

## Regular & Work Session Meeting Minutes - April 16, 2007

The regular meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on April 16, 2007 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 Wayne Mazurek  
Councilmember Glenn Douglass  
Councilmember Robert Nolan  
Mayor Walter Craig

Also present: Paul Baldini, Solicitor and Joseph Jackson, Manager

### **WORK SESSION**

#### Review of Consent and Regular Agenda Items

No Comments.

#### Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes March 19, 2007
2. Resolution #2007-102, Approval of Vouchers, \$2,083,338.44
3. Resolution #2007-103, Application for \$7500 Domestic Violence Training Grant
4. Resolution #2007-104, Authorization for Refund of Taxes
5. Resolution #2007-105, A Resolution Proclaiming April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Lower Township
6. Resolution #2007-106, Resolution Authorizing Membership In a Mutual Aid And Assistance Agreement With Other County Participating Units
7. Resolution #2007-107, Renewal of 2007 Campground Licenses
8. Ordinance #2007-11, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 235 Uniform Construction Codes, of the Code of the Township of Lower, 1<sup>st</sup> rdg. (2<sup>nd</sup> rdg. May 7, 2007)

Councilmember Douglass motioned to adopt the consent agenda items #1-8 , seconded by Councilmember Conrad. The consent agenda was adopted by the following roll call vote: Councilmember Conrad, "yes", Councilmember Mazurek, "yes", Councilmember Douglass, "yes", Councilmember Nolan, "yes", Mayor Craig, "yes".

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### Administrative Reports

Attached and made part of the minutes are the following reports:

February - Fire Safety. ACO Montgomery

March - ACO Parker, BOCA, Dog Licensing, Fire Safety, Clerk's Acct., Municipal Court, MUA, Police, Vital Statistics

Certificate of Determination & Award BAN Sale.

### Council Comments

Councilmember Conrad said his prayers and thoughts were with people of Virginia Tech. Councilmember Douglass reiterated what Councilmember Conrad said and their hearts went out to them.

Councilmember Nolan said he had a statement to make. He said it was the first time since 1990 that no Councilmember received benefits. He stated the action would not affect anyone on Council now. He said he knew people that didn't have benefits such as seasonal and temporary help.

Councilmember Nolan said he felt it was appropriate to set an example with the choice of salary or benefits. He stated he would also support language in an ordinance to stop benefits. He said he had served the Township his adult life and had only the best interest of the Township in mind.

Mayor Craig said also to offer prayers for the Governor.

### Public Comments

Mayor Craig opened the meeting for public comment at 7:20.

### Ordinance to Exceed the CAP

Janet Pitts said she was happy to see that the Governor and Senate signed the bills to promote regionalization and to have a 4% CAP. She said as a taxpayer she didn't understand why Council implemented the ordinance to exceed the CAP. She stated Council had a responsibility to the citizens. She mentioned there was no need to keep growing with the population declining.

Ms. Pitts asked Council not to fill positions when they opened.

### Police Department

Ms. Pitts applauded Middle Township for establishing the amount of people in the Police Department. She told Council to leave a legacy of cuts for the future and they needed to make dramatic moves.

Councilmember Nolan said an ordinance was already in place addressing the number of people in the Police Department.

Mayor Craig said the Township had 45 in the Police Department, Middle Township was set at 52. Lower Township had 23,000 residents and Middle Township had about 14,000.

Councilmember Nolan said the Police Department had to grow in response to the crime rate. He said you had to look at all the options such as patrol techniques and other means besides people. He stated there had been an influx of people here. The Township still had a responsibility to do the mandated things required by the State such as storm drains, recycling,

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etc..

Councilmember Nolan said the Township did use seasonal and temporary employees. He said the Township needed most the people currently in place to keep the Township going. He stated there were a certain amount of services the Township had to provide.

Ms. Pitts said she was just suggesting some things, she was not saying people would have nothing to do.

Councilmember Nolan said they had to find some way to generate revenue for the Township.

Resolution #2007-108, 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 (Labor Relations)

Councilmember Nolan motioned to adopt the resolution, seconded by Councilmember Douglass. The resolution was adopted by the following roll call vote: Councilmember Conrad, "yes", Councilmember Mazurek, "yes", Councilmember Douglass, "yes", Councilmember Nolan, "yes", Mayor Craig, "yes".

CLOSED SESSION SEPARATE

Council reconvened at 7:50.

Resolution #2007-109, Resolution Approving the Contract Between the Township and the Township Manager

Councilmember Conrad motioned to adopt the resolution, seconded by Councilmember Nolan. The resolution was adopted by the following roll call vote: Councilmember Conrad, "yes", Councilmember Mazurek, "no", Councilmember Douglass, "yes", Councilmember Nolan, "yes", Mayor Craig, "yes".

There being no further comment, Councilmember Nolan motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilmember Douglass the meeting unanimously adjourned by verbal "ayes" at 7:55 p.m.

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Mayor

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Township Clerk

Approved: May 7, 2007