COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES –August 5, 2019

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on August 5, 2019 at 5:00 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

Proclamation - Sergeant Ed Edwards – Mayor Erik Simonsen
Mayor Simonsen read a proclamation honoring Sergeant Ed Edwards for 25 years of service to the Lower Township Police Department.
Chief Mastriana congratulated Ed on his retirement; thanked him for his service to the Police Department; and presented him with a plaque in recognition of 25 years of dedicated service to the citizens of Lower Township.

Swearing In – Sergeant Robert Hartman Jr. – Mayor Erik Simonsen
Mayor Simonsen administered the oath of office to Sergeant Robert Hartman Jr. while his daughters, Desiree and Erica Hartman, held the Bible. His father, retired Lower Township Police Sergeant First Class, Robert Hartman Sr., pinned his badge.
Chief Mastriana offered congratulations to Sergeant Hartman.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes - July 15, 2019
Approval of Closed Session Minutes - July 15, 2019
Res. #2019-243 Payment of Vouchers $ 1,394,857.78
Res. #2019-244 Appointment to the Planning Board – Regular Member (R.Crompton moved from Alt to Reg member)
Res. #2019-245 Appointment to the Planning Board (S.Supplee Alt #1)
Res. #2019-246 Authorizing a Professional Service Contract with Blauer Associates for the Application Submission and
Administrative Work, if needed, for an ADA Compliance Project for Rotary Park (not to exceed $17,500)
Res. #2019-247 Approval for a Public Facilities Grant Application in the Amount of $400,000 for Rotary Park ADA Improvements
Res. #2019-248 Authorization for Refund of Taxes (5 properties)
Res. #2019-249 Authorizing Payout of Terminal Leave (E.Edwards $18,875.36)
Res. #2019-250 Approval for Good Day for a Run/Run the Vineyards – Down the Shore 5k on September 22, 2019
Res. #2019-251 Approving Change Order #1 to Resolution #2018-248; Approving A Professional Service Contract with Mott MacDonald for Professional Engineering Services for the Recreation Center Restrooms Upgrade Project – Construction Phase ($30,785)
Res. #2019-252 Authorizing the Sale of Township of Lower Surplus No Longer Needed for Public Use on Gov Deals Online Auction Website (3 vehicles)
Ordinance #2019-12; An Ordinance Authorizing the Township of Lower to Grant a Utility Easement to the Lower Township Municipal Utilities Authority for the Purposes of Constructing a Vacuum Sewer Station in Furtherance of the Current Sewer Expansion Project Over A Portion of Cresse Lane. This is the first reading of this Ordinance. The second reading and public hearing for this Ordinance has been scheduled for August 19th.

On the Consent:

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

Regular Agenda

Ordinance #2019-11; An Ordinance of the Township of Lower Vacating, Surrendering and Extinguishing the Public Rights of a Portion of Cedar Avenue - This is the second reading and public hearing of this Ordinance. This Ordinance has been posted, published and made available to the public.

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

Res. #2019-253 A Resolution Approving a Shared Service Agreement Between the Township of Lower and the Lower Cape May Regional School District to Permit the Lower Cape May Regional School District to Oversee and Manage the Township of Lower Recreation Department's Seventh and Eighth Grade Football Team

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

Res. #2019-254 A Resolution Authorizing the Placement of a Non-Binding Referendum on the November 5, 2019 General Election Ballot to Ascertain Whether the Voters of the Township of Lower Support the Construction of a State of the Art Aquatic Center at the Cape May County Airport

Bill Greenfield, Villas, asked about monetary changes to the original proposal.
Manager Ridgway explained the modifications that reduced the cost from the original proposal
Mr. Greenfield voiced concern about additional costs/ change-orders.
Councilmember Perry validated the change-orders to Roseann Avenue.
A brief exchange occurred with Mayor Simonsen and Council.
At the request of Mr. Greenfield, Clerk Picard read the proposed question and interpretive statement.

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

Manager's Report

Manager Ridgway gave an update on the bond sale and commended the financial team for an excellent bond rating.

Administrative Reports

Tax - Certification of Mailing of Tax Bills
Finance - 2nd Qtr Report & June, 2019

Council Comments
Councilmember Conrad thanked all emergency responders for their dedicated service during the heat of the summer. He commented on the Coombs/Douglass Memorial Bayfront Run, the Summer Concert Series and the benches along the bay.

Councilmember Perry gave an update on the beach access improvements.

Councilmember Roy – no comments

Deputy Mayor Sippel commented on the aquatic center and his belief that the voters should have a voice.

Mayor Simonsen voiced favor with the timing of the aquatic center due to the township's financial state. He commended and thanked the Police Department and all parties involved in the Police Youth Camp and announced National Night Out, the Summer Concert Series, and the free lunch program at the Lower Library.

Call to the Public
Mary Foster, 6 Clear Water Drive, voiced concern about several matters still unfinished on Roseann Ave.
Manager Ridgway addressed Ms. Foster's concerns.

Stephen Foster, 6 Clear Water Drive, asked about Phase III of Roseann Avenue.
Councilmember Perry assured Mr. Foster that the project will be completed to Bayshore Road.
Mr. Foster voiced concern about his property value.
Manager Ridgway pointed out other factors including flood insurance and real estate comps.
Councilmember Perry assured that the goal is to make the property aesthetically pleasing.

Ray Flickinger, 1700 Washington Blvd, voiced favor with the news about the beach access permit and thanked the Recreation Department for maintaining the sidewalk. He also made suggestions for improvements to the Coombs/Douglass Memorial Bayfront Run.
Manager Ridgway communicated his expectations for the future of the Bayfront Run.

Closed Session
Res. #2019-255 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 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: 5:53 pm

Council returned to Open Session at: 6:11 pm

Adjournment
There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Councilmember Conrad, seconded by Councilmember Roy. Motion to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Mayor

Township Clerk

Approved: August 19, 2019