

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – February 5, 2018

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on February 5, 2018 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 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

Swearing In of Officer William Porch – Mayor Erik Simonsen

Mayor Simonsen administered the Oath of Office to William Porch. Officer Porch was accompanied by his mother, Lorna Chicocchi, who held the Bible and his father, William Porch, who pinned his badge.

Certificate of Recognition - Patrolman Saini/Patrolman Kocis/Patrolman Felsing - Mayor Erik Simonsen

Mayor Simonsen presented Certificates of Recognition to Patrolman Jordan Saini, Patrolman William Kocis and Patrolman Jason Felsing for rescuing a dog on Davies Lake.

Work Session

2018 Budget Message/Introduction - Manager Jim Ridgway, CFO Lauren Read, Auditor Leon Costello
Manager Ridgway delivered the proposed 2018 Municipal Budget to Council, indicating a zero tax increase and highlighting key aspects of the proposed budget. He thanked CFO Lauren Read for her diligent work and announced the public hearing is scheduled for March 19, 2018 at 7 p.m. The budget summary will be published in the Cape May Star and Wave and copies will be available on the Township website as well as in the clerk's office at Township Hall. The Budget Message is attached and made a part of this public record.

Mayor Simonsen commended Lauren Read and Leon Costello, as well as Manager Ridgway and all department heads for their dedication to the budget.

Councilmember Conrad thanked Lauren Read for her diligent work on the budget and reiterated the zero increase despite the various projects throughout the Township.

Res. #2018-60 - 2018 Budget (Introduction and First Reading)

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

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes January 17, 2018

Approval of Closed Session Minutes - January 17, 2018

Res. #2018-61 Payment of Vouchers \$ 816,479.15

Res. #2018-62 Approving 2018 Contract with Cape Assist (\$3,213.)

Res. #2018-63 Bid Acceptance and Contract Award for Management Information System Consultant (MIS) for 2018 and 2019 (Barber Consulting Services \$14,500)

Res. #2018-64 Bid Acceptance and Award for Landscaping Services for Various Locations for the Years 2018 and 2019 with an Option for 2020 (Bayshore Landscaping Inc \$39,400)

- Res. #2018-65 Bid Acceptance and Award for Fertilizing Services for Various Locations for the Years 2018 and 2019 with an Option for 2020 (Bayshore Landscaping, Inc \$13,200)
- Res. #2018-66 Authorizing Payment of 2018 County Taxes (First and Second Quarters) and 2017 Added Taxes (\$2,486,364.12 due 2/15/18; \$2,486,364.12 due 5/15/18 & \$22,785.32 due 2/15/18)
- Res. #2018-67 Transfer of 2017 Appropriations (\$1,000 from tipping fees to telephone)
- Res. #2018-68 Authorizing Payment for Dispatch Services (\$150,000 each 2/15/2018; 5/15/2018; 8/15/2018 & 11/15/2018)
- Res. #2018-69 Resolution Establishing the Quote Threshold Pursuant to N.J.S.A.40A:11-3a (\$4,000)
- Res. #2018-70 A Resolution Requesting Release of Performance Guarantee for John & Dolores McNulty/Bayshore Landscaping; Block 410.01, Lot 21.02, Escrow #Z17-08-09 (\$13,539.40)
- Res. #2018-71 A Resolution Requesting Release of Performance Guarantee for 8100 Bayview, LLC; Block 820, Lot 2.05, Escrow #P16-09-05 (\$4,896.00)
- Res. #2018-72 Approval of 2018 Rotary Towing Licenses (Cape May Exxon/John's Auto Body/ Cape Harbor/Off Shore Getty)
- Res. #2018-73 Issuance of 2018 Limousine, Taxi and Operator Licenses (Aarts/G Taxi/G Transportation/High Roller Limo/Cape May Limo)
- Res. #2018-74 Renewal of Junk Yard License for Cape May Used Auto Parts for the Year 2018
- Res. #2018-75 Renewal of Trailer Park Licenses for the Year 2018 (Broadway Mobile Park/Cape May Landing/Shawcrest Mobile Home Park/Cape May Crossing/Cape Meadows)
- Res. #2018-76 Opposing Regulations Proposed by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture to Regulate Beekeeping
- Res. #2018-77 Approval of Secondhand Merchants and Dealers of Precious Metals License (Lucky 7 Gold & Consignment)
- Res. #2018-78 Bid Rejection for Roseann Avenue Roadway and Utility Improvements Contract No. M-10

Councilmember Conrad commented in favor of the resolution opposing the regulations proposed by the NJ Department of Agriculture to regulate beekeeping.

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

Regular Agenda

Resolution #2018-79 Approval of An Alcoholic Beverage Control License Place-to-Place Transfer – Including Expansion of Licensed Premises – License #0505-33-016-006, Maypoint Hospitality, LLC t/a Harpoon's on the Bay
The applicant has advertised this transfer as required by law and no objections have been filed with the clerk's office.

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

Ordinance #2018-01 An Ordinance To Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish A Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-15.14) This is the second reading and public hearing of this ordinance. This Ordinance has been published, posted and made available to the public.

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

Ordinance #2018-02

An Ordinance of the Township of Lower Amending Ordinance #2011-03; Amending Chapter 340, Fire Prevention, of the Code of the Township of Lower. This is the second reading and public hearing of this ordinance. This ordinance has been published, posted and made available to the public.

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

Council Comments

Councilmember Conrad- no comments

Councilmember Roy- no comments

Deputy Mayor Sippel – no comments

Mayor Simonsen recognized and thanked Eileen Kreis for her dedicated work to the NJ Run for the Fallen. He congratulated James "Scoop" Millman on his 100th birthday, and shared good news for the Township about the CRS Program thanks to the efforts of Tax Assessor, Jen Dowe.

Call to the Public

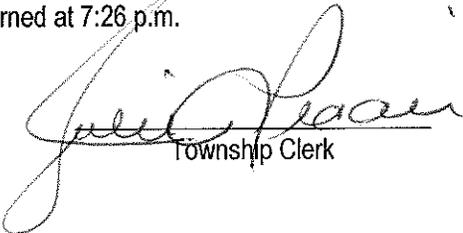
No public comments

Adjournment

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Councilmember Roy, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sippel. Motion to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.



Mayor



Township Clerk

Approved:  2/21/2018

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER

2600 Bayshore Road
Villas, New Jersey 08251



Incorporated 1798
(609) 886-2005

Good Evening Mayor and Council:

I am required to deliver a working document of our proposed 2018 Budget to Council by February 16, 2018 and the Council must approve the Budget by April 20, 2018. The Council has received a copy of the proposed municipal budget for 2018. The Tax Levy is \$20,863,365.82 compared to last year's \$20,797,190.63 which is an increase of \$66,175.00. We are below the legal spending cap by \$990,518.56.

The Township completed 2017 with a surplus of \$7,146,359.87. Of this, \$3,002,000 is being applied to this year's budget leaving a balance of \$4,144,359.87.

Our projections anticipate fully restoring the balance used in this budget. We are confident using this surplus as it has increased again to an all-time high in Lower Township due to increases in BOCA and increased ratables.

Projections indicate that savings from our County Cooperative and Shared Service Agreements with neighboring communities along with this year's conservative budgetary approach is allowing the Township to have No Tax Increase this year in this initial budget. We will have a 0 increase. The use of Caps in our Union Contracts has allowed us to stay financially strong.

The total assessment value of real property upon which the tax rate is based in Lower Township is \$3,634,439,452 vs. \$3,625,260,471 in 2016, or an increase in ratables of \$9,178,981.

Every \$363,443 of the amount raised by taxation for the 2018 Budget equals one cent on the tax rate. This budget uses 97.16% rate to compute the reserve for uncollected taxes.

This budget plans for fully funding our Independence Day Festival, additions to our Police Dept., as well as a new full-time secretary in Planning and Construction, and taxpayers will see no reduction in other township services provided.

We have begun our Shared Service agreement with County Dispatch which in the future we project strong savings with other municipalities coming on board with the county and reducing our payments as per our agreement with the County. Our utilities should decrease greatly in the Public Safety Building in 2018 as we are only heating and cooling approximately 50% of the previous renovated building.

We have a well planned Capital Program planned for 2018. We have made sure that these Capital Projects don't affect the taxpayers in a negative fashion.

This meeting is not for the adoption of the Township's Budget. This is a working document that belongs to the Township Council. Our CFO Lauren Read has worked diligently the last 3 months assisting me with the presentation of these documents. Our Department heads are also to be commended for keeping in line with their 2017 Budgets and understanding that these are times to do more with less.

The Public Hearing for the budget is scheduled for March 19, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. A Budget summary will be published in the Cape May Star and Wave. Copies will be available on the Township Website as well as in the Clerk's office at Township Hall.