

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 16, 2015

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on March 16, 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 Erik Simonsen  
Deputy Mayor Clark  
Mayor Michael Beck

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

### Work Session

Presentation from Lou Ginsberg - Fundraiser at Knights of Columbus

Lou Ginsberg, Knights of Columbus Council #3546, announced the Rock for Kids Music Festival, a fund raiser for needy children in our community. The event will take place on Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> from 12-6:00 p.m. at the Cape May County Airport. There will be a car show, live music, vendors, food, drinks, games and rides for the kids. Mr. Ginsberg encouraged everyone to attend.

### Consent Agenda

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Approval of Minutes | March 2, 2015 & March 9, 2015  |
| Res. #2015-92       | Payment of Vouchers \$2,006,833.71   |
| Res. #2015-93       | Authorization for Refund of Taxes ( Sewer \$87.20 & Tax \$1176.82)   |
| Res. #2015-94       | Issuance of Ice Cream Peddling and Ice Cream Salesmen Licenses for the Year 2015 (Mister Softee –J. Brown/E.String)  |
| Res. #2015-95       | Renewal of 2015 Campground Licenses (Lake Laurie/Seashore & Beachomber)  |
| Res. #2015-96       | Authorization for Clothing Allowance (G.Frame/S.Alexander \$425. Each)   |
| Res. #2015-97       | Transfer of 2014 Appropriations (\$50,000 from DPW to Police)  |
| Res. #2015-98       | Amending resolution # 2015-15, Designation of Official Depositories (moving Capital Svgs Acct)   |
| Res. #2015-99       | Approval for Roadside Solicitation by Villas Volunteer Fire Company, Inc (May 23, July 4 & Sept 5, 2015)   |
| Res. #2015-100      | Authorizing Payout of Terminal Leave (J.Dilworth \$965.77)   |
| Res. #2015-101      | Inter-local Agreement between Lower Township and Fire District #3  |
| Res. #2015-102      | Authorizing Payout of Terminal Leave (D. Thomas \$254.84)  |
| Res. #2015-103      | Grant Agreement Between Lower Township and the State of New Jersey by and for the Department of Environmental Protection – Grant Identifier: FS15-013 (Community Wildlife Protection Plan Grant \$5,000) |
| Res. #2015-104      | Grant Agreement Between the Township of Lower and the State of New Jersey By and For the Department of Environmental Protection  |
| Ordinance #2015-02  | An Ordinance Amending Chapter 166, Animals, of the Code of the Township of Lower – 1 <sup>st</sup> reading. 2 <sup>nd</sup> reading and public hearing scheduled for April 6, 2015                       |

Mayor Beck added and read Resolution #2015-104 into the record. He informed that it was requested by the State Attorney General's Office for the Resiliency Grant.

Councilmember Simonsen made reference to Resolution #2015-101 as he voiced his expectation for improved safety and reduced insurance rates for the residents of Diamond Beach.

Deputy Mayor Clark complimented Manager Ridgway and Councilmember Simonsen for their work on this

agreement.

Ed Butler, Villas, inquired about the cost to the taxpayers to lower fire insurance rates in Diamond Beach. Mayor Beck informed that the cost to the Township is \$10,000. The additional \$65,000 will be paid by Fire District #3. Councilmember Simonsen informed that it would have cost well over \$200,000 without the cooperation from all parties. Discussion ensued. Manager Ridgway greatly credited Fire District #3 for their help to the Township.

Janet Pitts, Villas, asked for clarification about the inter-local agreement. Manager Ridgway explained that Wildwood Crest will be the first responder to any fire call in Diamond Beach.

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

### Regular Agenda

#### Administrative Reports

Monthly Reports: Clerk, Construction, Dog, Police, Tax, Treasurer, Vital Statistics

#### Council Comments

Councilmember Simonsen commented on the sympathy and support of the community for the Thomas Family and informed of an upcoming benefit at the Bayview on April 26<sup>th</sup>. He congratulated the LCMR girls' basketball team for winning the South Jersey Championship. He focused in on ways to reduce the budget, including shared services and an offer from the LTMUA.

Deputy Mayor Clark looks forward to the conversations identified by Councilmember Simonsen. He discussed the Township's concern, shared with other Bayfront Communities, regarding the FEMA maps and announced an upcoming meeting on March 19 in Dennis Township by Senator VanDrew, which will include representatives from state and federal government. He directed Manager Ridgway to compose a letter to Congressman Lobiondo asking for his help.

Mayor Beck announced a free breakfast for Veterans from the Lower Township Rotary Club.

#### Call to Public

Robert Rizzo, Villas, voiced opposition to using MUA surplus to supplement the Township's budget. He requested that the flag at Douglass Park be raised or repaired. He commented on the accident and death of Township employee and the condition of Fishing Creek Road, urging Council to take action to get County roads repaired. Manager Ridgway informed that he has been in contact with Mr. McCall from the County. Councilmember Conrad commented about the resiliency grant.

Bob Donaghy, Villas, informed of a benefit for Veterans who served from 1957-1971.

Helen Thompson, Villas, apologized to Councilmember Conrad for misaddressing him at the last meeting. She argued in opposition to the changes made to the rewritten Animal Ordinance pertaining to extreme weather. Mayor Beck spoke about what he believed to be adequate protection for the animals.

Brian O'Connor, Chairman of LTMUA, invited Council to make their requests in writing for LTMUA money.

Ed Butler, Villas, voiced opposition to the Township using LTMUA ratepayer's money. Councilmember Simonsen countered his comments. Conversation ensued about ways to reduce the budget. Manager Ridgway informed that shared service agreements are being worked on. Councilmember Conrad questioned Mr. Butler on comments he made at a previous LTMUA meeting. Mayor Beck questioned Council about their intent for a resolution asking the LTMUA for money and stated his opposition. Councilmember Simonsen communicated his intent to put the resolution on for the next meeting. A lengthy discussion ensued about the tax rate.

Mr. Butler also pointed out our fight with FEMA and DEP regarding beach replenishment. Discussion ensued. Deputy Mayor Clark reiterated his idea of banning the towns together to demand a solution for the entire region.

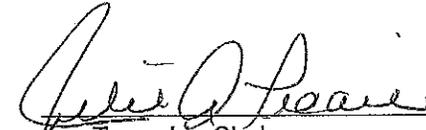
Helen Thompson, Villas, informed of other towns within the state with zero tax increase. She also informed that the crime rate in 2014 went down.

Janet Pitts, Villas, reinforced Ms. Thompson's statement about the 2014 police report. She voiced her opposition to using LTMUA surplus to offset the Township's taxes. She communicated her surprise at the lack of time between the County meeting regarding the Public Safety Building and the Budget Hearing. She also suggested that Council look into shared services with West Cape May. After a brief discussion, it was ascertained that the agreement with West Cape May is still in effect.

#### Adjournment

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Councilmember Conrad, seconded by Deputy Mayor Clark. Motion to adjourn unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

  
Mayor

  
Township Clerk

Approved: April 6, 2015