

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – November 18, 2019

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on November 18, 2019 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

### Work Session

Office of Emergency Management Update on Warming Centers – Ed Donohue, OEM Coordinator  
Ed Donohue, Lower Township Office of Emergency Management Coordinator, updated Council on the difference between warming centers and shelters and spoke of the advantages to designating Seashore Church of the Nazarene as the Township's warming center, in cooperation with other organizations. He also informed about shelter operations and the County's long term goal.

Deputy Mayor Sippel asked about a generator. A brief discussion ensued with Council and Manager Ridgway.

### Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes - November 4, 2019

Res. #2019-341- Payment of Vouchers \$ 742,160.07

Res. #2019-342 - A Resolution Approving a Shared Service Agreement Between the Township of Lower, the County of Cape May and the Municipal and County Enforcement Agencies to Participate in the Cape May County Law Enforcement Records Management System

Res. #2019-343- Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Compensatory Time (M.Gamble \$2,251.98)

Res. #2019-344- Approval of Contribution to Lower Township Rotary (\$800 Tree Lighting/Parade)

Res. #2019-345- A Resolution Requesting Release of Performance Guarantee for Cape May Food Group/Dunkin Donuts; Block 494.54, Lot 1 Escrow #Z16-03-01

Res. #2019-346- Capital Budget Amendment

Res. #2019-347- A Resolution Designating Lower Township's Municipal Warming Centers (Seashore Community Church of the Nazarene)

Res. #2019-348 - A Resolution Requesting Release of Maintenance Guarantee for Conifer Realty, LLC; Block 741.01, Lot 2.07; Escrow Z05-01-06

Res. #2019-349 - Transfer of 2019 Appropriations

Ordinance #2019-16 - Bond Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Bond Ordinance Number 2019-14 (Which Provides for Various Safety and Identification Improvements to Schellengers Landing) Heretofore Finally Adopted by the Township Council of the Township of Lower, in the County of Cape May, State of New Jersey on October 21, 2019, to Increase the Appropriation by \$500,000 and to Increase the Authorization of Bonds or Notes by \$475,000. This is the first reading of this Ordinance. The second reading and public hearing has been scheduled for December 2, 2019.

Deputy Mayor Sippel asked Joe Maffei, EDA, to elaborate on the status of the Schellenger's Landing Project. Mr. Maffei gave an update regarding the additional costs.

Bill Greenfield, Villas, asked about Resolution 2019-346.

Clerk Picard explained the statutory requirement for a bond ordinance.

Mr. Greenfield inquired about the cost of the Schellenger's Landing Project and his concern about the safety factor. Manager Ridgway explained.

Mayor Simonsen pointed out the need for help from Legislators.

Mr. Maffei and Bill Galestok shared additional information regarding the project.

On the Consent:

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

**Regular Agenda**

Res. #2019-350 - Authorization for 2019 Incentive Award for Insurance Waiver (\$57,500)

Councilmember Conrad pointed out savings to the Township as a result of Resolution #2019-350.

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

Res. #2019-351 - Authorization for the Payment of College Credits (\$18,810)

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

**Manager's Report**

Manager Ridgway spoke about the success of the Veteran's Day Parade and County programs for Senior Citizens. He updated Council on contract negotiation meetings and the Breakwater housing project.

Mayor Simonsen thanked Deputy Mayor Sippel and Eileen Kreis for the success of the Veteran's Day Parade.

**Administrative Reports**

Monthly Report – Clerk, Construction, Dog, Fire, Tax, Vital Statistics

**Council Comments**

Councilmember Conrad thanked Deputy Mayor Sippel, Eileen Kreis and OEM for the Veteran's Day Parade and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Manager Ridgway gave an update on the beach access improvements at the request of Councilmember Perry. Councilmember Perry gave an update on the Roseann Avenue project.

Manager Ridgway asked Mr. Maffei for an update on Village Road. Mr. Maffei informed that the permit is in place for Village Road beach access.

Councilmember Roy wished everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Deputy Mayor Sippel thanked the Mayor and Councilmembers for their kind words and shared his observations from the Veteran's Day Parade.

Mayor Simonsen shared comments regarding Veteran's Day and announced the following upcoming events: Tree Lighting Ceremony, Town Hall Meeting, Rotary Christmas Parade, the Great American Smoke-out, LCMR Anchor Bowl and the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Turkey Trot.

**Call to the Public**

Lynette Goodstine, Shadeland Ave, addressed Council with concern about the beach access at Shadeland Avenue. Manager Ridgway addressed Dr. Goodstine's concerns and reminded that the access is closed due to construction. Councilmember Conrad pointed out the Township's diligence in prioritizing the access. Councilmember Perry reiterated Councilmember Conrad's arguments and reminded of the work load on Public Works.

Dr. Goodstine continued her debate with Manager Ridgway.

Bill Galestok addressed Council to inform about the Resiliency Grant and other beach improvements.

Joe Maffei gave an update on the timeline.

Bill Greenfield, Villas, asked for an update on the berm.

Councilmember Conrad advised that the Township is waiting on the Army Corp of Engineers.

Eileen Kreis countered Dr. Goodstine's comments. She also thanked the community for their support of the Veteran's Day Parade.

Lynette Goodstine voiced opposition to the comments about the beach path.

Mayor Simonsen wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**Closed Session**

Res. #2019-352 - 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. **Negotiation Update; Litigation Update (Hanson/Morrell); Contract Update; Attorney/Client Privilege**

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

**\*\* Council MAY return to Open Session to take Action on a Union Contract**

**Council adjourned to Closed Session at 7:59 p.m.**

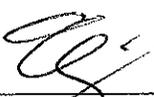
**Council returned to Open Session at 9:16 p.m.**

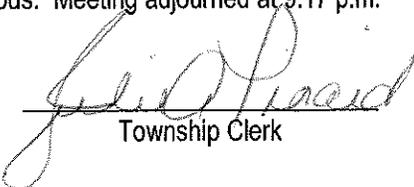
Res. #2019-353 A Resolution Ratifying a Four (4) Year Memorandum of Agreement Between the Township of Lower and Teamsters Local No. 676

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

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Councilmember Conrad, seconded by Assemblyman Elect Mayor Simonsen. Motion to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

  
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Mayor

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

Approved: 