

Regular & Work Session Meeting Minutes - May 17, 2010

The regular meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on May 17, 2010 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

Certificate of Recognition - Lower Twp. Recreation Department Jr. Wrestling Program

Mayor Beck read the certificate of recognition and some of the accomplishments of the Lower Township Recreation Department Jr. Wrestling Team.

Certificates of Recognition - Covenant Bible Church, Seashore Church of the Nazarene & Scott Douglass

Mayor Beck read the certificate of recognition for Covenant Bible Church, Seashore Church of the Nazarene and Scott Douglass for their efforts in the clean-up of Freeman Douglass Park.

WORK SESSION

Mayor Beck said he would like to table Ordinance #2010-06 while awaiting comments from Dave Perry on the fireworks ordinance.

Review of Consent and Regular Agenda Items

No comments from Council on the agenda.

Public Questions on Consent Agenda and/or Regular Agenda Items

No comments from the public on the agenda.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes	May 3, 2010
Res. #2010-130,	Payment of Vouchers, \$182,891.95
Res. #2010-131,	Resolution for Self Examination of Budget
Res. #2010-132,	Authorization for Refund of Taxes (4 refunds of duplicate payments)
Res. #2010-133,	Authorization for Flea Market for Greater Cape May Elks & Seashore Church of the Nazarene (1 day)
Res. #2010-134,	Authorization for South Jersey Power Co-operative Electric Bid (To include Lower Township in the bid with in the co-op for retail electric)

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

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Mazurek, yes , Councilmember Douglass, yes , Deputy Mayor Lare, yes , Mayor Beck, yes .

Regular Agenda

Public Hearing Budget Amendment (adopted May 3, 2010)

Joe Winters asked if the Township was backing off the compensated absence liability and asked if more money was being put in it?

Manager McPherson said money was transferred in it last year.

Mayor Beck closed the public hearing.

Res. #2010-135, Resolution Adopting the 2010 Municipal Budget (as amended)

Councilmember Douglass 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 .

Administrative Reports

Personnel Action Report

April Reports Animal Control, Construction, Dog Licensing, Municipal Clerk, Municipal Court, Municipal Judge, Tax Collector, Vital Statistics

Council Comments

Councilmember Conrad said there would be a block party on June 5th along Bayshore Road. He said it was EMS week and Cape Regional honored a Lower Township EMT Frank McDermott for his dedication to the County. He said Mr. McDermott was one of the first paramedics in the State.

Deputy Mayor Lare said Scott Douglass donated his time to clean up Douglass Park. He said about 10 people from the churches helped with the spring clean up.

Mayor Beck said when he came on board it was about controlling spending but also about expanding a sense of community. He mentioned the Township Recreation Center and the Chamber of Commerce were having a block party he said it was important for many reasons and hoped everyone would attend. He said the hours were 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, there would be vendors, food, activities and music. He said they still needed vendors it was their first year trying the block party.

Mayor Beck reminded everyone that the census takers were out and to open the door to them. He said it was extremely important to the residents and community.

Public Comments

Joe Boyle of Villas thanked the Township for the block party and it was great work that was done by the church.

Budget

Janet Pitts, President of the LTTA thanked Council for their hard work on the budget. She said it was extraordinary that the Township did such work without layoffs.

Water

Janet Pitts said she had attended many meetings on the Gibson Bill regarding the water. She said one article said they were supposed to sink four more wells and said it was something they were told they had to do.

Manager McPherson said Mike Demarcantonio and Bill Galestok had attended all the meetings.

Janet Pitts said Township was going to do a wastewater recharge and then the rug was pulled out from under them.

Mayor Beck said the MUA had said the water was not treated to the level needed.

Councilmember Mazurek said the State took the money back. He said at the meeting it was stated that there were two viable issued that weren't feasible for Cape May County. He said one was the desal plant and the other was the water recharge.

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Janet Pitts said it was the DEP with their Smart Growth, Rural Sustainability and now the water they just throw things at you and nothing ever comes to fruition.

Storm Clean Up

Brian McEwing of Townbank Road asked if there was a plan for the brush on the street.

Manager McPherson said they were out every day picking it up. She met with FEMA and the Township would get two more weekends in before the cut off and then they would go to the regular branch and leaf schedule. She said they had to get to the areas that were never collected yet.

Mayor Beck said many communities were in the same boat they had been through almost all of the neighborhoods and then people put more debris out.

Councilmember Douglass said they had been to areas and as fast as it was collected more was put out. He added summer residents were down and cleaning up their properties and putting tree limbs out.

Mayor Beck said they looked into some type of grabber device on a trash truck for the future as opposed to people and overtime.

Councilmember Douglass said he traveled to Bridgeton every day and other areas were worse with the storm debris.

Deputy Mayor Lare asked about chipping the tree branches as they went along.

Gary Douglass, Superintendent of Public Works said on the weekend when they had the whole force out when they got back to the yard they were chipped. He felt the trash trucks were the best to use and they were using what they had.

Deputy Mayor Lare asked if they had a chipper.

Gary Douglass said they used a tub grinder.

Wayne Weissman of the Villas thanked Council for no lay-offs. He asked about Ponder Lodge and questioned if Stockton College was there yet. He said there was an entry way open to the main building.

Mayor Beck said no, not yet.

Manager McPherson they were told once the lease was completed they would get security.

Wayne Mazurek said it was a catch 22 with DEP and Stockton. He said he had been there recently and it didn't look like anything had been done.

Mr. Weissman said parts of Bayshore Road were a disgrace.

Mayor Beck said he called Freeholder Beyel and was told it was on the list and they were working on it.

Manager McPherson said Public Works was holding a meeting to update the municipalities on the County projects.

Water

Fred Long of Cold Spring said he attended the hearing in Avalon regarding the water. He said the USGS presented a report to the DEP relating to the water situation in Cape May County. He said a newspaper article he read mentioned 4 wells. He said USGS presented 9 possible solutions to the situation. He said a number of those would have a major impact on Lower Township. He felt the Township should stay on top of the issue and some of the ideas were good.

Res. #2010-136, 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

Councilmember Conrad motioned to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilmember Mazurek. 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.

Council returned to open session and there being no further comment, Councilmember Mazurek 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: June 7, 2010