

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – August 2, 2021

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on August 2, 2021 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

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes – July 19, 2021

Res. #2021- 246 Authorization for the Payment of Vouchers \$ 1,983,366.72

Res. #2021-247 Reappointment to the Zoning Board of Adjustment (R.Basco)

Res. #2021-248 Certification to Local Finance Board of Receipt and Review of Audit Sections General Comments & Recommendations

Res. #2021-249 Approval of Change Order #1 to Fred M Schiavone Construction for the Clem Mulligan Sports Complex Renovations Project; Removal of Additional Trees

Res. #2021-250 A Resolution Establishing Revision of Policies and Procedures for Claimant's "Vendor" Certification Signatures for Payments Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:5-16,N.J.A.C. 5:30-9A.6 and N.J.A.C 5:31-4.1

Ordinance #2021-19 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 592, Taxation, of the Code of the Township of Lower, To Impose A Transfer Tax on the Sale of Cannabis by Licensed Businesses Operating Within the Township and a User Tax on Concurrent License Holders Operating More Than One Cannabis Establishment within the Township. This is the first reading of this Ordinance. The second reading and public hearing is scheduled for September 8, 2021

Mayor Sippel shared satisfaction with review of the Audit and gave kudos the CFO Lauren Read.

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

Regular Agenda

Ordinance #2021-16 Bond Ordinance Providing for Various 2021 Capital Improvements, By and In the Township of Lower, in the County of Cape May, State of New Jersey (The Township); Appropriating \$730,000 Therefore and Authorizing the Issuance of \$680,000 Bonds or Notes of the Township to Finance Part of the Costs Thereof. 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		X				
COOMBS			X				
ROY		X	X				
PERRY			X				
SIPPEL			X				

Ordinance #2021-17 Bond Ordinance Providing for Various Roadway and Drainage Improvements By and In the Township of Lower, In the County of Cape May, State of New Jersey, and Reappropriating Excess Bond Proceeds in the Amount of \$3,360,000 to Finance the Cost Thereof. 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				
PERRY		X	X				
SIPPEL			X				

Ordinance #2021-18 Bond Ordinance Amending Bond Ordinance Number 17-10(Which Provides for Various Roadway and Sidewalk Improvements to Beach Drive) Heretofore Finally Adopted by the Township Council of the Township of Lower In the County of Cape May, State of New Jersey, on August 7, 2017, to Amend the Description Set Forth Therein 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				
ROY			X				
PERRY	X		X				
SIPPEL		X	X				

Res. #2021- 251 A Resolution to Ratify a Four (4) Year Contract Agreement Between Lower Township and the Lower Township Policemen's Benevolent Association (PBA) Local 59

Mayor Sippel commented in favor of the police force and his support of this contract.

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

Res. #2021-252 Person to Person Transfer of Liquor License 0505-33-17-006 from Jake's Bar & Grill to Bay House Restaurant, Inc. This transfer has been advertised, as required by law, and no objections have been received.

Councilmember Coombs shared appreciation for Jake's Bar & Grill and wished the new owners well.

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

Manager's Report

Manager Laffey gave Council an update on the progress at Clem Mulligan Sports Complex. He also shared relief efforts with flooding issues on Cloverdale, Evergreen and Spruce Avenues, as well as areas of Diamond Beach.

Monthly Reports - Treasurer's monthly and Quarterly report

Public Comment

Frank Garcia, 205 Lennox Ave., addressed Council regarding neighborhood disturbances and requested help from

the Township.

Mayor Sippel suggested Mr. Garcia reach out to Manager Laffey to discuss in further detail.

Council Comments

Councilmember Conrad reminded everyone to stay safe.

Councilmember Coombs – no comments

Councilmember Roy voiced gratitude to volunteer firefighters for their services to the community and encouraged everyone to do the same.

Deputy Mayor Perry thanked Manager Laffey for his diligence addressing the infrastructure issues in the Township.

Mayor Sippel reminded of the following events: August 25th Summer Concert to raise money for the Children's Assistance Fund, and Military Appreciation Night, September 17th, to raise money for NJ Run for the Fallen. He also shared numbers from Inspira for the month of July.

Closed Session

Res. #2021-253 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. **Litigation Update/ Attorney/Client Privilege**

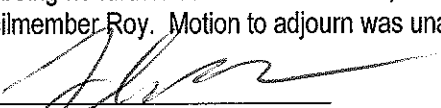
	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	RECUSE	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD		X	X				
COOMBS			X				
ROY			X				
PERRY	X		X				
SIPPEL			X				

Council adjourned to Closed Session at 5:18 p.m.

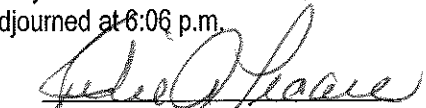
Council returned to Open Session at 6:05 p.m.

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 6:06 p.m.



Mayor



Township Clerk

Approved: *Aug 16, 2021*