

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – March 19, 2018

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on March 19, 2018 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.
- Deputy Mayor Frank Sippel
- Mayor Erik Simonsen

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

Mayor Simonsen read a proclamation honoring Dr. Carl James Records, M.D. on the occasion of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Work Session**

**2018 Budget Hearing** - Manager Jim Ridgway, CFO Lauren Read, Auditor Leon Costello

Manager Ridgway reminded that the introduced budget is at a zero percent increase and advised that questions be directed to Auditor Leon Costello.

Mayor Simonsen reflected on a productive 2017 and expressed gratitude to all Township employees and professionals for making this budget possible.

Councilmember Conrad thanked Lauren Read and all department heads for their part in the budget.

Councilmember Perry thanked all parties for their efforts with the budget.

Councilmember Roy echoed the above sentiments.

Deputy Mayor Sippel voiced appreciation for everyone's hard work on the budget.

Lauren Read, CFO, acknowledged the team efforts and thanked everyone involved in the budget.

Manager Ridgway asked Auditor Costello to comment on the surplus.

Auditor Leon Costello gave a summary of the surplus that reflects the Township's sound financial condition.

**Call to the Public**

Robert Rizzo, Mickel's Run, inquired about the increase in assessments.

Auditor Costello provided the specifics including the increased assessments and the total assessments.

Mike Rosenberg, 100 Coral Road, asked about the actual surplus amount.

Auditor Costello provided the surplus amount as well as the amount used to fund the 2018 budget.

Res. #2018-112                      Adoption of 2018 Budget

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

Auditor Costello also informed that the State Aid amount did not change from last year.

**Consent Agenda**

Approval of Minutes                      March 5, 2018 & March 9, 2018

Approval of Closed Session Minutes      March 5, 2018

Res. #2018-113                      Payment of Vouchers \$ 978,220.80

Res. #2018-114                      Approval of Holy Spirit Lutheran Church's Request to Conduct a Church Bazaar (6/9/18)

- Res. #2018-115 A Resolution Awarding A Professional Service Contract Without Public Bidding to Rutala Associates Consulting Services for Grants Consulting Services (\$140.00 per hour not to exceed \$10,000)
- Res. #2018-116 Issuance of Ice Cream Peddling and Ice Cream License for the year 2018 (Jim's Mr. Softee)
- Res. #2018-117 Authorization for Refund of Taxes (3 properties \$4,476.51)
- Res. #2018-118 Approval of Change Order #1 for Additional Work (Beach Drive Pavement Extension) for the Beach Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project (Mott MacDonald \$4,250)
- Res. #2018-119 Capital Budget Amendment
- Res. #2018-120 A Resolution Requesting Reduction of a Performance Guarantee for South Jersey Marina, Block 824.02; Lot 19 Escrow #P16-12-03 (\$16,989.)
- Res. #2018-121 Amending Resolution #2018-64; Correcting Appropriation Line to be Charged for Services (Landscaping)
- Res. #2018-122 Amending Resolution #2018-65; Correcting Appropriation Line to be Charged for Services (Fertilization) +
- Res. #2018-123 Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Compensatory Time (R.Fessler \$3,682.19)
- Res. #2018-124 Resolution for Self-Examination of Budget
- Ordinance #2018-06 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance #2013-01; Police Department, of the Code of the Township of Lower – 1975, As Amended, Amending Article 1, Subsection 90-1 – This is the first reading of this Ordinance. The second reading and public hearing of this Ordinance has been scheduled for Monday, April 9, 2018

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

**Regular Agenda**

**Ordinance #2018-03** – An Ordinance Revising and Restating Article 1 of Chapter 178, Beaches of the Code of the Township of Lower. This is the second reading and public hearing for this Ordinance. This ordinance has been published, posted and made available to the public.

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

**Ordinance #2018-04** – Amending Article IV Subsection 475-14 of Chapter 475; Parks and Recreation Areas of the Code of the Township of Lower – to Amend The Fee Schedule. This is the second reading and public hearing for this Ordinance. This ordinance has been published, posted and made available to the public

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

**Ordinance #2018-05** – Bond Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Bond Ordinance #2015-10 Finally Adopted by the Township Council on October 19, 2015 as Previously Amended and Supplemented, to Increase the Appropriation Therein by \$4,200,000 and to Increase the Authorization of Bonds or Notes Therein by \$3,990,000 to Finance Part of the Additional Costs Thereof. This is the second reading and public hearing for this Ordinance. This ordinance has been published, posted and made available to the public

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

**Manager's Report**

Manager Ridgway gave a report on topics including: An opportunity for Federal Tax relief; Transporting dredge materials through the Township; A program offered by Atlantic City Electric to assist with electric bills; The Capital Plan and Engineer's Roadway Evaluation Report; and Police Appreciation Month.

**Engineer's Report**

Mark Sray, Mott MacDonald, gave an update on current projects including: Roseann Avenue Roadway and Utility Improvements, Beach Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvements, NJDOT Municipal Aid Application, and the Roadway Evaluation Report.

Deputy Mayor Sippel inquired about the groundwater sampling results.

Mr. Sray informed of the results of the raw sampling.

Deputy Mayor Sippel asked about the reconstruction of Georgia, Alabama and Main Street.

Manager Ridgway indicated that he will be seeking direction regarding this matter.

**Administrative Reports**

Monthly Report – Clerk, Construction, Dog, Police, Tax, Treasurer, Vital Statistics  
Personnel Action Report

**Council Comments**

Councilmember Conrad shared some of his observations about his Ward, he congratulated Eagle Scout, Josh Kampmeier, he wished his wife a happy anniversary, and informed of the Township's intent for additional beach access improvements.

Councilmember Perry gave an update on the beach access improvements, the Roseann Avenue Project and the Beach Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvements Project. He asked Manager Ridgway to give an update on the Open Space Grant.

Manager Ridgway announced the County's agreement to provide Open Space funding up to \$993,000 for the Beach Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project, and thanked the County Freeholders for their support.

Councilmember Perry reminded that the efforts on this project resulted in a huge savings to the taxpayers.

Manager Ridgway gave a brief report of the Public Safety Building including the lease agreement and anticipated occupancy.

Mayor Simonsen informed about the efforts with NJ Transit to provide public transportation to the Cape May County Airport.

Councilmember Roy announced the following upcoming events: Beach Cleanup scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup>, Easter Egg Hunt on March 24<sup>th</sup>, and Indoor Yard Sale at LCMR on March 24<sup>th</sup> to benefit the After Prom.

Deputy Mayor Sippel spoke briefly about the Court Advocate, to begin on April 10<sup>th</sup>, and voiced appreciation for the Police Department.

Mayor Simonsen thanked the organizations who participated in providing a Court Advocate. He gave an update on road repairs and stressed the importance of shared services. He commented on Township sports registrations and announced Opening Day for Little League, April 14<sup>th</sup>. He reminded the next Council meeting will be Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Call to the Public**

Judy Gillis asked about the date for beach cleanup. Councilmember Roy responded.

Ray Flickinger, Washington Blvd, thanked the Township and the County for their efforts with the Open Space Grant to help fund the Beach Drive Project.

Sally Yerk, Roseann Ave, inquired about the timeframe for the Roseann Avenue Project.  
Mark Sray informed that the time frame is one year from start to finish.

Eileen Kreis, Villas, thanked LCMR for a great performance of Shrek.

Mayor Simonsen reminded that April is Autism Awareness month.

**Closed Session**

Res. #2018-125

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. **Possible Professional Service; Attorney/Client Privilege**

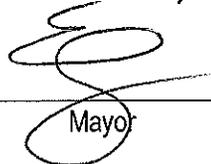
	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD			X			
PERRY	X		X			
ROY		X	X			
SIPPEL			X			
SIMONSEN			X			

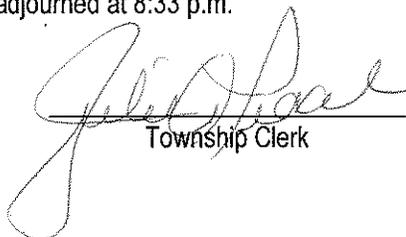
Council adjourned to Closed Session at approximately 7:42 p.m.

Council returned to Open Session at approximately 8:32 p.m.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Councilmember Roy, seconded by Councilmember Perry. Motion to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

  
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Mayor

  
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Township Clerk

Approved: 4/9/2018