

Reorganization Meeting - January 3, 2007

The regular meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on January 3, 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: Kathleen McPherson, Manager and Solicitor Paul J. Baldini

WORK SESSION

Mayor Craig welcomed Freeholders Thornton, Beyel and Bakely, Senator Asselta, Judge Ray Batten, County Clerk and others.

Oath of Office - Ward 1, Thomas Conrad

Senator Asselta administered the Oath of Office for Thomas Conrad for his position as Ward 1 Councilman while his wife Stacey held the bible.

Oath of Office - Ward 2, Wayne Mazurek

Judge Raymond Batten administered the Oath of Office for Wayne Mazurek for his position as Ward 2 Councilman while his wife Donna held the bible.

Oath of Office - Ward 3, Glenn Douglass

Judge Raymond Batten administered the Oath of Office for Glenn Douglass for his position as Ward 3 Councilman while his wife Brenda held the bible.

Review of Consent and Regular Agenda Items

Councilmember Mazurek said he asked to have the resolutions moved for specific reasons. He said is should be discussed here and now. He stated is was an important discussion that should take place in front of the public. He said he wasn't happy that a decision was made at a republican caucus. He felt that he didn't want the people to distrust elected officials.

Councilmember Mazurek said things needed to be done the right way. He said Solicitor Monzo had 10 years experience with the Township which was longer than any Councilmember there and questioned why they wanted him removed. He questioned Mr. Monzo's removal when he could continue giving good service and how would this benefit the Township.

Mayor Craig said no vote was taken on replacing Mr. Monzo. He said the new members questioned what reorganization was about and what appointments were made. He said questions were raised as to if Council was happy with the Solicitor and it came to a level of trust and confidence and didn't feel that was the case anymore.

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Councilmember Mazurek questioned where Mr. Baldini's name came from and who proposed him. He didn't see a resume of his and asked his fellow Councilmembers if they could answer that.

Mayor Craig said Mr. Baldini wasn't the only candidate and he had served on the Planning Board. He had known Mr. Baldini over 20 years as had Councilmember Nolan and had never heard a bad thing about him.

Councilmember Nolan said he supported the Mayor on his decision and had worked with Mr. Baldini on the Planning Board and admired his enthusiasm. He felt things were stagnant and needed a breath of fresh air.

Councilmember Conrad agreed with the Mayors comments also and asked Mayor Craig if himself and Glenn had lost would the Solicitor had changed.

Mayor Craig said it was in the best interest of the Township.

Councilmember Mazurek said look at the audience, he was out numbered as he was the only democrat and it should have been discussed. He said he trusted Tony Monzo and said he didn't pick the cases that was Council decision. He felt strongly that it could have been done differently. He said he wasn't given the opportunity to know or look at Mr. Baldini's credentials as other Councilmembers had. He said perhaps it should have been put out there so all could review.

Councilmember Nolan said partisanship had nothing to do with the appointment.

Mayor Craig said every effort was made to make sure that all was done within the law. He said when he was elected he never saw a resume of Tony Monzo and felt it was time for a change. He said while he did represent some cases, some felt some of the cases should not have been a case at all.

Councilmember Mazurek said it should have been done here, he trusted Mr. Monzo and Council decided the issues not the Solicitor. Council gave the Solicitor direction and sometimes they get a bad rap. He said it shouldn't have been on the consent agenda. He wanted the residents to have confidence in the Township.

Councilmember Douglass said he was put here for the people and it was time to change and to move forward.

Consent Agenda

1. Resolution #2007-01, Appointment of Municipal Solicitor for the Year 2007 Pursuant to Non-Fair and Open Procedures (Paul Baldini) **MOVED TO REGULAR AGENDA**
2. Resolution #2007-02, Appointment of Municipal Prosecutor for the Year 2007 (Michael Donohue)
3. Resolution #2007-03, Appointment of Municipal Public Defender for the Year 2007 (Christopher Gibson)
4. Resolution #2007-04, Appointment of Municipal Auditor for the Year 2007 Pursuant to Non-Fair and Open Procedures (*Ford Scott Seidenburg & Kennedy*)
5. Resolution #2007-05, Appointment of Municipal Engineer for the Year 2007 Pursuant to Non-Fair and Open Procedures (Remington Vernick Walberg Engineers)
6. Resolution #2007-06, Appointment of Bond Counsel for the Year 2007 Pursuant to Non-Fair and Open Procedures (*Mc Manimon & Scotland*)
7. Resolution #2007-07, Appointment of Emergency Management Council for the Year 2007
8. Resolution #2007-08, Appointment of Class III Member to the Planning Board (Robert Nolan)
9. Resolution #2007-09, Appointment of Officials for Joint Insurance Fund and Municipal Excess Liability Fund (Annual Resolution)
10. Resolution #2007-10, Establishment of Council Meeting Dates and Times (1st & 3rd Mondays except holidays)
11. Resolution #2007-11, Setting the Interest Rate for Delinquent Taxes (Statutorily regulated)
12. Resolution #2007-12, Designation Of Official Newspapers for Legal Advertising for the Year 2007 (Star & Wave & Herald)

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13. Resolution #2007-13, Designation of Official Depositories
14. Resolution #2007-14, Adopting Cash Management Plan
15. Resolution #2007-15, Resolution to Defer The Regional School Tax
16. Resolution #2007-16, Authorizing Payment of 2007 Debt Service
17. Resolution #2007-17, Annual Approval of Petty Cash Funds (Police & Treasurer)
18. Resolution #2007-18, Transfer of 2006 Appropriations \$11,750.00
19. Resolution #2007-19, Approving 2007 Contract with Cape Assist (EAP Program)
20. Resolution #2007-20, Resolution Approving Contracts with Horizon Blue Cross/Blue Shield for Extraordinary Unspecifiable Services (Group health, dental and prescription plans)
21. Resolution #2007-21, Resolution Approving Contract with Fort Dearborn for Extraordinary Unspecifiable Services (Group Life)
22. Resolution #2007-22, Approval of Vouchers \$2,630,471.06
23. Resolution #2007-23, Adopting 2007 Temporary Current Budget
24. Resolution #2007-24, A Resolution Designating the Lower Township Rescue Squad, Inc. As The Provider of Emergency Medical Services in Lower Township **MOVED TO REGULAR AGENDA**
25. Ordinance #2007-01, Salary & Benefit Ordinance, 1st rdg.

Councilmember Nolan motioned to adopt the consent agenda items #1-25, 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".

Regular Agenda

Resolution #2007-01, Appointment of Solicitor

Councilmember Nolan motioned to adopt the resolution, seconded by Councilmember Conrad. 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". Paul Baldini thanked Council for the opportunity to serve the Township in a different capacity and hoped to in time to earn Councilmember Mazurek's trust.

Resolution #2007-24, A Resolution Designating the Lower Township Rescue Squad, Inc. as the Provider of Emergency Medical Services in Lower Township.

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".

Council Comments

Councilmember Conrad thanked everyone for their attendance and support. He said he would keep his word on election promises in public safety and recreation.

Councilmember Mazurek thanked Ward 2 residents and said he would continue to work hard and make decisions that were best for the Township.

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Councilmember Douglass thanked everyone for their support. He said he wanted to be a team player and looked forward to working with Council and the Township employees.

Councilmember Nolan welcomed Councilmembers Conrad and Douglass and looked forward to working with them. He said there was a lot on the 2007 agenda including the reval and the budget, and there was a lot of work involved in serving the public.

Mayor Craig congratulated everyone and looked forward to working with everyone and wished all a happy new year. He said the reval notices went out, but don't go crazy when they open them, the ratables went up 3 times. He said if the house was worth 3 times more then probably you wouldn't see much change in taxes. He said to call the Township before panicking it may not be as bad as many think, but read the letter.

Public Comments

Congratulations to New Councilmembers

Freeholder Thornton wished everyone a Happy New Year and congratulated all the new members to Council and said they will find it challenging and gratifying. He said it was amazing to see Tom Conrad on Council as he knew him as a child. He wished all of them well and thanked them for stepping up.

Freeholder Bakely congratulated the newly elected Council and asked them to continue good government for the people of Lower Township. He wished them a good new year and looked forward to working with them.

Speed Limit Reduction on Bay Drive

Bob Andruss of 434 Hollywood Road said he spoke to the Mayor, Manager and Chief about Bay Drive, He said there were 4 accidents in 2 years and can't get the speed reduced to 25 MPH from 35 MPH.

Mayor Craig said a radar machine was place there.

Mr. Andruss said as soon as the people see it, they slow down.

Manager McPherson said DOT would not allow the lowering of the speed limits. She said they could ask for another traffic study and make another attempt.

Reval

Bob Schlosbon 131 W. Bates Avenue asked if the reval letter would have the amount on it.

Mayor Craig said there would be an estimated amount on there.

Manager McPherson said the letter would include what taxes were paid in 2006 and the best guess for 2007 at the bottom of the letter.

There being no further comment, Councilmember Nolan motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilmember Douglass the meeting unanimously adjourned by verbal "ayes" at 6:47 p.m.

Mayor

Township Clerk

Approved: