

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – August 7, 2023

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on August 7, 2023 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 17, 2023

- Res. #2023-263 Authorization for the Payment of Vouchers \$ 1,499,187.62
- Res. #2023-264 Authorization for the Refund of Taxes
- Res. #2023-265 Authorizing the Assignment of Two (2) Tax Sale Certificates
- Res. #2023-266 Affidavit of Assignment Posting and Publishing
- Res. #2023-267 Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Compensatory Time (K.Boyle \$4,070.90)
- Res. #2023-268 Reappointment to the Zoning Board of Adjustment (R.Basco)
- Res. #2023-269 A Resolution Authorizing the Continued Use of Thirty Google Chromebook Laptop Computers by the Lower Township Elementary School District
- Res. #2023-270 Authorizing the Extension of the Grace Period for the Third Quarter Taxes Due on August 1, 2023
- Res. #2023-271 A Resolution Requesting Release of Maintenance Guarantee for Block 741.05.0, Lot 28.01; #O-16-11-01 (Automatic Expiration: 400-81B(3)(b))
- Res. #2023-272 Approval for the MidAtlantic Fishing Tournament
- Res. #2023-273 Bid Acceptance and Award of Two (2) 2023 or Newer Chevrolet Equinox LS AWD to Pellegrino Chevrolet
- Res. #2023-274 Bid Acceptance and Award of Two (2) 2023 or Newer Chevrolet Equinox LS AWD to Gentilini Chevrolet
- Res. #2023-275 Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Compensatory Time (K.Walker \$2,495.60)
- Res. #2023-276 Revise Resolution to Add Drager Inc. to the Annual New Jersey State Contract Vendor Listing Pursuant to N.J.S.A.40A:11-12a
- Res. #2023-277 Authorizing the Sale of Township of Lower Surplus No Longer Needed for Public Use on Govdeals Online Auction Website
- Res. #2023-278 Approval of the Township of Lower Emergency Operations Plan
- Res. #2023-279 Approval for the Bikes & Beers Cape May Brewing Bike Event
- Res. #2023-280 Approval for the Cold Spring Village 5K
- Ord #2023-16 An Ordinance Repealing Chapter 400, Article VII, Exceptions, Modifications and Development Alternatives, Section 57, General Exceptions and Modifications, Subsection G, Beekeeping, of the Code of the Township of Lower due to Preemption by State Statute. This is the first reading of this Ordinance. Second reading and Public Hearing has been scheduled for September 6, 2023.

MOTION TO TABLE RESOLUTION #2023-280

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

Councilmember Conrad commented on Ordinance #2023-16 regarding beekeeping.

Mayor Sippel commented on Resolution #2023-270, extending the grace period for 3rd quarter taxes to August 31st.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

Regular Agenda

Manager's Report

Manager Laffey gave Council an update on the County's paving plan for Fishing Creek Road and the MUA's restoration obligations for portions of Shunpike, Seashore and Breakwater Roads. He also gave an update on Schellenger's Landing traffic calming measures.

Mayor Sippel requested the updates be posted on the Township website for public view.

Manager Laffey shared information about Diamond Beach Park and Rotary Park Renovations.

Reports

Construction, Finance, Tax

Certification of the Mailing of Tax Bills

Public Comment

Bill Greenfield, Villas, inquired about the Outfall Project.

Mayor Sippel and Manager Laffey responded

Gary Newton, Villas, thanked the Township for handling the problem at Clem Mulligan Park. He voiced concern about cars speeding between Fulling Mill Rd. and Miami Ave. and suggested additional speed limit signs and/or stop signs. Councilmember Conrad acknowledged Mr. Newton's concerns.

Mayor Sippel thanked Mr. Newton for bringing it to the Township's attention and agreed to look into it further.

Mr. Newton also thanked the Police Department for increased police presence at the park.

Council Comments

Mayor Sippel reminded about National Purple Heart Day and thanked Council for supporting veterans.

Mayor Sippel thanked Manager Laffey, the Rec. staff and all who participated in the success of the Children's Benefit Concert. He also announced the upcoming Veteran & First Responder Appreciation Day at NASW on 9/11.

Deputy Mayor Perry thanked Manager Laffey and Ms. Kreis for their role in the success of the benefit concert.

Manager Laffey recognized Bruce and Phyllis and thanked the Rec. staff for their involvement in the concert.

Councilmember Roy spoke very complimentary about the Township as a whole.

Councilmember Coombs voiced anticipation for road projects to be completed.

Councilmember Conrad thanked the NJ State Council on the Arts and the Cape May County Department of Tourism for funding the band and stage for the benefit concert. He also thanked all vendors and concert sponsors including: Accent on Beauty, Carneys, Morey's Piers Beachfront Waterparks, Red Brick Ale House, Flight Deck Restaurant, Cape May Brewery, Naval Air Station Wildwood Aviation Museum, Cape May Lewes Ferry, Cape May County Park & Zoo, Lobster House Restaurant, Escape May and Township Manager Mike Laffey. He also thanked the Recreation Department and Lower Township Optimist Club.

Closed Session

Res. #2023-281 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/ Litigation Update**

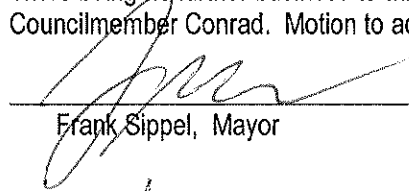
	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	RECUSE	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD			X				
COOMBS			X				
ROY			X				
PERRY		X	X				
SIPPEL	X		X				

Council adjourned to Closed Session at 5:22 p.m.

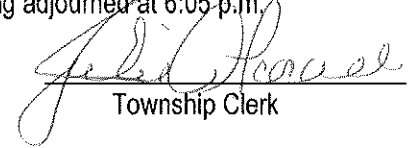
Council returned to Open Session at 6:05 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Councilmember Roy, seconded by Councilmember Conrad. Motion to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.



Frank Sippel, Mayor



Township Clerk

Approved: *Aug. 21, 2023*