

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – January 18, 2023

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on January 18, 2023 at 7:00 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 – via telephone

Also present: Michael Laffey, Township Manager, David Stefankiewicz and Robert Belasco, Township Solicitors and Karen Fournier, Deputy Township Clerk

Work Session

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes – January 4, 2023

- Res. #2023-53 Authorization for the Payment of Vouchers \$ 1,361,030.76
- Res. #2023-54 Approval of Change Order #2 (Final) to Asphalt Paving Systems Inc. for Additional Storm Sewer Improvements and As-Built Quantities (LT-C-024) for the Mowery Avenue, Harvard Street, Peters Road and Howland Avenue Project
- Res. #2023-55 A Resolution Authorizing and Approving an Interim Shared Service Agreement between the County of Cape May and the Township of Lower for Public Safety Answering, Dispatch and Related Services
- Res. #2023-56 Authorization for Waiver of Permitting Fees for Historic Cold Spring Village Associated with the Replacement of a Storage Trailer
- Res. #2023-57 Reappointment to the Municipal Utilities Authority Board (J. Henderson)
- Res. #2023-58 Transfer of 2022 Appropriations
- Res. #2023-59 A Resolution Approving Municipal Banking Agreements
- Res. #2023-60 Resolution Supporting the Annual (2022) Greater Cape May Elk's/Tom Beheler Youth Basketball Tournament
- Res. #2023-61 FY 2024 Lower Cape Alliance
- Res. #2023-62 DMHAS Youth Leadership Grant
- Res. #2023-63 Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Compensatory Time (S. Gellura \$4,524.72)
- Res. #2023-64 Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Compensatory Time (M. Harkin \$4,810.02)
- Res. #2023-65 Contract Award for Management Information System Consultant (MIS) Final Year 2023
- Res. #2023-66 Bid Rejection for Municipal Pool Renovations Project
- Res. #2022-67 A Resolution Requesting Reduction of Performance Guarantee for Snug Harbor Marina, LLC; Block 823; Lots 1+1.02; Escrow #P02-11-01

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

Engineer Report

Marc DeBlasio updated Council on the engineering projects being handled by DeBlasio & Associates: Reconstruction of Fire Lane; Millman Center Improvements; Replacement of Various Pavilions; Municipal Pool Renovations; Diamond Beach Park Improvements; Lincoln Blvd. Bathroom Installation; and Reconstruction of Carriage Lane, Briarwood Drive, Bridle Path, Paddock Lane, Timber Lane and Trotter Way.

Reports

2022 Annual Variance Report
2022 Tax Collector's Annual Report
Clerk, Construction, Dog, Tax, Vital Statistics

Public Comment

John Owenski, 29 Keywood Drive, Shawcrest, addressed Council on behalf of the tenants of Shawcrest Mobile Home Park to voice discontent about the steep increase in rent and request that Council adopt an Ordinance imposing rent control legislation.

Colin Smith, 1 Rabbit Run, addressed Council regarding the Veterans' Tax Exemption and requested the Township consider a full-year tax refund for Veterans.

Tom Rabinski, 42 Yerkes Ave., Shawcrest, addressed Council about the next step in the process of imposing rent control.

Solicitor Stefankiewicz stated that Council will take the request under advisement.

Solicitor Belasco informed of New Jersey laws and suggested additional research be done on the matter prior to the Township making a decision.

Council Comments

Councilmember Conrad – no comments
Councilmember Coombs – no comments
Councilmember Roy – no comments
Mayor Sippel – no comments
Deputy Mayor Perry shared birthday wished for Manager Laffey.

Closed Session

Res. #2023-68 Resolution Providing for a Meeting Not Open to the Public in Accordance with the Provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12. Attorney/Client privilege

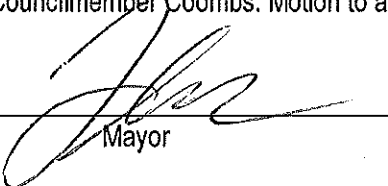
	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	RECUSE	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD			X				
COOMBS	X		X				
ROY		X	X				
PERRY			X				
SIPPEL			X				

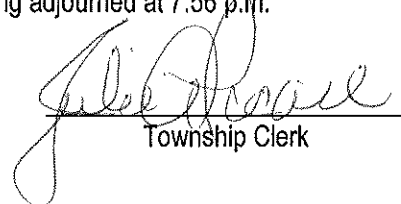
Council Adjourned to Closed Session at 7:15 p.m.

Council returned to Open Session at 7:55 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Councilmember Conrad , seconded by Councilmember Coombs. Motion to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.


Mayor


Township Clerk

Approved: Feb 6, 2023