

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – March 18, 2024

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on March 18, 2024 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 – via telephone

Also present: David Stefankiewicz, Township Solicitor and Karen Fournier, Deputy Township Clerk

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes – March 4, 2024

- Res. #2024-101 Authorization for the Payment of Vouchers \$ 1,182,421.68
- Res. #2024-102 A Resolution Ratifying a Three (3) Year Memorandum of Agreement between the Township of Lower and the Lower Township Office Workers Association – Local #3779, AFSCME District Council 63-AFL-CIO
- Res. #2024-103 Renewal of 2024 Campground Licenses
- Res. #2024-104 A Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Lower Approving the Renewal of a Class 5 Cannabis Retail License to Sea & Leaf, LLC
- Res. #2024-105 A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Contract with American Bounce for the Provision of Recreational Amenities at Lower Township Easter Egg Hunt/Spring Fling on March 23, 2024
- Res. #2024-106 A Resolution Requesting Release of Any Accrued Interest from Performance Guarantee for Block 18, Lot 27.01; 301 Bayshore Road; Escrow #P17-01-03
- Res. #2024-107 A Resolution Requesting Release of Revegetation and Restoration Guarantee for Dune Site Plan; Block 319, Lot 1.02; Bond P- Arena
- Res. #2024-108 A Resolution Requesting Return of Performance Guarantee for Boots, LLC; Block 630, Lots 1 and 2; Escrow Boots, LLC
- Res. #2024-109 A Resolution Requesting Release of Various Maintenance Guarantees
- Res. #2024-110 Bid Acceptance and Contract Award of Resurfacing of Bay Drive (Wildwood Ave to Mallow Rd) Paving Plus \$553,887
- Res. #2024-111 Bid Acceptance and Contract Award of FY2023 NJDOT Municipal Aid/Local Transportation Projects Fund Reconstruction of Wildwood Ave (Paving Plus, LLC \$498,860.50)
- Res. #2024-112 Approving a Professional Service Contract with DeBlasio & Associates for Resurfacing of Bay Drive (Wildwood Ave to Mallow Rd) Construction Phase Services (LT-C-034A \$30,000.)
- Res. #2024-113 Approving Change Order #2 with DeBlasio & Associates for the FY2023 NJDOT Municipal Aid Program/Local Transportation Projects Fund Reconstruction of Wildwood Avenue – Construction Phase Services (LT-C-034 \$30,000)

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

Regular Agenda

- Res. #2024-114 Approval of an Alcoholic Beverage Control Plenary Retail Consumption License; Place-to-Place Transfer – License #0505-33-012-012, from an Inactive License to 502 Sunset Boulevard, Lower Township, New Jersey This transfer has been advertised and no objections have been received

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

Engineer's Report

Will Hanson gave Council an update on the following engineering projects being handled by DeBlasio & Associates including: Diamond Beach Park Improvements; Reconstruction of Wildwood Avenue; Resurfacing of Bay Drive; Beach Access Paths Survey and Installation; Rotary Community Park Renovations; Bay Outfall Extensions; Reconstruction of Ridgewood Avenue; 2023 Stormwater GIS Mapping Services; Frances Ave. Storm Sewer Evaluation; Ohio Ave. Pump Station Emergency Storm Sewer Replacement; David Douglass Sr. Memorial Park Renovations; and Lower Twp. Public Works Building Concept Design and Site Remediation Investigation.

Councilmember Conrad asked about the permit status for the Bay Outfall Extensions. Mr. Hanson informed that the timeline is roughly six months contingent upon the DEP.

Administrative Reports

Clerk, Construction, Dog, OEM, Tax, Treasurer, Vital Statistics

Public Comment

Kaitlyn Mogey, 334 E Miami Ave., addressed Council regarding a dog bite incident that involved her dog. She voiced disgust with the way Animal Control handled the situation and demanded the Township ensure their contracts are being upheld.

Pary Tell, Chairperson for Lower Twp. Historic Preservation Commission, gave Council an update on progress made by the HPC including: A Brochure of Historic Sites in Lower Township, the Foster House, Historic House Plaques and Union Bethel Cemetery. She also requested that updated HPC minutes be posted on the Township website.

Barbara Allison, Erma, inquired about Affordable Housing in the Filling Mill Road Development. Deputy Mayor Perry advised Ms. Allison to speak to Mr. Laffey upon his return. Will Hanson informed Ms. Allison that it will be discussed at the Planning Board meeting.

Deborah Pangle, 19 E Hudson Ave., shared her experience in animal rescue and animal rights in New York and described details of the recent dog bite incident. Ms. Pangle questioned the parties responsible for animal welfare in Lower Twp. and urged Council to take this matter seriously.

Solicitor Stefankiewicz communicated options available to the dog owner within the Municipal and/or Civil Court.

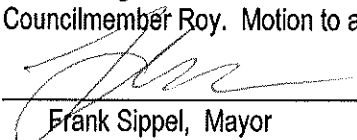
Deputy Mayor Perry informed that Manager Laffey will be made aware of the situation upon his return.

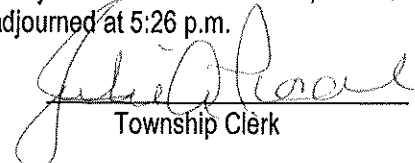
Council Comments

Councilmember Conrad communicated that it is his 35th wedding anniversary.
 Councilmember Coombs wished Councilmember Conrad a happy anniversary.
 Councilmember Roy wished Councilmember Conrad a happy anniversary.
 Mayor Sippel – no comments
 Deputy Mayor Perry complimented the Historic Preservation Commission and wished everyone a happy Spring.

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 5:26 p.m.


 Frank Sippel, Mayor


 Township Clerk

Approved: 4/1/2024