

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – October 2, 2023

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on October 2, 2023 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

Donna Blackley, Fire Official, Lower Township Bureau of Fire Safety, gave Council an update on the Bureau of Fire Safety and described the nature of their services to the community.

Councilmember Conrad complimented Ms. Blackley on a great job.

Mayor Sippel thanked Ms. Blackley for the update.

Deputy Mayor Perry reminded about Fire Prevention Week.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes – September 18, 2023

Res. #2023-317 Authorization for the payment of vouchers \$858,662.11

Res. #2023-318 Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Compensatory Time (M.James \$3,731.73)

Res. #2023-319 Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:487; Chapter 159 (FEMA \$31,610.34)

Res. #2023-320 Authorization for the Waiver of Permitting Fees for Naval Air Station Wildwood Associated with the Restoration/Replacement Project - Roof B

Res. #2023-321 Approval for Cape May Hallowed Half Marathon

Res. #2023-322 Authorization for Refund of Taxes

Res. #2023-323 Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Compensatory Time (C.Vasser \$2,690.62)

Res. #2023-324 Approving Change Order #1 for Trade In Allowance from the Purchase of Two (2) Chevrolet Equinox LS to Gentilini Chevrolet

Res. #2023-325 A Resolution Awarding a Non-Fair and Open Contract to Power DMS to Renew the Software and Maintenance for Lower Township Police Department (Powerdms \$10,469.19)

Res. #2023-326 A Resolution Awarding a Non-Fair and Open Contract to ProPhoenix Corporation to Renew the Software and Maintenance for Lower Township Fire Safety (ProPhoenix \$7,489.55)

Res. #2023-327 Authorizing the Sale of Township of Lower Surplus No Longer Needed for Public Use on Govdeals Online Auction Website

Res. #2023-328 Approval for Harpoons on the Bay Oktoberfest, 2023

Res. #2023-329 Approving a Professional Service Contract with Concord Engineering to Evaluate and Provide a Condition Assessment Report for the HVAC Systems for Millman Community Center, Recreation Center, Township Hall, Construction and Zoning and Public Works Building (\$10,500)

Res. #2023-330 A Resolution Establishing an Emergency for a Sink Hole on Delaware Bay Drive Across from the Ohio Avenue Pumping Station

Res. #2023-331 Resolution to Award State Contract Vendor Axon Enterprise, Inc. to Purchase Twenty-One (21) Police Taser 7 (\$84,019.59)

Res. #2023-332 Resolution Providing for the Combination of Certain Issues and Determining the Form and other details of the offering of \$10,000,000 General Obligation Bond, Series 2023 of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey and providing for the sale of such bonds

Ord. #2023-20; An Ordinance Amending Chapter 340, Fire Prevention, of the Code of the Township of Lower in Order to Eliminate Reference to the BOCA Basic Fire Prevention Code and to Replace Same with the State of New Jersey Uniform Fire Code. This is the first reading of this Ordinance. Second reading and public hearing will be November 6, 2023

On the Consent:

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

Regular Agenda

Ord #2023-17 An Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Chapter 475, Parks and Recreation Areas, Article 1, General Rules and Regulations, to Address Recommendations Received from the Township's Insurance Carrier in Regards to Signage. 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		X				
ROY		X	X				
PERRY			X				
SIPPEL			X				

Reports

Personnel Action Report
Tax Collector Tax Sale Report
Floodplain Management 2023 Annual Progress Report

Call to the Public

Theresa Breslin, Shawcrest resident, addressed Council for an update on the subject of rent control. Mayor Sippel assured that the Township is looking into the matter. Manager Laffey noted that information is still being collected. Mr. Breslin, Shawcrest resident, commented about the increases in rent. Manager Laffey communicated Solicitor Belasco's advice about Landlord/Tenant matters being addressed through the NJ Courts. Mayor Sippel reminded that the matter is still being explored.

Council Comments

Councilmember Conrad commented in favor of Fishing Creek Road repairs and looks forward to future improvements to County roads.

Councilmember Coombs – no comments


Councilmember Roy – no comments

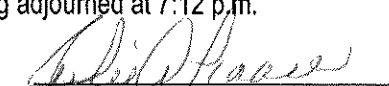
Deputy Mayor Perry thanked Donna Blackley for her report.

Mayor Sippel announced the following: Shred Day, Free Flu Clinic, Nationwide Alert Notification, Veterans Day Parade, Haunted Trails, Halloween Costume Parade, and Trunk or Treat.

Adjournment

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Deputy Mayor Perry, seconded by Councilmember Coombs. Motion to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.


Frank Sippel, Mayor


Township Clerk

Approved: *Oct 16, 2023*