

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – June 22, 2022

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on June 22, 2022 at 5:00 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 – via phone (lost connection during Work Session)
Councilmember Kevin Coombs
Councilmember Roland Roy, Jr.
Deputy Mayor David Perry
Mayor Frank Sippel

Also present: Michael Laffey, Township Manager, David Stefankiewicz and Robert Belasco, Township Solicitors and Karen Fournier, Deputy Township Clerk

Work Session

Cape Addiction Recovery Services (CARES) Program– Chief Lewis & Sue Anne Agger

Mayor Sippel invited Chief Lewis and Sue Anne Agger to explain the CARES Program.

Chief Lewis introduced Sue Anne Agger and Tom Pulaski from Cape Regional Medical Center, and asked them to speak about the CARES Program in an effort to obtain Council's support of a pilot program in Lower Township. Sheriff Robert Nolan recognized the need for this program and commended Chief Lewis for his commitment to this cause.

Chief Lewis pointed out that the program will save the Township on resources provided by Cape Regional Medical Center.

Mayor Sippel voiced his support and appreciation to all parties involved in the program.

Oath of Office – Patrolman Simba Elam-Hampton

Chief Lewis shared Simba Elam-Hampton's biography. Patrol Officer Hampton was sworn-in by Mayor Sippel, who administered the Oath of Office, while his girlfriend, Georgia Papamarkos, held the Bible and his best friend, James Grauel, pinned his badge.

MUA Presentation & Proclamation

Mayor Sippel read a Proclamation, on behalf of Council, congratulating Mike Chapman on his retirement from the Lower Township MUA.

Mike Chapman thanked the Township for the proclamation and gave a presentation about the LTMUA, highlighting its existence as an independent Authority. He also pointed out "stuff you should know" about the MUA and introduced Stephen Blankenship, incoming Executive Director.

Stephen Blankenship briefed Council on his credentials and shared his enthusiasm to continue the great work done by the MUA.

Mayor Sippel thanked Mike Chapman for his presentation and welcomed Stephen Blankenship to the position.

Public Hearing – Renewal of Liquor License #0505-31-024-001; Issued to: Sunset Beach Sportsman Club, 6 Sunset Boulevard

Mayor Sippel noted three (3) letters received by the Township in relation to the renewal of the club license for Sunset Beach Sportsmen's Club:

04/26/2022 NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife; 05/10/2022 Gillin-Schwartz Law Firm; and 06/16/2022 NJDEP v. Sunset Beach Sportsmen's Club Civil Action Verified Complaint/Landlord.

Mayor Sippel invited a representative from the State of New Jersey to address Council regarding this matter. No representative from the State was present.

Mayor Sippel invited a representative from Sunset Beach Sportsmen's Club to address Council on this matter.

Chris Gillin-Schwartz, Esq., representing Sunset Beach Sportsmen's Club, addressed Council on behalf of the Club and its numerous members present. He voiced disappointment that the State was not present to explain the basis for their denial. He ensured that the Club has satisfied all the State's requirements for a club license and will continue to be good stewards of the land where the club operates. Furthermore, he respectfully requested that Council approve the renewal of the club's liquor license.

Ed Claven, Villas, President of Sunset Beach Sportsmen's Club, gave a history of the club dating back to 1949, the club members, and the existence of the clubhouse of over 65 years at the current location. He voiced confusion about the State's reasoning for wanting them out and thanked Council for their consideration on the renewal of the club license.

Solicitor Stefankiewicz restated the criteria for a club license, as cited by Attorney Gillin-Schwartz. He advised that the landlord-tenant dispute is beyond the resolve of Township Council, and separate from the matter of the liquor license renewal.

Clerk Picard, at the request of Mayor Sippel, read the criteria for a club license as referred to in the ABC Manual.

Mayor Sippel thanked the club for their many contributions to the community over the years.

Res.#2022-196 A Resolution Authorizing the Renewal of Liquor License #0505-31-024-001

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

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes – June 6, 2022

Res. #2022-197 Approval for Payment of Vouchers \$ 789,708.21

Res. #2022-198 Annual Renewal of Liquor Licenses for the Year 2022-2023

Res. #2022-199 A Resolution Supporting an Appropriations and Levy Cap Exemption for a Three Year Period for Increases in Liability, Worker's Compensation, Cyber Liability and Property Insurance

Res. #2022-200 Authorization for South Jersey Power Cooperative Natural Gas Supply Service Application

Res. #2022-201 Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Non-Fair and Open Contract to The Rodgers Group LLC to Assist Lower Township Police Department with Maintaining NJSACOP Accreditation and Online Training for All Sworn Officers

Res. #2022-202 A Resolution Authorizing a Request for Funds from the Lower Township Municipal Utilities Authority

Res. #2022-203 Authorizing Payment to Lower Township Board of Education

Res. #2022-204 Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-87, Chapter 159 (Clean Communities)

Res. #2022-205 A Resolution Affirming the Execution of an Interlocal Services Agreement for Fire Suppression Services

Res. #2022-206 Approval of a Professional Service Contract with Wizard's Festival of Fun Inc. for the Township of Lower's Independence Day Celebration, July 3, 2022

Res. #2022-207 Approval for Pyrotecnico Fireworks Inc. to Load and Unload a Fireworks Barge in Lower Township

Res. #2022-208 Approving a Professional Service Contract with DeBlasio & Associates to Prepare and Submit an Application for the FY2023 NJDOT State Aid Program

Res. #2022-209 A Resolution Requesting that the County of Cape May Install Traffic Calming Measures along Sunset Boulevard

Res. #2022-210 Approval for Whale of a Day Festival (7/9/22)

Res. #2022-211 Authorizing the Sale of Township of Lower Surplus No Longer Needed for Public Use on Govdeals Online Auction Website

Res. #2022-212 Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Watchguard Vista Police Body Cameras No Longer in use from Lower Township Police Department to Ocean City New Jersey Police Department

Res. #2022-213 A Resolution Authorizing a Memorandum of Agreement Between the Township of Lower and Cape Regional Medical Center Cape Addiction Recovery Services

Res. #2022-214 Approval for Lower Township Family Fun Nights at Clem Mulligan Park

Ord. #2022-07 An Ordinance of the Township of Lower Vacating, Surrendering, and Extinguishing the Public Rights of Lucille Avenue, an Unimproved Paper Street. This is the 1st reading of this Ordinance. The 2nd reading and Public Hearing has been scheduled for July 18, 2022.

On the Consent:

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

Regular Agenda

Res. #2022-215 Authorization for 2022 Incentive Award for Insurance Waiver

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

Engineer Report

Cody Stanford gave Council an update on the Township engineering project being handled by DeBlasio & Assoc., including: Reconstruction of Wilson Drive; Diamond Beach Park Improvements; Cloverdale, Evergreen and Spruce Storm Sewer Improvements; Paving along Delaware Bay Drive; Reconstruction of Fire Lane; Replacement of Various Pavilions; and FY2023 NJDOT Grant Application for Wildwood Ave.

Manager's Report – no report

Monthly Reports

Clerk, Construction, Dog, Tax, Vital

Public Comment – no comments

Council Comments

Councilmember Coombs shared information about Family Fun Nights.

Councilmember Roy – no comments

Deputy Mayor Perry asked Manager Laffey for an update on the beach paths.

Manager Laffey gave Council an update on the DEP permit application and the changes to the beach paths.

Mayor Sippel reminded about the upcoming change in the emergency notification system and announced the July 3rd Independence Day Festival and Fireworks.

Closed Session

Res. #2022-216 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**

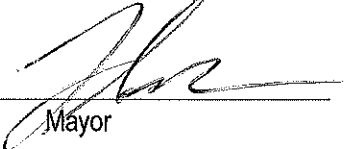
	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	RECUSE	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD							X
COOMBS	X		X				
ROY		X	X				
PERRY			X				
SIPPEL			X				

Council adjourned to Closed Session at 5:58 p.m.


Council returned to Open Session at 6:55 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Deputy Mayor Perry, seconded by Councilmember Coombs, Motion to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.



Mayor



Township Clerk

Approved: July 6, 2022