

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – August 15, 2016

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on August 15, 2016 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 David Perry
Councilmember Erik Simonsen
Deputy Mayor Clark
Mayor Michael Beck

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

Work Session

Presentation – Early Childhood Education Program at the Fishing Creek School – LCMR Elementary Superintendent Jeff Samaniego and Manager Jim Ridgway

Deputy Mayor Clark shared the history of the one-room schoolhouse, built in 1888; now known as the Fishing Creek School. He thanked the many people involved with the preservation of the facility and talked about the vision to use it as a host school for early childhood education. Manager Ridgway voiced enthusiasm about the program and introduced Jeff Samaniego, Superintendent of Lower Township Elementary School District. Mr. Samaniego thanked Mayor Beck and Council, Manager Ridgway, Mitch Plenn and John Louderback for their support and expressed excitement about using the Fishing Creek School for the 3 Year-Old Visitation Program (3VP). He spoke of the benefits of the program and shared his story as the parent of children who participated and succeeded in the program. "Miss Mary" Penn, Lower Township Elementary School Teacher, spoke briefly about the curriculum and current routine of the 3VP Program and how the program helps families get involved in their child's learning experience. She also voiced excitement and gratitude for the opportunity to use the Fishing Creek School. "Miss Meagan" Young, Lower Township Elementary School Teacher, touched upon 3 points of application with the Fishing Creek School: enhancing social and emotional development, increasing enrollment in group lessons, and promoting home, school and community partnership.

Deputy Mayor Clark stressed the importance of partnerships between home and school and thanked the Lower Township Elementary School Team for their commitment. Manager Ridgway and Mayor Beck concurred.

Presentation - Smart Vents Inc - Community Outreach Program (FEMA NFIP Community Rating System) - Jen Dowe, CRS Coordinator

Manager Ridgway introduced Jen Dowe, Township Tax Assessor and CRS Coordinator.

Jen Dowe explained the Community Rating System, implemented by FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and introduced Tyler Ardron from Smart Vent, Inc.

Tyler Ardron, Certified Floodplain Manager with Smart Vent Inc, talked about the Community Outreach Program and Flood Risk Evaluator Service and communicated how homeowners can get into compliance and save on flood insurance premiums. He also discussed the elevation certificate and informed that financing and/or grants may be available to some homeowners. Manager Ridgway assured that the goal is to lower the Township's rating through the CRS program.

Consent Agenda

Approval of NJ State Firemen's Association Membership Application – D. Cochran, Villas Vol Fire Co

Approval of Minutes August 1, 2016

Res. #2016-231 Payment of Vouchers \$ 207,907.71

Res. #2016-232 Bid Acceptance and Award of one (1) New Giant Vac TM 6600 JD 30 Yard Vacuum Unit or Equivalent (Granturk Equipment Co Inc \$44,572.)

Res. #2016-233 Authorization for Refund of Taxes (1 property \$56.26)

Res. #2016-234 Authorization for Aarts Transportation, Inc to Transfer Taxi License (to new vehicle)

Res. #2016-235 A Resolution Adopting Personnel Policies and Procedures for Lower Township (updated as required by JIF)

Res. #2016-236 Amendment to the Municipal Engineer Contract Due to Name Change (Mott MacDonald)

| | MOTION | SECOND | AYE | NAY | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|----------|--------|--------|-----|-----|---------|--------|
| CONRAD | | | | | | X |
| PERRY | X | | X | | | |
| SIMONSEN | | X | X | | | |
| CLARK | | | X | | | |
| BECK | | | X | | | |

Regular Agenda
Res. #2016-237A

Appointments to the Zoning Board of Adjustments (alternate member vacancies)
Motion to appoint Michael Kennedy (2 year term)

| | MOTION | SECOND | AYE | NAY | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|----------|--------|--------|-----|-----|---------|--------|
| CONRAD | | | | | | X |
| PERRY | X | | X | | | |
| SIMONSEN | | X | X | | | |
| CLARK | | | X | | | |
| BECK | | | X | | | |

Res. #2016-237AB

Appointments to the Zoning Board of Adjustments (alternate member vacancies)
Motion to appoint George Doherty (1 year term)

| | MOTION | SECOND | AYE | NAY | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|----------|--------|--------|-----|-----|---------|--------|
| CONRAD | | | | | | X |
| PERRY | | X | X | | | |
| SIMONSEN | X | | X | | | |
| CLARK | | | X | | | |
| BECK | | | X | | | |

Deputy Mayor Clark encouraged anyone interested in being a member of the Zoning Board to mail their application to Township Hall.

Administrative Reports

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

Council Comments

Councilman Perry announced that the Township has been granted beach access permits from the DEP with some good conditions attached. He hopes to meet with Manager Ridgway next week to discuss moving forward.

Councilman Simonsen sent his wishes to Councilman Conrad for a speedy recovery. He gave a brief update on improvements at the schools as a result of the bond, and commended the Fishing Creek School and the Lower Township Elementary School District for their initiative with the early childhood education program.

Manager Ridgway shared some upbeat news about local superstars Billy Matthews and Matt Szczur. He also thanked Township Clerk, Julie Picard, Eileen Kreis and Colleen Crippen for their work on the Township Personnel Policy Manual and Employee Handbook.

Deputy Mayor Clark thanked John Louderback and Lou Thomas for their efforts with the Fishing Creek School and encouraged everyone to visit their website to learn more about the organization and upcoming events.

Mayor Beck stressed the importance of education and the positive impact of parental involvement.

Deputy Mayor Clark inquired about donations to the Education Program.

Mayor Beck announced the upcoming Concert Series and a fund raiser at Mulligan Field. He also reminded that school is back in session starting Tuesday, September 6th.

Call to Public

Bill Greenfield, Villas, inquired about the conditions put on the beach maintenance permit from the DEP. Councilman Perry explained that the conditions apply to the access points.

Ray Flickenger, Washington Boulevard, voiced content with the approval of the beach maintenance permit and brought to Council's attention the safety hazard caused by overgrown hedges in the road along Beach Drive and Washington Boulevard. He also inquired about "We support our Police" signs. Councilman Perry advised that the Lower Township GOP organization bought the signs.

Closed Session

Res. #2016-238

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. **POSSIBLE LITIGATION**

| | MOTION | SECOND | AYE | NAY | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|----------|--------|--------|-----|-----|---------|--------|
| CONRAD | | | | | | X |
| PERRY | X | | X | | | |
| SIMONSEN | | | X | | | |
| CLARK | | X | X | | | |
| BECK | | | X | | | |

Action may be taken upon return to Open Session

Council Adjourned to Closed Session at 7:55 p.m.

Council returned to Open Session at 8:20 p.m.

Res. #2016-239

A Resolution Approving the Agreement of Sale of Certain Real Property Located in the Township of Lower

| | MOTION | SECOND | AYE | NAY | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|----------|--------|--------|-----|-----|---------|--------|
| CONRAD | | | | | | X |
| PERRY | | X | X | | | |
| SIMONSEN | X | | X | | | |
| CLARK | | | X | | | |
| BECK | | | X | | | |

Adjournment

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Councilmember Simonsen, seconded by Deputy Mayor Clark. Motion to adjourn unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Mayor Michael Beck
Mayor

Julie David
Township Clerk

Approved: *Sept 9, 2016*