

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – November 7, 2022

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on November 7, 2022 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

Small Cities Public Hearing

Colleen Crippen, Grants Coordinator, informed that the Township is applying for a Small Cities Community Development Grant for drainage issues in the Villas.

Councilmember Conrad asked which neighborhood the grant is intended for.

Ms. Crippen explained that the engineer will prioritize based on immediate need.

Bill Greenfield, Villas, inquired about the outfall pipes.

Ms. Crippen explained that the outfall pipes are in need of attention again.

Work Session

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes – October 17, 2022

Res. #2022-330 Authorization for the payment of Vouchers \$ 656,416.36

Res. #2022-331 A Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Firearms No Longer Needed to a Licensed Firearms Dealer for Private Sale

Res. #2022-332 2022 Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Year End Holiday Crackdown

Res. #2022-333 A Resolution Approving the Annual Level of Compensation for the Commissioners of Fire District #2 Pursuant to N.J.S.A.40A:14-88 and Local Finance Notice 2021-16

Res. #2022-334 Transfer of 2022 Appropriations

Res. #2022-335 A Resolution Approving the Annual Level of Compensation for the Commissioners of Fire District #3 Pursuant to N.J.S.A.40A:14-88 and Local Finance Notice 2021-16

Res. #2022-336 Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Compensatory Time (W.Omrod \$2,874.59)

Res. #2022-337 Amend Resolution #2022-245; Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Compensatory Time (B.McEwing \$147.01)

Res. #2022-338 Amend Resolution #2022-242; Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Compensatory Time (J.Armbruster \$3,078.07)

Res. #2022-339 Amend Resolution #2022-243; Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Compensatory Time (C.Ryan \$1,495.)

Res. #2022-340 A Resolution of the Township of Lower Canceling Certain Taxes per Agreement/Resolution #2020-272

Res. #2022-341 Appointment to the Recreation Advisory Board

Res. #2022-342 Authorizing the Sale of Township of Lower Surplus No Longer Needed for Public Use on GovDeals Online Auction Website

Res. #2022-343 Certification of Best Practices Inventory

Res. #2022-344 Authorization for the payout of Accumulated Compensatory Time (M Nuscis \$3,365.)

Res. #2022-345 A Resolution Amending Resolution #2022-102; Reversing the Cancellation of Taxes

Res. #2022-346 Public Facilities Grant Application for \$400,000 Stormwater Outfall Improvements

Res. #2022-347 Identifying Small Cities Fair Housing Officer

Res. #2022-348 Adoption of State Model Citizen Participation Plan for DCA Small Cities Program

Res. #2022-349 Approval of Public Facilities Grant Management Plan Stormwater Outfall Improvements

- Res. #2022-350 Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87, Chapter 159 (Youth Leadership Grant \$5,042.45)
- Res. #2022-351 Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87, Chapter 159 (DEDR \$26,215.00)
- Res. #2022-352 Authorizing a Professional Service Contract with Blauer Associates for the Application Submission and Administrative Work, If Needed, for Storm Drainage Project in the Villas (Not to exceed \$17,500)
- Res. #2022-353 A Resolution Authorizing the Pro-Ration of Mercantile License Fees Associated with Rental Units During the 2023 Calendar Year due to Modification of Annual License Term
- Res. #2022-354 Cancellation of 2022 Taxes and Tax Sale Certificates due to Lower Township Foreclosure on Properties
- Res. #2022-355 Authorization for Refund of Taxes
- Ordinance #2022-12;** An Ordinance Amending Chapter 432, Mercantile Licenses, to Modify the License Term Associated with Rental Unit Mercantile Licenses
- Ordinance #2022-13 – Salary and Benefit Ordinance for the Township of Lower.**
This is the first reading of Ordinances # 2022-12 and 2022-13. The second reading and public hearings have been scheduled for December 5, 2022

Mayor Sippel clarified Resolutions #2022-332 and #2022-353.

On the Consent:

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

Regular Agenda

Monthly Report

September Finance and 3rd Quarter Finance
 Certification of Mailing of Tax Bills
 Tax Monthly Report – July, August & September

Public Comment

Denise Stryjewski, Sheriff Taylor Blvd., addressed Council regarding juvenile's abusive/threatening behavior in the neighborhood of Holly Estates.

Mayor Sippel acknowledged the problem and agreed to join forces with the Police Dept. and Prosecutor's office to find a solution.

Christina Conroy, Sheriff Taylor Blvd., addressed Council with frustration and concern about her daughter and friend's abusive behavior in the neighborhood of Holly Estates and urged the community to do something to help. Mayor Sippel sympathized with the situation and disagrees with the way the laws are written. Manager Laffey encouraged residents to call the police upon each incident to have it documented.

Tony Doria, Sheriff Taylor Blvd., reiterated the problem with abusive kids disrespecting his property and urged Council to help.

Mayor Sippel assured Mr. Doria that Council does not agree with the State regarding the current laws protecting juveniles.

Councilmember Conrad shared his opposing opinion to the laws protecting children.

Mayor Sippel agreed to join forces with other departments and agencies to try to resolve the problem.

Doug Ortlip, Loblolly Lane, voiced frustration with the above situation and wants something done about it.

Tammy Patterson, babysitter for resident in Holly Estates, voiced concern for everyone's safety and demanded a quick solution.

Manager Laffey addressed the above concerns and agreed to try to resolve the matter quickly.

Steven Puleio, Loblolly Lane, disagreed with the Township's comments about limitations on the Police Department and referenced the Attorney General Law Enforcement Directive 2020-12 promoting juvenile justice reform. Solicitor Stefankiewicz agreed that the system is broken and validated the Township's position.

Cindy Rosenberg, Apple Blossom Drive, suggested increased Police presence in her neighborhood.

Mayor Sippel voiced empathy and appreciation to the residents for speaking out. He agreed to come up with a strategy to alleviate the situation.

Council Comments

Mayor Sippel reminded residents to vote and announced upcoming events including: Chamber of Commerce House Decorating Contest, Tree Lighting Ceremony, VFW Veterans Day Ceremony.

Deputy Mayor Perry reminded residents of the importance of voting.

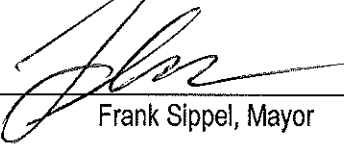
Councilmember Roy thanked residents for coming out and voiced frustration with the broken system.

Councilmember Coombs reminded residents to vote.


Councilmember Conrad shared words of empathy for the situation in Holly Estates.

Adjournment

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Councilmember Roy, seconded by Councilmember Conrad. Motion to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.



Frank Sippel, Mayor



Township Clerk

Approved: 11.21.22