

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – JUNE 1, 2015

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on June 1, 2015 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, Rob Belasco, Township Solicitor and Karen Fournier, Deputy Township Clerk

Lt. Martin Biersbach – Nixle System – Manager Jim Ridgway

Lieutenant Martin Biersbach introduced the Nixle system, a new communication service used by other police departments in Cape May County. It has two basic public routes: Nixle dial (for the home telephone group), which is a reverse 911 for emergency alert messages only. The other route is Nixle wire (for the group that registers with Nixle). They will receive advisory and community messages in addition to emergency alert messages. He informed of other important features available with the Nixle system and encouraged everyone to sign up. In addition, he gave a quick word about the Stop, Walk and Talk Program and fielded questions from the public regarding the Nixle System. Councilmember Conrad stressed the importance of registering with the Nixle System.

Lois Grimes - Coast Guard Aux Flotilla 86

Lois Grimes gave a presentation about the four components of boating safety: Wearing a lifejacket, taking a Safe Boating Class, filing a float plan, and having a free safety check of your vessel. She encouraged all boaters to follow these guidelines and provided brochures with additional information. She also informed that the charge for the safe boating class is \$45.

Work Session

Steve Delmonte - Update on Escape the Cape Triathlon – Councilman Tom Conrad

Councilmember Conrad invited Steve Delmonte to discuss the upcoming triathlon and its anticipated effect on the Township. Manager Ridgway introduced Steve Delmonte of Delmo Sports and commended his passion and accomplishments. Steve Delmonte gave a recap of last year's triathlon event, including awards and special recognitions and the positive economic impact it had on the community. He spoke with enthusiasm about this year's event and advised of road closures. He expressed gratitude to the Township for their cooperation and reminded that the event will cost nothing to the taxpayer.

Mayor Beck commended Mr. Delmonte for his efforts and thanked him for the success he has brought to the Township. Councilmember Conrad inquired about the best location for spectators.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes	May 18, 2015
Res. #2015-169	Payment of Vouchers \$606,671.70
Res. #2015-170	A Resolution Requesting Reduction of Performance Guarantee for Lighthouse Pointe Marina Condo Association of Cape May, Inc. (\$7,950. Reduction)
Res. #2015-171	A Resolution Authorizing and Approving A Shared Service Agreement Between the Township of Lower and the County of Cape May for Law Enforcement Coverage at a Township Event (Escape the Cape triathlon)
Res. #2015-172	A Resolution Authorizing and Approving A Shared Service Agreement Between the Township of Lower and the Township of Middle – "Middle and Lower Township Bike path Connector"

Res. #2015-173
 Res. #2015-174

Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Compensatory Time (M.lames \$1,039.45)
 Bid Rejection for HVAC Service Agreement for Various Locations in Lower Township
 (Twp abandoned the project)

Res. #2015-175
 Res. #2015-176

Renewal of 2015 Campground Licenses (Cold Spring/Holly Shores)
 Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87, Chapter 159 (Clean
 Communities \$79,302.73)

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

Regular Agenda

Res. #2015-177 Payment of Vouchers \$35,000 (L/T Rescue)

Kathleen Dynan, Tranquility, asked if this resolution is for services already performed.

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

Res. #2015-178 Authorization for Clothing Allowance (5 detectives@ \$900 each Total \$4,500.)

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

Council Comments

Councilmember Conrad thanked supporters of Marvin Hume's Memorial Day Flag Ceremony. He spoke about the success of Relay for Life, the impact it had on his scouts, and thanked Buffy and Bruce Miller and Kirby Read for their efforts. He also reminded of traffic changes on June 14th for the triathlon.

Councilmember Perry thanked Manager Ridgway, Gary Douglass and the Public Works Department for their involvement in resolving the beach access issues on Beach Drive.

Councilmember Simonsen gave an update on the Exit 0 interchange and thanked the Department of Transportation and Turnpike Authority for their cooperation with the Township. He spoke about the impact of the Relay for Life event and thanked community members, organizers, volunteers and participants.

Deputy Mayor Clark spoke about the impact of the FEMA flood maps. He announced the conception of the Delaware Bayshore Council, consisting of representatives from all Bay Shore communities, and their objective to gain attention and assistance from legislature for Bay Shore replenishment. He also talked about the completion of renovations at the Fishing Creek School and the plan for community events including an Art Exhibit and Plant Exchange on June 13th.

John Louderback, Chairman of Friends of Fishing Creek School, encouraged people to bring photos of their gardens as well as plants, seeds, and other garden ideas to the Art Exhibit and Plant Exchange.

Deputy Mayor Clark also communicated the interest from the Elementary School Superintendent in using the facility for Early Childhood Education Programs and After School Reading.

Deputy Mayor Clark discussed Council's decision to table the proposed changes to the beach ordinance and voiced his disappointment with the planning of the Special Meeting. He expressed an interest in better enforcement of the existing beach rules and encouraged Council to get people involved in discussing the matter further.

Mayor Beck expressed discontent with holding a Special Meeting on the beach ordinance and voiced objection to the process. He also announced the following: Pool passes are now on sale at the Recreation Department, Community Day and Bike Auction, Escape the Cape Triathlon, Independence Day Festival and Fireworks, and the Summer Concert Series.

Call to Public

Kathleen Dynan, Tranquility, questioned moving forward with implementing a policy to mandate background checks for Council appointees. She also inquired about moving forward with the Public Safety Building.

Helen Thompson, Villas, voiced opposition to the Special Meeting for the beach ordinance. She also made reference to her visit from two police officers.

Janet Pitts, Villas, voiced displeasure with the Special Meeting for the beach ordinance. She expressed discontent with the role of the Recreation Advisory Board (RAB).

Steve Morey, member of the RAB, rebutted the comments made about the RAB and argued in favor of implementing beach rules for public safety.

Bill Greenfield, Villas, asked what changes are proposed with the beach ordinance. He also expressed an interest in having the Special Meeting on a Saturday and having it better publicized.

Ed Butler, Villas, commented about the revised beach ordinance being advertised and available to the public. He also voiced pleasure in hearing progress with the fight against FEMA.

Joe Link, Townbank, expressed gratitude toward Gary Douglass and the Department of Public Works, as well as Manager Ridgway for getting his road paved. He also thanked Councilmembers Simonsen, Conrad and Perry for changing government.

Betty Somers, Villas, asked what areas of the bay will be impacted by the new beach ordinance. She expressed interest in moving the public safety building to Villas and suggested that Council address the heckling during the meetings.

Kathleen Dynan, Tranquility, made a suggestion to get information to the public that does not have access to a computer.

Helen Thompson, Villas, made a comment about the map that Councilmember Conrad referred to. She also disapproved of comments that were made regarding attending the Special Meeting.

Mary Reader, Villas, commented about the deterioration of civility during the meeting.

Bill Greenfield, Villas, suggested that the map of Township beaches be blown up or put on the website. He also asked if the beach ordinance will impact the triathlon and expressed discontent with the Special Meeting.

Adjournment

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



Mayor



Township Clerk

Approved: 6-15-2015