

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – March 18, 2019

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

2019 Budget Hearing – Manager Jim Ridgway, CFO Lauren Read, Auditor Leon Costello
Leon Costello, Municipal Auditor, explained the Budget process and gave a summary of the Introduced Budget that contains a 9/10 of a cent increase in the tax rate and falls well below the legal spending caps.
Mayor Simonsen opened the Budget up for public comment. There were no comments from the public.

Res. #2019-116 Adoption of 2019 Budget

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

Mayor Simonsen thanked Auditor Leon Costello and CFO Lauren Read for their work on the Budget.
Deputy Mayor Sippel added his compliments and thanked them both for a great job.
Councilmember Roy echoed the above compliments.

Economic Re-Development Zone Presentation – Louis Joyce, Executive Director, South Jersey Economic Development District

Louis Joyce addressed Council, on behalf of the County's Redevelopment Plan, to present a proposed expansion of the Redevelopment Zone at the Cape May County Airport.

Manager Ridgway thanked Mr. Joyce for his presentation and informed Council of his intention with regard to the proposed plan.

Consent Agenda

NJ State Firemen's Association Membership Application – L. Matteo, Erma Vol. Fire Co.

Approval of Minutes March 4, 2019

Res. #2019-117 Payment of Vouchers \$ 883,195.32

Res. #2019-118 Resolution for Self-Examination of Budget (annual)

Res. #2019-119 A Resolution Authorizing the Seventh Annual Escape the Cape Triathlon Scheduled for June 1st & 2nd, 2019

Res. #2019-120 A Resolution Approving a Three Year Extension to the Management Agreement By and Between the Township of Lower and Friends of Fishing Creek School, Inc.

Res. #2019-121 Renewal of 2019 Campground Licenses (annual)

Res. #2019-122 Recycling Tonnage Grant Certification of Taxes Paid (\$33,222.81)

Res. #2019-123 Recycling Tonnage Grant Resolution (annual requirement)

Res. #2019-124 A Resolution Requesting Release of Revegetation and Restoration Guarantee for Dune Site Plan; Block 35, Lots 1.01 & 1.02, Escrow #P13-02-02

- Res. #2019-125 Authorizing the Sale of Township of Lower Surplus No Longer Needed for Public Use on GovDeals Online Auction Website
- Res. #2019-126 Authorization for Refund of Taxes (2 properties \$2679.40)
- Res. #2019-127 A Resolution of Endorsement of the County-Wide Water Quality Management Plan; Lower Township (requested by the County)
- Ordinance #2019-05 Bond Ordinance Providing For Various Roadway and Drainage Improvements, By and In the Township of Lower, in the County of Cape May, State of New Jersey (The Township); Appropriating \$650,000 Therefore and Authorizing the Issuance of \$615,000 Bonds or Notes of the Township to Finance Part of the Costs Thereof

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

Regular Agenda

Ordinance #2019-03 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 3-22 (D) of the Code of the Township of Lower, Providing that Township Residency will be a Preferential Consideration, But It Will Not Be Solely Determinative For Appointment of Non-Police Department Applicants – 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
PERRY		X	X			
ROY	X		X			
SIPPEL			X			
SIMONSEN			X			

Ordinance #2019-04 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 56, Local Defense/Emergency Management Council, of the Code of the Township of Lower – 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
PERRY			X			
ROY			X			
SIPPEL		X	X			
SIMONSEN	X		X			

Manager's Report

Manager Ridgway gave an update on economic development, his plan for future wellness events, and the proposed bridge on Ocean Drive.

Engineer's Report

Manager Ridgway gave an update on current engineering projects within the Township including Roseann Avenue Roadway and Utility Improvements, Phase 3, Beach Access Improvements, Rec Center Restrooms Upgrade, Emergency Pipeline Repair on Clubhouse, Mulligan Field Renovations Project and the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan.

Administrative Reports

Monthly Reports- Clerk, Construction, Dog, Fire, Tax, Vital

Council Comments

Councilmember Perry commented on the progress of the Roseann Ave project and Pump Station and gave an update on the Beach Access Improvements.

Councilmember Roy – no comments

Deputy Mayor Sippel informed about Atlantic City Electric's free tree giveaway and about rumble strip installations on County roads. He also reminded about Township road improvements and shared news about the Villas VFW.

Mayor Simonsen welcomed Trish Yagecic, Army Staff Sargent, back home from Afganistan. He commented on the LCMR Spring Musical and the rally at Convention Hall against seismic blasting and offshore drilling. He also announced Little League Opening Day, Sandman Seeds of Kindness, and the Summer Concert Series.

Call to the Public

Ellen Seward, Shawmount Ave, addressed Council to inquire about the beach access improvements and the water status on the Roseann Ave project. She also commented in favor of Sandman Seeds of Kindness and the Concert Series.

Manager Ridgway responded to Ms. Seward with the information she requested.

Tom Poussart, Shawmount Ave, addressed Council with concern about preserving the wildlife at Cox Hall Creek and requested help from the Township.

Ray Flickinger, Washington Blvd, shared favorable comments about the Beach Drive improvements and made suggestions about signage. He also inquired about a walkway in Douglass Park.

Manager Ridgway informed that there have been no updates from the DRBA.

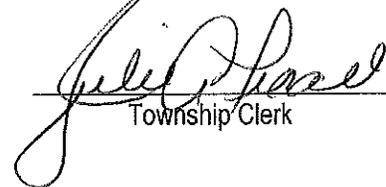
Bill Greenfield, Villas, addressed Council with concern about open space in the Ponderlodge area.

Adjournment

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Deputy Mayor Sippel, seconded by Councilmember Roy. Motion to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.



Mayor



Township Clerk

Approved: *April 11, 2019*