

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – April 17, 2023

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on April 17, 2023 at 7:00 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

Proclamation - Wear Purple Day – April 21, 2023

Mayor Sippel read a proclamation recognizing April 21, 2023 as Wear Purple Day in support of Alcohol Awareness Month

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes – April 3, 2023

Res. #2023-142 Authorization for the payment of vouchers \$ 200,887.73

Res. #2023-143 Authorizing the Payout of Terminal Leave (D. Douglass \$31,666.93)

Res. #2023-144 Authorizing the Payout of Terminal Leave (D. Clark \$16,393.27)

Res. #2023-145 A Resolution requesting Reduction of Performance Guarantee for Earl Drive Estates Major Subdivision, Block 501; Lot 11.01; Escrow #P08-02-05

Res. #2023-146 Affidavit of Foreclosure Group 2

Res. #2023-147 Contract Award to Provide the 2023 Fireworks Show including the Barge to S. Vitale Pyrotecnico Industries Inc (\$63,500)

Res. #2023-148 A Resolution Authorizing the Acceptance of Cops in Shops Funding Summer Shore Initiative 2023

Res. #2023-149 A Resolution Authorizing and Approving a Shared Service Agreement Between the Township of Lower and the City of Wildwood for Emergency Medical Services

Res. #2023-150 Proclamation – Wear Purple Day – April 21, 2023

Res. #2023-151 Approving Change Order #1 and Final Payment to Fred M Schiavone Construction to Reattach Post to Concrete at Entrance for Millman Center Improvements Project (LT-C-030) (\$4,509.60)

Res. #2023-152 Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Non-Fair and Open Contract for a Porter Athletic Divider Curtain with Center Roll Electric for Lower Township Recreation Gymnasium (\$21,690.00)

Ordinance #2023-07 An Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Chapter 3, Administration of Government, of the Code of the Township of Lower, to Establish New Article IX, Municipal Property, Buildings, Structure sand Facilities, Conditions of Entry, in order to Designate Restricted Areas on Township Property, In Buildings, Structures and other Facilities limited to Authorized Personnel Only to Protect and Safeguard Public Records containing Personally Identifiable Information and to Provide a Safe and Secure Work Space free from Intrusion and Disruption for Township Officials and Employees

Ordinance #2023-08 Bond Ordinance Providing for Various 2023 Capital Improvements, By and In the Township of Lower, in the County of Cape May, State of New Jersey (the Township) Appropriating \$3,000,000 Therefore and Authorizing the Issuance of \$2,850,000 Bonds or Notes of the Township to Finance Part of the Costs thereof

Ordinance #2023-09 An Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Chapter 7, Traffic, of the Code of the Township of Lower in Order to Establish a Municipal Parking Program for Purple Heart Recipients and Disabled Veterans This is the first reading of Ordinances #2023-07, 2023-08 and 2023-09. The second reading and public hearing has been scheduled for May 1st at 5:00

Mayor Sippel commented in support of Ordinance #2023-09, initiated by Deputy Mayor Perry, as it benefits Veterans.

On the Consent:

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

Regular Agenda

Ordinance #2023-05 Salary and Benefit Ordinance for the Township of Lower. This is the second reading and public hearing of this Ordinance. This Ordinance has been published, posted and made available to the public.

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

Engineer Report

Will Hanson gave Council an update on the capital engineering project being handled by DeBlasio & Associates including: Diamond Beach Park Improvements; Millman Center Improvements; Reconstruction of Fire Lane; Replacement of Various Pavilions; Municipal Pool Renovations; Reconstruction of Wildwood Avenue; Reconstruction of Carriage Lane, Briarwood Drive, Bridle Path, Paddock Lane, Timber Lane and Trotter Way; Lincoln Boulevard Restroom Facility and Beach Access Paths.

Monthly Reports

Clerk, Construction, Dog, Tax, Vital

Public Comment

Bill Greenfield, Villas, addressed Council to recommend they look into the Water Resources Development Act of 2022, a federal program for flood and coastal storm risk management and ecosystem restoration.

Dorothy Plenn, Roseann Ave., addressed Council with concern about the recent flooding that occurred on Roseann Avenue.

Gary Douglass, Superintendent of Public Works, explained the storm drain system and assured that a solution is being addressed. Deputy Mayor Perry inquired about maintenance. Mr. Douglass reassured that the problem is not due to lack of cleaning or maintenance.

Gail Ivans, Roseann Ave., asked why the alert system for the pump station did not work.

Gary Douglass explained.

Mayor Sippel assured that the problem is being addressed.

Dan Santoro, Roseann Ave., voiced discontent about the build-up of leaves in the storm drains.

Kathleen Mistretta, Mindy Ave., addressed Council about getting a sidewalk between Bayshore West and Legates Farm.

Mayor Sippel informed that the property belongs to the County. Mr. Laffey agreed to look into it.

Ms. Mistretta inquired about the Environmental Commission.

Mayor Sippel advised Ms. Mistretta to obtain the application on the Township website.

Christina Rayzis, Roseann Ave., stated concern and disgust with the Roseann Avenue incidents and questioned the Township's intent to rectify the situation.

David Rayzis, Roseann Ave., stressed an urgency to correct the problem on Roseann Avenue, as it poses a risk to people and property.

Gary Douglass communicated the factors involved and reiterated the Township's diligence in resolving the problem. Deputy Mayor Perry suggested communicating to residents about timing and placement of leaves. Mayor Sippel reiterated the Township's commitment to rectify the problem.

Council Comments

Councilmember Conrad thanked Public Works for fixing the problem on Station Avenue.

Councilmember Coombs reiterated the Township's commitment to resolving the problem on Roseann Avenue.


Councilmember Roy – no comments

Deputy Mayor Perry – no comments

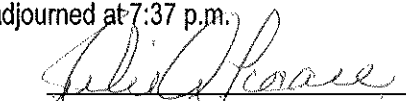
Mayor Sippel acknowledged the efforts of the Public Works Department and spoke briefly about Lower Township's participation in the Arrive Program. He announced the Arbor Day Celebration, Lower Township Little League Opening Day, Wear Purple Day and 5:00 p.m. begin time for the next meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Councilmember Coombs, seconded by Councilmember Roy. Motion to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.)



Mayor



Township Clerk

Approved: *May 1, 2023*