

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – May 15, 2023

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on May 15, 2023 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

Also present: Michael Laffey, Township Manager, David Stefankiewicz and Robert Belasco, Township Solicitors and Karen Fournier, Deputy Township Clerk

### Work Session

Proclamation - Click It or Ticket

Mayor Sippel read a Proclamation declaring Lower Township's support of the Nationwide Click It or Ticket Seatbelt Mobilization from May 22<sup>nd</sup> through June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in an effort to raise awareness and increase seatbelt usage.

Presentation by Cape May County Commissioner Director Leonard Desiderio

Commissioner Director Leonard Desiderio addressed Council to communicate the County's support of Municipal Government and, on behalf of the Board of Commissioners, presented a check for \$400,000 to assist with the Township's Outfalls Project.

Mayor Sippel voiced appreciation for the County's efforts in working together with the Township and thanked him, on behalf of Council, for the money to help fund the Outfalls Project.

### Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes – May 1, 2023

Res. #2023-169 Authorization for the Payment of Vouchers \$ 827,769.80

Res. #2023-170 Approving a Professional Service Contract with DeBlasio & Associates to Prepare and Submit an Application for the FY2024 NJDOT State Aid Program

Res. #2023-171 Authorization to participate in the South Jersey Power Cooperative Electric Bid (SJPC) up to two (2) Year Contract

Res. #2023-172 Approval for Roadside Solicitation by Villas Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.

Res. #2023-173 Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87, Chapter 159 (JIF Safety Incentive \$2,750.)

Res. #2023-174 Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87, Chapter 159 (U Drive U Text U Pay \$7,000)

Res #2023-175 A Resolution Requesting Release of Demolition Bond for Block 494.18, Lot 7, 224 Suzanne Avenue, #PMMCM LLC

Res. #2023-176 Authorization for Refund of Taxes

Res. #2023-177 Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87, Chapter 159 (Small Cities Public Facilities Program (\$400,000)

Res #2023-178 Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87, Chapter 159 (Stormwater Assistance Grant \$25,000)

Res. #2023-179 Capital Budget Amendment

Res. #2023-180 Authorization for the Sale of Township of Lower Surplus No Longer Needed for Public Use on GOV DEALS Online Auction Website

Res. #2023-181 Appointment to the Planning Board

Res. #2023-182 Approving Change Order #2 to Fred M. Schiavone Construction for the Removal and Replacement of Plumbing Under the Toilet Rooms (LT-C-025) \$16,638.56

Res. #2023-183 A Resolution Authorizing a Request for Funds from the Lower Township Municipal Utilities Authority (\$160,000)

- Res. #2023-184 Approving a Professional Service Contract with DeBlasio & Associates for the Design, Engineering and Permitting Phase of the Bay Outfall Extensions Project (\$45,000)
- Res. #2023-185 A Resolution Ratifying and Affirming a Memorandum of Understanding Between the Lower Township Police Department and Acenda, Inc. in Connection with the Arrive Together Program Enhancing and Supporting Law Enforcement Responses to Certain Behavioral Health Crisis Calls
- Res. #2023-186 Authorizing Payment for 2023 Local School Taxes to Lower Township Board of Education
- Res. #2023-187 Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87, Chapter 159 (Click it or Ticket \$7,000)
- Ordinance #2023-10** – An Ordinance Changing the name of Station Road to VETERANS WAY in Accordance with the Provisions of N.J.S.A.40:67-1(K) – This is the first reading of this Ordinance. The second reading and public hearing has been scheduled for June 19.

Mayor Sippel commented in favor of Ordinance #2023-10 as a means to honor veterans in the Township.

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

**Regular Agenda**

**Ordinance #2023-07** An Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Chapter 3, Administration of Government, of the Code of the Township of Lower, to Establish New Article IX, Municipal Property, Buildings, Structure and Facilities, Conditions of Entry, in order to Designate Restricted Areas on Township Property, In Buildings, Structures and other Facilities limited to Authorized Personnel Only to Protect and Safeguard Public Records containing Personally Identifiable Information and to Provide a Safe and Secure Work Space free from Intrusion and Disruption for Township Officials and Employees

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

**Ordinance #2023-08** Bond Ordinance Providing for Various 2023 Capital Improvements, By and In the Township of Lower, in the County of Cape May, State of New Jersey (the Township) Appropriating \$3,000,000 Therefore and Authorizing the Issuance of \$2,850,000 Bonds or Notes of the Township to Finance Part of the Costs thereof

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

**Ordinance #2023-09** An Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Chapter 7, Traffic, of the Code of the Township of Lower in Order to Establish a Municipal Parking Program for Purple Heart Recipients and Disabled Veterans

Mayor Sippel commented in favor of Ordinance #2023-09 as another small step toward honoring Veterans.

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

**Engineer Report**

Will Hanson gave Council an update on the following projects being handled by DeBlasio & Associates including: Diamond Beach Park 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; Lincoln Boulevard Restroom Facility and Beach Access Paths.

Mayor Sippel inquired about a date for the Open Space presentation for Diamond Beach Park. Manager Laffey stated that the meeting will be in June.

Mayor Sippel inquired about the Pavilion Project. Will Hanson informed that construction started today on the Pavilions Project.

**Administrative Reports**

Personnel Action Report  
Clerk, Construction, Dog, Vital

**Public Comment** – no comments

Manager Laffey gave Council an update on safety measures being addressed at Schellenger's Landing. He also gave an update on the County's plan for improvements to Fishing Creek Road.

**Council Comments**

Councilmember Conrad – no comments

Councilmember Coombs – no comments

Councilmember Roy voiced appreciation to Manager Laffey for the progress at Schellenger's Landing.

Deputy Mayor Perry voiced favor with infrastructure projects coming to fruition and also thanked Mayor Sippel for his commitment to Veterans.

Mayor Sippel announced the following: Groundbreaking ceremony for the new terminal building at the CMC Airport; Family Fun Night; Memorial Day Service at VFW and Shred Day.

**Closed Session**

Res. #2023-188 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. **Attorney/Client Privilege/ Litigation Update**

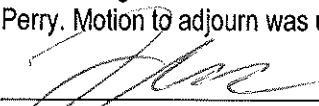
	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	RECUSE	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD			X				
COOMBS		X	X				
ROY			X				
PERRY			X				
SIPPEL	X		X				

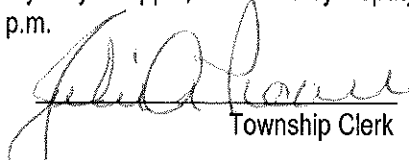
Council adjourned to closed session at 5:25 p.m.

Council returned to open session at 7:11 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 7:12 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Frank Sippel, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Township Clerk

Approved: 6/5/2023