

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – January 4, 2016

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on January 4, 2016 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 Erik Simonsen
Deputy Mayor Clark
Mayor Michael Beck

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

Proclamation honoring Matt Szczur; Proclaiming January 9, 2016 "Matthew Francis Szczur Day" in Lower Township - Manager Jim Ridgway

Manager Ridgway recognized Matt Szczur for his outstanding athletic achievements and superior character. An ESPN video was presented to highlight his greatest accomplishment and incredible act of kindness, donating his bone marrow to a 15 month old child from Ukraine with leukemia.

Mayor Beck presented a proclamation honoring Matt Szczur and proclaiming January 9, 2016 as Matthew Francis Szczur day in Lower Township.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Beck moved Resolution #2016-24 to the Regular Agenda

Kathleen Dynan, Tranquility, asked if Resolution #2016-18 applies to all appeals. Clerk Picard responded in the affirmative. Ms. Dynan also asked Mayor Beck why he moved Resolution #2016-24 to the Regular Agenda. Mayor Beck explained the implication of the consent agenda.

Approval of Minutes - December 21, 2015

- Res. #2016-01 Appointment of Municipal Solicitor for 2016 as a Professional Service Contract without Public Bidding (D. Stefankiewicz)
- Res. #2016-02 Annual Approval of Emergency Management Council
- Res. #2016-03 Appointment of JIF Management Consultant (J. Byrne Agency)
- Res. #2016-04 Appointment of Municipal Auditor for the year 2016 as a Professional Service Contract without Public Bidding (Ford Scott & Associates \$40,000)
- Res. #2016-05 Resolution to Defer the Regional School Tax (annual)
- Res. #2016-06 Adopting 2016 Temporary Current Budget
- Res. #2016-07 Authorizing Payment of 2016 Debt Service
- Res. #2016-08 Authorizing Cash Management Plan (annual)
- Res. #2016-09 Designation of Official Depositories (annual)
- Res. #2016-10 Authorizing Payment to Lower Township Board of Education (1/1/16 - 7/31/16)
- Res. #2016-11 Authorizing Payment for 2015 Regional School Taxes (1/15/16 – 7/31/16)
- Res. #2016-12 Annual Approval of Petty Cash Funds (annual)
- Res. #2016-13 Transfer of 2015 Appropriations (\$45,300)
- Res. #2016-14 Setting the Interest Rate for Delinquent Taxes (annual)
- Res. #2016-15 Establishment of Meeting Dates and Times for the Year 2016 (annual)
- Res. #2016-16 Designation of Official Newspapers for Legal Advertising for the Year 2016 (Star & Wave & Herald)
- Res. #2016-17 Authorizing the Clerk to Issue Bingo & Raffle Licenses throughout the Year to Qualified

- Organizations (annual)
- Res. #2016-18 Authorizing Tax Assessor to File Tax Appeals (annual)
 - Res. #2016-19 Approving 2016 Contract with Cape Assist (annual \$3,213.)
 - Res. #2016-20 Confirmation of Officials for Joint Insurance Fund and Municipal Excess Liability Fund (annual)
 - Res. #2016-21 Appointment of Municipal Public Defender for the Year 2016 (V. Roach \$11,200)
 - Res. #2016-22 Designation of Public Agency Compliance Officer for Lower Township (M. Vitelli – annual)
 - Res. #2016-23 Authorization for Public Bidding (annual)
 - Res. #2016-24 Appointment of Municipal Engineer for the Year 2016 as a Professional Service Contract Without Public Bidding (Hatch, Mott, MacDonald)
 - Res. #2016-25 Appointment of Bond Counsel for the Year 2016 as a Professional Service Contract Without Public Bidding (Archer & Greiner)
 - Res. #2016-26 Contract Award for Township of Lower Animal Control Services – Year 3 (Shore Animal Control \$51,020)
 - Res. #2016-27 Approval of Annual Contribution to Volunteers in Medicine (\$7,690.)
 - Res. #2016-28 Authorization for Refund of Taxes (3 properties \$2,384.81)
 - Res. #2016-29 Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Sick Time (\$43,574.15 contractual)
 - Res. #2016-30 Appointment of Public Information Officer as a Professional Service Contract without Public Bidding (L.Suit \$10,400)
 - Res. #2016-31 Resolution Restating the Bid Threshold / Quote Limit pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3 (annual)
 - Res. #2016-32 Appointment of Township Labor Solicitor for the year 2016 as a Professional Service Contract Without Public Bidding (W. Blaney not to exceed \$25,000)
 - Res. #2016-33 Appointment of Municipal Prosecutor for the year 2016 (Frank Guaracini, Blaney & Karavan Law Firm \$23,000)
 - Res. #2016-34 Approving Amendment to Inter-Local Service Agreement – Fire Suppression Service (making payable to Wildwood Crest Volunteer Fire Company No. 1)
 - Res. #2016-35 Payment of 2016 Vouchers \$55,505.20
 - Res. #2016-36 Authorizing the Sale of Township of Lower Surplus No Longer Needed for Public Use on GOVDEALS Online Auction Website
 - Res. #2016-37 Payment of 2015 Vouchers - \$165,592.94

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

Regular Agenda

- Res. #2016-24 Appointment of Municipal Engineer for the Year 2016 as a Professional Service Contract Without Public Bidding (Hatch, Mott, MacDonald)

Mayor Beck voiced his opposition to Resolution #2016-24, stating that he believes Hatch Mott MacDonald Engineering Firm is too expensive.

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

Res. #2016-38 Appointment of Class III Member to the Planning Board (Councilman David Perry)

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

Res. #2016-39 Resolution Designating the Lower Township Rescue Squad, Inc. as the Provider of Emergency Medical Services in Lower Township

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

Council Comments

Councilman Conrad looks forward to a wonderful year and making improvements within the township.

Councilman Perry reflected on how the past year has prepared him for the new year. He looks forward to 2016 and intends to be proactive, especially with infrastructure and emergency management.

Councilman Simonsen hopes to continue progress with future improvement projects and thanked all Township employees, LTMUA, Police and Fire Departments and Rescue Squad. He spoke highly of the late Reverend Robert Davis and asked to keep his family in prayer. He also wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Deputy Mayor Clark wished everyone a Happy New Year. He clarified the date of the first February meeting due to a newspaper misprint and encouraged anyone interested in beach access information to attend. He also thanked Chris Kobik, Superintendent of LCMR Schools, for helping to build a great bridge between the schools and the community.

Manager Ridgway echoed compliments to Chris Kobik and thanked him for his help in getting the grant with Comcast. He pointed out a few anticipated changes for the new year, namely the transition of the Public Safety Building and refining the Emergency Management Program.

Call to Public

Sue Danicky, Beach Drive, asked if the Hatch Mott MacDonald presentation will be available for residents to view prior to it being presented to Council. She expressed concern about being given ample opportunity to ask questions about the presentation before it is voted on.

Kathleen Dynan, Tranquility, suggested that a handout be available to outline the presentation.

Ed Butler, Villas, asked for clarification on the date of the Hatch Mott MacDonald presentation. He also inquired about contract negotiations and expressed concern for the taxpayers.

Marilyn Meikle, 224 Mindy Avenue, addressed Councilman Perry to request information be provided to residents prior to the start of the Bayshore Estates/ Roseann Avenue Project.

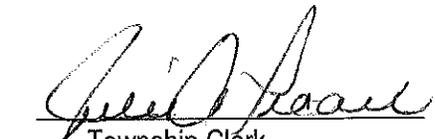
Christopher Kobik, Superintendent of LCMR Schools, spoke briefly about the upcoming Bond Referendum and provided an informational handout regarding the same. Please see attached. He also thanked Council for their kind comments and continued support.

Adjournment

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Councilmember Simonsen, seconded by Deputy Mayor Clark. Motion to adjourn unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.



Mayor



Township Clerk

Approved: 1/20/2016