

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – February 17, 2021

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on February 17, 2021 at 7:00 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 February 1, 2021

- Res. #2021-83 Authorization for the payment of vouchers \$262,370.27
- Res. #2021-84 Appointment to the Planning Board (J.Lindsay)
- Res. #2021-85 Authorization for Refund of Taxes
- Res. #2021-86 Bid acceptance and Contract Award for Recreation Center Gym HVAC Upgrade Project (Gaudelli Bros, \$248,400)
- Res. #2021-87 Approval of Change Order #2 for Mott MacDonald for Jonathan Hoffman Playground Improvements – Mitnick Park- Additional Construction Phase Engineering Services (\$5,500)
- Res. #2021-88 A Resolution Requesting Release of Performance Guarantee for Irene Hober (Linen Ladies); Block 505 Lot 18.03 Escrow #P18-12-02
- Res. #2021-89 Authorizing Use of Facsimile Signature for Grants Checking
- Res. #2021-90 Authorizing the Sale of Township of Lower Surplus No Longer Needed for Public Use on Govdeals Online Auction Website

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

Regular Agenda

Ordinance #2021-02; An Ordinance Amending Chapter 39, Fire Department, Specifically Subsection 4, Qualifications for Membership of the Code of the Township of Lower, to Facilitate Additional Volunteers for Township of Lower Fire Companies – This is the second reading and Public Hearing for this Ordinance. 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				
PERRY	X		X				
SIPPEL			X				

Ordinance #2021-03; An Ordinance Amending Chapter 432, Mercantile Licenses, Specifically Subsection 4(l), Rental Units, of the Code of the Township of Lower, to Modify Existing Annual Fees. This is the second reading and Public Hearing for this Ordinance. 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				
PERRY			X				
SIPPEL	X		X				

Manager's Report

Manager Laffey gave Council an update on the status of several matters including: Short-term rental compliance companies, RFPs for Emergency Medical Services, assistance from the County with ground water flooding areas, restroom facilities at Lincoln Blvd and Douglass Park, and meeting with DRBA to discuss future events and road improvements to Douglass Park. Councilmember Conrad inquired about Evergreen Ave. Manager Laffey responded.

Engineer's Report

Cody Stanford gave Council a report on the engineering projects in the Township being handled by DeBlasio & Associates including the new Public Works Building, resurfacing of States Avenue, reconstruction of Wilson Drive, resurfacing of Miami, Florida, Jacksonville, Tampa Avenues and Elks Lodge Alley, and drainage issues on Seaview Avenue. Deputy Mayor Perry commented on the drainage issues on Seaview Avenue.

Administrative Reports

Monthly Reports – Clerk, Construction, Dog, Tax, Vital Statistics

Call to the Public

James Sanford, president of Diamond Beach Citizens Action Group, read a resolution, for Council's consideration, to institute a construction moratorium in Diamond Beach.

Council Comments

Mayor Sippel reminded about the new Township website and that CVS is offering Covid-19 vaccines. He asked for prayers for Officer David Douglass's family and mentioned the Governor's Executive Order pertaining to indoor sporting events. He also informed that County libraries open Feb 22nd and February is Black History Month.

Deputy Mayor Perry gave an update on the LTMUA infrastructure plans as well as the Counties plan for improvements to Bayshore Road.

Councilmember Conrad stated that many Township projects are awaiting warmer weather and reminded to check on neighbors.

Councilmember Coombs informed of Lower Township Elementary Schools going to five day in-person instruction and reminded everyone to stay safe.

Councilmember Roy reminder homeowners to post house numbers prominently on their properties for prompt emergency services. He also reminded to check on neighbors during extreme weather and offered prayers to David Douglass's family and Texas residents.

Closed Session

Res. #2021 -91 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. **Personnel/Attorney-Client Privilege**

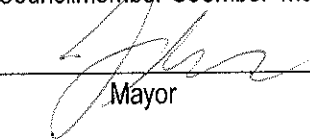
	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	RECUSE	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD			X				
COOMBS			X				
ROY		X	X				
PERRY			X				
SIPPEL	X		X				

Council adjourned to Closed Session at 7:21 p.m.

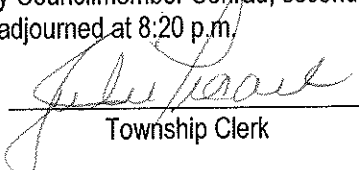
Council returned to Open Session at 8:20 p.m.

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 8:20 p.m.



Mayor



Township Clerk

Approved: 3/1/2021