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

DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2026
7:30 PM 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 sixth day of January 2026 in which Resolution the time and place of Agenda and Regular Meetings commencing with January 6, 2026 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 and on the bulletin board in Borough Hall. All meetings are open to the public.

ROLL CALL

Hawley Scull	Present
Christopher D'Antuono	Absent
Peter Ventrice	Present
Heather Albala-Doyle	Present
Andrew Reiners	Present
Shannon McIntyre	Present

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Councilman Ventrice made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 1, 2026 Meeting, seconded by Councilman Reiners, all are in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS & PRESENTATIONS
None of the agenda

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
- Councilwoman McIntyre thanked and acknowledged Chief Tina Scott for her 25 years of service. All other matters are in order.

- Councilman Reiners reported that the Borough's seasonal one-way streets revert tomorrow.

- Councilwoman Albala-Doyle thanked all the bands that participated in Wednesdays on the Water this summer. On September 26th, the Lake Como Day festivities begin at 9:00am with the Lake Como Day 5k, from 11:00am – 2:00pm the Police Department will be sponsoring a fishing contest and Lake Como Day will take place from 3:00pm – 9:00pm. All other matters are in order.

- Councilman Ventrice reported that the fall lake clean up will take place on September 19th at 9:00am at the gazebo. All other matters are in order.

- Councilwoman Scull gave a report from the Board of Education. Currently there are 27 Lake Como students enrolled at Manasquan High School in regular education. Belmar Elementary School Back to School Night is on Thursday, October 1st and they are bringing back a cursive curriculum for grade 3 through 5. Councilwoman Scull reported that recreation flyers will be posted online for K-8 basketball, Belmar Youth Club and Marine Science camp. All other matters are in order.

- Mayor Higgins reported that because of Lake Como Day, there will not be a September Coffee with the Mayor. All other matters are in order.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Discussion on Water Rates

- Mayor Higgins began the discussion talking about the ordinance that is on the agenda for introduction tonight. That ordinance will make 2 major changes to the way the Borough bills for water and sewer. The Borough will begin reading meters quarterly and the rates will be set by resolution.
- Borough Attorney Peg Schaffer added that while the changes are being implemented, there will be monthly allowable usage.
- Mayor Higgins added that the Borough had talked about selling the system through the WIPA process because the water utility was running out of money. Outside of the WIPA process, the sale could be done by referendum on a November ballot. The Borough hired a financial consultant and those professionals have deemed it necessary to change the way the billing is done. This will allow the usage to be spread out more allowing for more timely and accurate calculations. Once those changes are in place, Mayor Higgins stated the money can be used to get the meters up to where they need to be to make quarterly readings more efficient.
- Councilwoman Albala-Doyle asked how the meters would be funded and Borough Administrator Andrew Huisman responded that the Borough would have to bond these costs and Mayor Higgins added that by selling the two properties on 18th Avenue would offset those costs.
- Councilman Reiners asked how much notice has to be given to the residents regarding this change. Borough Attorney Peg Schaffer responded that the adoption and publication of the ordinance is sufficient and the residents will be notified and the Borough would have to hire a company to come in and switch meters and that company will schedule directly with residents.
- Councilwoman Scull asked why the Borough is in this situation and Mayor Higgins responded that we have not raised the rates since 2013/2014. Borough Administrator Andrew Huisman added that changing the meters and doing quarterly readings will stabilize the utility.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NEW BUSINESS

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

No Public Comments

Councilman Reiners made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Councilwoman Scull.

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.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance 2026-9
First Reading and Introduction
Bond Ordinance – Behrman Park Improvements CDBG
Offered by Councilwoman Albala-Doyle, seconded by Councilwoman Scull, roll call vote as follows:
Yes: Councilmembers Scull, Ventrice, Albala-Doyle, Reiners and McIntyre
No: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Councilman D'Antuono

Ordinance 2026-10
First Reading and Introduction
Bond Ordinance – Behrman Park Improvements Monmouth County Open Space
Offered by Councilman Reiners, seconded by Councilman Ventrice, roll call vote as follows:
Yes: Councilmembers Scull, Ventrice, Albala-Doyle, Reiners and McIntyre
No: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Councilman D'Antuono

Ordinance 2026-11
First Reading and Introduction
Bond Ordinance – Road Improvements
Offered by Councilman Ventrice, seconded by Councilwoman Albala-Doyle, roll call vote as follows:
Yes: Councilmembers Scull, Ventrice, Albala-Doyle, Reiners and McIntyre
No: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Councilman D'Antuono

Ordinance 2026-12
First Reading and Introduction
Salary Ordinance
Offered by Councilwoman Scull, seconded by Councilman Reiners, roll call vote as follows:
Yes: Councilmembers Scull, Ventrice, Albala-Doyle, Reiners and McIntyre
No: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Councilman D'Antuono

Ordinance 2026-13
First Reading and Introduction
Amending and Supplementing Water and Sewer Rates Ordinance
Offered by Councilman Ventrice, seconded by Councilman Reiners, roll call vote as follows:
Yes: Councilmembers Scull, Ventrice, Albala-Doyle, Reiners and McIntyre
No: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Councilman D'Antuono

Resolution 2026-114
Refund of Tax Overpayment
Offered by Councilwoman Albala-Doyle, seconded by Councilwoman Scull, roll call vote as follows:
Yes: Councilmembers Scull, Ventrice, Albala-Doyle, Reiners and McIntyre
No: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Councilman D'Antuono

Resolution 2026-115
Authorizing Contract with Borough Administrator
Offered by Councilwoman Scull, seconded by Councilman Ventrice, roll call vote as follows:
Yes: Councilmembers Scull, Ventrice, Albala-Doyle, Reiners and McIntyre
No: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Councilman D'Antuono

Resolution 2026-116
Payment of Bills
Offered by Councilwoman McIntyre, seconded by Councilman Reiners, roll call vote as follows:
Yes: Councilmembers Scull, Ventrice, Albala-Doyle, Reiners and McIntyre
No: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Councilman D'Antuono

Resolution 2026-117
Dedication by Rider – Shade Tree Commission
Offered by Councilwoman Albala-Doyle, seconded by Councilman Ventrice, roll call vote as follows:
Yes: Councilmembers Scull, Ventrice, Albala-Doyle, Reiners and McIntyre
No: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Councilman D'Antuono

PUBLIC COMMENTS
Councilwoman Scull made a motion to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Councilwoman Albala-Doyle, all are in favor.

Sandy Caputo of Belmar came before the Council asking them to share the information about the NJ Run for the Fallen on their social media pages. The run is passing through Belmar honoring two fallen heroes at two different stops.

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

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held on Tuesday, October 6, 2026, at 7:30 PM in the Lake Como Meeting Room. All meetings are open to the public.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Councilwoman Scull made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Albala-Doyle, all are in favor.

Respectfully Submitted
Amy L. Boney. RMC
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 recording(s) of this meeting in its entirety. All recordings are subject to being destroyed 80 days after the approval of the Minutes.