

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – February 2, 2015

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on February 2, 2015 at 6:00 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 Erik Simonsen  
Deputy Mayor Clark  
Mayor Michael Beck

Also present: James Ridgway, Township Manager, David Stefankiewicz, Township Solicitor and Karen Fournier, Clerk's Office

### Proclamation - Ernest Macomber Retirement

Mayor Beck opened the meeting with a proclamation for Ernest Macomber, recognizing his many accomplishments, congratulating his retirement and thanking him for his service.

Chief William Mastriana also spoke gratifying words about Ernest Macomber and congratulated him on his retirement.

### Presentation - Run For The Fallen - Eileen Kreis

Eileen Kreis, Vice-President for the New Jersey Run for the Fallen, gave a brief explanation of the event and presented a compilation of the 2014 Run and a video clip of Cynthia Woodard, mother of Michael Scusa, our hometown hero that was killed in COP Keating, Afghanistan. She also announced an upcoming fund raiser to help offset the costs of the Run.

Mayor Beck, on behalf of Council, complimented Ms. Kreis for her passion and thanked her for raising awareness.

### Work Session

Discussion – Procedure/Policy for appointments to boards/commissions

Councilmember Perry asked Solicitor Stefankiewicz to gather information from other municipalities within Cape May County to find out what their procedures/policies are before further discussion from Council.

Councilmember Conrad agreed to postpone discussion until more information has been attained.

### Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes	January 21, 2015
Res. #2015-56	Payment of Vouchers \$ 226,101.28
Res. #2015-57	Resolution Authorizing the Donation of a 2008 Dodge Durango No Longer Needed For Public Use to the Erma Volunteer Fire Company
Res. #2015-58	Authorization for Waiver of Fees for Naval Air Station Wildwood (front doors on Hanger #1)
Res. #2015-59	A Resolution in Support of the New Jersey Department of Transportation Regarding Route US 9 in the Township of Lower, County of Cape May (No Passing Zone)
Res. #2015-60	Resolution Supporting, Recognizing and Honoring the Service of Law Enforcement Officers
Res. #2015-61	Issuance of 2015 Limousine and Operator Licenses (Shore Limousine Service, LLC)
Res. #2015-62	A Resolution Establishing a List of qualified Engineers to be Used for Special Projects in the Township of Lower (EDA, MV, T & M & Fralinger)
Res. #2015-63	Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Compensatory Time (D.Fisher \$4,577.40)
Res. #2015-64	Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Compensatory Time (T.Whittington \$3,433.05)

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

**Regular Agenda**

Res. #2015-65

Authorization for Payment of Vouchers – Fire Safety \$2,589.80

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

Res. #2015-66

Appointment to the Municipal Utilities Authority Board

Kathleen Dynan, Cold Spring, addressed Deputy Mayor Clark about conducting background checks for board appointments. Discussion ensued with Mayor Beck about removing board members. Ms. Dynan made critical remarks about the manner in which board appointments have been made and threatened to provide information to the newspaper if not resolved by the next Council meeting.

Ed Butler, Villas, asked for clarification about the LTMUA appointment. Mayor Beck informed about the expired term and the applications that Council had received.

Councilmember Perry motioned to nominate Steve Sheftz for the LTMUA board.

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

**Administrative Reports**

Personnel Action Report  
Treasurer's Report

**Council Comments**

Councilmember Conrad announced the kick-off event for Relay for Life, and the fund-raiser event for the Run for the Fallen.

Councilmember Perry spoke about a recent house fire on Townbank Road and informed of a local organization that is raising funds to assist with the needs of the Bailey family. He communicated his idea for Council to create a five year plan for Township projects in an effort to be more efficient and effective in solving problems within the Township.

Councilmember Simonsen gave an update on the progress with Diamond Beach. He congratulated new members of the Erma Fire Company and thanked Councilmember Perry for his service. He acknowledged LCMR basketball player, Lauren Holden, for her athletic achievement, and he offered condolences to Cynthia Woodard's family for their loss.

Deputy Mayor Clark acknowledged the Erma Fire Department and thanked all firefighters for their sacrificial service.

Mayor Beck echoed the sentiments regarding Cynthia Woodard. He informed of new flood maps and announced an upcoming special meeting for FEMA on February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6-8:00 p.m.

### **Call to Public**

Helen Thompson, Villas, requested an amendment to the animal ordinance for the protection of pets in extreme weather. Mayor Beck agreed that the ordinance could be amended to add specific wording about temperatures and penalties.

Manager Ridgway pointed out that the animal ordinance is 29 years old.

Solicitor Stefankiewicz agreed that the ordinance needs to be updated and assured that he will soon have recommendations for new language.

Ms. Thompson made Council aware of New Jersey's ranking among the U.S. Animal Protection Laws and requested that Council protect our rank by protecting our pets.

Manager Ridgway stated his intention to provide information to Solicitor Stefankiewicz about his recommendations for changing the ordinance, but reminded that Council makes the final decision.

Ms. Thompson addressed Solicitor Stefankiewicz about codes for Wildwood and Upper Township and offered a report from the AVMA about dogs being left out in freezing temperatures.

Deputy Mayor Clark made a suggestion for Council to consider an advisory committee for animals.

Mayor Beck shared his concern about people's reluctance to serve on advisory boards.

Councilmember Conrad reiterated the need for board members.

Bill Greenfield, Villas, inquired about Township representation for Van Drew's meeting about beach erosion. Deputy Mayor Clark informed of his conversation with Van Drew. Council discussion ensued.

John Skowronski, 607 Arctic Avenue, addressed Councilmembers Conrad and Simonsen regarding the County's plan for the current Public Safety Building. Councilmember Simonsen referred the question to Manager Ridgway. Manager Ridgway reported his conversations with the county about establishing the Township's needs. Mr. Skowronski expressed disappointment that the police are still working in a sick building.

Kathleen Dynan, Cold Spring, inquired about the procedure to recall an elected official. Clerk Picard offered to provide the information.

Johnny Walker, 116 W. Pacific Avenue, addressed Councilmember Conrad about combatting quality of life issues in the Township and why he has not gotten code enforcement involved. Councilmember Conrad informed of his discussions with Manager Ridgway regarding this matter. Mr. Walker questioned Councilmember Conrad about his intention to reduce the financial burden to the taxpayers.

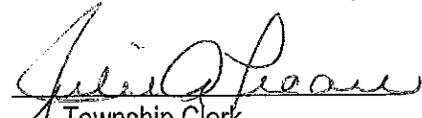
Carol Morrow, 305 E. Miami Avenue, addressed Council regarding the condition of the property that surrounds hers. Mayor Beck advised her to contact Manager Ridgway with the information. Councilmember Conrad informed that the property is part of the Fishing Creek Watershed.

Jay Young, Cape May Beach, addressed Council about the increase in his property tax, despite the decrease in his appraised value. He challenged Council to look for initiatives to reduce property taxes.

Adjournment

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Councilmember Conrad, seconded by Councilmember Simonsen. Motion to adjourn unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

  
Mayor

  
Township Clerk

Approved: *Feb 18, 2015*