

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – December 6, 2021

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on December 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the meeting room of the 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, David Stefankiewicz, Township Solicitor and Karen Fournier, Deputy Township Clerk

Work Session

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes – November 15, 2021

- Res. #2021-356 Authorization for the Payment of Vouchers \$742,694.78
- Res. #2021-357 Authorization for Refund of Taxes (10 properties)
- Res. #2021-358 A Resolution Requesting Release of a Performance Guarantee for Canyon Club/Harbertown Resort Marina, LLC; Block 823, Lots 3.01 & 3.02; Escrow #P16-04-06
- Res. #2021-359 Authorizing the Payout of Terminal Leave (C.Vanaman \$419.14)
- Res. #2021-360 A Resolution Directing the Distribution of the Township of Lower's Net Returned Surplus Funds Held In Trust by the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund
- Res. #2021-361 Authorization for the Payment of College Credits (\$4,000)
- Res. #2021-362 A Resolution To Award State Contract Vendor Axon Enterprises, Inc. to Purchase Sixteen (16) Police Fleet 3 In Car Cameras Including Installation (\$117,879.99)
- Res. #2021-363 A Resolution to Award State Contract Vendor Axon Enterprises, Inc. to Purchase Sixty-Three (63) Police Axon Body 3NA 10 Cameras (\$277,560.14)
- Res. #2021-364 Appointment of Sarah VanSeeters as Certified Municipal Court Administrator
- Res. #2021-365 Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to NJSA 40A:4-87, Chapter 159 (Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over \$7,500)
- Res. #2021-366 Approving a Shared Service Agreement between the Township of Lower and Lower Cape May Regional School District (Teitelman) School Resource Officer
- Res. #2021-367 Approval for 2021 Christmas Parade
- Res. #2021-368 Lower Cape Alliance
- Res. #2021-369 Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Vacation Time (E. Kreis, \$1,250.73)
- Res. #2021-370 Appointment of Paul J Baldini, Esq as Conflict Counsel for the Township of Lower as a Professional Service Contract without Public Bidding
- Res. #2021-371 Appointment of Keith Bonchi, Esq as Tax Foreclosure Attorney for the Township of Lower as a Professional Service Contract without Public Bidding
- Res. #2021-372 Approval for the Tax Collector to Proceed with Foreclosure of Group #1
- Res. #2021-373 Reappointment to the Zoning Board of Adjustment (G.Doherty)
- Res. #2021-374 Award of Professional Service Contract without Public Bidding to Wizards Festival of Fun for Entertainment at the New Year's Event on December 31, 2021
- Res. #2021-375 Appointment of Lower Township Conflict Hearing Officer as a Professional Service Contract Without Public Bidding.
- Res. #2021-376 Transfer of 2021 Appropriations
- Ordinance #2021-22; An ordinance Amending Chapter Seven Entitled "Traffic" of the General Ordinances of the Township of Lower. This is the first reading of this Ordinance. The second reading and public hearing has been scheduled for Jan 3, 2022

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

Regular Agenda

Ordinance #2021-21; 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				
ROY		X	X				
PERRY			X				
SIPPEL			X				

Res. #2021-377 Authorization for 2021 Incentive Award for Insurance Waiver (\$50,000)

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

Manager's Report – no report

Administrative Reports

Monthly Reports -Treasurer

Public Comment

Jim Pomponi, Richmond Ave., addressed Council regarding flooding in Diamond Beach and made suggestions regarding the pipeline.

Gary Douglass, Public Works Superintendent, addressed Mr. Pomponi's concern and further informed about the matter.

Council Comments

Councilmember Conrad gave an update on the beach access paths in the Villas. He also recognized the passing of Township resident and CPR instructor, Helen Eppiheimer.

Councilmember Coombs gave a brief update on the Bayshore Road construction and parade route change.

Councilmember Roy reminded residents of the importance of identifying their property with house numbers for emergency services.

Manager Laffey informed that code enforcement will be notifying home owners regarding the same.

Deputy Mayor Perry commented on several items on the consent agenda including police body cameras and LCMR School Superintendent, Joe Castelluci presenting at the next meeting regarding a bond referendum. He thanked Ed Donahue, Gary Douglass and Manager Laffey for their work on the beach paths/ reports. He also announced the following events: Toy Drive and Food Bank Donations, Rotary Christmas Parade route change, Ferry Merry Christmas and New Year's Eve Celebration.

Mayor Sippel – no comments

Closed Session

Res. #2021-378 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 / Attorney/Client Privilege**

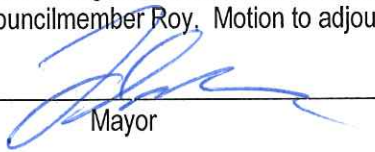
	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	RECUSE	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD	X		X				
COOMBS			X				
ROY		X	X				
PERRY			X				
SIPPEL			X				

Council adjourned to Executive Session at 7:17 p.m.

Council returned to open session at 7:48 p.m.

Adjourn

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 7:49 p.m.



Mayor



Township Clerk

Approved: *December 20, 2021*