

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – November 20, 2023

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on November 20, 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

Also present: David Stefankiewicz, Township Solicitor and Karen Fournier, Deputy Township Clerk

Work Session

Office of Emergency Management Update – Ed Donohue

Ed Donohue, Lower Township Office of Emergency Management Coordinator, briefed Council on the plans and operations of Emergency Management in coordination with Cape May County and the State of New Jersey. In addition, Mr. Donohue shared information about local shelters, warming centers, reunification centers and the Flood Mitigation Program.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes – November 6, 2023

- Res. #2023-376 Authorizing the Payment of Vouchers \$242,868.13
- Res. #2023-377 Authorization for Refund of Taxes
- Res. #2023-378 Authorization for the Payment of College Credits
- Res. #2023-379 Approving Change Order #2 to South State Inc., Final Contract Reduction per Final As-Built Quantity Adjustments for the Reconstruction of Carriage Lane, Briarwood Drive, Bridle Path, Paddock Lane, Timber Lane and Trotter Way Project
- Res. #2023-380 Approving a Professional Service Contract with DeBlasio & Associates for the Engineering Services for the Concept Design for David Douglass Sr. Memorial Park Renovations (LT-C-043)
- Res. #2023-381 Adoption of State Model Citizen Participation Plan for DCA Small Cities Program
- Res. #2023-382 Approval of Public Facilities Grant Management Plan ADA Compliance Improvements at the Township Pool
- Res. #2023-383 Identifying Small Cities Fair Housing Officer
- Res. #2023-384 2023 Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Holiday Crackdown
- Res. #2023-385 A Resolution Amending Manager Michael Laffey's Agreement with the Township of Lower
- Res. #2023-386 South Jersey Gas First Responders Grant
- Res. #2023-387 Authorization for 2023 Incentive Award for Insurance Waiver
- Res. #2023-388 Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to NJSA 40A:4-87, Chapter 159
- Res. #2023-389 Approving a Professional Service Contract with DeBlasio & Associates for Resurfacing of Ridgewood Avenue Bayshore Road to Delaware Avenue (LT-C-047) (\$48,000.00)
- Ord #2023-23 Salary & Benefit Ordinance for the Township of Lower
- Ord #2023-24 An Ordinance Authorizing the Township of Lower to Accept and Execute an Easement with the Property Owners Association of Cape May Beach Inc. and Historic Townbank Inc. Concerning the Improvement and Maintenance of Public Beach Access Points. This is the first reading of Ordinance #2023-23 and 2023-24. The second reading and public hearing is scheduled for December 18, 2023.

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

Monthly Reports

Clerk, Construction, Dog, Tax, Treasurer, Vital

Engineer Report

Will Hanson gave Council an update on the following engineering projects being handled by DeBlasio & Associates including: Diamond Beach Park Improvements; Replacement of Various Pavilions; Reconstruction of Wildwood Avenue; Beach Access Paths Survey and Installation; Rotary Community Park Renovations; Bay Outfall Extensions; Reconstruction of Ridgewood Avenue; 2023 Stormwater GIS Mapping; and Frances Ave. Storm Sewer Evaluation.

Public Comment

Tod Shoffler, 1031 Shunpike Rd, addressed Council regarding the Township's Shared Service Agreement with LCMR for use of the Field House and voiced his concern that the facility is not befittingly utilized. Mayor Sippel requested a meeting be arranged between the School Athletic Director and the Township Recreation Department to further discuss.

Council Comments

Mayor Sippel announced the upcoming Rotary Christmas Parade and Ferry Merry Christmas.

Deputy Mayor Perry wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Councilmember Roy wished everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

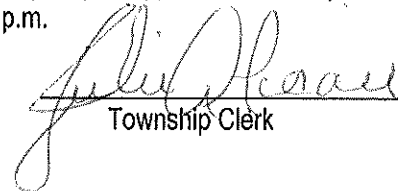
Councilmember Coombs wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and congratulated Eric Coombs on his retirement.

Councilmember Conrad thanked everyone who participated in the Veteran's Parade and thanked all Township employees for their hard work throughout the year.

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 7:17 p.m.


Frank Sippel, Mayor


Township Clerk

Approved: Dec. 4, 2023

Proclamation
Supporting the *Drive Sober or Get Pulled*
Over 2023 Statewide Holiday Crackdown
Campaign from December 1, 2023 –
January 1, 2024

Whereas, approximately one-third of all fatal traffic crashes in the United States involve impaired drivers; and

Whereas, about 37 people die in drunk-driving crashes every day or one every 39 minutes; impaired driving crashes killed 13,384 people in the United States in 2021, a 14% increase over 2020; and

Whereas, impaired driving crashes cost the United States approximately \$44 billion a year; and

Whereas, about 31% of all traffic crash fatalities in the United States involve drunk drivers with blood alcohol content above the legal limit; and

Whereas, an enforcement crackdown is planned to combat impaired driving; and

Whereas, the holiday period is traditionally a time for social gatherings which include alcohol; and

Whereas, the State of New Jersey, Division of Highway Traffic Safety, has asked law enforcement agencies throughout the state to participate in the *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over 2023 Statewide Holiday Crackdown*; and

Whereas, the project will involve increased impaired driving enforcement from December 1, 2023 through January 1, 2024; and

Whereas, an increase in impaired driving enforcement and a reduction in impaired driving will save lives on our roadways;

Therefore, be is resolved that the Township of Lower declares it's support for the *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over 2023 Statewide Holiday Crackdown* from December 1, 2023 through January 1, 2024 and pledges to increase awareness of the danger of driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs.