

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 12, 2017**

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on April 12, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the meeting room of the Township Hall, 2600 Bayshore Road, Villas, New Jersey.

The Clerk announced that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act and that adequate notice of the meeting had been provided according to law.

The following members of Council were present for roll call taken by the Clerk:

- Councilmember Thomas Conrad
- Councilmember David Perry
- Councilmember Roland Roy, Jr.
- Deputy Mayor Frank Sippel
- Mayor Erik Simonsen

Also present: James Ridgway, Township Manager, David Stefankiewicz, Township Solicitor and Karen Fournier, Deputy Township Clerk

**Consent Agenda**

- Res. #2017-125 Payment of Vouchers \$ 475,116.12
- Res. #2017-126 Approval of the Township of Lower Emergency Operations Plan (required by state/county Office of Emergency Management)
- Res. #2017-127 Approval of Holy Spirit Lutheran Church's request to conduct a Church Bazaar (June 10, 2017)
- Res. #2017-128 Authorizing Payment for Dispatch Services (\$600,000 for the year 2017)
- Res. #2017-129 Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87, Chapter 159 (JIF Safety Incentive Program \$2,400)
- Res. #2017-130 A Resolution Authorizing an Agreement between the Township of Lower, the City of Cape May, and the Cape May City Elementary School District for use of a Soccer Field at Lafayette Street Park, City of Cape May
- Res. #2017-131 Awarding a Competitive Contract to Lan Associates for a Feasibility Study for an Aquatic Center for the Township of Lower (\$57,500)
- Ordinance #2017-06 An Ordinance Governing the Registration of Vacant Properties in the Township of Lower – This is the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of this Ordinance. The 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and public hearing scheduled for May 1, 2017

	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD			X			
PERRY	X		X			
ROY			X			
SIPPEL		X	X			
SIMONSEN			X			

**Administrative Reports**

Monthly Reports – Clerk, Construction, Dog, Tax, Vital Statistics

**Council Comments**

Councilman Conrad read his prepared statement responding to comments made at the previous Council meeting regarding the beach access paths and the Beach Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project. He also wished everyone a happy Easter.

Manager Ridgway presented documents to verify that the Township followed the proper protocol for the Beach Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project. He also informed Council that the Police Department has started a community outreach program to survey public concerns and he gave an update on the spring recreation programs.

Councilman Perry thanked the people who acknowledged Council's decision to move forward with the Beach Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project in an effort to improve public safety. He gave a brief update on the Roseann Avenue Project and the speed limit study on Bayshore Road and wished everyone a nice holiday.

Councilman Roy – no comments

Deputy Mayor Sippel gave an update on his initiative for youth programs and informed of an upcoming day camp in July. He also communicated the intent to establish a trust fund for youth of less fortunate families and informed about an upcoming veterans clinic.

Mayor Simonsen informed that the Healthy Youth Coalition will now be meeting in the school and that Officer Coombs is the Community Outreach Officer. He thanked Mayor Lear and Cape May City Council on the shared service agreement for the use of their fields. He also announced the following upcoming events: Great Cape May Footrace, rededication of the Union Bethel Cemetery, Escape the Cape Triathlon, and Relay for Life. He reminded that the next Council meeting will be May 1<sup>st</sup> and wished everyone a happy Easter.

Councilman Conrad voiced a desire to have Delmo Sports speak at a work session to inform residents about the triathlon.

**Call to the Public**

Ed Sherretta, Roseann Ave, addressed Council with concern about the speed limit on Bayshore Road between Breakwater and Townbank Roads. Mayor Simonsen agreed and assured that Council will put pressure on the County. Mr. Sherretta also voiced safety concerns about obstructions at the intersection of Roseann Avenue and Bayshore Road. Manager Ridgway communicated his support and the Township's efforts to correct it. Mr. Sherretta also voiced his support for the Beach Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project.

Sally Yerk, Roseann Ave, reiterated Mr. Sherretta's points about the excessive speed limit on Bayshore Road in the area of Roseann Avenue. She urged Council to get the problem corrected before someone gets hurt. Councilman Perry informed about the speed limit study and agreed to contact Freeholder Morey about the situation.

Margaret Vitelli, 601 Caspian Ave, voiced support for the Beach Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project for safety reasons.

Bill Tirrell, 105 Beach Drive, encouraged Council to address the line of sight issues at hand and voiced support for the Beach Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project for safety reasons. He also voiced concern about dog owners not cleaning up after their dogs on the beach and suggested better enforcement or completely prohibiting dogs on the beach.

**Closed Session**

Res. #2017-132

Resolution Providing for a Meeting Not Open to the Public in Accordance with the Provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12. –  
**Negotiations / Contract Negotiations Update/ Attorney-Client Privilege**

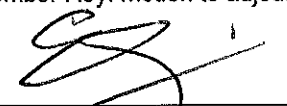
	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD	X		X			
PERRY			X			
ROY		X	X			
SIPPEL			X			
SIMONSEN			X			

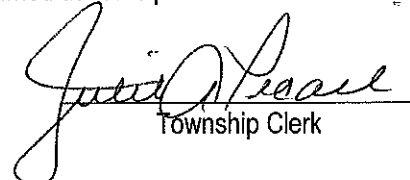
Council adjourned to Closed Session at 7:42 p.m.

Council returned to Open Session at 8:35 p.m.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Deputy Mayor Sippel, seconded by Councilmember Roy. Motion to adjourn unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

  
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Mayor

  
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Township Clerk

Approved: 5/1/2017