



**DATE: MARCH 18, 2025 7:30 PM**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Mayor Higgins called the meeting to order at 7:48pm

**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](http://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	Absent
Christopher D'Antuono	Present
Nicholas DeMauro	Absent
Peter Ventrice	Absent
Heather Albala-Doyle	Present

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilman Witte made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 4, 2025 Meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Albala-Doyle, all are in favor.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

None on the agenda

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

- Councilwoman Albala-Doyle reported that the Borough has received preliminary plans and things are moving along with the pickleball courts and dog park. All other matters are in order.
- Councilman D'Antuono reported that all matters are in order.
- Councilman Witte reported that all matters are in order.

- Mayor Higgins reported that the Board of Education announced at a public presentation that they will not be increasing the tax levy. Even though there has been increases in costs such as health insurance and tuition, there has been a reduction in Lake Como students and that balances out. Mayor Higgins reported on First Aid negotiations with the Borough of Belmar. Lake Como was part of a four-town shared service agreement until December when two of those towns left the agreement. It is in the best interest of Lake Como to stay with the Belmar EMS, they are the gold standard and feels they are the best option for the residents. Mayor Higgins feels like in the future there may be a County wide EMS and Fire services but at this time, they cannot adequately provide for the residents of Lake Como. Belmar's current response time is three minutes or less and he is proud to be staying with EMS Director Rob DeMartin and his crew who are stationed right next to Borough Hall. Mayor Higgins reported that by two towns leaving the shared service we will see our contribution number decrease which will be a benefit to the town. Mayor Higgins reported that he has been involved with the town since 2012 and knows what it is like to call first aid and not have any show up so having a reliable EMS is something we cannot put a number on. That is how Mayor Higgins' weighs that recommendation that he will pass to the Emergency Services Committee. Mayor Higgins reported that Belmar has introduced an ordinance regarding e-bikes and he asked Borough Clerk Amy Boney to get a copy of that to make it uniformed between the two towns.
  - o Sgt. Steneck reported that the Police Department is gearing up for summer with approximately 10 Class II Specials graduating the academy to help out.

All other matters are in order.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

No Unfinished Business

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

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

No Public Comments

Councilman Witte made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Councilman D'Antuono, 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.

Raffle License 2025-2  
Shore Saves Inc. Gift Auction

Resolution 2025-57  
Refund of Grading Plan Escrow

Councilman Witte made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilman D'Antuono, roll call vote as follows:  
Yes: Councilmembers Witte, D'Antuono and Albala-Doyle  
No: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Councilmembers Scull, DeMauro and Ventrice

**NEW BUSINESS**

Ordinance 2025-2

First Reading and Introduction

Amending Chapter 3-18 – Park Regulations

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

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

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Councilmembers Scull, DeMauro and Ventrice

Ordinance 2025-3

First Reading and Introduction

Amending Chapter 7-35.2

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

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

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Councilmembers Scull, DeMauro and Ventrice

Resolution 2025-58

Requesting Permission for the Dedication by Rider for Recreation Trust Fund

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

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

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Councilmembers Scull, DeMauro and Ventrice

Resolution 2025-59

Payment of Bills

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

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

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Councilmembers Scull, DeMauro and Ventrice

Resolution 2025-60

Executive Session

Pulled from the agenda

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

- Barbara Frank of 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue stated she heard on the news that Lake Como has one of the highest taxes and hers was raised 9%. Mayor Higgins responded that it is the assessments that have gone up even though the Council has been continuing to lower the tax rate. Mayor Higgins stated that the Council has little to no control over assessments. Mrs. Frank asked once again if the Borough is still a sanctuary city to which Mayor Higgins responded that New Jersey is a Sanctuary State and Lake Como did not choose to go against the state.

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

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at 7:30 PM in the Lake Como Meeting Room. All meetings are open to the public.

### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Councilwoman Albala-Doyle made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman D'Antuono, 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.