

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on September 9, 2020 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 via GoToMeeting
Councilmember Kevin Coombs
Councilmember Roland Roy, Jr.
Deputy Mayor David Perry
Mayor Frank Sippel

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

Mayor Sippel thanked the Lower Township Police Department for their service.

Councilmember Roy thanked the Lower Township Police Department, on behalf of Council, for their daily sacrifice and service to the community. He also congratulated Sergeant Majane on his promotion.

Mayor Sippel also recognized Steve Long of the Cape May County Sheriff's Department.

Work Session

Swearing In of Sergeant Michael Majane

Mayor Sippel administered the Oath of Office to Sergeant Michael Majane. Sergeant Majane's mother, Delores Majane, and his daughter, Aubrey Majane, held the Bible. His wife, Erin Fitzpatrick Majane, pinned on his badge. Mayor Sippel spoke briefly about Sergeant Majane's father and the pride he felt for his son.

Consent Agenda

Approval of N.J. State Fireman's Association Membership Application: M. Haibach, Erma Volunteer Fire Co.

Approval of Minutes – August 17, 2020

Res. #2020-235 Payment of Vouchers \$ 1,415,764.90

Res. #2020-236 Bid Acceptance and Contract Award for Jonathan Hoffman Playground Improvements – Mitnick Park (\$384,630.57)

Res. #2020-237 Under 3% Emergency Resolution (N.J.S.A.40A:4-48) (\$60,000)

Res. #2020-238 Approval of Change Order #1 for South State Inc - Final As-Built Quantity Adjustments (\$5,607.24 Decrease)

Res. #2020-239 Annual Renewal of Liquor Licenses for the Year 2020-2021

Res. #2020-240 Authorization for Refund of Taxes

Res. #2020-241 A Resolution of the Township of Lower Canceling Certain Taxes per Agreement/Resolution #2013-271 (\$504.03)

Res. #2020-242 A Resolution Authorizing a Request for Funds from the Lower Township Municipal Utilities Authority (\$160,000)

Res. #2020-243 Approval of Change Order #1 to South State for 2019 Road Program – Phase 2, Section 1 for Arizona Ave, Capital Lane, Republic Lane, Union Lane and Federal Lane (Net increase of \$39,318.60)

Res. #2020-244 Approval of Change Order #1 for DeBlasio & Associates for Additional Professional Engineering Services for the 2019 Road Program; Phase 2, Section 1; Resurfacing Portions of Arizona and States Avenue

Res. #2020-245 Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Sick Time (W.Priole \$44,532.25 into 457 Plan)

Res. #2020-246 Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Sick Time (D.Whitten \$43,207.25 into 457 Plan)

Councilmember Conrad commented on Resolution #2020-243 and #2020-244, pointing out the need to repair damaged roads and storm drains.

On the Consent:

	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	RECUSE	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD			X				
COOMBS			X				
ROY		X	X				
PERRY			X				
SIPPEL	X		X				

Regular Agenda

Res. #2020-247 Authorizing the Payment of Vouchers (L/T Rescue \$10,000)

James Sanford, E. Raleigh Ave., requested vouchers related to this resolution. Clerk Picard agreed to get the information to Mr. Sanford in the morning.

	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	RECUSE	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD					X		
COOMBS		X	X				
ROY			X				
PERRY	X		X				
SIPPEL			X				

Ordinance #2020-15 - An Ordinance Enacting Chapter 96, Public Construction Contracts, of the Code of the Township of Lower, Establishing "Responsible Bidder" Requirements with Regards to Public Construction Projects Awarded Throughout the Township –This is the second reading and Public Hearing. This Ordinance has been posted, published and made available to the public.

Andrew Bulakowski, 510 Hollywood Rd, addressed Council and thanked them for recognizing the need for this ordinance and making the residents a priority. He commended their efforts in unbinding the Township's hands regarding awarding contracts.

	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	RECUSE	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD			X				
COOMBS			X				
ROY		X	X				
PERRY	X		X				
SIPPEL			X				

Manager's Report

Manager Ridgway gave Council an update on several matters including short-term rentals, the pre-construction meetings for the Foster House and Jonathan Hoffman Park, and Open Space funding for Mulligan Field and Rotary Park. He also reported to Council about the outcome of tax appeals and thanked the unsung heroes in the Township, including the cleaning staff, Police and Public Works Departments.

Administrative Reports

Certification of Mailing of Tax Bills
Monthly Reports – Clerk, Construction, Dog, tax, Vital
Personnel Action Report

Council Comments

Councilmember Conrad commended the Planning and Zoning Boards for pressing through their virtual meetings. He also thanked all Township volunteers and departments for doing a great job.

Councilmember Coombs thanked Township employees for their clean-up efforts after the storm. He also commented on the Lower Township Elementary and LCMR Schools transitioning back to school.

Councilmember Roy thanked Manager Ridgway and staff for their efforts in helping to make Lower Township a great community.

Deputy Mayor Perry complimented Township employees and Township Firefighters for a great job.

Manager Ridgway updated Council about progress with beach accesses.

Deputy Mayor Perry communicated appreciation from residents about the Folsom Drive access.

Mayor Sippel announced the following upcoming events: 9-11 virtual ceremony, Food Drive, and Veteran's Day Parade. He also commented on short-term rentals and the outcome of a Zoning Board Application.

Call to the Public

James Sanford, E Raleigh Ave., addressed Council with concern about emergency services to Diamond Beach. He advised Council that a group has been formed called Diamond Beach Citizens Action Group.

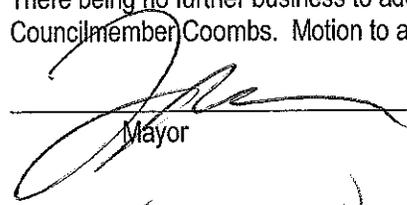
Mayor Sippel agreed to look further into the matter.

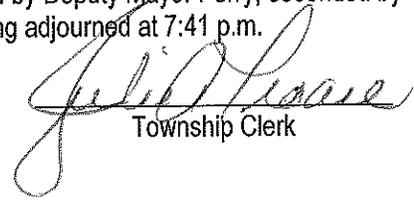
Manager Ridgway agreed to work on a solution but reminded that these things take time.

Mr. Sanford thanked Manager and Council for their time and agreed to assist if needed.

Adjournment

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Deputy Mayor Perry, seconded by Councilmember Coombs. Motion to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.


Mayor


Township Clerk

Approved: 