

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – November 15, 2021

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on November 15, 2021 at 7:00 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**

Proclamation - Supporting the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over 2021 Holiday Crackdown

Mayor Sippel read a proclamation pledging Lower Township's support of Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over 2021 Holiday Crackdown from December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 through January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

Presentation - Pond Creek & Higbee Beach Project – David Golden, Director of NJ Fish & Wildlife

David Golden, Director of NJDEP Division of Fish & Wildlife, gave a presentation on the Pond Creek Restoration Project located in the Higbee Beach Wildlife Management Area to be implemented in late 2022 or early 2023. The project is divided into three phases: Marsh Enhancement, Upland Habitat Restoration, and an Interpretive Center, and is designed to restore the marsh to its natural habitat.

Councilmember Conrad and Mayor Sippel voiced favor with the project and thanked Mr. Golden for the presentation. Mr. Golden fielded questions from the public.

Presentation – Annual Report from the Office of Emergency Management – Ed Donahue

Ed Donahue, Lower Township Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Coordinator, explained the operations of OEM from state, county and local levels and presented his annual OEM report to Council. Mr. Donahue thanked Gary Douglass and Katie Crecca for their assistance with the EMAA Grant reports.

Mayor Sippel commented about OEM operations and thanked Mr. Donahue for his diligent work.

The full OEM report is available in the Clerk's office.

### **Consent Agenda**

Approval of Minutes – November 1, 2021

Res. #2021-334 Authorization for the Payment of Vouchers \$ 1,499,864.89

Res. #2021-335 A Resolution Approving the Annual Level of Compensation for the Commissioners of Fire District #1 Pursuant to NJSA 40A14-88 and Local Finance Notice 21-16

Res. #2021-336 Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to NJSA 40A:4-87; Chapter 159 (NJ DOT Municipal Aid \$170,000)

Res. #2021-337 2021 Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Year End Holiday Crackdown (12/3/21-1/01/22)

Res. #2021-338 Approval for the Cape May Fitness 5k Turkey Trot (11/25/2021)

Res. #2021-339 A Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of A Firearm No Longer Needed to a Licensed Firearms Dealer for Private Sale (Chief Priole)

Res. #2021-340 Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Compensatory Time (R.Fessler \$2,489.21)

Res. #2021-341 Bid Acceptance and Contract Award to Supply Asphalt to the Township of Lower for Thirty-Six (36) Months

Res. #2021-342 A Resolution Amending Manager Michael Laffey's Agreement with the Township of Lower

Res. #2021-343 Authorization for Refund of Taxes (2 properties)

Res. #2021-344 Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Compensatory Time (J.Saini \$9,770.46)

Res. #2021-345 Approving Change Order #4 to Fred M Schiavone Construction for the Clem Mulligan Sports Complex Renovations Project: Adding Fencing and Bollards and a Motor Exchange (\$77,740.67)

- Res. #2021-346 Contract Acceptance and Award for Third Party Collection of Lower Township Municipal Court Debt (Penn Credit)
- Res. #2021-347 Amend Resolution #2021-27; Appointment of Municipal Engineer for the Year 2021 as a Professional Service Contract Without Public Bidding (amend Not to exceed to \$620,000)
- Res. #2021-348 Award a Professional Service Contract Without Public Bidding to Wizards Festival of Fun for Entertainment at the Ferry Merry Christmas Event December 19, 2021 (\$6,250)
- Res. #2021-349 Transfer of 2021 Appropriations (\$195,000)
- Res. #2021-350 Approving a Professional Service Contract with DeBlasio & Associates for Engineering Phase Services on the Cloverdale Avenue, Evergreen Avenue and Spruce Avenue Storm Sewer Improvements (\$20,000)
- Res. #2021-351 Approving a Professional Service Contract with DeBlasio & Associates for Engineering and Construction Phase of the Reconstruction of Fire Lane; Bayshore Road to Sunnyside Drive Project (\$40,000)
- Res. #2021-352 Approving a Professional Service Contract with DeBlasio & Associates for Engineering Services on the Rotary Park Improvements – Concept Phase (\$7,500)
- Res. #2021-353 Approving a Professional Service Contract with DeBlasio & Associates for Engineering Services on the Millman Center Improvements Project (\$11,000)
- Res. #2021-354 A Resolution Extending the Relaxation of the Procedures Associated with Site Plan Review and Approval for Existing Restaurants in Relation to the Ongoing Coronavirus Pandemic
- Ordinance #2021-21; Salary and Benefit Ordinance for the Township of Lower – This is the first reading of this Ordinance. The second reading and public hearing has been scheduled for December 6, 2021.

Mayor Sippel commented in favor of Res. #2021-336 and Res. #2021-354.

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

#### Regular Agenda

Ordinance #2021-20; 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, MD-2, and Industrial Zoning Districts. This is the second reading and public hearing of this Ordinance. This Ordinance has been posted, published and made available to the public.

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

Res. #2021-355 Authorization for the Payment of College Credits (\$32,940.)

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

#### Manager's Report

#### Engineer's Report

Cody Stanford gave Council an update on the engineering projects being handled by DeBlasio and Associates, including: Reconstruction of Wilson Drive; Flooding Investigation on Cloverdale, Evergreen, and Spruce Avenues;

Clem Mulligan Sports Complex Renovations; Reconstruction of Atlantic, Howland, Mowery Avenues and Millman Lane; Reconstruction of Fire Lane; Concept Design for Rotary Park; and Replacement of Concrete at the Millman Center.

Mayor Sippel informed about plans for a Police Substation at Clem Mulligan Sports Complex.

Cody Stanford further informed about lighting and security cameras at Clem Mulligan Sports Complex.

#### Administrative Reports

Monthly Reports – Clerk, Construction, Dog, Tax, Vital

#### Public Comment

Adele Jones, Bayshore Rd., addressed Council with concern about a growing population of Coyotes in the area of Jonathan Hoffman Park. Mayor Sippel agreed to look into the matter further.

#### Council Comments

Mayor Sippel commented on the success of the Veterans Day Parade and announced the upcoming Tree Lighting Ceremony and Rotary Christmas Parade. In addition, he wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Deputy Mayor Perry gave an update on infrastructure projects in the Diamond Beach area. He also agreed that the coyote population is a problem.

Councilmember Roy wished everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

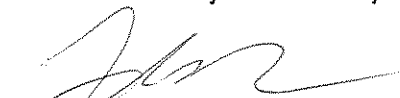
Councilmember Coombs wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and reminded to support local businesses during the holidays.

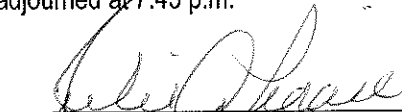
Councilmember Coombs wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and encouraged residents to visit Clem Mulligan Park.

Mayor Sippel informed about a public meeting at the LTMUA regarding service to Del Haven.

#### Adjourn

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Councilmember Coombs, seconded by Councilmember Roy. Motion to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

  
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Mayor

  
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Township Clerk

Approved: 12-6-2021