



DATE: MARCH 4, 2025 7:30 PM
REGULAR MEETING

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Higgins called the meeting to order at 7:32pm

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 seventh day of January 2025 in which Resolution the time and place of Agenda and Regular Meetings commencing with January 7, 2025 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

Douglas Witte	Present
Hawley Scull	Present
Christopher D'Antuono	Present
Nicholas DeMauro	Present
Peter Ventrice	Present
Heather Albala-Doyle	Present

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Witte made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 18, 2025 Meeting seconded by Councilwoman Albala-Doyle, all are in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS

None on the agenda

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- Councilwoman Albala-Doyle reported that all matters are in order.
- Councilman Ventrice reported that all matters are in order.
- Councilman DeMauro reported that all matters are in order.
- Councilman D'Antuono thanked Lake Como DPW for all their hard work leading up to and on parade day. All other matters are in order.
- Councilwoman Scull reported that all matters are in order.

- Councilman Witte read the following letter to the Mayor, Council, residents and members of the public:

In 1970 at the age of 16 I took a First Aid course and became a member of the South Belmar First Aid squad which started my career in Community Service. As a member of the squad, I always wanted to do my best to help those in need of help to those in need of help, so I took a course where I became the first EMT in the history of the South Belmar First Aid.

Then in 1973 after the South Belmar Fire Company lowered the age requirement to join from 21 to 18, I was one of the first ones to join them. I held many offices with the Fire co. I was secretary for over 10 years and secretary of the New Jersey State Fireman Association for the local chapter. I am life member of both the South Belmar co and the New Jersey State Fireman Assoc. I held the position of Fire Chief for 6 years. 1987, 1988, 1989 and again 1996, 1997 and 1998. I served for 44 years until the end in 2017.

In 1978 I was asked to run for Council by 2 members of council that were going to run as independent candidates. One was Mayor and one was a councilman. We were all elected, and I became a councilman at the young age of 24. The youngest in the history of the town. Then I got married and start to raise my family and stepped away from Politics for a while.

In 1991 I was asked to be on the school board, which I accepted, and I stayed on the Board for 5 years as Vice president. I became the first member of the South Belmar school Board to become a member of the Belmar School Board. In 1996 I ran for Council, won and took office in 1996. I have been on the Council ever since then. In 2013 I was put into the New Jersey League on Municipalities Hall of Fame for serving 20 years.

It is now 2025 and I am in my 33rd year, I am the longest serving councilman in the history of the town. During my time as councilman, I have been a member of the South Belmar/Lake Como Planning board and Councilman President for about 20 years. During my 33 years, I have served under 7 Mayors and over 30 council members. I served 3 years as an independent, 12 years as a Republican and 18 years as a Democrat.

There comes a time in life where it is time to move on. After 33 years as councilman and 55 years of community service to the residents of South Belmar/Lake Como. The town that I grew up in, the town that I raised my family in and more importantly the town that I love, I have decided that I will not be running for re-election but I will stay on until the end of my 33rd year.

I want to thank all the residents over the years for their support. I will never forget my time serving the residents of this great little town.

- Mayor Higgins stated he knew Councilman Witte was making that announcement tonight and there will be a lot said over the next several months but there has been no one at his right side like Doug and Mayor Higgins said he could not have done this without him. On behalf of the Council, Mayor Higgins stated, 'thank you' is the least we can say and congratulations. Mayor Higgins reported that this year's Mayor's Bash will be on July 10th at Bar Anticipation, the Business of the Year has not been announced yet, but this year's Citizen of the Year will be Doug Witte. 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 Witte, all are in favor.

No Public Comments

Councilman Witte made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Councilwoman Albala-Doyle, 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.

Nothing on the Consent Agenda

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2025-53

Awarding Contract – Margerum Avenue Phase II

Offered by Councilman D'Antuono, seconded by Councilman Witte, roll call vote as follows:

Yes: Councilmembers Witte, Scull, D'Antuono, DeMauro, Ventrice and Albala-Doyle

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Resolution 2025-54

Payment of Bills

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

Yes: Councilmembers Witte, Scull, D'Antuono, DeMauro, Ventrice and Albala-Doyle

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Resolution 2025-55

Payment of NJNG Bill

Offered by Councilwoman Albala-Doyle, seconded by Councilwoman Scull, roll call vote as follows:

Yes: Councilmembers Witte, Scull, DeMauro, Ventrice and Albala-Doyle

No: None

Abstain: Councilman D'Antuono

Absent: None

Resolution 2025-56

Executive Session

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

Yes: Councilmembers Witte, Scull, D'Antuono, DeMauro, Ventrice and Albala-Doyle

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Michael Ryan of E Street thanked the Mayor and Council and Lake Como DPW for all their work for a successful parade day. Michael Ryan also congratulated Doug and thanked him for all his work for the residents on this town.

At this point in the meeting, 7:48pm, the Mayor and Council entered into Executive Session reconvening at 8:11am with nothing to report to the public.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, 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.