

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – December 5, 2022**

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on December 5, 2022 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 – via telephone

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

**Work Session**

Proclamation - Supporting the *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over 2022 Year End Holiday Crackdown*  
 Deputy Mayor Perry read the Proclamation pledging the Township's support of the *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over 2022 Year End Holiday Crackdown* to increase awareness of the dangers of drinking and driving.

**Consent Agenda**

- Approval of State's Firemen's Association Membership Application – J. Reed – Villas Vol Fire Co
- Approval of minutes – November 21, 2022
- Res. #2022-371 Authorization for the payment of vouchers \$ 810,530.60
- Res. #2022-372 Authorization for Refund of Taxes
- Res. #2022-373 Approval of Change Order #1 to Keith Bonchi, GMS Law as Tax Foreclosure Attorney (\$5,000)
- Res. #2022-374 Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87, Chapter 159 (2022 Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over)
- Res. #2022-375 Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87, Chapter 159 (National Opioid Settlement \$7,461.95)
- Res. #2022-376 Various Appointments to the Planning Board
- Res. #2022-377 Approving a Professional Service Contract with DeBlasio & Associates for the Survey and Engineering Design Phase – Reconstruction of Carriage Lane, Briarwood Drive, Bridle Path, Paddock Lane, Timber Lane and Trotter Way – LT-C-032 (\$155,000)
- Res. #2022-378 Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Sick Time (L. Read \$10,620.11)
- Res. #2022-379 Transfer of 2022 Appropriations
- Res. #2022-380 Certification of Lot Clearing Charges to the Tax Collector
- Res. #2022-381 Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Compensatory Time (A. Hegerty \$2,691.51)

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

**Regular Agenda**

**Ordinance #2022-12;** An Ordinance Amending Chapter 432, Mercantile Licenses, to Modify the License Term Associated with Rental Unit Mercantile Licenses. This Ordinance has been published, posted 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				

**Ordinance #2022-13** – Salary and Benefit Ordinance for the Township of Lower. This Ordinance has been published, posted 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 #2022-14** Re-Appropriation Ordinance of the Township of Lower, in the County of Cape May, State of New Jersey, Providing for Various Road Improvements and Re-Appropriating \$497,414.23 of Excess Bond Proceeds from Bond Ordinance 2019-09 to Finance the Cost Thereof. This Ordinance has been published, posted and made available to the public.

Deputy Mayor Perry voiced favor that this Ordinance will enable the Township to continue with road improvements.

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

**Monthly Report**

Finance

**Call to the Public**

Kelly Unknown, Caroline Ave., addressed Council regarding problems with unruly juveniles at Clem Mulligan Park and suggested additional police presence.

Manager Laffey agreed to address the matter and follow up with Kelly.

Sabrina Bloom, Mowery Ave., addressed Council to voice frustration with the juveniles at Clem Mulligan Park, stating their effect on her quality of life.

Deputy Mayor Perry directed Manager Laffey to follow up with Ms. Bloom.

**Council Comments**

Councilmember Conrad thanked the Lower Township Rotary for the Tree Lighting and Veteran's Ceremony.

Councilmember Coombs – no comments

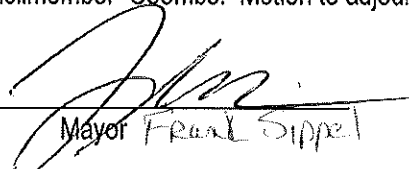
Councilmember Roy – no comments

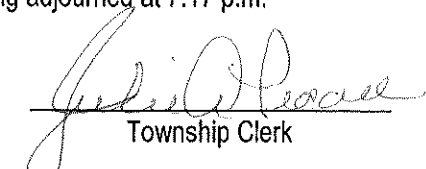
Mayor Sippel – no comments

Deputy Mayor Perry announced the Christmas Parade, Merry Merry Christmas and the New Year's Eve Celebration.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Councilmember Conrad, seconded by Councilmember Coombs. Motion to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

  
 Mayor Frank Sippel

  
 Township Clerk

Approved: Dec 19, 2022