

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – October 19, 2020**

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on October 19, 2020 at 7:00 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: James Ridgway, Township Manager, David Stefankiewicz, Township Solicitor and Karen Fournier, Deputy Township Clerk

**Work Session**

**Consent Agenda**

Approval of Minutes – October 5, 2020

Res. #2020-267 Payment of Vouchers \$ 244,431.75

Res # 2020-268 A Resolution Requesting Release of Maintenance Guarantee for Lighthouse Pointe Marina Condo Association of Cape May, Inc; Block 806, Lot 4.01; Escrow P-09-05-06

Res. #2020-269 Approving a Professional Service Contract with DeBlasio & Associates for the New Public Works Department Administration Building (\$74,000)

Res. #2020-270 2020 Drive Sober or Get Pulled over Year End Holiday Crackdown

Res. #2020-271 Approval for Lower Township Veterans Day Parade (11-7-2020)

Res. #2020-272 A Resolution Approving a Memorandum of Agreement Between the County of Cape May, The Delaware River and Bay Authority, and the Township of Lower in Relation to the Payment of Real Estate Taxes Associated with Properties Located at the Cape May County Airport

Res. #2020-273 Approval of Change Order #1 to Del-Tech Inc. for the Judge Nathaniel Foster House for a Change in the Original Scope of Work (-0-)

Res. #2020-274 Certification of Best Practices Inventory

Res. #2020-275 Bid Acceptance and Award for FY2019 Municipal Aid Program Reconstruction of Star Avenue (South State \$1,155,995.50)

Res. #2020-276 Approving a Professional Service Contract with Mott MacDonald for Public Works Department Environmental Consulting and Licensed Site Remediation Professional (LSRP) Services (\$9,850.)

Mayor Sippel commented on Res. #2020-274 with a brief explanation of the Best Practices inventory.

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

**Regular Agenda**

**Ordinance #2020-16;** An Ordinance of the Township of Lower Amending Chapter 157, Alcoholic Beverages, Subsection 157-6(D) (1), of the Code of the Township of Lower. This is the second reading and public hearing of this Ordinance. This Ordinance has been published, posted and made available to the public.

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

Res. #2020-277 Authorizing the Payment of Vouchers – Rescue Contribution \$35,000

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

**Manager's Report**

Manager Ridgway gave an update on several matters including: a meeting with Open Space regarding the application for Mulligan Field, favorable news regarding federal and state aid with the Hereford Inlet Project and how it may benefit the Township, Mitnick Park, recreation programs and re-opening protocols, construction revenue, and flood map revisions and berm issues.

**Engineer's Report**

Shawn Carr gave an update on the following projects being handled by Mott MacDonald: Roseann Avenue phase 3, Emergency Repair to Pipeline on Clubhouse Drive, Mulligan Field Renovations, Jonathan Hoffman Playground, HVAC Upgrades to Rec. Center, and Rotary Park Improvements.

Manager Ridgway requested a meeting with Mr. Carr when the final design for Mulligan Field is complete.

**Administrative Reports**

Clerk, Construction, Dog, Fire, Tax, Vital Statistics

**Council Comments**

Councilmember Conrad congratulated the Lower Township Chamber of Commerce Board member and he encouraged voters to mail their election ballots early.

Councilmember Coombs spoke briefly about meeting John Gibbs, Sr., 90 year "young" veteran. He also urged voters to return their mail-in ballots.

Councilmember Roy – no comments

Deputy Mayor Perry shared an update from the County Engineer regarding road repairs in Lower Township. He also shared news about the drainage issues in Diamond Beach.

Mayor Sippel complimented John Gibbs Sr., and recognized Councilman Roy for his noble contributions in the community. He also announced the following: a future Emergency Management briefing in preparation for winter, Executive Order 190 extending the moratorium regarding utility shut-offs and late fees, upcoming Halloween events, Veteran's Day parade, and National Prescription Drug Take-back Day.

**Call to the Public**

Bill Greenfield, Villas, addressed Manager Ridgway regarding the berm.

Councilmember Conrad responded.

Mr. Greenfield inquired about County road repairs.

Councilmember Perry explained.

James Sanford, E. Raleigh Ave, addressed Council for an update regarding EMS services to Diamond Beach. Manager Ridgway advised of no new progress.

Mr. Sanford inquired about flooding in Diamond Beach.

Deputy Mayor Perry restated his previous comments regarding approvals from Fish and Wildlife to address the drainage issues in Diamond Beach. A brief discussion ensued.

**Closed Session**

Res. #2020-278 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. **PERSONNEL**

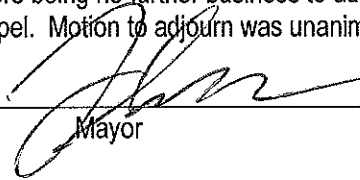
	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	RECUSE	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD	X		X				
COOMBS			X				
ROY		X	X				
PERRY			X				
SIPPEL			X				

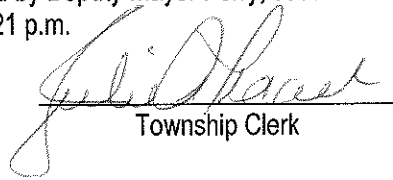
Council adjourned to Closed Session at 7:31 p.m.

Council returned to Open Session at 8:20 p.m.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Deputy Mayor Perry, seconded by Mayor Sippel. Motion to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

  
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Mayor

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

Approved: *November 2, 2020*