

Regular & Work Session Meeting Minutes - April 20, 2009

The regular meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on April 20, 2009 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
Deputy Mayor Kevin Lare
Mayor Michael Beck

Also present: Anthony Monzo, Solicitor and Kathleen McPherson, Manager

Proclamation - April 2009, Autism Awareness Month

Mayor Beck read a proclamation about Autism Awareness. Mrs. Bryant said a few words about living with an autistic child and the challenges they face. She mentioned various groups and people that had been very helpful to her along the way.

Proclamation for Kiwanis Club

Mayor Beck mentioned the anniversary of the Kiwanis Club and all the good the organization did.

WORK SESSION

Mayor Beck they were removing Resolution #2009-127 from the agenda. Council agreed by verbal ayes.

Review of Consent and Regular Agenda Items

There were no questions on the agenda.

Public Questions on Consent Agenda and/or Regular Agenda Items

There were no questions on the agenda from the public.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes	April 6, 2009
Res. #2009-116,	Payment of Vouchers, \$1,677,858.01
Res. #2009-117,	Resolution for Self-Examination of the Budget
Res. #2009-118,	Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to Execute a Deed of Easement Between the Cape May Beach Property Owners Association, Inc and the Township of Lower (Block 533.02 Lot 1.10 for outfall repair work)
Res. #2009-119,	Click It or Ticket 2009 Mobilization
Res. #2009-120,	Resolution Supporting Participation in the Sustainable Jersey Municipal Certification

Regular & Work Session Meeting Minutes - April 20, 2009

	Program
Res. #2009-121,	Authorization for Villas Fire Company to Conduct Outdoor Flea Markets in 2009
Res. #2009-122,	Approval for Pyrotecnico Fireworks to Load and Unload a Fireworks Barge in Lower Township
Res. #2009-123,	Renewal of 2009 Campground Licenses (Annual renewal of 6 Campgrounds)
Res. #2009-124,	Approving the Application of Animal Alliance Cape May County to Conduct a Flea Market on May 9, 2009
Res. #2009-125,	Authorizing Pay Out of Terminal Leave (balance of time due G. Slobodjian - retired)

Councilmember Mazurek motioned to adopt the consent agenda, seconded by Councilmember Douglass. The consent agenda was adopted by the following roll call vote: Councilmember Conrad, yes, Councilmember Mazurek, yes, Councilmember Douglass, yes, Deputy Mayor Lare, yes, Mayor Beck, yes.

Regular Agenda

Public Hearing - 2009 Municipal Budget

Leon Costello said they had a lengthy discussion and reviewed the budget. He said it was up 1.8 cent, but have now amended it and reduced it more and felt very good about the budget.

Public Hearing for Amendment #2009-126

Res. #2009-126, Amendment to 2009 Budget (reduction of 2/10 of a cent)

Manager McPherson said the cuts to the budget for 2/10 cent totaled \$90,715.02.

Mayor Beck said the savings in budget would result in the reduction of 2 Sergeants in the Police and 1 in Administration position in Public Works. He said the bulk of the savings would not show this year, but planning for next year.

Joe Winters said he would like to see a hiring freeze for full time positions.

Mayor Beck said Council had gone far in cutting the budget. He said they would examine every potential hiring, but he couldn't support a hiring freeze.

Mr. Winters said next years budget would be worse.

Mayor Beck said they had made some tough cuts.

Councilmember Douglass said he disagreed with the hiring freeze. He said he couldn't support it because if other police left they may need to hire someone. He asked if the police positions were being abolished.

Manager McPherson said one person was leaving in July and another was leaving next year, but they were not removing the titles.

John Skowronski of Arctic Avenue said the Elementary School and Regional High School had virtually no increase in their budgets. He asked why did the Township go up.

Mayor Beck said people who came to the budget hearing heard the Township was only 1/3rd of the tax bill and schools were 50% of the tax bill. He said people had to look at the history of the school budgets. He said they were working on changes that would affect the 2010 budget. He said to get to a zero increase they would have to lay off twelve people and layoffs require notices and certain procedures that need to be followed.

Mayor Beck said they had to get under the CAP and that was difficult. He said the house would be in financial order in a short time. He said they may have to cut more next year, it all had to do with the CAP.

Councilmember Mazurek said where the LCMR High School made a large cut was in health benefits. He said they

Regular & Work Session Meeting Minutes - April 20, 2009

had a buyout of benefits, that is what saved them and also by not replacing through attrition.

Councilmember Douglass said the Manager was working with the department heads to cut and consolidate as they could.

Fred Long of Cold Spring said he suggested to Council to look at the overtime costs and asked if they had done that?

Manager McPherson said they were in the process of analyzing 2008 and 2009 costs.

Mr. Long said overtime was a significant item and asked them to take a sharp look at it.

Mayor Beck said a lot of things need to be looked at and things would be looked at all throughout the year.

Mr. Long asked what was the Township's policy on sick time?

Manager McPherson explained they received 15 days a year which accrued and explained how it worked regarding the years of service.

Janet Pitts questioned unfunded liabilities such as comp time and asked Council if they were looking into that?

Manager McPherson said they had to replace a person when someone was out.

Council Comments on Budget

Councilmember Mazurek said that was the most scrutinized budget. He said they held the line on everything.

Councilmember Douglass thanked the Manager, CFO and Leon Costello (Auditor) for their hard work on the budget.

Deputy Mayor Lare said he felt they were all valid questions from the audience. He said they paid enough taxes and it should be scrutinized, they had to do more with less. He said the Mayor, Council and employees had to step it up. He said he wasn't in it to pay more. He said his goal was to have less of an increase next year.

Mayor Beck said open government was good and it was the first time there was a separate budget meeting. He said he felt the public recognized what they were trying to do. He said only 1/3 of the taxes people paid stayed here, 50% went to the schools and reminded everyone to vote in the School Elections on April 21st and be more involved.

Councilmember Mazurek motioned to adopt the resolution, seconded by Councilmember Conrad. The resolution was adopted by the following roll call vote: Councilmember Conrad, yes, Councilmember Mazurek, yes, Councilmember Douglass, yes, Deputy Mayor Lare, yes, Mayor Beck, yes.

Res. #2009-128, Adoption of the 2009 Municipal Budget (as amended by Res. #2009-126)

Councilmember Conrad motioned to adopt the resolution, seconded by Councilmember Deputy Mayor Lare. The consent agenda was adopted by the following roll call vote: Councilmember Conrad, yes, Councilmember Mazurek, yes, Councilmember Douglass, yes, Deputy Mayor Lare, yes, Mayor Beck, yes.

Administrative Reports

Personnel Action Report

March Reports - Animal Control, Code Enforcement, Construction Official, Dog Licensing, Fire Safety, MUA, Municipal Clerk, Municipal Court, Municipal Judge, Tax Collector, Vital Statistics

Council Comments

Councilmember Conrad reminded everyone Little League opened on Saturday. He congratulated the Police Department on their accreditations which helped the Township's insurance. He mentioned the beach cleanup on May 23rd and said hopefully they would be hearing something soon regarding Ponder Lodge.

Mayor Beck also congratulated the Police for a job well done. He said they would be having a town watch meeting in May and hoped everyone would come out for that. He also announced the Lower Township Talent Show would

Regular & Work Session Meeting Minutes - April 20, 2009

be held on April 24th, it was \$1.00 to get in and a donation of a can of food for the local food bank. He said he was honored to be a judge at the show.

Public Comments

Joe Winters asked why the Township was in the dark regarding Ponder Lodge.

Mayor Beck said he spoke to Senator Jeff Van Drew and he asked the Township to sit and wait just a few more days. He said he didn't want to lose the State money to demolish the buildings if necessary. He said he hadn't heard that Stockton was out of it yet.

Deputy Mayor Lare said maybe they were having cost estimates done.

Mr. Winters said the State came in and bought it out from under the Township and now the school may be taking it over.

Mayor Beck said he wasn't opposed to Stockton taking it over and thought it would be a real positive for the Township.

Mr. Winters asked if the school took it over would it be opened to the public?

Mayor Beck said he didn't know at that point.

Mr. Winters said it was time for the Township to say do it our way or the Township would decide.

Mayor Beck said he felt it was moving in a positive direction. He said it was a huge decision for the school to make.

Councilmember Douglass said Stockton State College had funding sources there if they wanted to proceed.

Janet Pitts said she was under the impression Stockton wasn't buying it they would be leasing.

Councilmember Mazurek said he had been to Trenton twice for Ponder Lodge and other meetings. He said his big concern was when the State took over they presented the Township a great plan of what was going to be done.

He said whether or not Stockton got it the State still needed to finish their plan, as it sat now it's just an overgrown golf course.

Janet Pitts said she agreed and felt the State knew what they were doing by not putting it under Parks and Recreation but Fish and Wildlife. She said they would have to play it by ear for now.

Ed Butler of 7 Delaware Bay Drive said it seemed like it was a done deal for the college and felt like it was moving without Planning and Zoning. He said the residents should have a say in the Township and what was going on.

Mayor Beck said it wasn't a done deal, he told the Senator if it looked like it was moving forward all would have a say.

Mr. Butler said Fish and Wildlife received money from licenses and permits.

Wayne Weissman said he made calls after the meeting with Senator Van Drew. He said he contacted the President and Vice President of the college and they seemed very interested. He told them the Township wanted to be involved and the hiring should be residents of the Township. He said the money was there to demolish the buildings.

Bob Rizzo mentioned the school elections on April 21st from 4:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.. He said four people were running for two seats.

Mayor Beck said he attended the first Mayor's Advisory Board meeting and said he had all the confidence in the board.

Resolution #2009-129, 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 (Contract Negotiations & Attorney Client Privilege)

Councilmember Mazurek motioned to adopt the resolution, seconded by Councilmember Conrad. The consent agenda was adopted by the following roll call vote: Councilmember Conrad, yes, Councilmember Mazurek, yes, Councilmember Douglass, yes, Deputy Mayor Lare, yes, Mayor Beck, yes.

Regular & Work Session Meeting Minutes - April 20, 2009

8:05

CLOSED SESSION SEPARATE

Council returned to open session and there being no further comment, Councilmember Mazurek motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilmember Douglass the meeting unanimously adjourned by verbal ayes at 8:45 p.m.

Mayor

Township Clerk

Approved: May 4, 2009