

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – May 20, 2024

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

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

Work Session

Presentation of Accreditation to Police Department

Mr. Harry Delgado, Accreditation Program Director for the NJ State Association of Chiefs of Police, complimented the Lower Township Police Department on achieving accreditation for the fifth time and shared the significance of this accomplishment.

Mayor Sippel congratulated the Lower Township Police Department on this notable accomplishment and thanked Mr. Delgado for the presentation.

Oath of Office – Captain Michael Majane

Police Chief Kevin Lewis shared Captain Michael Majane's biography.

Mayor Sippel administered the Oath of Office to Captain Majane as his mother, Doloris, and daughter, Aubry, held the Bible. Captain Majane's wife, Erin Majane, pinned his badge.

Mayor Sippel shared a story about Captain Majane's father, Frank Majane.

Presentation – Girl Scout Beach Clean-up Volunteer Award

Councilmember Coombs, on behalf of Council, presented certificates of recognition to the following members of the girl scouts for their volunteer participation in the Clean Communities Statewide Litter Cleanup: Lily Scheid, Charlotte Larkin, Erin McGuigan, Genevieve Peoples, Abby McMullin, Joey Simmons, Emelia Grimes, and Noella DeJesus.

Department of Public Safety Update

Chief Kevin Lewis shared news from the Office of Secretary of Defense, Employer Support of the Guard Reserve recognizing the Lower Township Police Department as a Patriotic Employer, nominated by PFC Kevin Boyle.

Mayor Sippel congratulated the department and reiterated the Township's support of the military.

Chief Lewis gave Council an update on the Department of Public Safety, including staffing, special events, 2023 accomplishments and 2024 goals. A copy of the presentation is attached.

Mayor Sippel inquired about the licensing requirement for officers moving forward. Chief Lewis explained.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes – May 6, 2024

Res. #2024-170 Authorization for the Payment of Vouchers \$ 419,458.61

Res. #2024-171 Authorization for Refund of Taxes

Res. #2024-172 Re-appointment to the Zoning Board of Adjustment (J.Hanson)

Res. #2024-173 Re-Appointment to the Zoning Board of Adjustment (R.Sweeten)

Res. #2024-174 Authorizing Payments for 2024 Local School Taxes to Lower Township Board of Education

Res. #2024-175 A Resolution Authorizing the Ride to Defeat ALS, scheduled for June 15, 2024

Res. #2024-176 Certification to the Local Finance Board of Receipt and Review of Audit Sections General Comments and Recommendations

Res. #2024-177 Authorizing Payout of Terminal Leave (L.Eubanks \$2,134.95)

Res. #2024-178 Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Compensatory Time (A.DiDonado \$511.85)

- Res. #2024-179 Approval of Change Order #1 for DeBlasio & Associates for Survey Phase of Public Works Administration Building (LT-C-048) (\$7,000)
- Res. #2024-180 A Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Real Property Located in the Township of Lower by way of An Open Public Auction
- Res. #2024-181 Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Compensatory Time (C.Sheid \$4,851.38)
- Res. #2024-182 Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Compensatory Time (M.lames \$3,358.56)
- Res. #2024-183 Resolution to Award Dell Marketing LP through New Jersey State Contract #T3121 Software Reseller for the Construction and Code Enforcement Software System through the Authorized Distributor Spatial Data Logic LLC (SDL)#V00001955

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

Regular Agenda

Ord. #2024-03 Bond Ordinance Providing for Various Roadway and Drainage Improvements, by and in the Township of Lower, in the County of Cape May, State of New Jersey; Appropriating \$3,600,000 Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of \$3,420,000 Bonds or Notes of the Township to Finance Part of the Cost Thereof. This is the second reading and Public Hearing of this Ordinance. This Ordinance has been posted, published and made available to the public.

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

Ord. #2024-04 Bond Ordinance Providing for Various 2024 Capital Improvements, by and in the Township of Lower, in the County of Cape May, State of New Jersey (the "Township"); Appropriating \$4,870,000 Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of \$4,625,000 Bonds or Notes of the Township to Finance Part of the Costs Thereof. This is the second reading and Public Hearing of this Ordinance. This Ordinance has been posted, published and made available to the public.

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

Engineer Report

Will Hanson gave Council an update on the following engineering projects being handled by DeBlasio & Associates, including: Diamond Beach Park Improvements; Reconstruction of Wildwood Avenue; Resurfacing of Bay Drive; Beach Access Paths Survey and Installation; Rotary Community Park Renovations; Bay Outfall Extensions; Reconstruction of Ridgewood Avenue; 2023 Stormwater GIS Mapping Services; Frances Avenue Storm Sewer Evaluation; Ohio Avenue Pump Station Emergency Storm Sewer Replacement; David Douglass Sr. Memorial Park Renovations; Public Works Building Concept Design and Site Remediation Investigation, Corson Lane Roadway Resurfacing; Holmes, Gorham & Scott Avenues Storm Sewer & Roadway Improvement Project; and Village Road Bulkhead.

Administrative Reports

Clerk, Construction, Dog, OEM, Tax, Treasurer, Vital Statistics
Personnel Action Report

Public Comment

Bill Greenfield, Villas, addressed Council to request the intersection of New Jersey and Columbia Avenues be evaluated for road improvements.

Council Comments

Councilmember Conrad thanked all volunteers throughout the Township and everyone who helped with the appreciation luncheon.

Councilmember Coombs advised of changes in traffic patterns due to Escape the Cape Triathlon on June 2nd.

Councilmember Roy – no comments

Deputy Mayor Perry voiced favor with the positive improvements that are taking place throughout the Township.

Mayor Sippel informed about a \$400,000 grant awarded to the Township for improvements to the Municipal Pool. He also announced Family Fun Day and informed that five bids were received for Emergency Medical Services.

Adjourn

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Councilmember Coombs, seconded by Councilmember Conrad. Motion to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.



Frank Sippel, Mayor



Township Clerk

Approved: June 3, 2024



Departmental Update

May 20th, 2024

Current Staffing

- (1) Chief
- (1) Deputy Chief
- (1) Captain
- (3) Lieutenant
- (2) Sergeant First Class (Pending Hansberry loss)
- (4) Patrol Sergeant
- (1) Detective Sergeant
- (5) Corporal (Pending Szemcsak loss on or about June 1st)
- (1) Detective First Class
- (4) Patrolman First Class (Kevin Boyle currently deployed/Fessler uncertain return to duty)
- (1) Senior Detective
- (4) Detective
- (22) Patrolman (One pending litigation / Internal Affairs Investigation)
- (1) Class 2
- (1) Recruit (Delguidice to return to academy 5/27/24 to complete last week)
- (6) Records

Upcoming Special Events

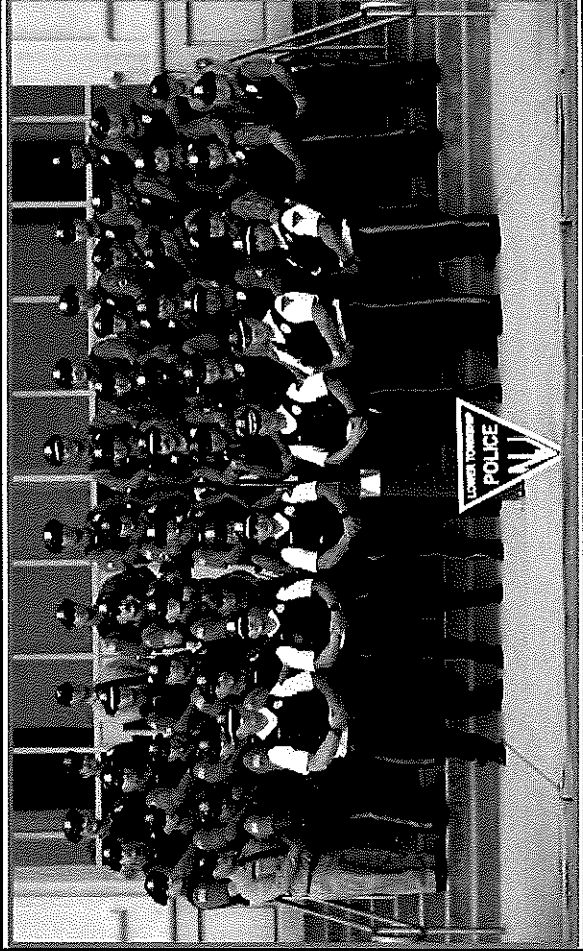
- LTPD Bike Rodeo & LT Family Fun Night – May 24, 2004
- L.E.A.D Day - June 4, 2024
- Escape the Cape Triathlon - June 2, 2024
- Special Olympics LE Torch Run – June 7, 2024
- RMT & LCMR Graduation – June 13, 2024
- Behr Brewery 5K – June 23, 2024
- Independence Day Festival - July 3, 2024.
- Whale of a Day – July 6, 2024
- Lower Township Youth Camp – July 29 to August 2, 2024
- Coombs / Douglass Memorial Bay Run – August 3, 2024
- National Night Out – August 6, 2024
- Family Fun Nights / Movies in the Park Mulligan Field once-a-month program between June- September - Dates TBD
- First Responder & Military Appreciation Day – September 11, 2024
- Military Appreciation Football Game @ LCMR - September 20, 2024 @ 1800hrs
- Beach to Brewery – September 21, 2024 @ 0900hrs
- Bike & Beers (Cape May Co.) – September 21, 2024
- Run for the Fallen – September 25, 2024
- Faith & Blue – October 4th – 7th 2024 –
- Run the Crest 10 Miller – Saturday, October 5, 2024
- Halloween Costume Parade Cold Spring Village - October 12, 2024
- Run the Vineyard - A Good Day for a Run (Cape May Winery) – October 20, 2024
- Trunk or Treat Ferry Location - October 20, 2024
- Trunk or Treat Seashore Community Church – October 2024
- Haunted Trails -Recreation Center - October 26, 2024
- Hallowed Half Marathon – October 26, 2024 @ 0730hrs
- Veterans Day Parade - November 9, 2024
- West Cape May Christmas Parade – December 7, 2024
- Lower Township Rotary Parade – December 14, 2024
- St. John Neumann Our Lady of Guadalupe Procession – December 12, 2024
- Lower Township Veterans Appreciation / Tree Lighting Ceremony- Date TBD
- The Ferry Merry Christmas - December 15, 2024
- Tom Beheler/Greater Cape May Eiks youth basketball – Recreation Center December 27, 28, 29, 2024.
- The New Year's Eve Family Celebration Recreation Center - December 31, 2024.

2023 Accomplishments

- Procured and Fielded Multiple Stationary Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs)
- Fully implemented our Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) or drone program; Expanded training and personnel for this life saving program. (Currently 7 fully licensed pilots)
- ATV Program expanded with 12 additional trained and licensed operators
- Implemented Patrolman First Class (PFC) and Senior Detective (SRD) positions
- Implemented Deputy Chief (DC) position and promoted Deputy Chief Vanaman
- Underwent our triennial re-accreditation on-site assessment with the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP)

2024 Goals

- Implement Axon Air Program to manage UAS data collection, storage and pilots
- Procure a Command Trailer for use at critical incidents and special events
- Continue to Procure and Field Additional Stationary ALPRs throughout the Township
- Digitize archived records
- Familiarize with and adhere to new 2024 Police Licensing Standards
- Continue recruiting and retention efforts to ensure adequate staffing levels



QUESTIONS?