COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – September 4, 2024

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on September 4, 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

Also present: Michael Laffey, Township Manager, Robert Belasco, Township Solicitor and Karen Fournier, Deputy Township Clerk

Work Session

Proclamation - Turn the Towns Teal

Mayor Sippel read a proclamation recognizing September as Turn the Towns Teal month in Lower Township in an effort to raise awareness of ovarian cancer.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes – August 19, 2024

Res. #2024-283 Authorization for the Payment of Vouchers $ 540,182.66
Res. #2024-284 Authorization for Refund of Taxes
Res. #2024-285 Approval for a Film Production Company to Film on a Lower Township Beach
Res. #2024-286 Approval for Octoberfest
Res. #2024-287 Approval for Car Procession – Our Lady of Guadalupe
Res. #2224-288 Approval of Change Order #2 to DeBlasio & Associates for the Lower Township Public Works Building – Final Design Phase Services LT-C-048
Res. #2024-289 Authorizing the Disposal of Township of Lower Surplus No Longer Needed for Public Use

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

Regular Agenda

Ordinance #2024-11 An Ordinance of the Township of Lower Vacating, Surrendering, and Extinguishing the Public Rights of a Portion of Mill Road. This is the second reading and public hearing of this Ordinance. This Ordinance has been published, posted and made available to the public.

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

Ordinance #2024-12 An Ordinance Amending Chapter Seven, "Traffic "of the Municipal Code of the Township of Lower to Install Stop Signs at the Intersection of East Webber and Mowery Avenues This is the second reading and public hearing for 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				
PERRY		X	X				
SIPPEL	X		X				

Ordinance #2024-13 An Ordinance Amending Chapter Seven, Traffic, of the Municipal Code of the Township of Lower to Modify No Parking Designations Within the Township of Lower This is the second reading and public hearing for this Ordinance. This Ordinance has been posted, published and made available to the public.

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

Ordinance #2024-14 Salary & Benefit Ordinance for the Township of Lower - This is the second reading and public hearing for this Ordinance. This Ordinance has been posted, published and made available to the public.

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

Call to the Public

Ralph Genovese, 709 Hughes Ave., addressed Council with concern for the quality of water in the Township. Manager Laffey agreed to look into the matter and suggested Mr. Genovese attend an MUA board meeting as well. Councilmember Conrad informed about the MUA replacing pipes in that area of the Township.

Council Comments

Mayor Sippel announced that AtlantiCare is now the provider of medical services for the Township and thanked Manger Laffey and OEM coordinator, Ed Donahue, for their assistance with the transition process.
Mayor Sippel also encouraged taxpayers to comment on the NJDEP REAL Rules and he commented on the success of the Summer Concert Series.

Deputy Mayor Perry – no comments

Councilmember Roy – no comments

Councilmember Coombs commented on the change of seasons and advised residents to use caution with children back in school. He also voiced support for the Eagles.

Councilmember Conrad thanked the County Bridge Commission for their prompt response to the recent bridge issues. He also thanked the Recreation Dept. for a successful Concert Series and thanked Inspira for providing emergency services to the Township.

Councilmember Conrad also announced upcoming events including Family Fun Night and the 9/11 Ceremony.

Closed Session

Res. #2024-290 A Resolution Providing for a Meeting Not Open to the Public in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-12 Attorney/Client Privilege

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

Council Adjourned to Closed Session at 5:16 p.m.

Council Returned to Open Session at 5:55 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Mayor Sippel, seconded by Councilmember Roy. Motion to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

Frank Sippel, Mayor

Township Clerk

Approved: Sept 16, 2024