of resignation from her position as Councilwoman. Councilwoman Kropac stated she has enjoyed her time on Council and serving the residents of Lake Como. Councilwoman Kropac stated that she will no longer be a full-time resident of Lake Como and thanked the Mayor and Council for serving alongside her. This will be effective immediately following this meeting is adjourned. The letter is attached to the minutes. All other matters are in order.

- Councilman Ventrice reported at all matters are in order.
- Councilman DeMauro thanked Councilwoman Kropac for her service and he hope wherever her path goes, he wishes her luck. Councilman DeMauro reported that he spoke to the president of the local little league about working with them and using our fields and the long term goals. Councilman DeMauro ask Chief Scott to give an update regarding Belmar Recreation. Chief Scott reported that the recreation director said there will be programs for Belmar and Lake Como kids this summer including Junior Lifeguards and summer camp. Councilman DeMauro reported about the Board of Education meeting. He is concerned about the revenue issues and some charges but he is staying on top of it so Lake Como is not overlooked. Councilman DeMauro reported on his concerns about summer traffic patterns. He is meeting with the Chief and Louise on Friday regarding that. Lastly, Councilman DeMauro reported on his concerned as an elected official and a resident regarding the cannabis legislation. He feels that it is placing our Law Enforcement Officers in danger as well as it is effecting the safety of the community and our children. His company, that is a drug prevention program in schools, is intensifying their efforts. Councilman DeMauro stated he feels like Lake Como has to do something about this. Borough Attorney Peg Schaffer stated that municipalities can put restrictions into an ordinance, and she can workshop something for the next meeting. All other matters are in order.
- Councilman D'Antuono reported that all matters are in order and thanked Councilwoman Kropac for her service, he's sad to see her go but she definitely left her mark on Lake Como.
- Councilwoman Scull wished Councilwoman Kropac good luck and thanked her for not only all her hard work for Lake Como on Council but on the water rescue team as well. All other matters are in order.
- Councilman Witte thanked Councilwoman Kropac for all her hard work and dedication to Lake Como and said she will be missed. Councilman Witte yielded the rest of his report to Chief Scott.
  - o Chief Scott thanked Councilwoman Kropac for her work and her support of the Police Department. Chief Scott reported that Belmar introduced a couple of ordinances tonight to get this into place for first aid services. Chief Scott reported that Belmar hired on two new Patrolman, Derek Fabian and David Burke. All other matters are in order.
- Mayor Higgins yielded the first portion of his report to SMRSA Representative Kevin Lynch:
  - o Mr. Lynch started his report by thanking Councilwoman Kropac for her service and enjoyed serving alongside her when he was on Council. Mr. Lynch reported that he did have a meeting with Louise, Brendan, Bruce Koch and Councilman D'Antuono about continuing the Inflow and Infiltration project. When there is a rainy season Lake Como's flow goes up. We represent 6% of SMRSA's budget. The borough engineer is going to come up with a plan and present it back to the Council which is a good start. Mr. Lynch

stated that there is a lot of money that can be saved and as other towns upgrade their systems, it puts us at a disadvantage. Mayor Higgins stated that this will be presented to the Council for approval and these are some of the most important projects for our town moving forward. Mayor Higgins reported that there are still guidelines and restrictions in the state. This weekend is usually a very popular weekend for our town and he wanted to reinforce the capacity rules. A couple of the establishments are having very strict events with presold tickets, there is no town sponsored events happening. The indoor and outdoor gathering are limited to the current guidelines of the Governor. Mayor Higgins thanked Councilwoman Kropac for all her service to Lake Como. She started her career with the Mayor Higgins beginning with Sandy and is ending with Covid. Her legacy is leaving a mark on Lake Como and thanked her for everything she did not only for him and the Council but for the residents as well. All other matters are in order.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

No unfinished business

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NEW BUSINESS**

Councilwoman Scull made a motion to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Councilman Ventrice, all are in favor.

Councilman DeMauro made a motion to table the bamboo ordinance to the next meeting, seconded by Councilman D'Antuono, all are in favor.

Councilman DeMauro made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Councilwoman Scull, all are in favor.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

All items listed under this section are considered to be routine by the Borough Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

Belmar Lake Como Parade Committee Ceremonial Walk Application

Councilwoman Scull made a motion to approve the item on the Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilwoman Kropac, all are in favor.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Resolution 2021-70

Payment of Bills

Offered by Councilman Witte, seconded by Councilman Ventrice, roll call vote as follows:

Yes: Councilmembers Witte, Kropac, Scull, D'Antuono, DeMauro and Ventrice

No: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None

Resolution 2021-71  
Payment of NJNG Bill  
Offered by Councilwoman Scull, seconded by Councilwoman Kropac, roll call  
vote as follows:  
Yes: Councilmembers Witte, Kropac, Scull, DeMauro and Ventrice  
No: None  
Abstain: Councilman D'Antuono  
Absent: None

Ordinance 2021-957  
Second Reading and Public Hearing  
Bamboo Ordinance Amendments  
Tabled to the March 16, 2021 meeting

Ordinance 2021-958  
Second Reading and Public Hearing  
CY 2021  
Ordinance to exceed the municipal budget appropriation limits  
And to establish a CAP Bank per N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14  
Offered by Councilwoman Kropac and seconded by Councilman Witte.  
No public comments on this ordinance  
Roll call vote as follows:  
Yes: Councilmembers Witte, Kropac, Scull, D'Antuono, DeMauro and Ventrice  
No: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None

Ordinance 2021-959  
First Reading and Introduction  
Capital Improvement Ordinance  
NJDOT Grant Seventeenth Avenue  
Offered by Councilman D'Antuono, seconded by Councilwoman Kropac, roll call  
vote as follows:  
Yes: Councilmembers Witte, Kropac, Scull, D'Antuono, DeMauro and Ventrice  
No: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None

Ordinance 2021-960  
First Reading and Introduction  
Capital Improvement Ordinance  
Monmouth County Open Space Grant for Como Lake  
Offered by Councilman Ventrice, seconded by Councilman D'Antuono, roll call  
vote as follows:  
Yes: Councilmembers Witte, Kropac, Scull, D'Antuono, DeMauro and Ventrice  
No: None

Abstain: None  
Absent: None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Councilwoman Scull made a motion to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Councilwoman Kropac, all are in favor.

Mike Ryan of E Street echoed the accolades of the Council for Councilwoman Kropac and thanked her for her work for Lake Como. Mr. Ryan also thanked her for her work on the water rescue during Sandy, for attending every event and fundraiser and all she gave of herself and her husband while on Council.

Councilwoman Kropac made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Councilman Witte, all are in favor.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, immediately following the 7:30 PM Workshop meeting and the location is to be determined. All meetings are open to the public.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Councilwoman Kropac made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman D'Antuono, all are in favor.

Respectfully Submitted  
Amy L. Boney  
Deputy Borough Clerk

The minutes of this meeting are not verbatim. Please call Borough Hall at (732)681-3232 to schedule an appointment to hear the tape(s) of this meeting in its entirety. All tapes are subject to being destroyed 80 days after the approval of the Minutes.