

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – June 7, 2021

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on June 7, 2021 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
- 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**

Oath of Office – Lower Township Police Officers Anthony Prats, Jr. and Samuel Gellura – Mayor Frank Sippel  
 Mayor Sippel administered the Oath of Office to Officer Anthony Prats, Jr. Anthony's parents, Dana Lamach and Anthony Prats, Sr. held the Bible and his fiancée, Eva Conway, pinned his badge.  
 Mayor Sippel administered the Oath of Office to Officer Sam Gellura while his father, Samuel Gellura, Sr., held the Bible, and his mother, Heather Gellura, pinned his badge.

**Manager Laffey, CFO Read – Budget Update**

Manager Laffey read the 2021 Budget Amendment and thanked CFO, Lauren Read, for her work on the Budget. He also informed that Estimated Tax Bills will be mailed at the end of June, 2021.

Lauren Read, CFO, thanked all departments for their patience with the Budget.

Mayor Sippel commented on the delayed budget and voiced favor with cutting the increase in half.

Councilmember Conrad voiced favor with the reduction and thanked CFO Read, Manager Laffey and all department heads for their hard work.

Deputy Mayor Perry thanked CFO, Lauren Read, for her work on the Budget

Councilmember Coombs thanked CFO, Lauren Read, for her work on the Budget.

Councilmember Roy commended CFO, Lauren Read, for a great job.

No public comments.

Res #2021-176 Amend 2021 Budget

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

Res #2021-177 Adopt 2021 Budget

No public comments.

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

**Consent Agenda**

Approval of Minutes – May 17, 2021

Res. #2021-178 Authorization for the payment of Vouchers \$ 568,657.34

Res. #2021-179 A Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Personal Property not needed for Public Use by Private Sale (laptop)

Res. #2021-180 Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Compensatory Time (A. Micciche \$2,997.04)

Res. #2021-181 Bulletproof Vests Partnership Program Application

- Res. #2021-182 Authorizing Competitive Contracting for Third Party Collection of Lower Township Municipal Court Debt
- Res. #2021-183 Resolution of the Township of Lower Consenting to the Issuance by the Township of Lower Municipal Utilities Authority of an Additional Not To Exceed \$12,000,000 Revenue Bonds (Junior Lien) to the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank, and to the Issuance of a Project Note in Anticipation of the Issuance Such Revenue Bonds, for the Financing of Certain Sewer System Capital Improvements.
- Res. #2021-184 A Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Lower Authorizing the Adoption of the 2021 Cape May County, New Jersey Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
- Res. #2021-185 Authorization for Refund of Taxes
- Res. #2021-186 Resolution for Self-Examination of Budget
- Res. #2021-187 Approving Change Order #3 for Mott MacDonald for Professional Landscape Architecture and Engineering Services for Clem Mulligan Sports Complex Renovations (\$4,600.)
- Res. #2021-188 Resolution Authorizing the Tax Collector to Process Third Quarter "Estimated" Tax Bills, Due August 1, 2021
- Res. #2021-189 A Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Lower Authorizing Support of Reopening Motor Vehicle Locations in Cape May County for Title and Registration Appointments
- Res. #2021-190 Annual Renewal of Liquor Licenses for the Year 2021-2022
- Res. #2021-191 Approval for Pyrotecnico Fireworks Inc. to Load and Unload a Fireworks Barge in Lower Township
- Res. #2021-192 Urging Orsted, PSEG and the State of New Jersey to Comprehensively and thoughtfully engage Community Stakeholders to Address Concerns of the Potential Detrimental Impacts that the Ocean Wind Project may cause to the Environment, Fishing Industry, Business Community and Residents of Cape May County
- Res. #2021-193 Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to N.J.S.A.40A:4-87, Chapter 159 (Open Space \$1,229,491.28)
- Res. #2021-194 Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to N.J.S.A.40A:4-87, Chapter 159 (Recycling Tonnage \$58,478.93)
- Res. #2021-195 Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to N.J.S.A.40A:4-87, Chapter 159 (FEMA \$9,388.17)
- Res. #2021-196 Bid Acceptance and Contract Award for Clem Mulligan Sports Complex Renovations (Schiavone \$2,744,364.55)
- Res. #2021-197 A Resolution Amending Resolution #2020-321; Relaxing the Procedures Associated with Site Plan Review and Approval for Existing Restaurants in Relation to the ongoing Corona Virus Pandemic
- Res. #2021-198 Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Non-Fair and Open Contract for the Paving of Wissahickon Avenue to South State, Inc (\$19,375)
- Res. #2021-199 Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to N.J.S.A.40A:4-87, Chapter 159 (Cops in Shops \$3,520.)
- Res. #2021-200 Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to N.J.S.A.40A:4-87, Chapter 159 (Alcohol Education \$8,633.56)
- Res. #2021-201 Approving a Professional Service Contract with DeBlasio & Associates for Engineering Services on the Cloverdale Avenue, Evergreen Avenue and Spruce Avenue Flooding Investigation (\$17,700.)
- Res. #2021-202 Approving a Professional Service Contract with DeBlasio & Associates to Prepare and Submit an Application for the FY2022 NJDOT State Aid Program (\$-0-)

**Ordinance #2021-13** – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 400, Land Development, of the Code of the Township of Lower, to Designate Class 5 Cannabis Retail Licenses and Class 6 Cannabis Delivery Licenses as Conditional Uses in the GB-1 and Industrial Zoning District. This is the first reading of this Ordinance. The second reading and public hearing of this Ordinance has been scheduled for Tuesday, July 6, 2021 at 5:00pm

**Ordinance #2021-14** – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 432, Mercantile Licenses, Specifically Subsection 4, Annual Fees for Mercantile Licenses, of the Code of the Township of Lower, In Order to Establish Annual Licensing and Registration Fees in Relation to Cannabis Retail and Delivery Businesses. This is the first reading of this Ordinance. The second reading and public hearing of this Ordinance has been scheduled for Tuesday, July 6, 2021 at 5:00pm

**Ordinance #2021-15** – An Ordinance Amending Chapter Seven Article 12, Schedule XVI Entitles "Speed Limits" of the Code of the Township of Lower. This is the first reading of this Ordinance. The second reading and public hearing of this Ordinance has been scheduled for Tuesday, July 6, 2021 at 5:00pm

Councilmember Coombs commented on Ordinance #2021-15 regarding speed limit reductions in Ward 2, and informed of plans in the near future for additional improvements to Bay Drive.

Mayor Sippel commented on Ordinance #2021-13 amending the Land Development Code to designate certain zones for Cannabis licenses within the Township.

Councilmember Conrad commented on Res. #2021-196 and looks forward to renovations to Clem Mulligan Park.

Mayor Sippel commented on Resolution #2021-197 regarding extending the temporary site plan procedures for outdoor seating.

No public comments.

On the Consent:

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

**Regular Agenda**

**Ordinance #2021-12** – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 67, Municipal Utilities Authority, of the Code of the Township of Lower (Amending Salary for Board Members). This is the second reading and public hearing of this Ordinance. This Ordinance has been published, posted and made available to the public.

Councilmember Conrad informed that Ordinance #2021-12 does not affect the municipal budget.

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

**Manager's Report**

No report given.

**Council Comments**

Councilmember Conrad reminded residents to stay safe and exercise their right to vote.

Councilmember Coombs gave an update on Washington Boulevard and Bayshore Road. He also gave Exit Zero a great review for the food at On the Rocks.

Councilmember Roy reiterated comments from Councilmember Conrad reminding residents to vote.

Deputy Mayor Perry thanked Township Engineer, Marc DeBlasio, for attending the meeting. He assured residents of Council's commitment to repair, replace and make improvements to infrastructure throughout the Township.

Mayor Sippel thanked Lauren Suit for the Summer Edition of the Township Newsletter and thanked Councilmember Coombs for his efforts concerning Bay Drive. He noted the purchase of Body Cameras for the Police Department and shared the thank you card from Mrs. Ackroyd's class for the ribbon cutting at Mitnick Park.

**Call to the Public**

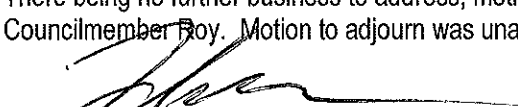
Mike Rosenberg, Villas, inquired about the fee for Cannabis licenses.

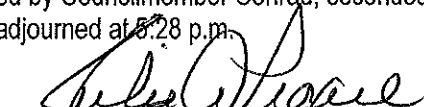
Solicitor Stefankiewicz informed that the fee is set by Ordinance at \$2,000 until the State establishes fees.

Ray Flickinger, Washington Blvd., voiced favor with the budget and inquired about Escape the Cape and the Coombs/Douglass Run. Manager Laffey stated that Escape the Cape is scheduled for August and he will check with the Recreation Department about Coombs/Douglass Run.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Councilmember Conrad, seconded by Councilmember Roy. Motion to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

  
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Mayor

  
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Township Clerk

Approved: June 21, 2021