

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – July 19, 2021**

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on July 19, 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**

Presentation of Plaques – Lower Township Historic Preservation Commission

Pary Tell, HPC Chair, informed about the Seashore Road Historic District and presented plaques to two (2) homeowners in the district, on behalf of the Historic Preservation Commission, for the preservation of their historic homes: 754 Seashore Road, owners Steve & Catherine Wilson, and 758 Seashore Road, owner Joseph Diprimio. In addition, Ms. Tell educated on the history of the Nathaniel Foster House, built in 1727, and presented a plaque to Mayor & Council, with special thanks to Councilmember Conrad for being instrumental in the resurrection of the HPC and the preservation of the Foster House.

**Consent Agenda**

Approval of Minutes – July 6, 2021

- Res. #2021-238 Authorization for the Payment of Vouchers \$ 191,307.20
- Res. #2021-239 2021 Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Statewide Labor Day Crackdown
- Res. #2021-240 Authorization for Refund of Taxes
- Res. #2021-241 Authorizing the Sale of Township of Lower Surplus No Longer Needed for Public Use on Govdeals Online Auction Website
- Res. #2021-242 Certification of Lot Clearing Charges to the Tax Collector
- Res. #2021-243 A Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Real Property Located in the Township of Lower by Way of an Open Public Auction (101A Broadway B384 L60)
- Res. #2021-244 Authorizing the Disposal of Township of Lower Surplus No Longer Needed for Public Use

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

**Regular Agenda**

**Engineer's Report**

Cody Stanford gave Council an update on the following engineering projects within the Township that are being handled by DeBlasio & Associates: reconstruction of Wilson Drive, resurfacing of Miami, Florida, Jacksonville, Tampa Avenues and Elks Lodge Alley, Diamond Beach Park improvements, Seaview Avenue drainage improvements, DEP CAFRA permit, Rec Center HVAC upgrades, flooding investigation on Cloverdale, Evergreen and Spruce Avenues, Clem Mulligan Sports Complex renovations and NJDOT Grant Application.

Mayor Sippel requested a projected completion date for each project be added to future reports.

Deputy Mayor Perry asked for a status update on the remediation of flooding issues in Diamond Beach.

Marc DeBlasio informed of his work with Manager Laffey on FEMA programs to help with the Diamond Beach projects.

**Administrative Reports**

Monthly Reports - Clerk, Construction, Dog, Tax Collector, Vital Statistics

**Public Comment**

Susan Zumar, 107 E. Richmond Ave., addressed Council to comment on the drainage issues on Richmond Ave. and hopes the Township is being proactive in resolving the problem.

Jim Pomponi, 111 E. Richmond Ave, addressed Council to voice concern about the drainage issues on Richmond Ave. and suggested a street sweeper to help alleviate sand in the catch basin.

Jim Sanford, Diamond Beach, thanked Manager Laffey for addressing the beach access issues at Icona. He also voiced concern about flooding on Richmond and Rochester Avenues, and continues to monitor EMS response times with Inspira.

**Council Comments**

Mayor Sippel spoke briefly about the upcoming Police Youth Camp and announced Military Appreciation Night, hosted by LCMR football team, being held in Septembr to raise funds for NJRun for the Fallen.

Deputy Mayor Perry asked for an update on drainage issues on Richmond Avenue. Manager Laffey informed that he is working on remediation with the County, as well as the Township Engineer and Public Works.

Councilmember Conrad shared progress at the Foster House and reminded about the Summer Concert Series. He also voiced anticipation for the completion of the Clem Mulligan Sports Complex and other recreation projects.

Councilmember Coombs – no comments

Councilmember Roy looks forward to remediating the flooding issues in Diamond Beach.

**Closed Session**

Res. #2021-245 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. **Negotiation Update**

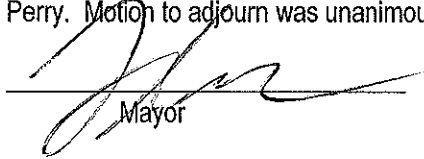
	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	RECUSE	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD			X				
COOMBS		X	X				
ROY			X				
PERRY			X				
SIPPEL	X		X				

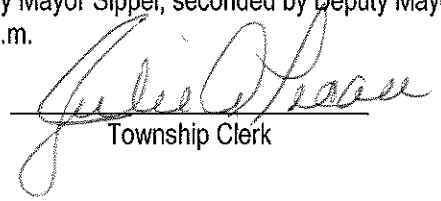
Council adjourned to Closed Session at 5:26 p.m.

Council returned to Open Session at 6:10 p.m.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Mayor Sippel, seconded by Deputy Mayor Perry. Motion to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

  
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Mayor

  
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Township Clerk

Approved: *Aug. 2, 2021*