

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – July 18, 2016**

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on July 18, 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

Mayor Beck read a Proclamation on behalf of Council supporting our police and encouraging all Lower Township residents to salute the service of Law Enforcement. He recognized and applauded Special Officer Eric Campbell and Special Officer Austin Parker for their service and vowed appreciation, support and prayers for all our officers.

**Consent Agenda**

- Approval of Minutes July 6, 2016 and Special Council Meeting July 13, 2016
- Res. #2016-206 Payment of Vouchers \$493,332.38
- Res. #2016-207 2016 Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Statewide Labor Day Crackdown Grant (\$5,000 Aug 19 thru Sept 5, 2016)
- Res. #2016-208 Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87, Chapter 159 (Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over \$5,000)
- Res. #2016-209 Authorizing the Trade-In of Forty-Nine (49) Glock Model 21 Firearms No Longer Needed by the Lower Township Police Department As Per Exhibit A (trade-in value of \$260.00 per weapon)
- Res. #2016-210 Amending Resolution #2016-25 To Include Bond Counsel Services Connected to 2016 Bond Sale (Archer & Greiner not to exceed \$25,000)
- Res. #2016-211 Amending Resolution #2016-04 To Include Auditor Services Connected to 2016 Bond Sale (Ford Scott & Associates not to exceed \$15,000)
- Res. #2016-212 Authorizing the Sale of Township of Lower Surplus No Longer Needed for Public Use on Govdeals Online Auction Website
- Res. #2016-213 Authorization for South Jersey Power Cooperative Natural Gas Supply Service Application (County Co-op)

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

**Regular Agenda**

- Res. #2016-214 Resolution Determining the Form and Other Details of the Offering of \$4,520,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2016 of the Township of Lower, in the County of Cape May, State of New Jersey and Providing for the Sale of Such Bonds

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

Deputy Mayor Clark explained the purpose of the Delaware Bayshore Council and requested the opportunity to carry it forward and return with a report in the fall. Mayor Beck thanked Deputy Mayor Clark for his efforts with this initiative and stated his intention to vacate his seat at the end of December when his Mayoral term expires. Councilman Perry voiced favor with the Delaware Bayshore Council but advised against making these appointments until the new Council takes office in January. Mayor Beck reminded that Deputy Mayor Clark is a founding member. Councilman Conrad recommended tabling the resolution until the next Council meeting. A brief discussion ensued. Motion to table moved by Councilman Simonsen, seconded by Councilman Perry.

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

**Administrative Reports**

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

**Council Comments**

Councilman Conrad commented about the heat and reminded that there are cooling stations throughout the Township for anyone in need. He also announced the arrival of his new granddaughter.

Councilman Perry thanked the Department of Public Works for their continued efforts cleaning up storm debris. He also applauded the Lower Township Police Department and vowed his support.

Councilman Simonsen echoed the comments of Councilman Perry regarding the Department of Public Works and informed that a Special Meeting was held to pass an emergency resolution to get help with clean up and removal. He also encouraged the community to rally together to support our police.

Deputy Mayor Clark – no comments

Mayor Beck spoke briefly about the concert series and announced the Christmas in July event at the Cape May Lighthouse and the Coombs/ Douglass Bayfront Run.

Councilman Simonsen announced National Night Out, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the Ferry Terminal.

**Call to Public**

**Closed Session**

Res. #2016-216

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. **CONTRACT NEGOTIATION UPDATE**

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

Council adjourned to Closed Session at 7:24 p.m.  
 Council returned to Open Session at 7:37 p.m.

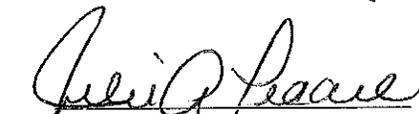
Deputy Mayor Clark inquired about the potential cost to the Township with the additional paragraph allowing the manager to make market adjustments with Council approval. Manager Ridgway assured that the savings this year alone with the transition of court personnel will cover the entire change. He said that stipends were given in the 2006 and 2009 contracts without the provision in the MOU. He also communicated that circumstances this year caused additional duties. Deputy Mayor Clark argued that what took place in prior contracts was due to members temporarily taking on additional tasks and had to be approved by Council. Manager Ridgway argued that it did not happen that way. Councilman Simonsen questioned how the previous manager gave raises without Council's approval, outside of the contract. A lengthy disagreement ensued about the language in prior contracts and the cost of putting it back into this contract. Mayor Beck defended the position that this contract would be unfair to the other unions. Manager Ridgway reiterated the question of how three employees received raises last year. Councilman Simonsen reminded that the last manager gave out stipends without Council's approval. Motion to approve Resolution #2016-217 moved by Councilmember Simonsen. Arguments continued. Mayor Beck stated that this Council is sending a message to other employees that their work doesn't matter. Councilman Simonsen corrected Mayor Beck and stated that the contract is 2 percent. Deputy Mayor Clark questioned the criteria which will be used for a raise. Manager Ridgway reminded, as he explained in closed session, that each case will be different. He also confirmed, at the inquiry of Deputy Mayor Clark, that a market analysis has been performed. Mayor Beck questioned how this contract lines up with the CPI. Labor Attorney Blaney explained that of the municipalities that he represents, 2 percent is the cap. Mayor Beck questioned again what determines when someone gets a raise. Manager Ridgway pointed out that salary increases are causing insurance premium costs to go up. Discussion ended in disagreement.

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

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Councilmember Simonsen, seconded by Councilmember Conrad. Motion to adjourn unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mayor

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

Approved: August 1, 2016