

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – September 19, 2022

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on September 19, 2022 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: Michael Laffey, Township Manager, David Stefankiewicz, Township Solicitor and Karen Fournier, Deputy Township Clerk

Work Session

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes – September 7, 2022

- Res. #2022-292 Authorization for the payment of vouchers \$ 1,959,519.20
Res. #2022-293 A Resolution Authorizing a Shared Service Agreement with the Cape May County Municipal Utilities Authority for Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling Services
Res. #2022-294 Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Compensatory Time (K.Walker \$5,749.18)
Res. #2022-295 Authorization for the Waiver of Permitting Fees for Naval Air Station Wildwood Associated with the Restoration/Replacement Project of Roof A
Res. #2022-296 Appointment to the Zoning Board of Adjustments (J.Baker)
Res. #2022-297 Authorization for the Refund of Taxes
Res. #2022-298 Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day – October 6, 2022
Res. #2022-299 Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to NJSA 40A:4-87, Chapter 159 (National Opioid Settlement \$7,134.76)
Res. #2022-300 A Resolution Permitting Eligible Retired Employees to Waive Healthcare Coverage and Receive a Buyout Pursuant to NJSA 40A:10-17.1
Res. #2022-301 Authorizing the Sale of Township of Lower Surplus No Longer Needed for Public Use on GOVDEALS Online Auction Website
Res. #2022-302 Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Compensatory Time (C.Scheid \$2,186.85)
Res. #2022-303 Approval of Change Order #1 to Asphalt Paving Systems Inc for Addition of Reconstruction of Miami Avenue from Peters Road to the Dead End on the Reconstruction of Mowery Avenue, Harvard Street, Peters Road and Howland Avenue Project LT-C-024 (b) (\$102,477.50)

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

Regular Agenda

Engineer Report

Cody Stanford gave Council an update on the current engineering projects being handled by DeBlasio & Assoc., including: Cloverdale, Evergreen and Spruce Storm Sewer Improvements; Clem Mulligan Sprots Complex Renovations; Reconstruction of Mowery, Harvard, Peters and Howland Ave.; Reconstruction of Miami Ave; Diamond Beach Park Improvements; Reconstruction of Fire Lane; Replacement of Various Pavillions; and Municipal Pool Renovations.

Councilmember Conrad inquired about ramps on Mowery Ave.
Mr. Stanford affirmed that gravel can be ramped up under the pavement.

Manager Laffey addressed Mr. Stanford regarding comments from the County Open Space Board.

Monthly Report

Clerk, Construction, Dog, Vital

Public Comment

Dean Umscheid, representing Town Bank Property Owners Association, addressed Council regarding the unsafe condition of the beach access paths from Englewood to Avalon Rd. and urged the Township to act quickly. Manager Laffey explained that the Township incurred the cost for the DEP permit and is currently working on a materials list, however, expenses need to be discussed with the POA.

Bud Damminger, 5 Brookdale Rd., voiced concern about the unsafe condition of the beach paths.

Bill Greenfield, New Jersey Ave., voiced concern about erosion and pointed out several paths in the Villas that need attention.

Unknown name, unknown address, thanked Council for their attention to this matter and inquired about a plan of action.

Manager Laffey explained the next steps to include drafting a materials list and meeting with Mr. Umscheid to discuss expenses.

Jim Rose, 103 Town Bank Rd., addressed Council regarding the beach path and sidewalk on Adelphia.

Unknown name, unknown address, questioned the Liability Waiver from the NJ Landowners' Liability Act and inquired about a timeframe for the materials list to be prepared.

Mayor Sippel reminded that information can be obtained from the manager during normal business hours.

Manager Laffey gave an approximate timeframe for the materials list.

Carollynn Occhipinti, 16 Delair Rd., voiced disgust with the condition of the beach paths and asked who makes the decisions.

Mayor Sippel explained the public comment period.

Skip Weber, 604 Clubhouse Dr., shared his understanding that the POA agreed to cover the cost of the beach paths owned by the POA and the Township would provide the labor.

John Shaw, 813 Seashore Road and POA member, stressed the urgency of the beach path improvements before more injuries occur.

Council Comments

Mayor Sippel announced the following upcoming events: National Night Out, Military Appreciation Night, Costume Parade and Pumpkin Festival, Shred Day, Benefit Concert and Free Flu Shots.

Deputy Mayor Perry – no comments

Councilmember Roy – no comments

Councilmember Coombs – no comments

Councilmember Conrad – no comments

Closed Session

Res. #2022-304 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. **Contract Negotiations, Attorney-Client Privilege**

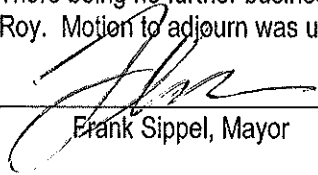
	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	RECUSE	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD			X				
COOMBS			X				
ROY		X	X				
PERRY	X		X				
SIPPEL			X				

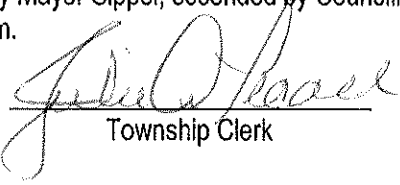
Council adjourned to Closed Session at 7:31 p.m.

Council returned to Open Session at 7:52 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Mayor Sippel, seconded by Councilmember Roy. Motion to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.


Frank Sippel, Mayor


Township Clerk

Approved: 