

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – October 17, 2016

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on October 17, 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

Work Session

Lower Township Summer Promotion Video – Manager Jim Ridgway

Manager Ridgway presented three video clips put together by the Coast Radio Station showcasing Lower Township's Concert Series, Escape the Cape Triathlon, and Independence Day Festival and Fireworks.

Best Practices Discussion - Fire Districts/Authorities

Chief Financial Officer, Lauren Read, advised Council of the municipal requirement to complete and submit the Best Practices Worksheet to the Division of Local Government Services (DLGS). She stated the reason the survey is used and revealed the Township's score of 87, making us eligible to receive the full final payment of state aid. Mayor Beck voiced discontent with question #9 regarding municipal utilities and disagreed that the separate authority (MUA) is the most efficient alternative. Councilman Simonsen and Councilman Conrad disagreed with Mayor Beck and argued that the MUA is highly efficient. Manager Ridgway said he believes the question refers to maintaining an open dialog with the authority. Mayor Beck and Manager Ridgway had a brief exchange offering differing opinions. Councilman Perry indicated that in 2014 the voters made the decision about which direction to go and he agrees that the MUA is doing a great job. Deputy Mayor Clark made reference to the opinions of state officials and believes that making the MUA a township department is a good idea. Councilman Simonsen communicated that the people of Lower Township agree that our MUA is the finest run utilities authority in the state compared with others that have been departmentalized. Councilman Perry stated that he voted in accord with the opinions of his constituents. Deputy Mayor Clark encouraged Council to look for ways to save the Township money for the good of the people.

Consent Agenda

John Skowronski, 607 Arctic Avenue, inquired about Resolution #2016-285. Clerk Picard explained.

Approval of Minutes	October 3, 2016
Res. #2016-284	Payment of Vouchers \$191,482.79
Res. #2016-285	Authorization to Cancel Grant Balances (\$12,333.12)
Res. #2016-286	Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to N.J.S.A.40a:4-87, Chapter 159 (JIF Operational Safety Award)
Res. #2016-287	Authorization: Determination of Municipal Service Fee for 2017 (\$120. per manufactured home)
Res. #2016-288	Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to N.J.S.A.40a:4-87, Chapter 159 (Bulletproof Vest \$3,415.50)
Res. #2016-289	Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to N.J.S.A.40a:4-87, Chapter 159 (Body Armor \$4,189.14)
Res. #2016-290	A Resolution Supporting the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce's Opposition to Seismic Testing in the Atlantic Ocean
Res. #2016-291	Bid acceptance and award of Seven (7) Perkins Folding Grabber Arm Lifter Units or Equivalent (H A DeHart & Son \$38,920.)
Res. #2016-292	A Resolution Amending the Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual of Lower Township (adding Health Insurance Waiver language)

Res. #2016-293

A Resolution Awarding A Bid to Provide Fireworks for the year 2017 with an Option for 2018 and 2019 Including the Barge to S. Vitale Pyrotecnico Industries, Inc. (\$45,000 including Barge 2017)

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

Regular Agenda

Ordinance # 2016-06

Salary and Benefit Ordinance for the Township of Lower – 2016 - Required Annually. This is the second reading and public hearing of this Ordinance. This Ordinance has been Posted, Published and made available to the public.

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

Res. #2016-294

Certification of Best Practices Inventory

Councilman Conrad thanked the Treasurer, Finance Office, Clerk's Office and everyone involved for a job well done.

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

Res. #2016-295

Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Compensatory Time (M. Perry \$7,416.78)

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

Administrative Reports

Monthly Reports - Clerk, Construction, Dog, Tax Collector, Vital Statistics

Council Comments

Councilman Conrad made favorable comments about the Pumpkin Festival, thanking the Recreation Department, Lower Township Rotary and Historic Cold Spring Village. He spoke about his first meeting with the Delaware Bayshore Council and the potential for future accomplishments and thanked Deputy Mayor Clark for being instrumental with the attendance. He also spoke about the HMFA meeting and thanked the MUA for helping residents with different payment options for water hookups.

Councilman Perry gave an update on the beach access project.
Manager Ridgway informed that the beach access project will begin this week.
Councilman Perry also informed that a new flag pole has been ordered for Douglass Park.

Manager Ridgway gave an update about meeting with Congressman LoBiondo's team to discuss FEMA issues.

Councilman Simonsen gave an update concerning erosion under the Parkway Bridge, south of the Canal. He said he is looking into the north side of the Canal as well. He also spoke about the HMFA meeting and reminded anyone needing information to contact the MUA. He thanked the Lower Township Chamber of Commerce and congratulated the new officers.

Deputy Mayor Clark – no comments

Mayor Beck announced the following upcoming events: Genesis Health Fair, LCMR High School Alumni Tailgate Party followed by the Homecoming Football Game, Lower Township Spooktacular and Trick-or-Treat.

Call to Public

Fred Long, Cold Spring, thanked Council for Resolution #2016-290, opposing seismic testing in the Atlantic Ocean. He stressed the importance of the timing and requested that a copy of the resolution be sent to Congressman LoBiondo, Senator Booker and Senator Menendez.

Closed Session

Res. #2016-296

A 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. Collective Negotiation Update

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

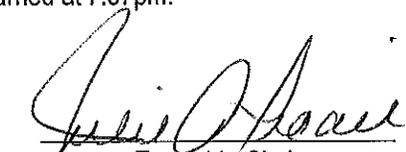
Council adjourned to closed session at 7:45pm.

Council returned to open session at 7:57pm.

Adjournment

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Councilmember Simonsen, seconded by Councilmember Perry. Motion to adjourn unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:57pm.


Mayor


Township Clerk

Approved: *Nov 7, 2016*