

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – February 6, 2023

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on February 6, 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 – Pastor West

Mayor Sippel read a proclamation to Pastor Tim West, Police Chaplain, congratulating and thanking him for his dedicated service to Lower Township. Pastor West thanked Chief Lewis for supporting the Police Chaplain initiative and hopes to return to Lower Township after his mission in Paris Island.

Erma Fire Department presentation to Jeffery Laag and John Rogers

Erma Fire Chief, David Lepor, thanked Mayor and Council for the opportunity to publicly recognize members of the Erma Volunteer Fire Company.

Chief Lepor recognized John Rogers for 15 years of service with the Erma Volunteer Fire Company and presented him with a plaque, badge and pin. John was accompanied by his wife and children.

Mayor Sippel read a proclamation thanking John Rogers for his dedicated years of service to the residents of Lower Township.

Chief Lepor recognized Jeffery Laag for 25 years of service with the Erma Volunteer Fire Company and presented him with a plaque, pin and ring. Jeffrey was accompanied by his wife and children.

Mayor Sippel read a proclamation thanking Jeffrey Laag for his dedicated years of service to the residents of Lower Township.

Public Safety Update – drones

LTPD Captain CJ Ryan, Lieutenant Brian McEwing, and Detective First-Class Michael James shared a short presentation on the new drone program, calling it the future of policing.

Councilmember Conrad asked if there are plans for a second drone. Lt. McEwing expressed interest in purchasing a second air frame in the future.

Mayor Sippel thanked the LTPD for the presentation and for keeping up with technology.

Low Conley – Fire District Elections Presentation

Low Conley, Townbank Volunteer Fire Company, Board of Commissioners Secretary, thanked Mayor & Council for inviting him to speak. He shared information about the Fire District Election and their proposed budget, with a zero tax rate increase, and stressed the importance of keeping the public informed. He also complimented Chief Lewis on the drone program.

Mayor Sippel reiterated his offer to Mr. Conley to assist the Fire Company with keeping the public informed.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes – January 18, 2023

Res. #2023-69 Approval for Payment of Vouchers \$ 955,287.00

Res. #2023-70 Amend Designation of Official Depositories

Res. #2023-71 Authorizing Pay Out of Terminal Leave (S.Trunfio \$9,114.82)

Res. #2023-72 A Resolution Requesting Release of Demolition Bond for Block 537, Lot 13; 3 Beverly Road, Town Bank, NJ

Res. #2023-73 Authorization for the Pay Out of Accumulated Compensatory Time (K.Walker \$6,238.92)

Res. #2023-74 Authorization for the Pay Out of Accumulated Compensatory Time (E.Danze \$7,096.20)

- Res. #2023-75 Issuance of 2023 Taxi, Limousine and Operator Licenses
- Res. #2023-76 Approval of 2023 Rotary Towing Licenses
- Res. #2023-77 A Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Lower Evidencing Local Support of an Application for a Class 5 Cannabis Retail License within the Township of Lower by Sea & leaf, LLC
- Res. #2023-78 Approving Change Order #1 for the Award of National Cooperative Purchasing Agreement with Sourcewell to Hunter Jersey Peterbilt for (1) One 2023 Peterbilt 548 Tandem Axle Cab and Chassis (\$13,158.)
- Res. #2023-79 Approving Change Order #1 for Amendments to the Award of National Cooperative Purchasing Agreement with Sourcewell to Hunter Jersey Peterbilt for (1) One 2023 Peterbilt 548 Tandem Axle Cab and Chassis (\$8,481.)
- Res. #2023-80 Various Appointments to the Recreation Advisory Board
- Res. #2023-81 Approval of Change Order #3 with DeBlasio & Associates for Additional Architectural Services for Diamond Beach Park (\$13,000)
- Res. #2023-82 Approving a Professional Service Contract with DeBlasio & Associates for the Engineering and Architectural and Construction Phase of the Lincoln Boulevard Restroom Facility Project (LT-C-035) (\$40,000)
- Res. #2023-83 Authorizing the Sale of Township of Lower Surplus No Longer Needed for Public Use on Govdeals Online Auction
- Res. #2023-84 Appointment to the Planning Board (S.Morris)
- Res. #2023-85 Bid Rejection for Replacement of Various Pavilions in the Township of Lower (LT-C-027)
- Res. #2023-86 A Resolution in Support of the New Jersey Department of Transportation's Recommendation to Reduce Speed Limit Along Route 109

Ordinance #2023-02 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 106, Recreation Advisory Board, Subsection 2, Membership; Organization; Terms; Alternates; Vacancies, In Order to Increase the Total Number of Board Members Appointed to the Recreation Advisory Board. This is the first reading of this Ordinance. The second reading and public hearing has been scheduled for March 6, 2023.

Ordinance #2023-03 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 \$2,700,000 Therefore and Authorizing the Issuance of \$2,500,000 Bonds or Notes of the Township to Finance Part of the Cost Thereof. This is the first reading of this Ordinance. The second reading and public hearing has been scheduled for February 22, 2023

Mayor Sippel commented on Res. #2023-77 and Res. #2023-80.

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

Regular Agenda

Res. #2023-87 A Resolution in Support of the Lower Township Police Department Reaffirming the Township of Lower's Commitment to Public Safety in Light of Recent Incidents Involving Juvenile Delinquency

Mayor Sippel shared the response to misinformation regarding curfew laws and commented in support of enforcing the Township's curfew ordinance.

Chief Lewis thanked the Mayor, Council, Solicitor and Manager Laffey for their assistance with this matter.

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

Ordinance 2023-01 An Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-15.14) 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				

Manager's Report

Manager Laffey updated Council on issues with Shawcrest Mobile Home Park and communicated his attempts to assist with the situation.

Call to the Public

Marie Hayes, County Commissioner Vice Director, addressed Council on behalf of the Board of Commissioners to communicate their support and inform that they will be regular attendees at Township Council meetings.

Andrew Bulakowski, County Commissioner, congratulated Councilmembers Conrad, Coombs and Roy on a successful campaign. He commended Council as well as the Police and Fire Departments on their hard work. He shared the Commissioner Director's plan to join forces with the Township.

Mayor Sippel congratulated Mr. Bulakowski on the election and thanked him for volunteering. He also thanked the County for the American Rescue Plan funds for infrastructure improvements.

Council Comments

Mayor Sippel announced Black History Month, Volunteers in Medicine Free Medical Care Day, Tabernacle Methodist Church Community Resource Day, Hope One Van, State Anchor Program extension and NJ Shares Energy Grants.

Deputy Mayor Perry – no comments

Councilmember Roy gave an update on Schellenger's Landing Safety Improvements and informed of the NJDOT's proposal for seasonal speed limit adjustments.

Councilmember Coombs shared news from VanDrew's office securing a grant to fund the North Cape May water main replacement. He also voiced support for the Eagles.

Councilmember Conrad shared sympathy at the passing of former LT Rescue Squad Chief Kevin Hart.

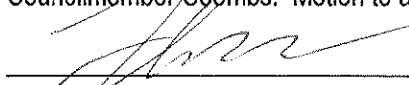
Res. #2023-88 Resolution Providing for a Meeting Not Open to the Public in Accordance with the Provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12. **Attorney/Client privilege**

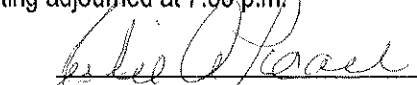
Motion to Table Resolution #2023-88 made by Deputy Mayor Perry, seconded by Mayor Sippel.

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

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 7:55 p.m.


 Mayor


 Township Clerk

Approved: Feb. 22, 2023