

Regular & Work Session Meeting Minutes - May 7, 2007

The regular meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on May 7, 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

Councilmember Mazurek questioned Ordinance #2007-11, he wanted to make it clear they were borrowing to pay down the bonds and not going to spend more money.
Councilmember Nolan said it was to consolidate the debt at a lower rate.
Solicitor Baldini said they were consolidating 5 loans, there was no new money.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes April 16, 2007
2. Resolution #2007-110, Payment of Vouchers, \$3,098,915.18
3. Resolution #2007-111, State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Enabling Resolution
4. Resolution #2007-112, A Resolution Requesting Release of Demolition Bond for Block 496.01, Lot 1.01, 132 Breakwater Road, Cape May, NJ 08204
5. Resolution #2007-113, Authorization for Villas Fire Company to Conduct Outdoor Flea Markets in 2007
6. Resolution #2007-114, Approval for Delaware River and Bay Authority to Conduct Fireworks July 3, 2007 in Lower Township
7. Resolution #2007-115, Submission of a Smart Future Planning Grant for \$50,000
8. Resolution #2007-116, Authorization for Refund of Taxes
9. Resolution #2007-118, A Resolution Supporting Funding for Tourism in New Jersey
10. Resolution #2007-119, A Resolution Requesting the Permanent Designation of

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- Schellenger's Landing and "Ocean Drive" Sections of Lower Township as Non-Mainland Coastal Centers in the CAFRA Area
11. Resolution #2007-121, Issuance of Limousine and Operators License to Great American Trolley Company, Inc.
 12. Ordinance #2007-12, An Ordinance Amending Section 441-6B(6) Of The Code Of the Township of Lower Permitting Construction and Demolition Between the Hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Saturday (1st rdg.)

Councilmember Nolan motioned to adopt the consent agenda items #1-12, seconded by Councilmember Douglass. 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".

Regular Agenda

Resolution #2007-117, Resolution Authorizing Payout of Adjusted Retroactive Salary and Terminal Leave (J

Maher)

Councilmember Mazurek 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, "abstain", Mayor Craig, "yes".

Resolution #2007-120, Payment of Voucher, \$6,407.00 (Lower Twp. Rescue Squad)
Councilmember Nolan motioned to adopt the resolution, seconded by Councilmember Douglass. The resolution was adopted by the following roll call vote: Councilmember Conrad, "abstain", Councilmember Mazurek, "yes", Councilmember Douglass, "yes", Councilmember Nolan, "yes", Mayor Craig, "yes".

Ordinance #2007-11, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 235 Uniform Construction Codes, of the Code of

the Township of Lower, was presented for 2nd rdg. and final adoption. The Clerk announced the ordinance was posted and published according to law and copies were available in the Clerk's Office.

Mayor Craig opened the meeting for comment on the ordinance.

No public comment.

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

Administrative Reports

Attached and made part of the minutes is the Personnel Action Report.

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Council Comments

Diamond Beach

Councilmember Douglass said he meet with the Diamond Beach Condo Association who expressed their concerns about Police, Rescue & Fire regarding their response time, which he said was adequate. He said there was personnel there in the busy season and assured them under the County Mutual Aid Agreement other towns had to respond.

School Security

Councilmember Nolan mentioned the heightened awareness in schools since the Virginia Tech incident. He said there were 2 minor incidents recently and it was handled well by the Police and the Schools. He said the people were invited to voice their concerns with the safety of the kids in school even though it wasn't part of the Township's duties. He commended the Police Department for their work and quelling the rumors. Their utmost concern was the children. Mayor Craig said he received a letter from Joe Cirrinicione commending the Police for their support and assistance during the recent Douglass School lockdown. He commended Joe Cirrinicione and the Principal for their quick response.

Ponderlodge

Mayor Craig said some people brought to his attention the conditions at Ponderlodge, he said it had become deplorable. He asked Code Enforcement to go there and take photos and document the conditions. He told the Manager to compose a letter with their concerns and send it to the State.

Mayor Craig said the State wanted the property and now they had it they weren't taking care of it.

Mayor Craig opened the meeting to the public at 7:18.

Public Comments

Ponderlodge

Lorinda DeRosiers, 401 Beechwood Ave. wanted to talk about Ponderlodge. She said she walked there every day and the Township had a gift with that property. She identified the areas that needed attention and said she saw trash around the residential areas. She suggested a community clean up there and would like to see the name changed to something more beautiful and it would address the territorial issue. She mentioned the High School did a beach clean up every year and suggested the School do a clean up of Ponderlodge.

Ms. DeRosiers felt there was a lot that could be done there. She mentioned some of the safety issues and health issue that she saw there.

Councilmember Nolan said she had a lot of good ideas and agreed that the community had to band together. He said they had to be concerned with insurance before organizing a clean up. He said they needed to have a long term plan, as far as the name he didn't agree it was a territorial problem. He said he was willing to work with her on the issue.

Councilmember Conrad said the Township couldn't pay their workers to go in and clean up the place. He was fine with volunteer's going in and cleaning up. He said the Township couldn't

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afford to pay for the clean up. He also said he would be willing to help.

Mayor Craig said his concerns were the immediate hazards such as broken windows and glass around. He said the State had to board up the windows.

Councilmember Mazurek said he felt if it were immediate hazards, the Township should take care of it and bill the State.

Mayor Craig said they would send a letter to the State and asked for the corrections, and they would get 10 days.

Ms. DeRosiers said she was talking about trash and debris that was not difficult to pick up.

Eileen Crossman, 119 Evergreen Ave., said thank you for a great place to live and all the Township employees were great. She said she was having a problem with speeders on her street and was concerned with the safety of the kids, pets, etc.. She asked if a speed bump could be put there or something to slow people down.

Mayor Craig said speed bumps were illegal.

Ms. Crossman said she agreed with the community clean up and suggested having the people sign a waiver.

Haven House

Elaine Schiano, 7 Clay Court said she live adjacent to Haven House. She said Jim Chaney attended the Council Meeting of February 21st to make sure Haven House and the Diocese didn't violate the plans. She gave a brief overview of the development. She said the builder removed large trees between the project and the homes and they were 30' trees. The residents paid for a survey and they meet with an attorney on the matter. The attorney said the Township was responsible to enforce the plans. She said the trees had to be replace with 30' ones not 6-8'.

Mrs. Schiano said here home was the only one where all the buffer was removed. She stated she had no privacy now, it impacted the value of her home. She asked that Council make sure the buffer was replace.

Mayor Craig said he hadn't talked to the Engineer but the Diocese said if it was their mistake they would make sure the contractor fix it.

Mrs. Schiano asked if they had a time table for it.

School Security

Chuck Magill, 10 Wigeon Way commended the Police on the great job. He felt more security was needed in schools and maybe more Police. He said he realized he would have to take some of these issues up with the School Board.

Frank Brad, 10 Village Road said his daughter call with a notice of more threats. He said there was a huge gang problem in Lower Township. He said 2 police in a closet wasn't doing it, maybe they should be at the doors and walking the halls. He said Police were needed at all the schools.

Councilmember Mazurek asked if it was a problem of outsiders coming in.

Councilmember Douglass said he was at the School in the morning and security was on post at the front door and administration had cameras.

Mr. Brad said the man in Douglass Schools that caused a problem was a dangerous person.

Mayor Craig said he heard of the potential problem on Friday and many agencies had been working on it since then. He said the professionals basically felt it was a rumor and were trying to see if there was any validity to the allegations.

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Mayor Craig said all precautions were taken.

Mr. Brad said his daughter didn't feel safe in school.

Councilmember Mazurek said he worked at the school for 30 years and there were a lot of entrances and exits. He said there couldn't be someone at all the doors. He suggested stop cars at the access road once school started.

Brief back and forth on different ways to secure the school.

Mr. Brad asked Council to have the High School lock the doors at least.

Councilmember Mazurek said he would go meet with Mr. Pfizenmeyer and voice their concerns. Chief Donohue said he would speak with the parents in attendance and go over some things with them.

Councilmember Mazurek said you couldn't get into Middle Township school they were very secure.

Councilmember Nolan asked the Manager to contact the various schools.

Eric Edwards, 6 Admirals Court said he heard Cape May, West Cape May and Cape May Point were considering WiFi and asked if the Township would participate.

Manager Jackson said he was involved since the beginning and it worked off the telephone poles. He said the estimated cost for the Township would be about 1 million, with a grant of \$200,000 the Township couldn't afford it.

Mr. Edwards said it would cost the residents about \$10.00 a month opposed to \$60.00 now. He said that kind of service was all over the country and the benefits were great.

Councilmember Conrad said it was cost prohibited for a few homes south of the canal, most of the Township would not be covered.

Manager Jackson said he would get more information for the next meeting.

Bert Saylor on Tyler Drive asked about the solar fees.

Eileen Crossman said she felt people would spend \$10.00 more for police.

There being no further comment, Councilmember Nolan motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilmember Conrad the meeting unanimously adjourned by verbal "ayes" at 8:00 p.m.

Mayor

Township Clerk

Approved: May 21, 2007