

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – May 6, 2024

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on May 6, 2024 at 5:00 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

#### Presentation of Certificates

Mayor Sippel congratulated the LCMR Wrestling Team on their South Jersey II Championship title and congratulated both LCMR Boys and LCMR Girls Basketball Teams for winning the Cape Atlantic League United Division Championship.

Councilmember Coombs announced the athletes and coaches and presented each with a certificate of congratulations on behalf of Council.

Coach Scott Douglass thanked Mayor and Council for honoring the Lady Tigers and shared the team stats as well as recognized key players for their athletic achievements.

#### Proclamation – Mental Health Awareness Month

Mayor Sippel read a proclamation supporting Mental Health Awareness initiatives and recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Month in Lower Township.

Mayor Sippel also announced that the National Suicide Hotline is 9-8-8.

### Consent Agenda

#### Approval of Minutes – April 15, 2024

Res. #2024-147 Authorization for the Payment of Vouchers \$ 1,509,612.85

Res. #2024-148 Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Compensatory Time (J. Mathis \$1,233.05)

Res. #2024-149 Authorization for Waiver of Permit Fees for the Villas Volunteer Fire Company Associated with the Kitchen Renovation

Res. #2024-150 Approval for Pyrotecnico Fireworks Inc to Load and Unload a Fireworks Barge in Lower Township (7/4 – Rain Date 7/5 or 7/6)

Res. #2024-151 Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Compensatory Time (M. Nuscis \$6,530.53)

Res. #2024-152 Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87, Chapter 159 (ACMJIF Safety Incentive \$2,750.)

Res. #2024-153 Amend Designation of Official Depositories

Res. #2024-154 Amend Capital Budget

Res. #2024-155 Approval for Holy Spirit Lutheran Church to conduct a Flea Market

Res. #2024-156 Appointments to the Zoning Board of Adjustment

Res. #2024-157 Authorizing Payment for 2024 Regional School Taxes

Res. #2024-158 Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Compensatory Time (J. Mathis \$6,728.76)

Res. #2024-159 Approving a Professional Service Contract with DeBlasio & Associates for Village Road Bulkhead (LT-C-051)

Res. #2024-160 Approval of Change Order #2 for DeBlasio & Associates for Engineering and Permitting Phase for Additional Outfalls: Beverly Road, Wildwood Avenue, Arbor Road, Cloverdale Avenue (LT-C-041)

Res. #2024-161 A Resolution Authorizing the Award and Execution of an Agreement with EB Employee Solutions, LLC to Procure and Provide Health Reimbursement Account Services

Res. #2024-162 A Resolution Establishing an Emergency Due to Major Flooding from Frances Avenue to Ohio Pump Station Requiring Immediate Installation of Storm Sewer Drainage Piping

- Res. #2024-163 Award of Emergency Contract to Fred M Schiavone Construction Inc. for Immediate Installation of Storm Sewer Piping at Frances Avenue to Ohio Pump Station
- Res. #2024-164 Approval of Change Order #1 for DeBlasio & Associates for the Emergency Repairs to Frances Avenue Storm Sewer Improvements Construction Phase (LT-C-045)
- Res. #2024-165 Approving a Professional Service Contract with DeBlasio & Associates for Resurfacing of Corson Lane – Woolson Road to Southern End of Corson Lane (LT-C-050)
- Res. #2024-166 Authorization for Refund of Taxes
- Res. #2024-167 Approving a Professional Service Contract with DeBlasio & Associates for the Survey Phase for Holmes Avenue, Gorham Avenue & Scott Avenue Storm Sewer and Roadway Improvements Project (LT-C-052)
- Ord. #2024-03 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 \$3,600,000 Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of \$3,420,000 Bonds or Notes of the Township to Finance Part of the Cost Thereof.
- Ord. #2024-04 Bond Ordinance Providing for Various 2024 Capital Improvements, by and in the Township of Lower, in the County of Cape May, State of New Jersey (the "Township"); Appropriating \$4,870,000 Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of \$4,625,000 Bonds or Notes of the Township to Finance Part of the Costs Thereof. This is the first reading of Ordinances #2024-03 & 2024-04. The second reading and public hearing has been scheduled for May 20, 2024
- Ord # 2024-05 An Ordinance of the Township of Lower Vacating, Surrendering and Extinguishing the Public Rights of a Portion of Yuma Avenue located between Cardinal Avenue and Georgia Avenue. This is the first reading of Ordinance 2024-05. The second reading and public hearing has been scheduled for June 3, 2024.

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

**Regular Agenda**

- Res. #2024-168 Approval of an Alcoholic Beverage Control Plenary Retail Consumption License Place to Place Transfer – License #0505-33-015-010 from an Inactive License to 926 Ocean Drive, Lower Township. This transfer has been published and no comments were received.

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

- Res. #2024-169 Appointment of Tax Appeal Attorney for the year 2024 as a Professional Service Contract without Public Bidding (P. Baldini)

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

**Call to the Public** – no public comments

**Council Comments**

Councilmember Conrad pointed out Ordinance #2024-03, reaffirming the Township's commitment to infrastructure.

Councilmember Coombs – no comments

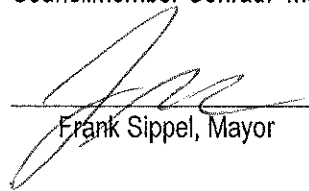
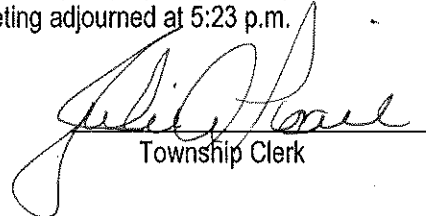
Councilmember Roy congratulated the athletes and certificate recipients.

Deputy Mayor Perry – no comments

Mayor Sippel announced upcoming events including: Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at NASW, Family Fun Day at Clem Mulligan, Cape May County Community Day at Wildwood Convention Center and Memorial Day Ceremony at VFW.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Deputy Mayor Perry, seconded by Councilmember Conrad. Motion to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

  
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Frank Sippel, Mayor  
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Township Clerk

Approved: 5/20/2024