

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – October 19, 2015

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on October 19, 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, William Blaney, Acting Township Solicitor and Karen Fournier, Deputy Township Clerk

Update on Lifesaving Station - Kevin Maloney

Mayor Beck introduced Kevin Maloney, President of the Cape May Maritime Museum and Education Center.

Mr. Maloney gave an update on two projects initiated by the Maritime Museum: The reconstruction of an 1876 Life Saving Station at the Old Steamboat Landing Site and the restoration of the U.S. Coast Guard Motor Life Boat CG36538. He offered the history behind the project and showed a trailer of the soon to be released Disney movie "The Finest Hours", based on a true story of the Coast Guard's dramatic rescue. He also thanked Council for their continued support and credited the many community volunteers for their time and donations.

Work Session

Bond Ordinance Discussion – Manager Ridgway, Councilman Perry, QPA Vitelli

Manager Ridgway communicated his instruction to Township QPA, Margaret Vitelli, to obtain quotes for the Roseann Avenue project from the list of pre-qualified vendors, as requested by the majority of Council after the last meeting. QPA Vitelli informed that all four vendors declined the offer to submit a proposal for this project. She read each vendor response aloud, and fielded questions from Mayor Beck and Deputy Mayor Clark regarding the request for proposals (RFPs). Discussion arose regarding obtaining quotes for the previously proposed police building. Councilman Perry proceeded to present a power point outlining the timeline of events pertaining to the Roseanne Avenue and Bayshore Estates Project (see timeline attached).

Councilman Perry motioned to move Ordinance #2015-10 up to precede the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Beck and Deputy Mayor Clark questioned why the project was not put out to bid sooner. Arguments ensued. Manager Ridgway and Councilman Perry reminded that the bond ordinance is a separate issue from the hiring of an engineer. Upon request from Councilman Simonsen, QPA Vitelli reiterated the process and the vendor responses to the RFPs. Mayor Beck questioned the deadline. QPA Vitelli fielded additional questions from Council. Discussion ensued about moving forward with the bond under the agreement to get proposals in two weeks.

Councilman Simonsen seconded the motion to move Ordinance #2015-10 up to precede the Consent Agenda.

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

Mayor Beck motioned to get engineering cost quotes on the project from the same four pre-qualified engineering firms and have them ready for the next meeting. Deputy Mayor Clark seconded the motion.

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

Ord #2015-10

Bond Ordinance Providing for Drainage and Storm water Management Improvements and Associated Road Work to Roseann Avenue and Bayshore Estates By and In the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey; Appropriating \$4,750,000 Therefore and Authorizing the Issuance of \$4,520,000 Bonds or Notes of the Township to Finance Part of the Costs Thereof – This is the second reading and public hearing on this Ordinance. This Ordinance has been published, posted and made available to the public.

Councilman Conrad motioned to open Public Comment on this bond ordinance, seconded by Councilman Perry.

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

Sally Yerk, Roseanne Avenue, expressed her frustration with the delay of the project and begged Council to put their differences aside.

Ed Sheretta, 306 Roseanne Avenue, expressed his concern about politics interfering with progress and encouraged Council to commit to getting the project done.

John McNulty, Suzanne Avenue, commented on the flooding problem and his desire to see the project move forward. He voiced frustration as a vendor with the bidding process, his dealing with Manager Ridgway, and his concern with favoritism in the township. He also thanked Councilman Perry for his initiative with this project. Manager Ridgway disagreed with Mr. McNulty. A brief exchange followed.

Nick Kaltnecker, Suzanne Avenue, informed of his background in large project implementations and offered his suggestion to hold a bidder's conference. Mayor Beck agreed and suggested that Council consider offering the bidders more time. Council discussion ensued.

Motion to close Public Comment made by Councilman Conrad; seconded by Deputy Mayor Clark.

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

Motion to Adopt Ordinance #2015-10

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

Consent Agenda

- Approval of Minutes October 5, 2015
- Res. #2015-298 Payment of Vouchers \$ 353,211.05
- Res. #2015-299 Authorization for Refund of Taxes (3 properties \$1,832.60)
- Res. #2015-300 Award of an Extraordinary Unspecified Service Without Public Bidding To Wizards Festival of Fun for Entertainment at Ferry Merry Christmas Event December 20, 2015 (\$4,985)
- Res. #2015-301 Contract Award for Telecommunication Services for Township of Lower Facilities
- Res. #2015-302 Approval of Change Order #1 For ADA Upgrades & Playground Improvements at the Recreation Center (additional playground equipment \$28,350 – grant money)
- Res. #2015-303 Resolution Supporting the Annual Greater Cape May Elks/Tom Beheler Youth Basketball Tournament
- Res. #2015-304 A Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of a Fryer to the Lower Township Elks (USCG transferred to Township)
- Res. #2015-305 Appointment of Elizabeth Greenway as Registrar of Vital Statistics
- Res. #2015-306 Resolution Authorizing Salary Increases for Class II Officers (effective 1/1/2016)
- Res. #2015-307 Appointment of Jennifer Dowe as Community Rating System Coordinator

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

Regular Agenda

Ord #2015-11

An Ordinance of the Township of Lower Vacating a Portion of Oak and Pine Avenues - This is the second reading and public hearing of 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	
SIMONSEN			X			
CLARK	X		X			
BECK			X			

Administrative Reports

Monthly Reports – Clerk, Construction, Dog, Vital, Tax
Finance Quarterly Report

Council Comments

Councilman Conrad congratulated new officers of the Historic Preservation Committee; he gave an update on the Nathaniel Foster House, and commented on the success of the Pumpkin Festival at Historic Cold Spring Village. He also announced that Relay for Life is returning to Lower Township next year.

Councilman Perry thanked the residents of Bayshore Estates for their attendance and he looks forward to moving ahead on the project.

Councilman Simonsen announced that the Exit Zero Interchange construction has begun and efforts to have the road widened are still in progress.

Deputy Mayor Clark thanked Councilman Perry for his initiative with the Roseann Avenue and Bayshore Estates Project. He gave an update on the dog park idea at the Cape May County Airport and reported on the efforts for beach replenishment along the shoreline.

Mayor Beck announced the following upcoming events: Haunted Trails, Trick or Treat, and Election Day. He also reminded to set clocks back on November 1st.

Call to Public

Kathy Sauerzopf, 505 Shunpike Road, voiced concern about noise, drunkenness and speeding that resulted from the wine festival.

Betty Somers, Atlantic Avenue, expressed concern about construction plans for her neighboring property. She also voiced disapproval with Councilman Conrad's vote pertaining to the Rescue Squad.

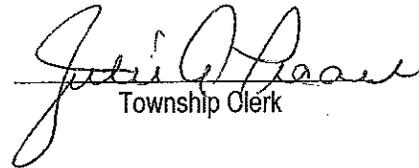
Jackie Henderson, 2 Ringneck Court, reminded residents about LTMUA hydrant flushing.

Adjournment

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Councilman Conrad, seconded by Councilman Simonsen. Motion to adjourn unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



Mayor



Township Clerk

Approved: 11-2-15

DRAINAGE &
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT
IMPROVEMENTS FOR
ROSEANNE AVENUE &
BAYSHORE ESTATES

A TIMELINE OF EVENTS

January 5, 2009: Mayor Michael Beck & Council vote to name Hatch Mott McDonald (HMM) as the Township Engineer.

June, 2009: HMM first meets with Township officials to discuss the flooding issues on and around Roseann Avenue.

July 2010: HMM provides budgetary estimates to the Township for a pump station and outfall for Roseann Avenue.

April 2011: HMM worked with USACE, NJDEP and CMC Mosquito Control Department to clean out ditches in Cox Hall Creek where Roseann Avenue outfall discharges.

September, 2011: Mayor Beck and Council approve HMM to begin an underwater investigation of the trunk line in Roseann Avenue.

June 4, 2012: HMM presented the findings of the investigation to Mayor Beck and Council.

September 2012: With the approval of Mayor Beck and Council, and in coordination with Lower Township Public Works, HMM began mapping the stormwater systems.

January 2, 2013: Mayor Beck, Deputy Mayor Clark and Councilman Neville are sworn into office and take control of Council. HMM is then instructed to cease all work on this project even though there is no vote of Council to authorize this instruction.

January, 2015: Councilmen Perry, Conrad and Simonsen are sworn into office and the Republicans are the majority on Council. They immediately begin taking steps to revitalize this project.

May 4, 2015: HMM gives a presentation to Council on the project and proposes to complete the work that was stopped in January, 2013. Mayor Beck, Deputy Mayor Clark and Council all agreed that HMM should move forward with the project.

October 5, 2015: Mayor Beck and Deputy Mayor Clark abruptly change course and vote against bonding to complete this project.