

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – February 3, 2020

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on February 3, 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  
 Councilmember David Perry  
 Councilmember Roland Roy, Jr.  
 Mayor Frank Sippel

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

### Work Session

Mayor Sippel explained the procedure to fill the vacancy of Deputy Mayor. Clerk Picard read the three names submitted by the Regular Republican Organization. Councilmember Conrad nominated David Perry to fill the vacancy of Deputy Mayor, seconded by Councilmember Roy. Solicitor Stefankiewicz reiterated the procedure. Councilmember Perry accepted the nomination and resigned his position as Councilmember, Ward 2.

Res. # 2020-66 A Resolution Confirming the Appointment to Fill the Vacancy of Deputy Mayor for the Remainder of the Term

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

### Swearing In of New Deputy Mayor

Sherriff Robert Nolan administered the Oath of Office of Deputy Mayor to David Perry, while his wife, Janet Perry held the Bible.

2020 Budget Message/Introduction – Manager Jim Ridgway, CFO Lauren Read, Auditor Leon Costello  
 Manager Ridgway complimented Auditor Leon Costello and CFO Lauren Read for their outstanding work, and thanked all department heads for their role in the proposed budget. He introduced the Proposed 2020 Budget, stating compliance with all tax levy and spending cap laws, and highlighting a zero percent increase. The Budget Hearing is scheduled for March 2, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. A budget summary will be published in the Cape May Star & Wave and copies of the Proposed 2020 Budget are available on the Township website and in the clerk's office at Townhall. Auditor Leon Costello pointed out the date for the Public Hearing and informed that the State will not allow the budget to be adopted until the Governor's Address in mid-March.

Res. #2020-67 2020 Budget Introduction (2020 budget hearing has been scheduled for March 2<sup>nd</sup>)

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

Presentation - Dredge Material Project – Dave Hoppenjans, DRBA Chief Engineer  
 Greg Pawlowski, DRBA Project Engineer

Greg Pawlowski, DRBA Senior Project Engineer, introduced COO, Vince Maconey, and Chief Engineer, Dave Hoppenjans. Mr. Pawlowski explained the details of the dredging operation and assured that permits have been obtained from both State and Federal agencies.

Kathy Sauerzopf, 505 Shunpike Road, congratulated Mayor Sippel and Deputy Mayor Perry on their appointments. Ms. Sauerzopf addressed the DRBA with a list of concerns about the project, specifically the odor, run-off and toxicity of the dredge materials, the location and aesthetics of the dump site and its effect on surrounding properties.

Mr. Pawlowski addressed Ms. Sauerzopf's concerns. A lengthy discussion continued.

Ms. Sauerzopf voiced discontent about the lack of communication to Township officials and thanked Council for the opportunity to express her concerns.

**Consent Agenda**

Approval of Minutes – January 22, 2020

- Res. #2020-68 Payment of Vouchers \$ 826,029.98
- Res. #2020-69 Issuance of 2020 Taxi and Operator Licenses (Aarts & G Garibaldi)
- Res. #2020-70 Issuance of 2020 Limousine and Operator Licenses (High Roller, Cape May Limo & G Garibadi)
- Res. #2020-71 Authorization for Waiver of Planning Board Application Fee for the Lower Township Municipal Utilities Authority
- Res. #2020-72 Authorizing Payment of 2020 County Tax (First and Second Quarters) and 2019 Added Tax (annual)
- Res. #2020-73 Approval of Change Order #1 to Resolution #2019-321; Approving Additional Professional Services for the Construction Phase of the Beach Access Improvements Piling Installation (Mott MacDonald \$8,400)
- Res. #2020-74 Confirmation of Officials for Joint Insurance Fund and Municipal Excess Liability Fund (annual)
- Res. #2020-75 Acceptance and Contract Award for Beach Access Decks and Stair Piling Installation (Walters Marine Construction \$39,400)
- Res. #2020-76 Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Sick Time (K.Lewis \$2,388.92)
- Res. #2020-77 Authorizing the Payout of Terminal Leave (H.Bailey \$57,122.00)
- Res. #2020-78 Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Sick Time (M.Plenn \$17,416.01 to Def Comp)
- Res. #2020-79 Approval of 2020 Rotary Towing Licenses (Cape May Exxon, John's Auto Body, Cape Harbor, Off Shore Getty & Eddies Auto - Annual approval)

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

**Regular Agenda**

Mayor Sippel commented in favor of the resolution as a strong supporter of the Second Amendment.

Sherriff Robert Nolan thanked Council for their response to the community by supporting this resolution.

Mayor Sippel pointed out the letters received from the community requesting this resolution.

- Res. #2020-80 A Resolution Declaring the Township of Lower a Second Amendment/Lawful Gun Owner Sanctuary

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

DRBA discussion continued

Howard Carl, Villas, asked for an update on the status of beach restoration.

Councilmember Conrad explained that the Township is awaiting a response from the Army Corp of Engineers.

Manager Ridgway explained why the Township did not adopt the new FEMA flood maps.

Tom Nelson, Erma, addressed the DRBA about their choice location for dumping the dredge materials. Dave Hoppenjans, DRBA, explained. A brief exchange ensued.

Bill Greenfield, Villas, inquired about city water in the surrounding area. Councilmember Conrad responded.

Cheryl Zebrowski, 504 Shunpike Road, expressed discontent with the negative impact on her neighborhood and the DRBA's failure to notify the Township.

Manager Ridgway commented about sewer and water in that area.

Greg Pawlowski, DRBA, informed about the County's request to isolate the truck route.

Kevin O'Brien, Erma, addressed the DRBA about enforcement of the trucking statute.

Greg Pawlowski communicated the DRBA's plan for an upcoming project on Sandman Boulevard and Beach Drive.

#### **Manager's Report**

Manager Ridgway shared flattering news from the Governor's office regarding maintenance of Township parks and gave a brief update on the Roseann Avenue project.

#### **Council Comments**

Councilmember Conrad congratulated Deputy Mayor Perry on his appointment.

Councilmember Roy congratulated Deputy Mayor Perry.

Deputy Mayor Perry thanked the Lower Township Regular Republican Organization and fellow Councilmembers for their support and anticipates many future accomplishments for the Township. He also thanked all Township employees, volunteers and fire fighters, as well as his wife and family for their support.

Mayor Sippel thanked Manager Ridgway and Township employees for their hard work on the budget.

#### **Call to the Public**

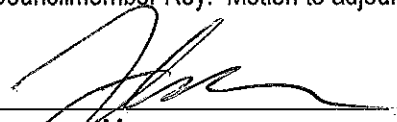
James Sanford, Diamond Beach, requested Council's assistance with a situation regarding an ICONA property. Manager Ridgway agreed to assist with the situation.

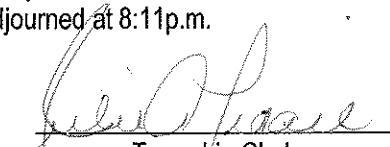
Mr. Sanford voiced concern about the absence of dune protection in areas of Diamond Beach.

Manager Ridgway addressed Mr. Sanford's concerns.

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Councilmember Conrad, seconded by Councilmember Roy. Motion to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:11p.m.

  
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Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Township Clerk

Approved: Feb 19, 2020