

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – December 21, 2020**

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on December 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via GoToMeetings.

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 Kevin Coombs
- Councilmember Roland Roy, Jr.
- Deputy Mayor David Perry
- Mayor Frank Sippel

Also present: Michael Laffey, Township Manager, David Stefankiewicz, Township Solicitor and Karen Fournier, Deputy Township Clerk

**Work Session**

**Consent Agenda**

Approval of Minutes – December 7, 2020

Res. #2020-324 Payment of Vouchers \$ 1,257,490.35

Res. #2020-325 Authorization for Refund of Taxes (2 properties)

Res. #2020-326 A Resolution Authorizing Increases for Non Union Employees (Supervisor Union)

Res. #2020-327 A Resolution Approving the Acceptance of and the Participation in the State of New Jersey, Department of Law and Public Safety Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) and Emergency Management Agency Assistance (EMAA) Subaward #FY20-EMPG-EMAA-0505

Res. #2020-328 Authorizing Payment for Dispatch Services (\$600,000 for 2020)

Res. #2020-329 Transfer of 2020 Appropriations

Res. #2020-330 Resolution of the Township of Lower Consenting to the Issuance By The Township of Lower Municipal Utilities Authority of Not To Exceed \$18,000,000 Revenue Bonds (Junior Lien) to the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank, and to the Issuance of a Project Note in Anticipation of the Issuance Such Revenue Bonds, for the Financing of Certain Sewer System Capital Improvements

Res. #2020-331 A Resolution Designating Lower Township's Municipal Warming Centers

Res. #2020-332 Authorizing the Holiday House Decorating Contest Sponsored by the Lower Township Parks and Recreation Dept.

Res #2020-333 Approval of Change Order #2 to Del-Tech Inc for the Judge Nathaniel Foster House for an Extension to the Project Completion Date

	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	RECUSE	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD	X		X				
COOMBS			X				
ROY		X	X				
PERRY			X				
SIPPEL			X				

**Regular Agenda**

Res. #2020-334 Authorizing the Payment of Vouchers (D. Perry \$1,538.80 – Contractual Reimbursement)

	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	RECUSE	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD			X				
COOMBS		X	X				
ROY			X				
PERRY						X	
SIPPEL	X		X				

**Manager's Report**

Manager Laffey addressed Council with an update on departmental business and Township projects. He expounded on the Schellenger's Landing Project and the Middle Thoroughfare Bridge construction, and informed about the holiday house decorating contest.

At Manager Laffey's request, Lauren Suit, Public Information Officer, shared details about the holiday house decorating contest.

Councilmember Roy complimented Manager Laffey for his great work. Mayor Sippel agreed.

**Engineer's Report**

Shawn Carr updated Council on the Township engineering projects being handled by Mott MacDonald, including: Roseann Avenue Phase 3, Mulligan Field Renovations, Jonathan Hoffman Playground, Rec. Center HVAC upgrades, and Rotary Community Park.

Mayor Sippel inquired about the HVAC upgrades for the Rec. Center.

Shawn Carr responded.

**Administrative Reports**

Monthly Reports: Clerk, Construction, Dog, Fire, Treasurer, Vital Statistics

**Council Comments**

Councilmember Conrad looks forward to a better year in 2021 and thanked residents, employees and fellow Council members for persevering through the pandemic. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Councilmember Coombs echoed Councilmember Conrad's comments.

Councilmember Roy echoed Councilmember Conrad's comments and added personal wishes for a safe and healthy New Year.

Deputy Mayor Perry thanked LT Police, Fire and Rescue for Santa's visit through the Township and thanked residents for their support of the toy drive. He voiced anticipation for completing beachfront projects next year and wished everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Mayor Sippel shared information about the COVID-19 vaccine and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Call to the Public**

James Sanford, E. Raleigh Ave., addressed Council regarding EMS services to Diamond Beach.

Manager Laffey responded.

Conversation ensued regarding construction to the Middle Thoroughfare Bridge.

Mayor Sippel stressed that the Township is addressing Mr. Sanford's concerns as quickly as possible.

Tom McNulty, Diamond Beach, complimented Council on the Schellenger's Landing project and pointed out improvements to Ocean Drive. Mr. McNulty addressed Council about the needs of the residents in Diamond Beach, specifically public works services and public safety. He urged Council to expedite their efforts on an agreement with Wildwood Crest for EMS services to Diamond Beach.

Councilmember Conrad voiced understanding about the public works schedule.

Mayor Sippel assured Mr. McNulty that his concerns are being addressed.

**Closed Session**

Res. #2020-335 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. **PERSONNEL**

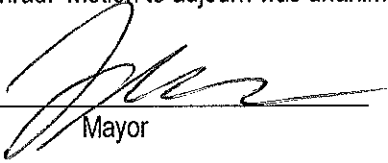
	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	RECUSE	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD		X	X				
COOMBS			X				
ROY			X				
PERRY			X				
SIPPEL	X		X				


Council adjourned to Closed Session at 7:41 p.m.

Council returned to Open Session at 7:55 p.m.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Mayor Sippel, seconded by Councilmember Conrad. Motion to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

  
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Mayor

  
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Township Clerk

Approved: Jan 4, 2021