

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – June 15, 2020

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on June 15, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. via GoToMeeting at 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 by video for roll call taken by the Clerk:

- Councilmember Thomas Conrad
- Councilmember Kevin Coombs
- Councilmember Roland Roy, Jr.
- Deputy Mayor David Perry
- Mayor Frank Sippel

Also present via video conference: James Ridgway, Township Manager, David Stefankiewicz, Township Solicitor and Robert Belasco, Township Solicitor. Karen Fournier, Deputy Township Clerk, was physically present.

Work Session

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes - June 1, 2020

- Res. #2020-178 Payment of Vouchers \$ 193,437.05
- Res. #2020-179 A Resolution Re-Appointing Jennifer Dowe as Tax Assessor for the Township of Lower Pursuant to N.J.S.A.54:1-35.31 Effective July 1, 2020
- Res. #2020-180 Insertion of Special Item Of Revenue Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87, Chapter 159 (Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation)
- Res. #2020-181 Insertion of Special Item Of Revenue Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87, Chapter 159 (Cops in Shops)
- Res. #2020-182 Authorization for Refund of Taxes (3 properties \$4,345.04)
- Res. #2020-183 Re-Appointment to the Planning Board (C.McDuell)
- Res. #2020-184 Authorization for 2020 Incentive Award for Insurance Waiver (2 employees \$2,916.67)
- Res. #2020-185 A Resolution Tabling Discussions Associated with the Development and Construction of a State-Of-The Art Aquatic Center with the Township of Lower at the Cape May County Airport
- Res. #2020-186 Approval of Change Order #1 to Bayshore Landscaping for Additional Property at the Pump Station on Clearwater and Roseanne Avenue
- Res. #2020-187 Bid Rejection for Jonathon Hoffman Playground Improvements – Mitnick Park

Mayor Sippel commented in support of Res. #2020-185, stating that moving forward, in his opinion, would not be financially prudent to the taxpayers at this time.

	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	RECUSE	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD	X		X				
COOMBS			X				
ROY		X	X				
PERRY			X				
SIPPEL			X				

Regular Agenda

Ordinance #2020-12 Bond Ordinance Providing for Various 2020 Capital Improvements, By and In the Township of Lower, in the County of Cape May, State of New Jersey ("the Township"; Appropriating \$2,055,000 Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of \$1,950,000 Bonds or Notes of the Township to Finance Part of the Costs Thereof. 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	RECUSE	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD	X		X				
COOMBS			X				
ROY		X	X				
PERRY			X				
SIPPEL			X				

Ordinance #2020-13 Bond Ordinance Providing for Various Roadway and Drainage Improvements, By and In the Township of Lower, in the County of Cape May, State of New Jersey; Appropriating \$3,185,000 Therefore (Including a Grant from the New Jersey Department of Transportation in the Amount of \$185,000) and Authorizing the Issuance of \$2,840,000 Bonds or Notes of the Township to Finance Part of the Cost Thereof. 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	RECUSE	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD		X	X				
COOMBS			X				
ROY			X				
PERRY	X		X				
SIPPEL			X				

Ordinance #2020-14 Bond Ordinance Providing for Various Improvements to the Clem Mulligan Sports Complex, By and In the Township of Lower, in the County of Cape May, State of New Jersey; Appropriating \$1,990,000 Therefore (Including a Small Cities Community Development Block Grant in the Amount of \$400,000) and Authorizing the Issuance of \$1,490,000 Bonds or Notes of the Township to Finance Part of the Cost Thereof. This is the second reading and public hearing of this Ordinance. This Ordinance has been published, posted and made available to the public.

Councilmember Conrad commented in favor of the Clem Mulligan Sports Complex Project, as a great improvement to the Villas.

	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	RECUSE	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD		X	X				
COOMBS			X				
ROY			X				
PERRY			X				
SIPPEL	X		X				

Engineer's Report

Shawn Carr gave an update on the current engineering projects being handled by Mott MacDonald, including: Roseann Avenue, Clubhouse Drive, Mulligan Field and Jonathan Hoffman.

Manager's Report

Manager Ridgway gave an update on several matters including reopening Township Hall, tax bill mailings, Primary Election procedures, Municipal Court, and reopening local businesses.

Administrative Reports

Monthly Reports – Clerk, Construction, Dog, Tax, Treasurer, Vital

Council Comments

Deputy Mayor Perry commented in favor of the Roseann Avenue Project and thanked Councilmembers, Manager Ridgway, Gary Douglass and Mott MacDonald for their efforts. He also stated his intentions to continue with infrastructure improvements in the Township.

Councilmember Conrad looks forward to in-person meetings and moving forward with infrastructure and parks and recreation improvements. He thanked Township employees and congratulated 2020 graduates of LCMR.

Councilmember Coombs agreed with previous comments about Roseann Avenue and also congratulated the LCMR class of 2020.

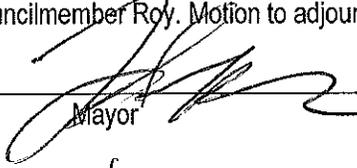
Councilmember Roy congratulated the class of 2020 and commented on progress in the Township despite COVID-19.

Mayor Sippel informed about a COVID-19 rental assistance program and expressed appreciation to Manager Ridgway and the Township team for their help with reopening local businesses.

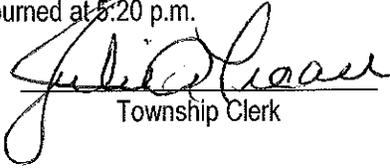
Call to the Public

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 5:20 p.m.



Mayor



Township Clerk

Approved: July 6, 2020