

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – JUNE 15, 2015

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on June 15, 2015 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 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

Swearing In of New Officers:

Jonathan Scheck; Eric Danze; Corey Schied

Jonathan Scheck was sworn in by Mayor Beck. His mother, Bonnie Boyle held the Bible, also accompanied by stepfather, Joe Boyle.

Corey Schied was sworn in by Mayor Beck. His parents, Brent Bussell and Charmaine Schied held the Bible, also accompanied by Suzanne Gamble.

Chief Mastriana congratulated both officers on a job well done and thanked Council and the community for their support.

Work Session

Mutt's Cove Presentation - Helen Thompson

Helen Thompson, 44 E. Delaware Parkway, presented her idea for an off-leash dog park on a stretch of Township owned beach between Douglass Park and Lincoln Boulevard. She provided photographs of the area and three additional off-leash, year round, dog parks in Florida and California. She offered a rough draft of rules for consideration and she closed with a summary of four components she believes need to exist for a great dog park: size, draw, place and rules.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes	June 1, 2015 & June 8, 2015
Res. #2015-179	Payment of Vouchers \$548,314.01
Res. #2015-180	Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to N.J.S.A.40A:4-87, Chapter 159 (Cops in Shops \$1,200)
Res. #2015-181	A Resolution Requesting Release of Demolition Bond for Block 605, Lot 9, 401 Wayne Avenue, (\$500)
Res. #2015-182	Certification to Local Finance Board of Receipt and Review of Audit Sections General Comments & Recommendations – required by the State
Res. #2015-183	Authorization to Participate in Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC BUY) Cooperative Contracts (Authorization to apply)
Res. #2015-184	Authorization for the Payment of College Credits (3 Officers \$2,320)
Res. #2015-185	Authorizing the Payout of Terminal Leave (B.Thomas \$21,813.81)
Res. #2015-186	Authorization for 2015 Incentive Award for Insurance Waiver (24 employees \$56,083.33)
Res. #2015-187	A Resolution Authorizing the Leasing of Certain Real Property Located in the Township of Lower (Seaview Ave & Rochester Ave – open public auction 6/25/15)
Res. #2015-188	COPS Hiring Program (CHP) (Applying for a grant \$250,000)
Res. #2015-189	Resolution Approving a Professional Service Contract with Hatch Mott MacDonald for Proposed Lower/Middle Township Bike Path Improvements (Sally Marshall Crossing to Sat Blvd. \$32,500.)

Res. #2015-190

A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Contract Renewing Membership in the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund (Every 3 years)

Ordinance #2015-05

Salary Ordinance – Required by Township Code to be adopted annually. 1st reading of Ordinance. 2nd reading and public hearing will be scheduled for July 6, 2015

Councilman Perry requested Resolution #2015-186 be moved to the regular agenda.

Manager Ridgway made a recommendation for Council to consider tabling Resolution #2015-188 until further discussing the mandates of the grant.

Motion to table Resolution #2015-188 made by Councilman Conrad, seconded by Councilman Simonsen.

Mayor Beck expressed an interest in discussing it further during a work session.

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

Janet Pitts, Villas, made a request for Council to eliminate the position of director of personnel from the Salary Ordinance. Mayor Beck questioned the history of the position. Councilman Conrad agreed that it needs to be looked into further. Councilman Perry expressed an interest in knowing the history of the position before making a decision about removing it.

On the Consent Agenda

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

Regular Agenda

Res. #2015-186

Authorization for 2015 Incentive Award for Insurance Waiver (24 employees \$56,083.33)

Janet Pitts, Villas, questioned the waiver calculations and referred to N.J.S.A. 40-17.1 Chapter 7 for waiver payments. Discussion ensued about contracts. Council agreed that it needs to be investigated.

Motion to table Resolution #2015-186 moved by Councilman Conrad, seconded by Councilman Simonsen.

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

Res. #2015-191

Appointment to the Zoning Board of Adjustment (D. Brand term expires 6/30/2015)

Motion to re-appoint David Brand

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

Res. #2015-192 Appointment to the Zoning Board of Adjustment (B. Waterman term expires 6/30/2015)
 Motion to re-appoint Bruce Waterman

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

Res. #2015-193 Appointment to the Zoning Board of Adjustment (D. Kelly term expires 6/30/2015)
 Motion to re-appoint Dianne Kelly

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

Res. #2015-194 Appointment to the Planning Board (J. McNulty term expires 6/30/2015)
 Motion to re-appoint John McNulty

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

Res. #2015-195 Appointment to the Planning Board (Vacancy Alt #1)
 Motion to appoint John Louderback

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

Motion to appoint Robert Crompton moved by Councilman Conrad – NO SECOND
 Motion to appoint John Young

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

Res. #2015-196 Appointment to the Planning Board (Vacancy Alt #2)
 Motion to appoint Robert Crompton

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

Administrative Reports

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

Council Comments

Councilman Conrad made several comments about the new beach ordinance and referred to Ordinance 85-07. He cautioned about zero tolerance and encouraged people to practice common sense rules on the beach.

Councilman Perry made favorable remarks about the triathlon, giving special recognition to the police and rescue squad. He congratulated LCMR class of 2015 and wished them well in the future. He also wished everyone a safe and happy 4th of July.

Councilman Simonsen expressed gratitude to everyone involved in the Runway 5k, Kids Rock Music Festival and Escape the Cape Triathlon. He congratulated Eileen Kreis for finishing her first triathlon. He gave an update on the ISO Ratings for Diamond Beach and thanked the many people involved in assisting with the reduction.

Deputy Mayor Clark complimented Councilman Simonsen for his participation in the triathlon. He also thanked the taxpayers and everyone in attendance at the Council meetings.

Mayor Beck spoke favorably about Escape the Cape and the Cape May Brewery. He announced the following: pool passes on sale at the Recreation Center, Independence Day Festival, and the Summer Concert Series. He also spoke briefly about the FEMA flood map appeal and his hope to get cooperation from political friends.

Call to Public

Dan Anderson, Townbank Road, inquired about changing the time of special meetings.

Patience Carroll, Villas, quoted the minutes from May 18th and questioned the chain of events between then and the special meeting. She voiced her discontent with the vote on the beach ordinance and the comments she heard about the meeting.

Robert Rizzo, Mickel's Run, agreed with a suggestion in Spout Off to have DPW worker's report unkept properties during their trash run. He expressed concern about the appearance of the Township.

Rosely Gallagher, Springtime Road, spoke favorably about the Fisherman's Festival and expressed pride in the fact that Lower Township is home to the 2nd largest commercial fishing port on the Eastern Seaboard.

Mary Reader, Villas, expressed pride in Lower Township and volunteering for the triathlon. She also voiced concern about the time permitted to clear an undeveloped lot.

Mickey Kane, Villas, thanked Councilman Conrad for responding to her letter. She also made a request for benches and trash receptacles along Villas beaches.

Bill Greenfield, Villas, asked for clarification on the ordinance about dogs on the beach. He voiced disfavor that no discussion occurred after tabling the ordinance.

Diane Rickards, Florida Avenue, asked for an explanation from each Councilmember why they voted for the beach ordinance. She also thanked Mayor Beck for the update on the FEMA issues.

Helen Thompson, Villas, asked Council for their opinions about Mutt's Cove. She also expressed concern about a safe place for dogs to swim.

Daniel Morley, Erma, addressed Council regarding veto power of the mayor, the fine structure of the beach ordinance, the enforcement agency and cost to enforce the beach ordinance. He suggested cautious consideration in the future when establishing new regulations.

John Klos, 1000 Crest Place, thanked Council and Manager Ridgway for getting his street paved.

Betty Somers, W. Atlantic Avenue, communicated disfavor with the beach ordinance. She also voiced concern about trailers on the streets.

Diane Rickards, Florida Avenue, inquired about signage and requested they be reserved for Township beaches only.

Helen Thompson, Villas, asked where dogs are allowed to swim.

Glen Rickards, Ohio Avenue, questioned the ordinance and urged Council to get their priorities in order.

Bill Greenfield, Villas, suggested a list of Township beaches be posted on the Township website.

Adjournment

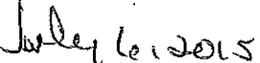
There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Councilmember Simonsen, seconded by Councilmember Conrad. Motion to adjourn unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.



Mayor



Township Clerk

Approved:  July 6, 2015