

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – January 18, 2017

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on January 18, 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
Deputy Mayor Frank Sippel
Mayor Erik Simonsen

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

Res. #2017-61 A Resolution Confirming A Temporary Appointment to Fill the Council Vacancy in Ward 3
Until the General Election

Mayor Simonsen informed that Council received names of three candidates from the Republican Party to fill the vacancy in Ward 3. Councilman Perry made a motion to nominate Roland Roy, Jr.

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

Swearing in of New Councilmember

Mayor Simonsen administered the oath of office to Councilmember Roland Roy, Jr. for Ward 3. Councilmember Roy was accompanied by his family, and his wife, Melissa Roy, held the Bible.

Chief Mastriana thanked everyone in attendance and support of the police department. He honored and congratulated David Fisher on his retirement and shared memories of Fisher mentoring him throughout his early years in law enforcement.

Swearing In of New Sergeants –

Chief Mastriana spoke of the rigorous testing the officers went through and how pleased he is to be promoting them to the office of sergeant.

Sergeant Doug Whitten

Mayor Simonsen administered the oath of office to Sergeant Doug Whitten while accompanied by his children and his wife, Sandy Whitten, held the Bible.

Sergeant Kevin Lewis

Mayor Simonsen administered the oath of office to Sergeant Kevin Lewis while accompanied by his children and his wife, Christina Lewis, held the Bible.

Sergeant Ed Edwards

Mayor Simonsen administered the oath of office to Sergeant Ed Edwards while accompanied by his family and his wife, Gina Edwards, held the Bible.

Proclamation – Retirement of David Fisher

Mayor Simonsen spoke of his relationship with David Fisher and applauded his outstanding service to the community. He presented a proclamation on behalf of Council honoring Fisher's 25 years in law enforcement and wishing him success in all of his future endeavors.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of Minutes January 4, 2017
- Res. #2017-44 Payment of Vouchers \$ 396,719.06
- Res. #2017-45 Re-Appointment of Class II Member to the Planning Board (J.Dowe, Tax Assessor)
- Res. #2017-46 Authorization for Refund of Taxes (\$1,411.95)
- Res. #2017-47 Appointment of Township Tax Appeal Attorney for the Year 2017 As A Professional Service Contract Without Public Bidding (M.Karavan \$125. Per hour not to exceed \$10,000)
- Res. #2017-48 Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Beach Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvements Project
- Res. #2017-49 Approving a Professional Service Contract without Public Bidding to Mott MacDonald for General Engineering Services (Not to exceed \$6,000)
- Res. #2017-50 Approving a Professional Service Contract with Mott MacDonald for Preparation and Submission of an Application to the NJDOT under the Municipal Aid Program for Fiscal Year 2017 (\$2,500)
- Res. #2017-51 Authorizing the Payout of Terminal Leave (D.Fisher \$41,970.66)
- Res. #2017-52 Approval of 2017 Rotary Towing Licenses
- Res. #2017-53 Renewal of Trailer Park Licenses for the year 2017
- Res. #2017-54 Renewal of Junk Yard License for Cape May Used Auto Parts for the Year 2017
- Res. #2017-55 Certification of Lot Clearing Charges to the Tax Collector (\$1,559.)
- Res. #2017-56 Approval of Secondhand Merchants and Dealers of Precious Metals Licenses (Lucky 7 & Adel's)
- Res. #2017-57 A Resolution Authorizing a Grant Application to the Cape May County Open Space Program for the Beach Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvements Project
- Res. #2017-58 Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Sick Time (\$5,469.62)
- Res. #2017-59 Authorization for Waiver of Fees for Historic Cold Spring Village (installation of walk-in refrigerated unit)

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

Regular Agenda

- Res. #2017-60 Appointment to the Municipal Utility Board
Councilman Perry made a motion to nominate Jay Young.

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

Administrative Reports

- Monthly Report – Clerk, Construction, Dog, Police, Tax, Treasurer, Vital Statistics
- Tax Collector's Annual Report
- 2016 Variance Report – Lower Twp. Zoning Board

Call to Public

Mary Reader, W. Drumbed, addressed Council for clarification on the name of the MUA appointment. Jay Young's name was provided to Ms. Reader.

Engineer's Report – Mott MacDonald

Mayor Simonsen informed of Council's intention to have an engineer's report presented monthly at Council meetings. Steve Morey, Mott MacDonald, gave a brief presentation to inform about the engineering projects taking place in the Township, including Roseann Avenue Roadway and Utility Improvement Project, the Bike Path Improvement Project and the Beach Maintenance and Beach Access Project.

Manager Comments – Jim Ridgway

Manager Ridgway informed Council that the 2017 budget will be introduced at the next Council meeting. He reported that the Township received a \$56,000 rebate from the state for recycling; the highest in the County. He communicated that the Township applied for a DOT grant for several proposed capital projects and that he intends to present a 5 year infrastructure plan to Council next month. The Township is looking to implement a shared 9-1-1 program as well as shared services with fire commissioners and school districts. He also informed that the negotiating team will be meeting tomorrow to discuss the Superior Officers contract. Lastly, he congratulated Councilmember Roy on his appointment and welcomed him to the team.

Council Comments

Councilman Conrad commented on the Manager's report and stressed the importance of all entities of the Township working together for one common goal, to keep taxes stabilized. He also welcomed Councilman Roy.

Councilman Perry reiterated Council's intention to give a monthly engineer's report and be proactive about Township infrastructure projects.

Councilman Roy thanked Council for the opportunity to serve Lower Township and thanked his friends and family for their support.

Deputy Mayor Sippel communicated his goals for the Township that include fighting the drug problem, promoting recreation programs, and pulling together resources for veterans.

Mayor Simonsen spoke of recent events including swearing in officers of the Townbank Fire Company, and attending a drone presentation by Freeholder Morey and FAA Tech Center Representatives at the Lower Township Chamber of Commerce breakfast. He shared information about the future demolition of the Everlon Building and the shared 9-1-1 program. He also talked about plans to expand recreation services for the youth and veterans and he congratulated Councilmember Roy on his appointment.

Closed Session

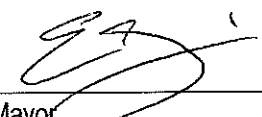
Res. #2017-62

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. **Collective Bargaining Agreements Update; Attorney-Client Privilege/Possible Litigation**

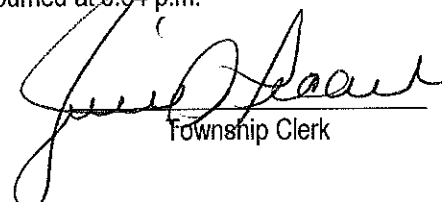
	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD		X	X			
PERRY	X		X			
ROY			X			
SIPPEL			X			
SIMONSEN			X			

Adjournment

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Councilmember Conrad, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sippel. Motion to adjourn unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.



Mayor



Township Clerk

Approved: Feb 6 2017