

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – March 21, 2022

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on March 21, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the meeting room of the Township Hall, 2600 Bayshore Road, Villas, New Jersey.

The Deputy 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 Deputy 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 Plaque – Commissioner Director Gerald Thornton – Mayor Sippel

Mayor Sippel read a proclamation and presented a plaque to Gerald Thornton, on behalf of Township Council, honoring him for his many years of service to the Township and the community. Each member of Council and Manager Laffey shared words of gratitude for Gerry's friendship and/or mentorship over the years and wished him well in his retirement.

Gerald Thornton thanked Mayor and Council and his family for their support over the years.

Consent Agenda

Approval of State Fireman's Association Membership Application: J.Long and L.Smeerman Villas VFC

Approval of Minutes – March 7, 2022

- Res. #2022-112 Authorization for the Payment of Vouchers \$240,979.40
- Res. #2022-113 Authorization for Refund of Taxes
- Res. #2022-114 A Resolution Approving the Acceptance of and Participation in the State of New Jersey, Department of Law and Public Safety Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) and Emergency Management Agency Assistance (EMAA) Subaward #FY21-EMPG-EMAA-0505
- Res. #2022-115 Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Compensatory Time (J.Felsing \$5,843.73)
- Res. #2022-116 A Resolution Authorizing the Annual Escape the Cape Triathlon Scheduled for June 12, 2022
- Res. #2022-117 Approval of Contribution to the Coast Guard Community Foundation (\$1,000)
- Res. #2022-118 A Resolution Supporting a Grant Application to the Cape May County Division of Open Space and Farmland Preservation Trust for the Naval Air Station Wildwood Aviation Museum
- Res. #2022-119 Renewal of 2022 Campground Licenses
- Res. #2022-120 Resolution Supporting the Annual (2021) Greater Cape May Elks/Tom Beheler Youth Basketball Tournament
- Res. #2022-121 Approval of Donations from the Proceeds of the 2021 Annual Coombs/Douglass Run
- Res. #2022-122 Issuance of 2022 Limousine and Operator Licenses
- Res. #2022-123 Issuance of Ice Cream Peddling and Ice Cream Salesman License for the Year 2022
- Res. #2022-124 Resolution Accepting the Donation of a 2020 Pace American 2 Axel Enclosed Trailer to the Township of Lower Police Department for Use by the Department, Community Policing Department and for Use in the Police Unity Tour
- Res. #2022-125 Bid Rejection for the Millman Center Sidewalk Improvement Project
- Res. #2022-126 Authorization for South Jersey Power Cooperative Electric Bid
- Res. #2022-127 Approval for Run the Vineyards – Willow Creek 8K Run

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

Engineer Report

Cody Stanford gave an update on the engineering projects being handled by DeBlasio & Associates, including: Reconstruction of Wilson Drive; NJDEP CAFRA Individual Permit Application; Cloverdale, Evergreen and Spruce Avenues Storm Sewer Improvements; Clem Mulligan Sports Complex Renovations; Reconstruction of Atlantic, Howland, Millman and Mowery Avenues; Reconstruction of Fire Lane; Millman Center Improvements; and Replacement of Various Pavilions.

Councilmember Conrad inquired about the timeframe for Cloverdale and Evergreen Avenues.

Mayor Sippel stressed the importance of notifying business owners prior to the reconstruction of Wilson Drive. He also inquired about surfacing material for Clem Mulligan Sports Complex.

Deputy Mayor Perry inquired about the Diamond Beach Park.
Manager Laffey gave an update on the project plan.

Manager's Report

Manager Laffey gave an update on Clem Mulligan Sports Complex and announced the Grand Opening Spring Fling scheduled for April 9th. He reminded of the ban on plastic bags beginning May 4th, Shred Day on May 21st, and voiced anticipation for the Diamond Beach Park Project once the budget is approved.

Monthly Report – Clerk, Construction, Dog, Tax, Treasurer, Vital Statistics

Public Comment

Andrew Axelsson, 755 Tabernacle Rd., addressed Council to remind them of the flooding problem on Tabernacle Road.

Manager Laffey explained that the Township and County are awaiting a response from the NJ Land Trust.

Council Comments

Councilmember Conrad commented on the grand opening at Clem Mulligan Sports Complex and stated that he looks forward to Cloverdale and Evergreen getting fixed.

Councilmember Coombs congratulated Gerry Thornton and voiced excitement about Bayshore Road repairs.


Councilmember Roy wished everyone a happy Spring and encouraged residents to be patient with road improvements.

Deputy Mayor Perry thanked Gerry Thornton for all he's done for the Township and wished everyone a happy Spring.

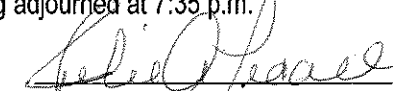
Mayor Sippel applauded Gerry Thornton for serving in the Air Force.

Adjournment

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Deputy Mayor Perry, seconded by Councilmember Conrad. Motion to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.



Mayor



Township Clerk

Approved: *April 4, 2022*