

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – July 5, 2023

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on July 5, 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 and Karen Fournier, Deputy Township Clerk

Mayor Sippel announced the Solicitor's availability via telephone and congratulated the Belasco family on the birth of their new baby boy.

Work Session

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes – June 19, 2023

Res. #2023-244 Authorization for the payment of Vouchers \$ 1,455,762.16

Res. #2023-245 Renewal of 2023 Campground License

Res. #2023-246 A Resolution Requesting Reduction of Performance Guarantee for Earl Drive Estates Major Subdivision; Block 501; Lot 11.01, Bond #P THartle

Res. #2023-247 A Resolution Requesting that the County of Cape May Reduce the Posted Speed Limit on Jonathan Hoffman Road from 40 Miles Per Hour to 30 Miles Per Hour

Res. #2023-248 A Resolution Awarding A Professional Service Contract without public bidding to Surenian, Edwards & Nolan, LLC to serve as Special Counsel to the Township of Lower for Affordable Housing Matters/Litigation

Res. #2023-249 Appointments to the Lower Township Environmental Commission

Res. #2023-250 Certification of Lot Clearing Charges to the Tax Collector

Mayor Sippel communicated that Resolution #2023-247 was initiated by a concerned resident.

On the Consent:

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

Regular Agenda

Ordinance #2023-11 An Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Chapter 7, Traffic, Subsection 3, Parking, of the Code of the Township of Lower in Order to Regulate/Restrict Valet Parking in Public Locations Throughout the Township.

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

Ordinance #2023-12 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 600, Towing and Storage, Specifically Subsection 6(A)(3), Towing and Storage Fee Schedule, of the Code of the Township of Lower

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

Ordinance #2023-13 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 90, Police Department, of the Code of the Township of Lower In Order to Establish a Deputy Chief Position and to Realign the Superior Officer Chain of Command

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

Ordinance #2023-14 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 400, Land Development, of the Code of the Township of Lower

Bruce Tell, Corson Lane, inquired about Ordinance #2023-14.

Clerk Picard informed that the Ordinance has been published, posted and available to the public.

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

Manager's Report

Manager Laffey gave Council an update on several County, State and Federally funded projects not handled by DeBlasio & Associates including: Fishing Creek Rd., New England Rd., Bayshore Rd., Shunpike Rd., Sunset Blvd., Seashore Rd., Townbank Rd., Schellenger's Landing, and Route 9 Guardrail Replacement Project.

Deputy Mayor Perry voiced discontent concerning Townbank Road, particularly in front of Townbank Fire Company and also inquired about the County Open Space meeting.

Manager Laffey noted Deputy Mayor Perry's concerns regarding Townbank Road and informed that the Open Space meeting was favorable.

Mayor Sippel asked for an update on moving a portion of the Public Works operation to the airport complex.

Manager Laffey informed that an agreement is being negotiated with the County.

Administrative Reports

Personnel Action Report

Finance

Public Comment

Pary Tell, Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) Chairperson, addressed Council on behalf of the HPC to voice discontent about the lack of progress on the Foster House. She informed that State and County grants are available that have not been applied for and requested the Township be more proactive about getting it ready for the public.

Mayor Sippel thanked Ms. Tell and the HPC for all they do for the Township and addressed her concerns about the Foster House.

Manager Laffey reassured Ms. Tell that the Township will make it a priority.

Councilmember Conrad voiced anticipation for the completion of the Foster House.

Jerry Sieber, 5 Faith Run, CMCH, Volunteer for U.S. Term Limits, addressed Council regarding signing a petition to support Term Limits for Congress.

Mayor Sippel informed Mr. Sieber that his request is a personal decision, not a Council decision.

Cherie Eleissawy, 101 Rosehill Pkwy., requested to speak to Mr. Stefankiewicz regarding the Cannabis Overlay Zone.

Manager Laffey agreed to get the message to Solicitor Stefankiewicz.

Council Comments

Mayor Sippel commented on the Independence Day Festival and Fireworks and thanked all employees and volunteers involved. He announced upcoming events including: Dedication of Veterans Way, National Night Out, and the Police Youth Camp.

Deputy Mayor Perry commented on the success of the July 3rd Festival.

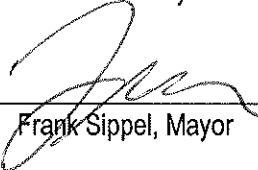
Councilmember Roy – no comments

Councilmember Coombs – no comments

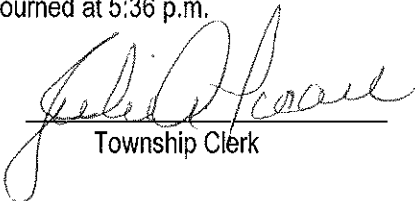
Councilmember Conrad thanked the HPC and all volunteers for the work they do on behalf of the Township. He also commented on the Festival/ Fireworks and thanked employees for their quick and professional decision making.

Adjournment

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Deputy Mayor Perry, seconded by Councilmember Roy. Motion to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m.



Frank Sippel, Mayor



Township Clerk

Approved: July 17, 2023