

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – December 20, 2021**

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on December 20, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the meeting room of the Township Hall, 2600 Bayshore Road, Villas, New Jersey.

The Deputy 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 Deputy Clerk:

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

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

**Work Session**

Presentation - Mr. Joseph Castellucci, Superintendent LCMR School District

Mr. Castellucci explained the initiative of the referendum question being placed on the January 25<sup>th</sup> special election ballot, to raise funds for necessary improvements to LCMR Middle and High Schools.

Councilmember Conrad reiterated the fact that the all-inclusive cost estimate will not cause a tax increase.

Presentation of Certificates – Police Youth Camp - Mayor Frank Sippel

Mayor Sippel spoke briefly about the inception of the Police Youth Camp and thanked all participants for their involvement in the camp. Officer Coombs described some of the activities enjoyed by camp members and participant alike. Mayor Sippel and Council presented Certificates of Recognition to the following: SRO Elwell, SRO Coombs, Sgt. Perry, Sgt. Barcas, Ptlm. Nuscis, Ptlm. Saini, Ptlm. Micciche, Det. Black, SFC Hansberry, Lt. Smith, Lt. Armbruster, Capt. Vanaman, Capt. Lewis, Aaren Larkin, Suzanne Scheid, Joanne Budd, Lt. Szemcsak and Ptlm. Kara Murphy from CMPD.

**Consent Agenda**

Approval of Minutes-December 6, 2021

Res. #2021-379 Authorization for the Payment of Vouchers (\$1,105,168.35)

Res. #2021-380 South Jersey Gas First Responders Grant

Res. #2021-381 A Resolution Requesting Release of Demolition Bond for Block 667, Lot 18, 601 Winslow Ave., North Cape May

Res. #2021-382 A Resolution Requesting Release of Performance Guarantee for the Nature Conservancy, Block 753.01, Lots 34.02, 25.02 & 26 and Block 762, Lots 40-43, Escrow #P14-07-04

Res. #2021-383 Renewal of Trailer Park License

Res. #2021-384 Transfer of 2021 Appropriations

Res. #2021-385 A Resolution Authorizing Participation in a Nationwide Settlement Agreement with Johnson and Johnson, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc., McKesson, Cardinal Health, and Amerisourcebergen to Resolve Pending Litigation Involving Said Corporations' Involvement in the National Opioid Crisis

Res. #2021-386 A Resolution Supporting a Grant Application to the Cape May County Division of Open Spaces and Farmland Preservation Historic Preservation Grant Program

Res. #2021-387 Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Vacation Time (P. Muldoon, \$792.65 & K. Lindsley, \$958.17)

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

**Regular Agenda**

**Manager's Report**

Manager Laffey updated Council on the Bayshore Road Project, Seaview & Madison Avenue flooding, and additional road improvements.

**Engineer's Report**

Cody Stanford provided Council with a 2021 Year End Review and gave a brief summary of the work DeBlasio & Associates have provided throughout 2021. He also updated Council on the status of the following projects: Reconstruction of Wilson Drive; Cloverdale, Evergreen & Spruce Avenues Storm Sewer Improvements; Clem Mulligan Sports Complex Renovations; Reconstruction of Atlantic, Howland, Millman and Mowery Avenues; Millman Center Improvements and 2022 NJDOT Municipal Aid Program.

Mayor Sippel reminded Mr. Stanford of the importance of notifying residents and businesses prior to road closures.

Deputy Mayor Perry inquired about NJDEP permits for the beach access projects. Mr. Stanford explained. A brief discussion ensued regarding timeframe and permitting.

**Administrative Reports**

Monthly Reports – Clerk, Construction, Dog, Tax, Vital

**Public Comment** – no comments

**Council Comments**

Mayor Sippel commented on Ferry Merry Christmas and the Holiday Newsletter and reminded about the date for the reorganization meeting. He also thanked Chief Priole for his service and wished everyone a safe and Happy New Year.

Deputy Mayor Perry thanked all Township employees for their commitment through 2021 and wished everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.

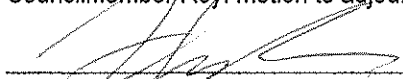
Councilmember Roy wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He also thanked all public employees for their hard work throughout the year.

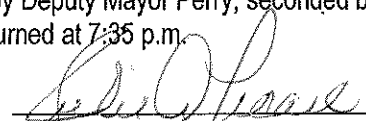
Councilmember Coombs wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Councilmember Conrad thanked all Township employees and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Deputy Mayor Perry, seconded by Councilmember Roy. Motion to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

  
Mayor

  
Township Clerk

Approved:  Jan 3, 2022