

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – October 16, 2017

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on October 16, 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

Best Practice Discussion - Fire Districts/Authorities

CFO Lauren Read stated that the Best Practice worksheet is a requirement for receiving the final payment of state aide and that all authorities have been reviewed and are in compliance.

Council discussed the Best Practice worksheet provided by CFO Lauren Read. Council concluded that the authorities serve the public interest and currently, there are no potential alternatives for providing these services.

### Consent Agenda

- |                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Approval of Minutes                | October 2, 2017                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Approval of Closed Session Minutes | October 2, 2017                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Res. #2017-268                     | Authorization for payment of vouchers \$ 597,171.93                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Res. #2017-269                     | Authorizing the Assignment of Tax Sale Certificates (1600 Star Ave & 323-325 Oak Lane to C. Lizzi)                                                                                                                                                        |
| Res. #2017-270                     | Certification of Best Practice Inventory (required yearly by the DCA)                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Res. #2017-271                     | A Resolution Authorizing the Leasing of Certain Real Property Located in the Township of Lower from the County of Cape May (1649 Bayshore Road)                                                                                                           |
| Res. #2017-272                     | Authorization for Refund of Taxes (2 properties \$1,823.13)                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Res. #2017-273                     | Resolution Expressing Opposition to Legislative Proposals Regarding the Open Public Meetings Act and Open Public Records Act (Senate Bills #1045 and #1046)                                                                                               |
| Res. #2017-274                     | A Resolution Expressing the Township of Lower's Support of the South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization (SJTPO) Problem Statement Regarding the Intersection of Route 109 and Schellenger's Landing Road                                         |
| Res. #2017-275                     | 2017 Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Year End Holiday Crackdown (12/8/2017 – 1/1/2018)                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Res. #2017-276                     | A Resolution Requesting Reduction of Performance Guarantee for Cape May Landings Inc.; Block 510, Lots 14.01, 15.01 & 16; Escrow #P16-10-03                                                                                                               |
| Res. #2017-277                     | A Resolution Regarding Trick-or-Treat Night (Tuesday Oct 31 <sup>st</sup> 5-7pm)                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Ordinance #2017-12                 | Authorization for the Sale of Land to A Contiguous Land Owner - This is the first reading of this Ordinance. The second reading and public hearing has been scheduled for November 6, 2017                                                                |
| Ordinance #2017-13                 | An Ordinance for Special Emergency Appropriation As Per N.J.S.A.40A:4-53, Authorizing the Preparation of An Approved Tax Map - This is the first reading of this Ordinance. The second reading and public hearing has been scheduled for November 6, 2017 |

Councilmember Conrad commented in favor of Resolution #2017-271, the leasing of the Nathaniel Foster House.

Mayor Simonsen voiced his support of Resolution #2017-274 regarding Route 109 and Schellenger's Landing Rd.

Manager Ridgway addressed the advantages of new tax maps in better serving local, county and state departments.

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

**Regular Agenda**

Res. #2017-278

A Resolution Authorizing Lower Township Fire Bureau and Lower Township Rescue's Use of Excess Municipal Office Furniture (list attached)

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

Res. #2017-279

Authorizing the Payment of Vouchers - Rescue Contribution \$35,000

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

Res. #2017-280

Resolution for Special Emergency Appropriation as per N.J.S.A. 40A:4-53 Authorizing Preparation of an Approved Tax Map

Mike Rosenberg, Villas, inquired about updating the tax maps. Manager Ridgway communicated that the new tax maps will comply with county and statewide standards.

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

Res. #2017-281

Award of Professional Service Contract Without Public Bidding to Van-Note Harvey Associates for the Preparation of An Approved Tax Map

Cosette Gaser, North Cape May, questioned why the service is not going out to bid. Mayor Simonsen and Clerk Picard clarified the exception for specialized services.

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

**Engineer's Report - Mott MacDonald**

Steve Morey, Mott MacDonald, addressed Council with an update on the following projects: Reconstructions of Clubhouse Drive, Roseann Avenue Roadway and Utility Improvements, Beach Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvements, NJDEP Air Quality Permit Applications, and the NJDOT Municipal Aid FY2018 Grant Application.

**Administrative Reports**

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

**Council Comments**

Councilmember Conrad voiced favor with the Township acquiring a lease for the Nathaniel Foster House. He also encouraged donations for the local food banks.

Councilmember Perry- no comments

Councilmember Roy reminded about Trick-or-Treat and urged drivers to use extra caution.

Deputy Mayor Sippel reminded about Veteran's Day and informed of several Veterans Programs.

Mayor Simonsen informed of a Community Outreach Meeting at Township Hall. He also announced the following upcoming events: Pumpkin Festival and Costume Parade at Historic Cold Spring Village; LCMR Field House Ribbon Cutting, Homecoming, and Haunted High School; Trunk or Treat at the Rec Center; and Trick-or-Treat.

Manager Ridgway gave Council a brief report on several items including: 2018 preliminary budget preparations; information technology upgrades; Police Department accreditation; and his meeting with Kerry Pflugh, Director of DEP Office of Local Government Assistance.

**Call to the Public**

Jessy Rinkewicz, Ludlam Drive, addressed Council about requesting a bus stop on Breakwater Road. Manager Ridgway agreed to look into it. Mayor Simonsen instructed Jessy to schedule a meeting with him to discuss it further.

**Closed Session**

Res. #2017-282

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. **Negotiation Update/Personnel Issue**


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

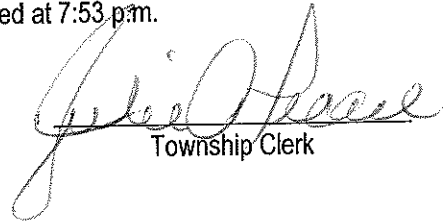
Council adjourned to Closed Session at approximately 7:31 p.m.

Council returned to Open Session at approximately 7:52 p.m.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Councilmember Perry, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sippel. Motion to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

  
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Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Township Clerk

Approved: *November 6, 2017*