

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – April 1, 2024

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on April 1, 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, David Stefankiewicz, Township Solicitor and Karen Fournier, Deputy Township Clerk

Work Session

Presentation of Proclamations:

Mayor Sippel read a proclamation, on behalf of Council, congratulating Councilman Kevin Coombs on his retirement from teaching at the Lower Township Elementary School.

Councilman Coombs, on behalf of Mayor Sippel and Council, read a proclamation congratulating Officer Eric Coombs on his retirement from the Lower Township Police Department.

Councilman Coombs, on behalf of Mayor Sippel and Council, read a proclamation congratulating Sandra Eakin on her retirement from teaching at the Lower Cape May Regional High School.

Councilman Coombs, on behalf of Mayor Sippel and Council, read a proclamation congratulating Beth Suter on her retirement from teaching at the Lower Cape May Regional School District.

2024 Budget Hearing

Leon Costello, Municipal Auditor, commented on the Township's favorable financial state and complimented CFO Lauren Read for a job well done.

Mayor Sippel thanked the entire team for their efforts on the Budget.
Council agreed.

Res. #2024-115 Approval of 2024 Budget

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

Res. #2024-116 Resolution for the Self-Examination of Budget

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

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes – March 18, 2024

Approval of New Jersey State Firefighters Association Membership - T.Smith - Erma Volunteer Fire Company

Res. #2024-117 Authorization for the Payment of Vouchers \$ 546,780.32

Res. #2024-118 Approval for Run the Crest 10 Miller – October 5, 2024

Res. #2024-119 Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Compensatory Time (J.Mathis \$2,186.85)

Res. #2024-120 Authorizing Pay Out of Terminal Leave (N.Gallego \$349.49)

Res. #2024-121 A Resolution Awarding a Professional Service Contract without Public Bidding to Surenian, Edwards & Nolan, LLC to serve as Special Counsel to the Township of Lower for Affordable Housing Matters/Litigation

Res. #2024-122 A Resolution Authorizing the Acceptance of Cops in Shops Funding Summer Shore Initiative 2024

Res. #2024-123 Approving a Professional Service Contract with DeBlasio & Associates for the Construction Phase of Recreation Center Playground Renovations (LT-C-049 \$9,000)

Res. #2024-124 Approval of Change Order #2 with DeBlasio & Associates for an Additional Pathway (Brookdale Avenue) (LT-C-038 \$15,000)

Res. #2024-125 Authorizing a Professional Service Contract with Michael Calafati Architect, LLC for the Judge Nathaniel Foster House (\$45,000)

Res. #2024-126 New Jersey Historic Trust Capital Level 1 Grant Program

Res. #2024-127 A Resolution Awarding a Non-Fair and Open Contract to Bobcat of Vineland for the Purchase of A Bobcat MT100 Mini Track Loader (\$32,152.49)

Res. #2024-128 Authorizing Competitive Contracting for Tax Assessor Field Personnel/Data Collector Company for the Outstanding Backlog of Field Assessments Added and Omitted

Res. #2024-129 Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87, Chapter 159 (Recycling Tonnage Grant \$38,945.35)

Res. #2024-130 Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87, Chapter 159 (JIF Safety Incentive \$2,725)

Res. #2024-131 Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87, Chapter 159 (Cops in Shops \$960)

Res. #2024-132 A Resolution Authorizing the Township of Lower to Establish a Joint Purchasing System and to Enter into Joint Purchasing Agreements with other contracting units

Motion to TABLE Resolution #2024-130 and Resolution #2024-128

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

On the Consent Agenda:

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

Regular Agenda

Res. #2024-134 Authorizing Competitive Contracting for Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Transport for the Township of Lower

Mayor Sippel communicated that the current contract with Inspira is set to expire in September.

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

Public Comment – no comments

Council Comments

Mayor Sippel informed that the Township will be holding a Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon in May at NASW.

Deputy Mayor Perry – no comment

Councilmember Roy commented on the amount of rain recently and encouraged residents to be patient, as the water table is at capacity.

Councilmember Coombs congratulated the retirees that were recognized.

Councilmember Conrad gave a shout out to NASW for hosting the scouts and encouraged residents to visit the museum.

Closed Session

Res. #2024-133 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	X				
COOMBS			X				
ROY			X				
PERRY			X				
SIPPEL	X		X				

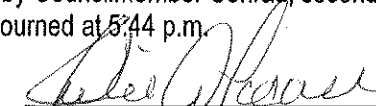
Council adjourned to Executive Session at 5:20 p.m.

Council returned to Open Session at 5:43 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Councilmember Conrad, seconded by Councilmember Roy. Motion to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 5:44 p.m.


Frank Sippel, Mayor


Township Clerk

Approved: *April 13, 2024*