

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – September 21, 2020

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on September 21, 2020 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 Kevin Coombs
Councilmember Roland Roy, Jr.
Deputy Mayor David Perry
Mayor Frank Sippel

Also present: James Ridgway, Township Manager, David Stefankiewicz, Township Solicitor and Karen Fournier, Deputy Township Clerk

Work Session

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes September 9, 2020

Res. #2020-248 Payment of Vouchers \$162,199.97

Res. #2020-249 Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Compensatory Time (B.McEwing \$3,035.91)

Res. #2020-250 Annual Renewal of Liquor Licenses for the Year 2020-2021

Res. #2020-251 Amend Resolution #2020-26; Appointment of Municipal Engineer for the year 2020 as a Professional Service Contract without Public Bidding (\$50,000)

Res. #2020-252 Authorization for the Refund of Taxes (4 properties, \$3,425.11)

Res. #2020-253 Approving a Professional Service Contract with Mott MacDonald for Professional Engineering, Landscape Architect, Surveying & Environmental Services for the Rotary Community Park Improvements Project (\$78,950)

Res. #2020-254 Bid Acceptance and Contract Award of 2019 Road Program Resurfacing States Avenue (South State \$240,879.30)

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

Regular Agenda

Manager's Report

Manager Ridgway shared news about the State Economic Development Authority providing consulting services to businesses in the Opportunity Zones. He gave an update on his meeting with Granicus regarding short-term rentals. He informed of an additional traffic indicator being purchased for speed control, and computers being purchased to assist the LT Elementary Schools. He also gave an update on Public Works leaf and branch schedule and applauded the seasonal pool employees for a great summer.

Engineer's Report – Shawn Carr

Shawn Carr gave an update on the current engineering projects being handled by Mott MacDonald, including: Roseann Avenue, Clubhouse Drive, Mulligan Field, Jonathan Hoffman Park, and Rec. Center HVAC upgrades. Mayor Sippel inquired about Mulligan Field in relation to Open Space funding. Manager Ridgway explained. Mr. Carr expanded on the subject.

Mayor Sippel asked about the existing HVAC at the Rec. Center. Manager Ridgway responded. Shawn Carr asked Council for further direction with Mulligan Field. Manager Ridgway gave direction.

Deputy Mayor Perry inquired about the DEP taking over the NJ Conservation Foundation properties on the bayfront. A brief discussion ensued about the location of the properties.

Manager Ridgway asked Mr. Carr to explain the circumstance with the pavilion at Douglass Park.

Mr. Carr explained the issue with the property line and CAFRA requirements.

Administrative Reports

Monthly - Finance

Council Comments

Mayor Sippel informed about COVID testing at Villas CVS. He commented on the protocols at LCMR Schools and their upcoming sports programs, and he updated on Township youth programs as well. He shared news for Veterans and announced the Veteran's Day Parade scheduled for Nov. 7th at 11 a.m.

Deputy Mayor Perry applauded Public Works for their clean-up efforts and stated his determination to get County roads paved.

Councilmember Conrad encouraged everyone to fill out their Census. He spoke of the Township's stability and thanked Township employees for their hard work.

Councilmember Coombs thanked all Township employees and voiced favor with the news about computers.

Councilmember Roy commented on the success of the food drive and thanked all participants for their donations. He also thanked Eileen Kreis for organizing the 9-11 flag ceremony.

Mayor Sippel recognized the Greater Cape May Elks for their large donations to the food banks.

Call to the Public

Jim Sanford, E. Raleigh Ave, addressed Council for an update on an agreement with WWC for EMS in Diamond Beach. Manager Ridgway communicated the Township's efforts on the matter.

Mr. Sanford reiterated his concern about emergency response time to Diamond Beach.

Mayor Sippel assured that Council is aware of his concern and is working on a solution.

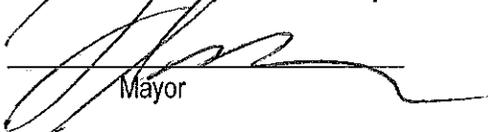
Mr. Sanford thanked Council for their time.

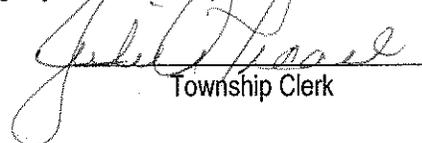
Unknown Caller, Diamond Beach, thanked Council for the Summer Concert Series, the Food Drive, and the Mayor's weekly updates. He also voiced concern about response time to emergencies in Diamond Beach.

Mayor Sippel acknowledged his concerns and assured the Township is working on a solution.

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 7:35 p.m.


Mayor


Township Clerk

Approved: 10/5/2020