

**BOROUGH OF LAWRENCEVILLE
SPECIAL MEETING
June 9, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER

Jack Young called the Special Meeting of the Lawrenceville Borough Council to order at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Council Members:

Jack Young, President
Marian Russell, Vice President
Maxine Smith
Larry Barnes
Brad Hackett
Mansel O'Dell
Gordon Chilson

Mayor:

Diana Barnes

Secretary:

Martha Baker

Visitors:

sign-in sheet was not circulated

Special Guests:

Jim Weaver, Tioga County Planner
Erica Tomlinson, Mgr., TC Cons. Dist.

This is an informational meeting regarding Flood Plain Ordinance #250.

President Young welcomed everyone and introduced the special guests.

Erica Tomlinson began by explaining that the flood plain maps are basically the same as they were back in 1980-81. Most of them have not changed due to the levee. The Borough is in a kind of "limbo" because the levee is not accredited; probably within five years – if the levee cannot be accredited within that time – a study will be conducted to see what protection is actually provided by the levee. At that point, the maps will be re-done.

Jim Weaver explained that in 1980 the first maps were made. They were paper, difficult to read, with inaccurate boundaries, making it difficult to locate a structure or a position on the map because it was just a white paper with a gray blob on it. In 2010, technology had improved to the point that it was possible to digitize the map and put the area photograph underneath the flood plain layer so you can actually see the structures, the infrastructure of the roads, buildings, and businesses. There are four Boroughs in Tioga County that did not meet the requirements for accreditation for the levee system – Lawrenceville being one of the four. FEMA did not give these Boroughs any credit for the existing levees because the accreditation requirements had not been met, so FEMA included flood plains inside the levee. When that happened, the Tioga County GIS Dept was reviewing the maps and realized there were other issues as well. So FEMA said they would hold the Lawrenceville maps until they figured out what they were going to do. Last year, FEMA decided that in order to get those maps in place they were going to seclude those areas in the four Boroughs and give us (Lawrenceville) credit right now for the

flood protections that those levees provide. They also said that in 4-5 years, when they have the time and the money, they are going to come back and study the actual flood protection of the levees. At that time, FEMA will either decide that the levees are working or not – if not, the flood boundary will be within the Borough. The Tioga County and Emergency Services are in the process of updating the All Hazard Mitigation Plan; there are pre-disaster and non-disaster grant monies available through FEMA and PEMA to work on getting the levees accredited. Jim Weaver's group wants to work with us on this.

In order for Lawrenceville to stay in the Federal Flood Insurance Program and to update the Flood Plain Ordinance to align with the new maps, the Ordinance needs to be adopted and in place by July 15, 2015, when the maps become official.

This was followed by an extensive discussion.

Maxine Smith made a motion that Council sign the approved draft Ordinance, approved from FEMA, and put that Ordinance into effect. Larry Barnes seconded the Motion. A roll call vote was taken with Maxine, Larry, Brad, and Jack Young voting yes, and Mansel O'Dell, Gordon Chilson, and Marian Russell voting no. The motion was carried 4-3; the Ordinance was adopted.

Larry Barnes made a Motion to adjourn; Brad Hackett seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30p.m.

Minutes recorded and reported by Martha Baker.