

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – February 22, 2017

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on February 22, 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

Work Session

Coalition Against Rape and Abuse (C.A.R.A.) presentation of awards to Patrolman Robert Hartman and Patrolman Stephen Flitcroft

Nicky Nichols, director of community and volunteer relations for Coalition Against Rape and Abuse (CARA) in Cape May County, presented Corporal Robert Hartman and Patrolman Stephen Flitcroft with the Purple Ribbon Recognition Award for their exemplary service during a special circumstance.

Union Bethel Community Clean Up Project – Mayor Simonsen

Mayor Simonsen informed of the cleanup efforts at the Union Bethel Veterans Cemetery from the RMT Builders Club under the direction of Paul Schulte.

Judy Gillis, Historic Preservation Commission, assisted in the cleanup and asked that the following students from the RMT Builders Club be recognized for their exhaustive efforts: Izzy Aftanis, Jordan Dougherty, Rob Elwell, Nikolas Frey, Ethan Frohman, Max Gilbert, Kyla Haibach, Alli Johnson, Chloe Lawler, David MacDonald, Molly McGuigan, Victoria Novsak, Kate Von Savage and Jackson Schiffbauer. Ms. Gillis also solicited help with an additional cleanup at the cemetery scheduled for March 4th at 11:00 a.m.

Mayor Simonsen thanked Ms. Gillis for her service and encouraged volunteers for the next cleanup.

Representative from County to discuss Resolution #2017-87; Redevelopment Area

Manager Ridgway invited Jim Arsenault, Cape May County Solicitor, to speak on the redevelopment of the Cape May County Airport.

County Solicitor Arsenault recited the history of the Cape May County Airport and referred to it as an underutilized asset. He spoke of the County's interest in partnering with the DRBA and Lower Township to revitalize the area. The County is asking Council for a resolution requesting referral from the Planning Board to designate the area as an area of redevelopment. He communicated some of the advantages of an approved redevelopment plan on state and national levels including state tax incentives and eligibility for different programs. At the request of Manager Ridgway, County Solicitor Arsenault explained that the final plans for demolition of the Everlon Building are underway and spoke about environmental concerns. Manager Ridgway pointed out that different areas of the Airport are under different jurisdiction. Arsenault elaborated on areas of jurisdiction and said he looks forward to partnering with Lower Township.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes	February 6, 2017
Approval of Closed Session Minutes Feb 6, 2017	
Res. #2017-77	Payment of Vouchers \$ 179,133.06
Res. #2017-78	Authorization for Refund of Taxes (2 properties \$1,668.71)
Res. #2017-79	Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Compensatory Time (J.Scheck \$1,131.18)
Res. #2017-80	A Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of a Tire Balancing Machine No Longer Needed for Public Use to the Lower Township Municipal Utilities Authority
Res. #2017-81	A Resolution Authorizing the Payment of 2017 County Taxes (First and Second Quarters)
Res. #2017-82	A Resolution Approving a Professional Service Contract for Engineering Services with Mott Macdonald for the Herford Inlet to Cape May Inlet Beachfill Project (\$3,200)

- Res. #2017-83 Transfer of 2016 Appropriations (\$4,000)
 Res. #2017-84 A Resolution Requesting Release of Performance Guarantee for Cape Regional Holdings, LLC; Block 629, Lots 130-159 and Block 630, Lots 168.01-173, Escrow #Z14-09-05
 Res. #2017-85 Issuance of 2017 Limousine, Taxi and Operators Licenses
 Res. #2017-86 A Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Township of Lower Surplus No Longer Needed for Public Use on Govdeals Online Auction Website
 Res. #2017-87 A Resolution Authorizing and Directing the Lower Township Planning Board to Conduct an "Area in Need of Redevelopment" Study for the Cape May County Airport (Block 410.01, Lot 36) Pursuant to the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 et seq
 Res. #2017-88 A Resolution Authorizing a Request for Funds From the Lower Township Municipal Utilities Authority (\$60,000)
 Ordinance #2017-02 An Ordinance of the Township of Lower Establishing Requirements for the Installation of a Key Box Rapid Entry System on Certain Industrial, Commercial and Residential Structures. 1st reading of Ordinance. 2nd reading and public hearing scheduled for March 20, 2017

Frank Seracco, NCM, addressed Council about Ordinance #2017-02, regarding codes and keys. Councilman Conrad explained the intent of the ordinance. Councilman Perry addressed Mr. Seracco's concern and said that the problem is being addressed.

On the Consent:

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

Regular Agenda

- Ordinance #2017-03 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 67, Municipal Utilities Authority, of the Code of the Township of Lower. This is the second reading and public hearing for this Ordinance. This Ordinance has been published, posted and made available to the public. .

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

- Ordinance #2017-04 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance #2015-07; Chapter 178, Beaches, of the Code of the Township of Lower. This is the second reading and public hearing for this Ordinance. This Ordinance has been published, posted and made available to the public.

Ann Marie Waxman, Townbank, asked where the ordinance can be found and what it is amending. Clerk Picard informed that it was posted on the bulletin board and advertised in the Star and Wave. Councilman Conrad read the amended portion of the ordinance that explains what it references.

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

Engineer Report - Mark Sray

Mark Sray, Mott MacDonald, updated Council on the 5 projects currently being worked on throughout the Township which include: Roseann Avenue Roadway and Utility Improvements, Water Allocation Permit/Temporary Dewatering

Permit for Roseann Avenue. Bike Path Improvements, Standby Generator Set Replacements, and NJDOT FY2017 Municipal Aid Application.

Administrative Reports

Monthly Reports – Clerk, Construction, Dog, Police, Tax Collector, Treasurer, Vital Statistics

Council Comments

Councilman Conrad discussed topics of interest from a recent JIF meeting. He reported success with the beach access improvements and encouraged everyone to check them out. He also mentioned a plan for remembrance benches and installing trash cans at beach entrances in Villas. He congratulated the Fire Commissioners, namely Joe Wareham and Rich Harron, Jr., and announced Council's interest in adopting an abandoned property ordinance.

Councilman Perry thanked Mark Sray for the engineers update and voiced pleasure in hearing that the Roseann Avenue project is moving forward.

Councilman Roy gave an update on the bike path intersection at Breakwater Road and Route 9.

Deputy Mayor Sippel had no comments.

Manager Ridgway thanked Mark Sray for the engineers report and gave an update on several ongoing projects throughout the Township including Roseann Avenue and Hereford Inlet Beach Replenishment.

Mayor Simonsen talked briefly about the Change A Life Over Lunch Program at LCMR. He reminded that St. Baldrick's is quickly approaching and spoke of the success of the benefit for Kim Blackley. He also announced the LCMR girls basketball playoff game.

Manager Ridgway encouraged support for the NJ Run for the Fallen fundraiser and thanked Eileen Kreis for her efforts.

Call to Public

Robert Rizzo, NCM, voiced opposition to Resolution #2017-88 on the basis that it is paid only by the ratepayers. He suggested Council sacrifice their increase in pay. Mayor Simonsen validated the request for funds from the MUA to satisfy the need for a TAC officer. Manager Ridgway offered additional information about the need for a TAC officer.

Ellen Seward, Tomlin Ave, expressed interest in the Environmental Commission. Mayor Simonsen informed that several members resigned and that applications are being accepted.

Ann Marie Waxman, asked about a timeframe for applications for the Environmental Commission. She also inquired about trash cans at beach accesses and how often they will be maintained. Councilman Conrad explained that they will be maintained by the Department of Public Works. Mayor Simonsen and Manager Ridgway reiterated the same.

Mary Reader, 23 W Drumbed, announced a fundraiser for the homeless on March 5th at Cape May Presbyterian Church.

Jeannie Sansone, 303 Beachwood, expressed concern about protecting the trees.

Closed Session

Res. #2017-89

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. – **Contract Negotiations / Possible Litigation Update**

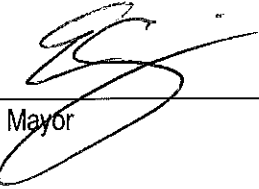
	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD	X		X			
PERRY		X	X			
ROY			X			
SIPPEL			X			
SIMONSEN			X			

Council adjourned to Closed Session at 8:00pm

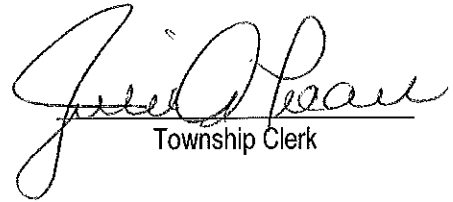
Council returned to open session at 9:25pm

Adjourn

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Councilmember Conrad, seconded by Councilmember Perry. Motion to adjourn unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.



Mayor



Township Clerk

Approved: 3-6-2017