

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – JULY 1, 2013

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on July 1, 2013 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 James Neville
Councilmember Glenn Douglass
Deputy Mayor Norris Clark
Mayor Michael Beck

Also present: Michael Voll, Township Manager, Chuck Sandman, Township Solicitor and Karen Fournier, Clerk's Office

Swearing In by Mayor Michael Beck - Announcement of families by Manager Michael Voll:

Mayor Beck acknowledged the presence of Prosecutor Bob Taylor, Chief of Detectives Ken Super and a host of Chiefs of Police from neighboring municipalities throughout Cape May County. In honor of the five officers taking oaths, he voiced his appreciation for their service and affirmed his belief that Lower Township has the best Police Department around.

Officer Kaitlin Black - Kaitlin Black was sworn in as an Officer of the Lower Township Police Department by Mayor Michael Beck. The Bible was held by her mother, Colleen Black.

Sergeant Donald Vanaman - Donald Vanaman was sworn in as Sergeant of the Lower Township Police Department by Mayor Michael Beck. The Bible was held by April Vanaman.

Lieutenant Patrick Green – Patrick Green was sworn in as Lieutenant of the Lower Township Police Department by Mayor Michael Beck. The Bible was held by his father-in-law, Bill Leone and mother, Grace Green. He was accompanied by his wife Deborah, and children Evan and Erin.

Captain Thomas Beeby – Thomas Beeby was sworn in as Captain of the Lower Township Police Department by Mayor Michael Beck. The Bible was held by his family members Katrina, Heather and Tommy Beeby. He was also accompanied by his father, Thomas Beeby, Sr.

Chief William Mastriana – William Mastriana was sworn in as Chief of The Lower Township Police Department by Mayor Michael Beck. The Bible was held by his wife Kimberly, son Dylan and daughter Kylie.

Chief Mastriana thanked Mayor Beck, Councilmembers and Manager Voll for the opportunity to lead one of the finest Police Departments in Cape May County. He also thanked past police chiefs with whom he has worked. He spoke briefly about his history in law enforcement, including the Cape May County Swat Team, and his future goals and expectations as Chief of Police. He thanked his family for their support, and stated that he looks forward to partnering with the citizens of Lower Township to improve public safety.

Work Session

Consent Agenda

- Approval of Minutes June 17, 2013
 Res. # 2013-187 Payment of Vouchers \$ 1,600,166.43
 Res. # 2013-188 A Resolution Requesting Release of Demolition Bond for Block 742.01 Lot 22, 933 Shunpike Road; Jerry Hatch & Joan Flood
 Res. #2013-189 Authorization for Refund of Taxes (1 property \$1,333.21 disabled veteran)
 Res. #2013-190 Award of Contract To Center for Community Arts (summer art program \$13,000.)
 Res. #2013-191 Resolution Appointing William Mastriana as the Acting Chief of Police
 Res. #2013-192 Issuance of Final Ice Cream Peddling Truck and Operator License for the year 2013 (Kona Ice)
 Res. #2013-193 Resolution Awarding Concession Stand Lease for the Lower Township Swimming Pool (H. Melo \$1,500.)
 Res. #2013-194 Appointment of Ronald J Gelzunas as Conflict Counsel (not to exceed \$15,000.)
 Res. #2013-195 Resolution Accepting Bid & Awarding the Contract for Resurfacing of the Basketball and Tennis Courts and Installation of New Tennis Posts, Nets, New Basketball Poles and Backboards at Mitnick Park (Nickolaus Construction Co. \$30,880.)
 Res. #2013-196 Resolution Authorizing a Shared Service Agreement Between the Township of Lower and the Borough of West Cape May to Provide Uniform Construction Code Services (re-new agreement for 5 years)
 Res. #2013-197 Authorizing Payout of Terminal Leave (B. Marker \$31,375.)
 Res. #2013-198 Annual Renewal of Final Liquor License for the Year 2013-2014 (Cape May Two Brothers)

	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD	X		X			
NEVILLE		X	X			
DOUGLASS			X			
CLARK			X			
BECK			X			

Regular Agenda

- Res. #2013-199 Appointment to the Recreation Advisory Board – Luke Gegan
 Councilmember Douglass made a motion to nominate Luke Gegan as alternate member to the Recreation Advisory Board to represent the youth.

	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD			X			
NEVILLE		X	X			
DOUGLASS	X		X			
CLARK			X			
BECK			X			

- Ordinance #2013-13 An Ordinance Amending the Property Maintenance Code of the Township of Lower (302.4 Weeds) 2nd reading & public hearing

	MOITON	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD		X	X			
NEVILLE			X			
DOUGLASS	X		X			
CLARK			X			
BECK			X			

Ordinance #2013-14 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 185 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Township of Lower (no notice prior to summons for property compliance) 2nd reading & public hearing

	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD	X		X			
NEVILLE			X			
DOUGLASS		X	X			
CLARK			X			
BECK			X			

Ordinance #2013-15 An Ordinance Amending the Property Maintenance Code of the Township of Lower (no notice prior to summons for property compliance) 2nd reading & public hearing

	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD			X			
NEVILLE		X	X			
DOUGLASS	X		X			
CLARK			X			
BECK			X			

Administrative Reports

Personnel Action Report

Monthly Reports - Police Department, Treasurer

Council Comments

Councilmember Conrad expressed his wishes for good weather for the Independence Day Festivities.

Councilmember Neville commented on the success of the Lower Township Kayak Club Race. He also mentioned that he will be celebrating his birthday on July 3rd with fireworks.

Councilmember Douglass admired the large crowd present for the Kayak Race. He stated that he too wishes for good weather for both the Independence Day Festival and the Whale of a Day Event.

Deputy Mayor Clark acknowledged the newest sponsors of the Friends of Lower Township Recognition Program including the Byrne Agency and members of the fishing industry: Jeff Riechle, Daniel Cohen, and Keith Laudeman. He informed that they will continue to be thanked throughout the year along with previous sponsors of the Friends of Lower Township. They will also be publically thanked on our automated call this week reminding about the fireworks.

Mayor Beck announced the Independence Day Festival and fireworks, July 3rd with a raindate July 5th, and the 15-Minute Child Break Parent Presentation, August 15 at 6:00 p.m. in Township Hall.

Mayor Beck expressed his anger with members of the Cape May City Council for their unfair treatment to Lower Township on many accounts. He reminded that they opposed our water allocation, they're trying to eliminate unemployment for seasonal workers, and now they're attempting to dissolve our regional school district. He challenged them to start acting regionally and responsibly. Their problem (no kids) is their doing (increased property values). His message was loud and clear that he will correct their deception and half-truths with the whole truth, and fight to protect the citizens of this Township.

Councilmember Conrad stated that he supports Mayor Beck one hundred percent.

Councilmember Douglass stated that he too supports the Mayor one hundred percent.

Deputy Mayor Clark directed his comments to the Councilmembers of the City of Cape May. He asked them to remember the founding principles of the Constitution- life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, stating that one cannot have any of these without education. The obligation and privilege to support education does not end with city limits or when you stop having children. It's an obligation that goes beyond regional, and it's the foundation of what we are as a society. When you break that, he stated, you break the bonds of civilization.

Call to the Public

Fred Long of Cold Spring addressed Council, thanking them for bringing up the issue of paying for our children's education. He believes that the children are our future. He stated that he is completely opposed to the current effort by Cape May City Council to change the state funding law for regional school districts. He requested a resolution from Lower Township Council stating their opposition to such change, and asked that it be distributed to all interested parties in the State of NJ.

Mayor Beck loved Mr. Long's idea and stated his intent to have it on the next agenda.

Steve Sheftz of Townbank addressed Council to expand on the issue of the regional school district. He informed that Cape May City's population in 2010 was exactly the same as it was in 1950. Their population has been decreasing drastically since 1980, due mainly to the assessed property values. Senior citizens have been forced to move out of Cape May because of their low fixed income. He affirmed that Cape May should not be exempt from paying their just dues simply because they have outsiders owning property there. He also stated that he obtained exact figures from the County and offered them to Council.

Mayor Beck agreed that we will need them. Once again, he questioned the intent of Cape May City's Council to lay this tax burden on our Township and think that it will not affect them.

Luke Gegan of North Cape May addressed Council to say thank you for the opportunity to serve this Township and be a voice for the youth.

Closed Session

Res. #2013-200

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 - Tax Issues

	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD		X	X			
NEVILLE			X			
DOUGLASS	X		X			
CLARK			X			
BECK			X			

Council adjourned to Closed Session at 7:13 PM

Adjournment

Council returned to open session at 7:43 pm. There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Councilmember Conrad, seconded by Councilmember Douglass. Motion to adjourn unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:44pm.


 Mayor


 Township Clerk

Approved: *July 15, 2013*