

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – December 2, 2024

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on December 20, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in the meeting room of 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 Kevin Coombs
- Councilmember Roland Roy, Jr.
- Deputy Mayor David Perry
- Mayor Frank Sippel - via telephone

Also present: Michael Laffey, Township Manager, Robert Belasco, Township Solicitor and Karen Fournier, Deputy Township Clerk

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes – November 18, 2024

- Res. #2024-377 Authorization for the Payment of Vouchers \$ 1,157,044.03
- Res. #2024-378 Transfer of 2024 Appropriations
- Res. #2024-379 2024 Holiday Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Enforcement Mobilization
- Res. #2024-380 Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87, Chapter 159 (Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over)
- Res. #2024-381 Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87, Chapter 159 (NJ DOT Municipal Aid)
- Res. #2024-382 Authorization for Refund of Taxes
- Res. #2024-383 A Resolution Approving the Annual Level of Compensation for the Commissioners of Fire District #2 Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:14-88 and Local Finance Notice 2021-16
- Res. #2024-384 A Resolution Approving the Annual Level of Compensation for the Commissioners of Fire District #1 Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:14-88 and Local Finance Notice 2021-16
- Res. #2024-385 A Resolution Approving the Annual Level of Compensation for the Commissioners of Fire District #3 Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:14-88 and Local Finance Notice 2021-16
- Res. #2024-386 Authorization for the Payment of College Credits
- Res. #2024-387 Authorization for 2024 Incentive Award for Insurance Waiver
- Res. #2024-388 Resolution Supporting the Annual 2024 Greater Cape May Elk's/Tom Beheler Youth Basketball Tournament
- Res. #2024-389 Resolution Approving the Acceptance of and 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 #FY24-EMPG-EMAA-0505
- Res. #2024-390 Approving Change Order #1 for DeBlasio & Associates for the Townbank ADA Ramp Project (LT-C-056)
- Res. #2024-391 Approval of an Alcoholic Beverage Control License Place To Place Transfer – Expansion of Licenses Premises – License # 0505-33-019-010; Panico's Secondo, LLC.
- Res. #2024-392 Local Recreation Improvement Grant Application for \$100,000 ADA Improvements at David Douglas Jr. Memorial Park
- Res. #2024-393 Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Compensatory Time (W.Omrod \$2,799.16)
- Res. #2024-394 Bid Acceptance and Contract Award for the Townbank ADA Improvement Project (LT-C-056)
- Ord #2024-19 Salary & Benefit Ordinance for the Township of Lower. This is the first reading of this Ordinance. The second reading and public hearing is scheduled for December 16, 2024.

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

Regular Agenda

Ordinance #2024-16 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 3, Administration of Government, Article VI, Office of the Township Manager; Departments, Subsection 3-21, Township Manager, of The Code of The Township of Lower to Formally Establish the Duties and Obligations of the Position of Deputy Manager. This is the second reading of Ordinance 2024-16. This Ordinance has been posted, published and made available to the public.

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

Administrative Reports

Treasurer's

Public Comment

Sam Sassano, 223 W Wilde Ave., addressed Council regarding his added tax assessment and raised concern about the process as a result of renting his property. He further informed that he filed a property tax appeal. Solicitor Belasco advised Council to refrain from comment due to pending tax appeal and briefly explained the process to Mr. Sassano.

Council Comments

Councilmember Conrad reminded residents to check on their neighbors due to extremely cold temperatures.

Councilmember Coombs – no comments


Councilmember Roy thanked everyone for their attendance.

Mayor Sippel – no comments

Deputy Mayor Perry announced the following upcoming events: Tree Lighting Ceremony; Rotary Christmas Parade; Merry Merry Christmas; Elk's/ Beheler Youth Basketball Tournament; and the New Year's Eve Celebration.

Adjournment

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Councilmember Conrad, seconded by Councilmember Coombs. Motion to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.



Frank Sippel, Mayor



Township Clerk

Approved: Dec 16, 2024