

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – May 17, 2021

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on May 17, 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

Budget Hearing for Fire District #2

Res. # 2021-174 A Resolution Fixing the Annual Budget for Lower Township Fire District #2 (Town Bank) Pursuant to N.J.S.A.40A:14-78.5

No comments from the public.

Mayor Sippel commented in favor of the proposed Annual Budget for Fire District #2.

Councilmember Conrad commended Fire District #2 on a zero budget increase.

Councilmember Roy commended the Fire Department and voiced favor with the proposed budget.

Mayor Sippel stated that the CFO reviewed the budget with no objections and he thanked Fire District #2 for their dedicated service to the Township.

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

Lewis Conley, Commissioner and Secretary, Fire District #2, thanked Mayor and Council for their support.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes – May 3, 2021

Res. #2021- 155 Authorization for the Payment of Vouchers \$ 148,944.69

Res. #2021-156 Authorizing Payout of Terminal Leave (K.Palek \$20,230.53)

Res. #2021-157 Authorization for Refund of Taxes (18 properties)

Res. #2021-158 A Resolution Authorizing the Donation of a 2009 Platform Truck No Longer Needed for Public Use to the Lower Township Elementary School District

Res. #2021-159 Authorizing Payment to Lower Township Board of Education (School Tax July thru Nov \$9,294,888)

Res. #2021-160 Authorizing Payment for 2021 Regional School Taxes (LCMR School Tax July thru Nov \$7,061,144.50)

Res. #2021-161 A Resolution Approving a Professional Service Contract with Wizards Festival of Fun Inc for the Township of Lower's July 3, 2021 Celebration (\$14,000)

Res. #2021-162 A Resolution Awarding Eight (8) Concerts to be held at the DRBA Ferry Terminal to: Media Five LTD, Frank Kielb, Ultra Artist, Adoleo Inc and Atomic Music Group (Township \$15,250./Exit Zero \$15,250.)

Res. #2021-163 Approving a Professional Service Contract with DeBlasio & Associates for the Construction Phase of the Clem Mulligan Sports Complex Renovations (\$85,000)

Res. #2021-164 Re-Appointment to the Planning Board (A.Bulakowski)

Res. #2021-165 Appointment to the Historic Preservation Commission (Dr. R. Heinly)

Res. #2021-166 Authorizing the Disposal of Township of Lower Surplus No Longer Needed for Public Use

Res. #2021-167 Bid Acceptance and Contract Award for Clem Mulligan Sports Complex Renovations (Fred M. Schiavone Construction \$2,744,364.55)

Res. #2021-168 Authorizing the Sale of Township of Lower Surplus No Longer Needed for Public Use on GOVDEALS Online Auction Website

Res. #2021-175 Authorizing Payout of Terminal Leave (T.Urquhart \$1,398.0)

Ordinance #2021-12 – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 67, Municipal Utilities Authority, of the Code of the Township of Lower (Amending Salary for Board Members) This is the first reading of this Ordinance. The second reading and public hearing has been scheduled for June 7, 2021

Motion to table Resolution # 2021-167

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

Consent Agenda:

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

Regular Agenda

Res. #2021-169 Approval of an Alcoholic Beverage Control Plenary Retail Consumption License; Place-to-Place Transfer – License #0505-33-011-006, from an Inactive License to 970 Ocean Drive, Lower Township, New Jersey

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

Res. #2021-170 Authorization for the payment of vouchers – Lower Township Rescue \$ 55,000. (Final Expense & Contribution due 6/1/2021)

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

Res. #2021-171 Bid Acceptance and Contract Award for Emergency Medical Services for the Township of Lower (Inspira Medical Svcs \$36,000)

Mayor Sippel voiced confidence in Inspira.

Deputy Mayor Perry commended Manager Laffey for his diligence with bringing this to fruition.

Councilmember Roy voiced favor with the progress in providing additional EMS services to the Township.

James Sanford, Diamond Beach, asked if this resolution is intended to supplement Lower Township Rescue Squad. Mayor Sippel informed that the next resolution refers to supplemental EMS services.

Mr. Sanford asked for clarification on EMS services in Diamond Beach. A short exchange ensued regarding public comment. Mayor Sippel advised Mr. Sanford to contact Manager Laffey during regular business hours.

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

Res. #2021-172 A Resolution Designating Inspira Medical Centers, Inc. to Provide Supplemental Emergency Medical Services in Lower Township Effective June 1, 2021

Mayor Sippel summarized the resolution designating Inspira to provide supplementary EMS services to LT Rescue. Deputy Mayor Perry again thanked Manager Laffey for bringing this to fruition. Councilmember Coombs thanked Manager Laffey. Councilmember Roy thanked Manager Laffey.

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

Manager's Report

No report

Engineer's Report

Cody Stanford updated Council on the engineering projects being handled by DeBlasio & Associates, including: Resurfacing of States Ave., Reconstruction of Wilson Drive, Resurfacing of Miami, Florida, Jacksonville, Tampa and Elks Lodge Alley, Diamond Beach Park Improvements, Seaview Ave. Drainage Improvements, NJDEP CAFRA Permit, Recreation Center HVAC Upgrades, Flooding Investigation on Cloverdale, Evergreen & Spruce Aves., and Clem Mulligan Park.

Deputy Mayor Perry inquired about approval from NJ Fish and Wildlife for Seaview Ave. drainage improvements. Mr. Stanford explained that they are aware of the improvements.

Councilmember Conrad voiced concern about notification prior to paving on Miami, Florida and Jacksonville Aves.

Mr. Stanford assured that all parties will be properly notified.

Councilmember Conrad stated his anticipated progress on Cloverdale, Evergreen and Spruce Avenues.

Administrative Reports

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

Public Comment

Mike Rosenberg, Villas, inquired about the extent of improvements to Miami Ave. Councilmember Conrad explained.

Gerry Maher, 3305 Bay Dr., addressed Council with concern about speeding on Bay Drive. Mayor Sippel acknowledged his concern and assured that it is being evaluated.

Council Comments

Councilmember Conrad congratulated Villas resident, Wandile Hannah, going for Eagle Scout Board of Review.

Councilmember Coombs reminded residents to be cautious of children at play.

Councilmember Roy- no additional comments

Deputy Mayor Perry acknowledged the speeding problem on Bay Drive as well as storm drain issues throughout the Township and he assured that Council is addressing these matters. He commented in favor of additional EMS

services and thanked Manager Laffey again for his hard work.

Mayor Sippel announced the following: Shred Day, Summer Basketball League sign-ups, Community Pool opening, and the Summer Concert Series. He also thanked Manager Laffey for his work on EMS services.

Deputy Mayor Perry announced the July 3rd Independence Day Festival and Fireworks.

Closed Session

Res. #2021-173 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**

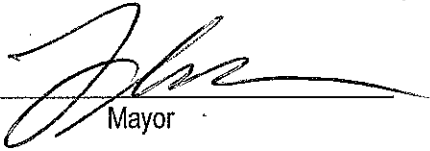
	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	RECUSE	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD		X	X				
COOMBS			X				
ROY			X				
PERRY			X				
SIPPEL	X		X				

Council adjourned to Closed Session at 5:31 p.m.

Council returned to Open Session at 6:29 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Councilmember Conrad, seconded by Councilmember Coombs. Motion to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.


Mayor


Township Clerk

Approved: June 7, 2021