

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 17, 2014

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on November 17, 2014 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, Ron Gelzunas, Township Solicitor and Karen Fournier, Clerk's Office

**Consent Agenda**

- Approval of Minutes November 3, 2014
- Res. #2014-299 Payment of Vouchers \$ 342,551.20
- Res. #2014-300 Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87, Chapter 159 (Emergency Management Assistance \$5,000)
- Res. #2014-301 Approval of Contribution to Lower Township Chamber of Commerce (\$1,000 Hospitality Day and \$3,000 Annual Directory)
- Res. #2014-302 Authorizing the Pay Out of Terminal Leave (R. Thompson \$26,853.44)
- Res. #2014-303 Authorizing the Pay Out of Terminal Leave (E.Macomber \$45,938.02)
- Res. #2014-304 Authorizing the Pay Out of Terminal Leave (G.Lutzgus \$3,763.60)
- Res. #2014-305 Authorization to Cancel General Ledger Balances (\$121,747.78)
- Res. #2014-306 Award of Extraordinary Unspecified Service Without Public Bidding to Wizards Festival Of Fun Entertainment at Ferry Merry Christmas Event December 21, 2014 and New Years Eve Celebration December 31, 2014 (\$4,985 Ferry Merry & \$4,450 New Years Eve)
- Res. #2014-307 Approval of Contribution to Lower Township Rotary (\$800. Tree Lighting/Veterans Ceremony/Parade)
- Res. #2014-308 A Resolution Authorizing and Approving a Shared Services Agreement between the Township of Lower and the Cape May County Municipal Utility Authority for the Temporary Use of a Walking Floor Trailer

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

**Regular Agenda**

- Res. #2014-309 Authorizing the Payment of Vouchers \$ 5,000. Lower Twp Rescue – Final 2014 Expense Payment

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

Res. #2014-310 Authorizing the Payment of Vouchers \$ 9,250. Oliveri, Shousky & Kiss – Public Safety Building

Kathleen Dynan, Portsmouth Road, asked for clarification on resolution #2014-310. Mayor Beck informed that it is for the architect.

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

Res. #2014-311 Appointment to the Lower Township Municipal Utilities Authority Board

Councilmember Conrad motioned to Table Resolution #2014-311 on the grounds that Council will be changing soon.

Kathleen Dynan inquired about a recently appointed board member that resigned. Mayor Beck replied. It was ascertained that the term expires in 3 years.

Deputy Mayor Clark proposed to appoint someone nonpolitical, who understands the operations of water and sewer, and engineering. He moved to appoint William Murphy to the LTMUA Board.

Councilmember Simonsen moved to appoint Jacqueline Henderson, former Councilmember and regular attendee of the LTMUA board meetings.

Clerk Picard informed of three motions presently on the floor. The motion to Table Resolution #2014-311 was rescinded for failure to receive a second motion.

Deputy Mayor Clark's motion to appoint William Murphy was seconded by Councilmember Neville.

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

### **Administrative Reports**

Personnel Action Report

Monthly Reports – Clerk, Construction, Dog, Fire, Police, Tax, Vital Statistics

### **Council Comments**

Councilmember Conrad thanked voters in Ward 1 for their continued support. He announced that changes will be implemented to address residents' concerns.

Councilmember Neville thanked his supporters and congratulated Dave Perry on his victory. He also applauded him for removing his signs in a timely manner.

Councilmember Simonsen thanked the voters and reminded us to be thankful for the right to vote. He commented on the Veteran's Day events throughout Cape May County and applauded Zachary Lambert, resident and LMCR student, for reconstructing the Prayer Garden at the Veteran's Cemetery as his Eagle Scout Project. He also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Deputy Mayor Clark gave honor to our veterans for the right to vote. He thanked the Clerk and staff for their work with the election. He spoke briefly about the Economic Advisory Committee and credited them for raising the concern that led to an invitation to serve on the first District Economic Development Committee.

Mayor Beck congratulated Dave Perry, Eric Simonsen and Tom Conrad and thanked Councilmember Neville for his service. He announced the following upcoming events: Christmas Tree Lighting/ Veteran's Ceremony, Chamber of Commerce Hospitality Day, FEMA Flood Maps Open House, Lower Township Rotary Christmas Parade, Rotary Christmas House Decorating Contest, Merry Merry Christmas, and New Year's Eve Event. He reminded of the Special Election and stressed the importance of a "no" vote. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, he reflected on the many things we have to be grateful for. He wished everyone a blessed Thanksgiving and Holiday Season.

### **Call to Public**

Ed Butler, Villas, addressed Councilmember Conrad regarding the votes from Ward 1 on the school funding question. Councilmember Conrad suggested that certain residents disliked the messenger. Mayor Beck disagreed. Discussion continued about reasons why people voted yes on the school question. All parties agreed that everyone needs to spread the word to vote "no" at the Special Election in December. Councilmember Simonsen pointed out the simplicity of just one question for the Special Election ballot.

John Skowronski, 607 Arctic Avenue, pointed out that Cape May City is having a special meeting with their residents to talk about the Special Election. He stressed the urgency in getting the word out to Lower Township residents.

Janet Pitts confirmed that the Taxpayer's Association will be working diligently to spread the message to just vote "no". She informed that the hours for the Special Election will be different but the polling places will remain the same. Mayor Beck added that it is in the best interest of West Cape May to vote "no" at this election as well.

Bill Greenfield, Villas, addressed Council in favor of Mike Voll continuing as Township Manager. He made suggestions about meeting certain criteria if the newly elected Council decides to replace him.

Dan Anderson, Townbank Road, addressed Council to express his disfavor with keeping the police in an unhealthy building. He also demanded something be done about central dispatch. Councilmember Conrad assured that that is one of the things that will be changing.

Joe Link, Townbank, addressed Council about the condition of Glenwood Place. Manager Voll assured that the road will be paved. Mr. Link refused to believe him and questioned his credibility. Mayor Beck interceded. Discussion ensued. Mr. Link brought up previous matters to discredit Manager Voll. Councilmember Neville suggested Mr. Link ask Dave Perry to aid in his pursuit. Mr. Link continued to make accusations against Manager Voll. Mayor Beck insisted Mr. Link take a seat or he would be removed.

Robert Rizzo, Mickel's Run, congratulated the Republicans on their victory and hopes that it will benefit Lower Township residents, not County Republicans or Congressman LoBiondo. He reminded of important

Township business that needs to take precedence, including the police building and Shore Drive. He urged Councilmember Conrad to inform voters in Ward 1 to vote "no" at the Special Election.

Betty Somers, Villas, shared her feelings toward Manager Voll. She also expressed her disappointment with Councilmember Conrad for what was done to Councilmember Neville.

John Close, Townbank, purchaser of Joe Link's house on Crest Place, respectfully requested a timeframe when his road will be paved. Manager Voll informed that he met with the Public Works Director to discuss it. He is hopeful that it will be done before the end of the year, upon the completion of Clubhouse Road.

**Closed Session**

Res. #2014-312

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. – Discussion on Professional Service Contracts

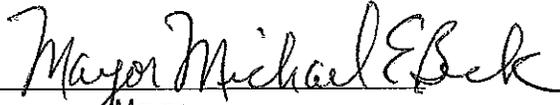
	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD	X		X			
NEVILLE			X			
SIMONSEN		X	X			
CLARK			X			
BECK			X			

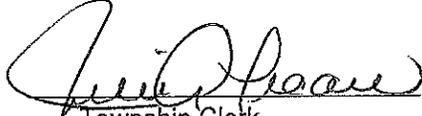
Council went into closed session at 7:01 p.m.

Council returned to Open Session at 7:21 p.m.

**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 7:22 p.m.

  
Mayor

  
Township Clerk

Approved: December 1, 2014