

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – November 18, 2013

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on November 18, 2013 at 6:00 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 James Neville  
Councilmember Erik Simonsen  
Deputy Mayor Clark  
Mayor Michael Beck

Also present: Michael Voll, Township Manager, Chuck Sandman, Township Solicitor and Karen Fournier, Clerk's Office

Mayor Beck congratulated newly-elected Council member Eric Simonsen. Councilmember Simonsen, accompanied by his wife, Anna and 2 daughters, Katya and Viktoria, was sworn in by Freeholder Director Gerald Thornton. Additional attendees included Gary Schaffer, Linda Pagliughi and Kristine Gabor. Mr. Thornton also congratulated Councilmember Simonsen on a successful campaign and thanked his family for their support.

### **Work Session**

Fishing Creek School Community Volunteer Awards

Deputy Mayor Clark said a few words of introduction about the Fishing Creek School. He acknowledged David Pacevich for commissioning the recognition wall using a Pride grant from the New Jersey Education Association. Mr. Pacevich explained the criteria for nominations and introduced the volunteers being recognized for their contributions to the community. Among them included: Townbank Fire Chief Lewis Megonigal, judo instructor Joshua Frederick, Care Alternatives Hospice volunteer Ashlie Campbell, youth football and wrestling coach John Altieri, therapy dog handlers Karen Wadding and Kiki Miller, and NASW museum volunteer Richard Ryan.

### **Consent Agenda**

Approval of NJ State Fireman's Membership Application - Cory R Curtis, Villas Fire Company

Approval of Minutes November 4, 2013

Res. #2013-289 Payment of Vouchers \$ 448,307.93

Res. #2013-290 A Resolution Requesting Release of Performance Guarantee for Atlantis Beach Club; Block 730.02, Lot 1.02, Escrow #Z05-06-03 (\$1,522.50 plus interest)

Res. #2013-291 A Resolution Requesting Release of Demolition Bond for Block 161, Lot10, 132 West New York Avenue (\$500.)

Res. #2013-292 A Resolution Requesting Release of Demolition Bond for Block 349.09, Lot 43, 104 Birch Road (\$500.)

Res. #2013-293 Transfer of 2013 Appropriations (\$21,800.)

Res. #2013-294 Council's request to the Tax Collector to Cancel Taxes Due on the Properties Listed Below Located in the Cape May County Airport and Industrial Park (3 properties \$8,330.93)

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

## **Regular Agenda**

### **Administrative Reports**

Personnel Actions

Monthly Reports - Animal Control, Construction, Dog, Fire, Municipal Clerk, Police, Tax Collector, Vital Statistics

### **Council Comments**

Councilmember Conrad welcomed back Councilmember Simonsen. He also instructed residents to ignore the MUA notice about the tax sale.

Councilmember Neville congratulated and welcomed Councilmember Simonsen. He spoke about his meeting with Stu Farrell regarding FEMA's flood maps and the v zone.

Councilmember Simonsen thanked his family and everyone who supported his campaign. He looks forward to serving the people of the township and requested we keep the Sicozi family, Mayor Beck's brother, and Jenny Farrin in our prayers. He spoke of several benefits throughout the township to support special programs and people in need.

Deputy Mayor Clark welcomed Councilmember Simonsen and informed that he will be joining the Economic Development Committee. He spoke about forming a committee to work on tax abatements at the Cape May County Airport and also gave an update on the proposed renovations for the Fishing Creek School. In preparation for Thanksgiving, he reflected on what he is thankful for, including heroes such as teachers, fire personnel and police officers.

Mayor Beck welcomed Councilmember Simonsen. He announced the following upcoming events: Tree Lighting/Veterans Ceremony, Hospitality Night, Christmas Parade, Ferry Merry Christmas, and the Annual Family New Year's Eve Party. In addition, he announced a fund raiser to be held for Jim and Evelyn McCarty, victims of the recent explosion. Township Hall will also be collecting donations for Toys for Tots, the local Food Bank and Sock's For Seniors. Chris South, area coordinator for Sock's for Seniors, explained the program and encouraged drop offs through December 13<sup>th</sup>. Fun socks preferred.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, Mayor Beck said a few words of thanks, wished everyone a blessed holiday, and requested prayers for the McCarty Family.

### **Call to Public**

Ed Butler of Villas addressed Council with regard to the taxpayers and requested to keep the budget within the means of the township.

Janet Pitts of Villas addressed Council to inquire about the subject of litigation for Closed Session. Solicitor Sandman explained that the Township is named as a defendant in the suit against Bailey.

Jack Porter, former MUA employee, addressed Council to clarify the powers of the MUA board. Solicitor Sandman explained the authority of the board as set forth by statute. Mr. Porter expressed concern for the safety of his family.

**Closed Session**

Res. #2013-295

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.

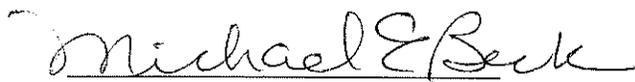
**Litigation - Bailey et al V. Twp / Personnel: Manager/Solicitor**

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

Council adjourned to closed session at 6:49 p.m.

Council returned to open session at 7:30 p.m.

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Councilmember Conrad, seconded by Councilmember Neville. Motion to adjourn unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

  
Mayor

  
Township Clerk

Approved: Dec. 2, 2013