

## Regular & Work Session Meeting Minutes - July 16, 2012

The regular meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on July 16, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room of the Township Hall, 2600 Bayshore Road, Villas, New Jersey.

The Deputy 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 Deputy Clerk:

Councilmember Thomas Conrad  
Councilmember Walt Craig  
Councilmember Glenn Douglass  
Deputy Mayor Kevin Lare  
Mayor Michael Beck

Also present: Michael Donohue, Solicitor, Michael Voll, Manager and Julie Picard, Deputy Clerk.

### Work Session

#### Presentation - Paul Miola - Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund Membership Renewal

Mr. Paul Miola, Executive Director Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund addressed Council and thanked the Officials, Clerk, Manager and department heads for a successful membership. Mr. Miola stated that every municipality in Cape May County is currently a member of the JIF (Joint Insurance Fund) and reiterated that the JIF hires the best possible attorney's to defend any possible suits. He explained that every penny paid in coverage, if not expended in claims, is returned to the municipality. Mr. Miola explained how the JIF is highly competitive and stable in its rates. Mayor Beck stated that Mr. Miola has brought good news to the Township and spoke of how he looked at the website and noticed the premiums are much lower than insurance companies. Mayor Beck thanked Mr. Miola for his presentation.

#### Presentation - Public Safety Building Committee

Mr. Daniel Shousky, member of the Public Safety Building Committee addressed Council and highlighted parts of the report. (Copy of July 11, 2012 and December, 2004 reports attached) Mayor Beck thanked all the members of the committee for their hard work and attendance in the several meetings which were held. He admired their passion in helping the Township look at the issues at hand. Mayor Beck stated that three resolutions were considered by the committee. 1) that the Township should discontinue the use of the Public Safety Building as a police headquarters, 2) that the Township should relocate the Police Department to a newly constructed annex encompassing the old police station at the Township hall complex and 3) that the Township should take steps to place the "Manzoni" building adjacent to the town hall under contract to facilitate this plan. Councilmember Conrad questioned if anyone has spoken with the County regarding the building. Mayor Beck replied the committee is still at the very beginning stages and did not have the need to speak with the county yet. Councilmember Conrad questioned if the Annex building is currently rated as an essential building having all the necessary components. Mr. Shousky replied that has not been determined yet. Councilmember Conrad stated he believes if the department is moved, he would expect a greater reduction in energy costs than has been estimated. Councilmember Craig stated he would also question the ramifications of closing the public safety building. Councilmember Craig stated he thought it was a very good report and appreciates the efforts of the committee and also thinks the Manzoni building would be a good purchase. Councilmember Douglass commended the committee and stated there was a lot of research done and appreciates everyone's help on the project. Deputy Mayor Lare stated he has two concerns regarding the Public Safety Building. First finances, if and when the Township could afford to bond it and Council

Regular & Work Session Meeting Minutes - July 16, 2012

also has to decide what to do with Fire Safety and EMS. Deputy Mayor Lare stated with the addition of the Manzoni property, he believes council should include Fire Safety and EMS, Lower Township should have one complex. Deputy Mayor Lare stated the report is extensive and commended the committee on their efforts. Mayor Beck stated he received information from the Township's CFO stating that this project would have no impact on township taxes. By 2016, two previous bond issues would be paid off, therefore, this bond issuance would have no impact on taxes. Mayor Beck stated another reason for the re-location of the department would be even though it is not the geographical center of the Township, it is close to the population center. Mayor Beck stated he spoke to a representative at "icop" who stated it is unusual to place a police department in back of an airport. He stated some key factors from the Department of Justice suggest that a police department should not be constructed further than a mile from a bus stop but a more important issue is having the Manager in close proximity to the Chief of Police. Mayor Beck thanked the committee and all who had input in the report. Deputy Mayor Lare questioned if bonding 3 million would not effect the tax rate, is that assuming there would be no new capital projects? He stated there is a large project pending with the storm water problems. Mayor Beck replied the CFO has advised that two bond issues totaling approximately 17 million would be paid off in 2016. Mr. Frank Sorocco questioned the air exchange rate in the public safety building. Mr. Shousky replied at this time, it is unknown.

Review of Consent & Regular Agenda Items

Resolution #2012-184 - Motion to place Eileen Kreis's name on the Resolution moved by Councilmember Douglass, seconded by Councilmember Conrad. Motion unanimous.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of Minutes July 2, 2012
- Res. #2012-181 Renewal of Membership in the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund (3 yr membership)
- Res. #2012-182 Appointment of Blauer Associates Without Public Bidding (Grant Consultant)
- Res. #2012-183 Certification to Local Finance Board of Receipt and Review of Audit Sections General Comments & Recommendations (Annual audit certification)
- Res. #2012-184 Appointment to the Recreation Advisory Board (1 Reg. Member vacancy of J. Ridgeway)
- Res. #2012-185 Appointment of Julie Picard As Municipal Clerk, Effective September 1, 2012

	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD	X		X			
CRAIG		X	X			
DOUGLASS			X			
LARE			X			
BECK			X			

Regular & Work Session Meeting Minutes - July 16, 2012

**Regular Agenda**

Res. #2012-180

Payment of Vouchers, \$ 1,726,117.96\*

	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD					X	
CRAIG		X	X			
DOUGLASS	X		X			
LARE			X			
BECK			X			

Ord. #2012-16

Bond Ordinance Providing for the Acquisition of property in and by the Township of Lower, In the County of Cape May, New Jersey Appropriating \$210,000 Therefore and Authorizing the Issuance of \$200,000 Bonds or Notes of the Township to Finance Part of the Cost Thereof, (Acquisition of real property) 2<sup>nd</sup> rdg. & public hearing This Ordinance was advertised, posted on the Twp bulletin board and copies were made available to the public

	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD		X	X			
CRAIG			X			
DOUGLASS	X		X			
LARE			X			
BECK			X			

Ord. #2012-17

An Ordinance Authorizing the Acquisition of the Fee Simple Interest in Real Property Owned by Carmen R. Manzoni and Joyce R. Vitale, Known As Block 410.01, Lot 63.02 on the Tax Map of the Township of Lower and also Known and Designated as 2610 Bayshore Road, Villas, New Jersey – 2<sup>nd</sup> reading & public hearing. This Ordinance was advertised, posted on the Twp bulletin board and copies were made available to the public

Regular & Work Session Meeting Minutes - July 16, 2012

	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD	X		X			
CRAIG			X			
DOUGLASS		X	X			
LARE			X			
BECK			X			

Ord. #2012-18                      An Ordinance Authorizing Acceptance of Title to the Brandywine Shoal Light Station and Approving the Leasing Thereof to the Cape May Maritime Museum and Education Center, Inc. - 1<sup>st</sup> reading (2<sup>nd</sup> reading & public hearing will be Aug 6, 2012)

Kevin Maloney addressed Council and thanked both Council and the citizens for their support in this endeavor. He stated that back in June, he presented a proposal requesting Council support the efforts to save the life saving station. This Ordinance will allow Lower Township to accept title of the station and lease it to the Maritime Museum. Mr. Maloney gave a history of the station and the procedure which will be used to restore the station. He stated although they have many volunteers, many are still needed.

	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD			X			
CRAIG		X	X			
DOUGLASS	X		X			
LARE			X			
BECK			X			

**Administrative Reports**

Personnel Action Report

Department Reports

June - Animal Control, Dog Licensing, Engineer, Fire Safety, Municipal Clerk, Police, Tax Collector, Vital Statistics

*Tax Collector Certification of Mailing of Tax Bills & Copies\**

**Council Comments**

Councilman Craig thanked the Recreation Department, the Police Department, the Fire Department and everyone involved in the July 3<sup>rd</sup> event.

## Regular & Work Session Meeting Minutes - July 16, 2012

Councilman Douglass reiterated Councilmember Craig's statement and stated that the Township appreciates the sponsors and the event was a huge success.

Deputy Mayor Lare announced that on July 24<sup>th</sup>, NBC at 8:00pm, Unity in Motion will be performing on America's Got Talent - please watch and support them. He also announced that on July 25<sup>th</sup>, we will be hosting a free concert at the Ferry featuring the "B Street Band", a Bruce Springsteen tribute band. Deputy Mayor Lare echoed the sentiments regarding the Independence Day Festival and thanked all the donors, who over three years have contributed over \$70,000.00.

Mayor Beck announced: Farmers Market- Fridays during July and August in the Twp complex  
Free concert at the Fishing Creek School on July 20<sup>th</sup>  
National Night Out - August 7<sup>th</sup>  
Blood Drive August 21<sup>st</sup>  
All tax bills have been mailed out

### Call to the Public

Fred Long addressed Council and thanked the Lower Township Rescue Squad. He stated a family member was involved in an accident and was airlifted to Atlantic City where she had surgery. He stated if not for their response time, she would not have lived.

Jay Young addressed Council and questioned the plans to pave Clubhouse, Bay Drive area which is currently a mess. Mayor Beck replied he would get an answer from the MUA for him.

Rob Reihl, President of the Cape May Beach property owners, addressed Council and on behalf of the members, thanked Council and all who helped and supported the Whale of A Day Festival. He stated despite the high temperature, it was a success. This was the 14<sup>th</sup> annual event.

Tammy Patterson, Fernwood Road, addressed Council regarding a memorial/monument at the end of her street. She questioned why it was allowed, who gave permission, why the County is cleaning it and so on. Manager Voll replied he had been working on the issue and the stone will be removed. The resident did not receive permission to install it and it will be removed.

### Closed Session

Res. #2012-186

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." (Labor Relations - Supervisor's Union Update; Possible Litigation Township Right-Of-Way Issues)

Regular & Work Session Meeting Minutes - July 16, 2012

	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD		X	X			
CRAIG			X			
DOUGLASS	X		X			
LARE			X			
BECK			X			

Council adjourned to Closed Session at 7:32p.m.

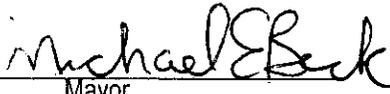
Council returned to Open Session at 7:57 p.m.

Motion to proceed as discussed in closed session moved by Councilmember Douglass, seconded by Councilmember Conrad.

	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD		X	X			
CRAIG			X			
DOUGLASS	X		X			
LARE			X			
BECK			X			

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion to adjourn moved by Councilmember Douglass, seconded by Councilmember Conrad. Motion unanimous by verbal "ayes". Meeting adjourned at 8:00p.m.

  
 Michael Beck  
 Mayor

  
 Claudia R. Klemm  
 Township Clerk

Approved: August 6, 2012