

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – February 20, 2024

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on February 20, 2024 at 5:00 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 phone

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

Work Session

David Douglass Sr. Memorial Park Improvements – Presentation by Engineer's Office

Will Hanson, DeBlasio & Assoc., gave Council an update on the proposed park improvements including the history of the site, goals for the project, an overview of the design, and the timeline and budget for the project.

Bill Greenfield, Villas, inquired about a kayak launch area, amenities for fishing, running water and drinking fountain. Mr. Hanson responded.

Brian O'Connor, Edgewater Rd., voiced interest in a kayak launch area.

Engineer Report

Will Hanson gave Council an update on the following engineering projects being handled by DeBlasio & Associates including: Diamond Beach Park Improvements; Reconstruction of Wildwood Avenue; Beach Access Paths Survey and Installation; Rotary Community Park Renovations; Bay Outfall Extensions; Reconstruction of Ridgewood Avenue; 2023 Stormwater GIS Mapping Services; Frances Ave. Storm Sewer Evaluation; Ohio Ave. Pump Station Emergency Storm Sewer Replacement; and David Douglass Sr. Memorial Park Renovations.

Councilmember Conrad asked about a timeframe for the Bay Outfall Extensions. Mr. Hanson stated that the timeline is roughly six months.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes – February 5, 2024

Res. #2024-81 Authorization for the Payment of Vouchers \$ 713,019.06

Res. #2024-82 Authorization for Refund of Taxes

Res. #2024-83 Issuance of 2024 Limousine and Operator Licenses

Res. #2024-84 A Resolution Ratifying a Three (3) Year Memorandum of Agreement between the Township of Lower and Teamsters Local No. 676

Res. #2024-85 A Resolution Authorizing a Grant Application to the Cape May County Open Space Program for the David Douglass Park Upgrade

Res. #2024-86 Authorizing the Payout of Terminal Leave (J. Spiegel \$1,749.46)

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

Regular Agenda

Res. #2024-87 Approval of an Alcoholic Beverage Control Plenary Retail Consumption License Person-to-Person Transfer; License #0505-33-008-006; Ford Creek, LLC to Port Marina, Inc.

MOTION TO TABLE RESOLUTION #2024-87:

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

Res. #2024-88 Appointment to the Municipal Utilities Authority Board

Brian O'Connor addressed Council to voice his disappointment and question their reasoning for not reappointing him. Councilmember Conrad thanked Mr. O'Connor for his service and informed that Council has decided to go in a different direction.

Deputy Mayor Perry reminded Mr. O'Connor that this is not a discussion period.

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

Manager Laffey commented on the application for the David Douglass Memorial Park Project and thanked DeBlasio & Associates for a great design.

Deputy Mayor Perry agreed.

Administrative Reports

Clerk, Construction, Dog, Tax, Vital

Public Comment – no comments

Council Comments

Councilmember Conrad – no comments

Councilmember Coombs – no comments

Councilmember Roy commented in favor of the proposed David Douglass Memorial Park Improvement Project and thanked the engineers for a great design.

Mayor Sippel – no comments

Deputy Mayor Perry reiterated favor with the project and stated that it will be a great asset to the Township.

Adjournment

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Councilmember Coombs, seconded by Councilmember Roy. Motion to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.


Frank Sippel, Mayor


Township Clerk

Approved: *March 4, 2024*