

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – July 5, 2017

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on July 5, 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

Jacque Hinker, Veteran Community Outreach Specialist for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, addressed Council to discuss opportunities for Veterans. She informed about a proposed facility for a Clinical Based Outreach Clinic (CBOC), and stressed the importance of enrollment to improve services in Cape May County. She thanked Manager Ridgway and Eileen Kreis for their help and provided contact information for veterans seeking assistance. Deputy Mayor Sippel thanked Mrs. Hinker for sharing the information and made mention of an upcoming meeting for the proposed CBOC.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes	June 19, 2017
Approval of Closed Session Minutes	June 19, 2017
Res. #2017-195	Authorizing the Payment of Vouchers \$ 676,622.56
Res. #2017-196	Certification to Local Finance Board of Receipt and Review of Audit Sections General Comments & Recommendations
Res. #2017-197	Authorization for Refund of Taxes (4 properties \$3,200.30)
Res. #2017-198	Authorization for Waiver of Fees for Family Promise of Cape May County (Eagle Scout Project – Gazebo)
Res. #2017-199	A Resolution Designating A Portion of the Cape May County Airport (Block 410.01, Lot 36) An "Area in Need of Redevelopment" Pursuant to the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1, et seq.
Res. #2017-200	Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87, Chapter 159 (Cops in Shops \$1,200)
Res. #2017-201	A Resolution Consolidating Block 321; Lots 5, 6 & 7 Into Lot 5 on the Township of Lower Tax Map
Res. #2017-202	Issuance of Cream Peddling and Ice Cream Salesman Licenses for the Year 2017
Res. #2017-203	Renewal of Commercial Excavation (Gravel Pit) Licenses (T.Brodesser)
Res. #2017-204	A Resolution Approving the Renewal of a 2017 Campground License (Holly Shores)
Res. #2017-205	A Resolution Authorizing State Contract Vendor, Office Basics Inc, For Various Office Furniture for the Police Department (\$85,884.70)
Res. #2017-206	Authorizing the Sale of Township Surplus No Longer Needed For Public Use on Govdeals Online Auction Website
Ordinance #2017-09	An Ordinance of the Township of Lower Vacating A Portion of Washington Avenue – This is the first reading of this Ordinance. The Second reading and Public hearing will be scheduled for August 7, 2017.

Ray Flickinger, Washington Blvd., inquired about Ordinance #2017-09, vacating a portion of Washington Avenue. Councilman Conrad clarified the location and reason for vacating.

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

Regular Agenda

Res. #2017-207

Authorizing the Payment of Vouchers (Lower Township Rescue- Expenses \$10,000)

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

Council Comments

Manager Ridgway thanked the Recreation Department, Police Department, and all emergency services for working together to ensure the success of the Independence Day Festival.

Councilman Conrad commended Public Works, the Police Department and emergency services for a job well done with the Independence Day Festival. He also encouraged residents to inform the Township of any vacant properties since the new ordinance is in effect.

Councilman Perry echoed the comments from Manager Ridgway about the Independence Day Festival.

Councilman Roy made favorable comments about the Independence Day Festival and thanked everyone involved.

Deputy Mayor Sippel thanked the Township employees for a successful Independence Day Festival. He also gave an update on the upcoming Youth Camp and information for Veterans.

Mayor Simonsen agreed with the success of the Independence Day Festival and thanked all Township employees involved. He gave an update on recent meetings regarding emergency response in Diamond Beach, the Spicer Creek erosion problem, and County road improvements including Breakwater, Seashore, Academy, Fulling Mill and Bayshore Roads. He reminded about the Summer Concert Series and road closures for Whale of a Day.

Call to the Public

Robert Rizzo, Mickel's Run, thanked Council for the anticipated County road improvements and also thanked the volunteers who helped with the Union Bethel Cemetery clean-up.

George Walsh, 36 W. Virginia Ave, addressed Councilman Conrad concerning an issue with a property owned by the Township. Councilman Conrad agreed to address the matter.

Maria Kaplan, 136 Racetrack Drive, addressed Council regarding a vacant property at 119 Cliffside Road. Councilman Conrad and Manager Ridgway agreed to address the matter.

Ms. Kaplan addressed Council about animal control issues and strongly suggested that the Township enforce the leash law. Manager Ridgway responded to Ms. Kaplan's concerns.

Marian Ciliberti, Townbank, urged Council to communicate and enforce the leash law.

Christine O'Donnell, 111 Ohio Ave, addressed Council with questions and concerns about the Beach Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project. She proposed a town meeting or tabling the project until further documentation is presented. Manager Ridgway responded to Ms. O'Donnell's concerns and assured that the Township has been diligent throughout the progression of the project. Councilman Perry countered Ms. O'Donnell's comments about his position and the validity of the project.

Nick Rambo, Wilson Ave, addressed Council to voice his support of the Beach Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project due to safety concerns.

Ann Marie Waxman, Folsom Rd, addressed Council with complaints about the quality of the video on the Township website. She also addressed Council with questions about the Beach Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project. Councilman Conrad, Manager Ridgway and Mayor Simonsen collectively answered Ms. Waxman's questions.

Andrew Wasnick, 901 Clubhouse, addressed Council to clarify the extent of the Beach Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project. Councilman Conrad informed that the project extends from Lincoln Blvd to Fernwood Rd.

Robert Rizzo, Mickel's Run, suggested that Township rules be posted on site at rental properties.

Kevin Vrieze, 413 Windward, addressed Council to inquire about statistics regarding the Beach Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project. He also voiced interest in an informational meeting to resolve miscommunication concerns.

Tony Ryan, 1502 Rosehill Pkwy, addressed Council to determine the scope of work budgeted for the Beach Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project and if it will be put out to bid. Councilman Conrad explained.

Mike Bondiskey, 607 Pilgrim Plaza, addressed Council with several questions and concerns about the Beach Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project. He strongly suggested that Council seek the input of all constituents, and present an alternative to disrupting the dunes. Manager Ridgway countered Mr. Bondiskey's comments.

Lynda McCartney, 903 Clubhouse Dr, addressed Manager Ridgway and Council with several questions regarding the Beach Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project. Manager Ridgway and Councilman Conrad responded to Ms. McCartney's questions.

Margaret Metz, 905 Clubhouse, asked why the plan for the Beach Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project didn't extend to Pinewood Rd. She also inquired about the scope of the Beach Access Improvements. Councilman Conrad informed that private property was a factor in determining the Beach Access Improvement Paths. Manager Ridgway informed of road issues in that area.

Sally Yerk, 229 Roseann Ave, thanked Council and Manager Ridgway for the progress on Roseann Avenue and the speed limit reductions on Bayshore Road. She stated her belief that Council does listen to their constituents.

Ann Marie Waxman, Folsom Road, voiced favor with the appearance of the beach access paths but questioned their ability to withstand a storm. She also inquired about the future of the existing benches. Mayor Simonsen and Councilman Perry informed that the benches will be relocated.

Chris Marlowe, 607 Seagrove Ave, questioned Council's ability to know the opinions of their constituents regarding the Beach Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project.

Lynda McCartney, 903 Clubhouse, addressed Manager Ridgway about the bond rating. Manager Ridgway informed that the Township has an AA rating. Ms. McCartney also voiced concern about the leash law.

Donna Reardon, 1700 Rosehill Parkway, addressed Council with questions and concerns about how the Beach Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project will affect the dunes. Councilman Conrad stressed Council's intent to protect the dunes. Mayor Simonsen reminded that the project entails putting the sand back where it belongs.

Mike Bondiskey, 607 Pilgrim Plaza, commented on his observations and encouraged Council to consider the opinions of their constituents concerning the Beach Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project. Solicitor Stefankiewicz reminded that Council followed the proper procedures and the project was widely publicized.

Scott Brown, Wilson Ave, reminded that the Beach Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project has been publicly discussed for several years and suggested that residents attend the Council meetings to stay informed. He voiced full support of the project for safety reasons due to the growing population and expressed discontent with the opposition.

Ray Flickinger, Washington Blvd, voiced his support of the Beach Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project for safety reasons and affirmed that the project has been well publicized. He voiced discontent with the people trying to interfere with the Open Space Grant.

Christine O'Donnell confirmed the plan for a shared bike lane and requested that a Township representative attend her proposed meeting. Mayor Simonsen denied Ms. O'Donnell's request on the grounds that a similar meeting has already taken place.

Dan Stango, 603 Clubhouse, addressed Council about the change in the shore line over time and voiced concern about the dunes.

Robert Rizzo, Mickel's Run, voiced discontent with the public's delayed response to discussions about the Beach Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project and suggested a time limit be implemented for public comment. He also suggested a questionnaire at the tax office to reveal the taxpayer's opinions on the project.

Closed Session

Res. #2017-208

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.

Attorney/Client Privilege / Personnel Issue

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

Council adjourned to Closed Session at 9:20 p.m.

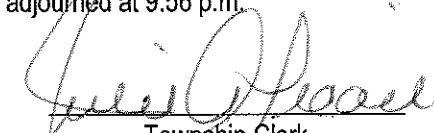
Council returned to open session at 9:55 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Councilmember Conrad, seconded by Councilmember Perry. Motion to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 9:56 p.m.



Mayor



Township Clerk

Approved: 