

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – March 20, 2023**

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on March 20, 2023 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

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

**Work Session**

Presentation – Chase Hansen and Brock Zurawski – Mayor Frank Sippel

Mayor Sippel presented proclamations on behalf of Council to Chase Hansen and Brock Zurawski, LCMR student athletes, for outstanding athletic achievements in wrestling. Deputy Mayor Perry presented each with a Township coin.

**Consent Agenda**

Approval of Minutes – March 6, 2023

Res. #2023-116 Authorization for the Payment of Vouchers - \$ 1,114,933.49

Res. #2023-117 A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Second Addendum to the Memorandum of Agreement between the Township of Lower and the County of Cape May regarding Code Blue Warming Centers

Res. #2023-118 Resolution Authorizing the Township of Lower's Participation and Membership in a Cooperative Pricing System Educational Services Commission of New Jersey (ESCNJ) Cooperative Pricing Agreement

Res. #2023-119 Approval of Change Order #1 for the 2023 Fertilizing Services for the addition of Clem Mulligan Park

Res. #2023-120 Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Compensatory Time (A.Parker \$5,259.44)

Res. #2023-121 Issuance of Ice Cream Peddling and Ice Cream Salesman License for the Year 2023 (J.Brown)

Res. #2023-122 A Resolution Requesting that the County of Cape May Conduct a Traffic Study on Seashore Road (CR626) for the Purpose of Evaluating Whether A Reduction of Posted Speed Limit is Appropriate to Address Reports of Excessive Speeding

Res. #2023-123 A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Memorandum of Understanding Between the Township of Lower and the Cape May Beach Property Owners Association Historic Townbank, Inc. Concerning the Improvement and Maintenance of Public Beach Access Points

Res. #2023-124 Authorization for Refund of Taxes

Ordinance #2023-05 Salary and Benefit Ordinance for the Township of Lower This is the first reading of this Ordinance. The second reading and public hearing has been scheduled for April 17, 2023.

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

**Regular Agenda**

Ordinance #2023-04 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 260, Curfew, of the Code of the Township of Lower in order to Modify Established Curfew Hours and Enforcement Procedures to Ensure Consistency with N.J.S.A. 40:48-2.52 and Attorney General Directive 2020-12. This is the second reading and public hearing of this Ordinance.

This Ordinance has been published, posted and made available to the public.

Deputy Mayor Perry commented in favor of the above Ordinance as a significant tool for the Police Department. Councilmember Conrad agreed that the Ordinance will assist greatly with recent juvenile matters.

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

**Engineer's Report**

Will Hanson gave Council an update on the capital engineering project being handled by DeBlasio & Associates including: Cloverdale, Evergreen & Spruce Avenues Storm Sewer Improvements; Diamond Beach Park Improvements; Millman Center Improvements; Reconstruction of Fire Lane; Replacement of Various Pavilions; Municipal Pool Renovations; Reconstruction of Wildwood Avenue; Reconstruction of Carriage Lane, Briarwood Drive, Bridle Path, Paddock Lane, Timber Lane and Trotter Way; and Lincoln Boulevard Restroom Facility.

Mayor Sippel inquired about a timeline for the pavilions. Mr. Hanson informed that June is the projected date of completion.

Manager Laffey shared information from Open Space about funding for the Diamond Beach Project.

**Monthly Reports**

Clerk, Construction, Dog, OEM, Tax, Treasurer, Vital Statics

**Public Comment** – no comments

**Council Comments**

Mayor Sippel announced upcoming Township events: Easter Egg Hunt/ Spring Fling and the free Rabies Clinic.

Deputy Mayor Perry voiced favor about the agreement with the Cape May Beach Property Owners' Association regarding the bayfront and asked about a timeline for work to be done.

Manager Laffey shared his plan for the project.

Councilmember Roy – no comments

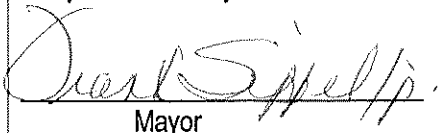
Councilmember Coombs voiced favor with progress being made throughout the Township and congratulated Chase Hansen and Brock Zurawski on their impressive wrestling accomplishments.

Councilmember Conrad – no comments

Mayor Sippel commented on the projects being done in the Township and thanked Manager Laffey and all employees involved.

**Adjourn**

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 7:22 p.m.

  
Mayor

  
Township Clerk

Approved: April 3, 2023