

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – September 16, 2019

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on September 16, 2019 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 David Perry
Councilmember Roland Roy, Jr.
Deputy Mayor Frank Sippel
Mayor Erik Simonsen

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

Work Session

Valor Award Presentation to Officer William Kocis - 200 Club of Atlantic and Cape May Counties - Kevin Dixon Chief Mastriana informed that Mr. Dixon was unable to attend; therefore the presentation will be postponed until further notice. He explained the Valor award that will be presented to Officer William Kocis.

Aquatic Center Information Presentation - Manager Jim Ridgway / Monica Coskey, Seven Mile Publishing Public Relations Firm

Monica Coskey, Seven Mile Publishing, presented a power point of the proposed aquatic center, highlighting several aspects including: benefits of spending time in the water; multigenerational activities for the community; features of the aquatic center; the proposed site; cost estimate to build; annual operational revenue and expenses; and the referendum question.

Manager Ridgway introduced Jim Rutala, Rutala Associates.

Mr. Rutala informed Council about Cape Regional Health Systems interest in possible partnership.

Mike Rosenberg, Coral Ave, voiced favor with the proposed aquatic center but expressed concern about the cost after construction, liability insurance, and resident discounts.

Manager Ridgway addressed Mr. Rosenberg's concerns and discussed possible financial partnerships.

Mayor Simonsen communicated the advantages of accessibility.

Stephanie Devlin, Holmes Ave, voiced concern about expenses, revenue, use of facility and community activities.

Mayor Simonsen explained the safeguard of the non-binding referendum.

Councilmember Conrad communicated the potential for different levels of membership.

Manager Ridgway addressed concerns about use of facility, features, and operational staffing.

Cosette Gasser, Bayshore Road, questioned membership limitations.

Manager Ridgway assured that limits will be considered.

Bill Greenfield, Villas, asked about memberships, drop-in fees and scheduling.

Council discussed the different possibilities

Mayor Simonsen thanked Mickey Coskey for the information and offered opportunity for future questions.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes – September 4, 2019

Approval of Closed Session Minutes – September 4, 2019

Res. #2019-280 - Payment of Vouchers \$ 1,027,366.05

Res. #2019-281 – Approval of Contribution to Lower Township Chamber of Commerce (\$3,500)

Res. #2019-282 – Authorization to Transfer Funds from the Tax Premium Account (\$36,300)

Res. #2019-283 – A Resolution Confirming the Release of Maintenance Guarantee for Windmill Marina Assoc, LP;
Block 763, Lots 9 & 10 and Block 764, Lots 11&12

- Res. #2019-284 – A Resolution Authorizing the Township of Lower, Through the Lower Township Police Department to Participate in the Defense Logistics Agency, Law Enforcement Support Office, 1033 Program to Enable the Lower Township Police Department to Request and Acquire Excess Department of Defense Equipment
- Res. #2019-285 – Approval for Crest Best Run Fest 10k Run on October 13, 2019
- Res. #2019-286 – A Resolution Requesting that the New Jersey Department of Transportation Relocate an Existing Bus Stop from its Current Location in front of 804 Kathryn Boulevard, Lower Township, New Jersey
- Res. #2019-287 – A Resolution Requesting that the New Jersey Department of Transportation Establish and Create a New Bus Stop in the Cape May County Airport Complex, Lower Township, New Jersey
- Res. #2019-288 – A Resolution Adopting A revised Personnel Policy Manual for the Township of Lower
- Res. #2019-289 – Authorization for Refund of Taxes (1 prop \$182.17)
- Res. #2019-290 – Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Sick Time (W.Priole \$44,000)

Councilmember Conrad pointed out the resolution requesting a bus stop at the Cape May County Airport. Mayor Simonsen pointed out the request to eliminate the bus stop on Kathryn Blvd, and spoke briefly about the Crest Best Run Fest.

	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD	X		X			
PERRY			X			
ROY		X	X			
SIPPEL			X			
SIMONSEN			X			

Regular Agenda

Manager's Report

Manager Ridgway informed about utility savings at the Public Safety Building. He gave an update on the Schellenger's Landing Project and spoke about a financial benefit for Township employees.

Administrative Reports

Monthly Reports – Clerk, Construction, Dog, Tax, Vital
Affidavit of Mailing, Advertising and Posting of Notice (Tax Sale)

Council Comments

Councilmember Conrad gave an update on Mulligan Field improvements, ADA restroom upgrades, and Villas road repairs

Councilmember Perry gave an update on Roseann Avenue and thanked Manager Ridgway for addressing the street light issue.

Councilmember Roy commented on the 9/11 ceremony at Sunset Beach.

Deputy Mayor Sippel reminded about the NJ Run for the Fallen and the Veteran's Parade.

Mayor Simonsen commented on the 9/11 ceremony and thanked Eileen Kreis for helping to organize the event. He also thanked first responders for participating in Salute to Service, and thanked the Townbank Fire Dept. for their help with the lights during LCMR's football game. Announcements included: Electronic Waste Recycling at WCM Borough Hall, Halloween Costume Parade at HCSV, Autumn Fest and Trunk-or-Treat at DRBA, and the NJ Run for the Fallen and kick-off ceremony.

Call to the Public

Cosette Gasser, Bayshore Road, voiced disfavor with the absence of advertisement in the Herald for Patriot's Day.

Closed Session

Res. #2019-291 - 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. **Attorney/Client Privilege**

	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD			X			
PERRY			X			
ROY	X		X			
SIPPEL			X			
SIMONSEN		X	X			

Council adjourned to Closed Session at 8:06 p.m.

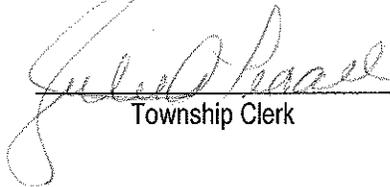
Council returned to Open Session at 8:49 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Councilmember Conrad, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sippel. Motion to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.



Mayor



Township Clerk

Approved:  October 7, 2019