

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – September 7, 2022

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on September 7, 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

Pastor West gave the invocation.

Work Session

Presentation of Retirement Plaque to David Lepor

Mayor Sippel, on behalf of Council, thanked David Lepor for his 29+ years of service with the Township and presented him with a plaque congratulating him on his retirement.

Gary Douglass, Public Works Director, offered words of gratitude to Dave for his dedication, experience and friendship throughout the years.

Oath of Office – Sergeant James McNulty

Chief Lewis shared Sergeant James McNulty's biography. Mayor Sippel administered the Oath of Office to Sergeant McNulty while his son, James Jr., held the Bible and his wife, Heather, pinned his badge.

Oath of Office – Patrolman Mathew Reilly

Chief Lewis shared Patrolman Mathew Reilly's biography. Mayor Sippel administered the Oath of Office to Patrolman Reilly while his mother, Regina Reilly, held the Bible and pinned his badge.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes - August 15, 2022

Res. #2022-272 Authorization for the Payment of Vouchers \$972,858.02

Res. #2022-273 Approval of an Alcoholic Beverage Control License Place-to-Place Transfer – Expansion of Licensed Premises – License #0505-31—031-002; Greater Cape May Elks, Lodge #2839

Res. #2022-274 A Resolution Extending Resolution #2021-197 Relaxing the Procedures Associated with Site Plan Review and Approval for Existing Restaurants in Relation to the Ongoing Coronavirus Pandemic

Res. #2022-275 A Resolution Requesting Release of Demolition Bond for Block 127, Lot 28

Res. #2022-276 Approval of Change Order #1 to Axon Enterprises, Inc. for Phase II of the Axon Fleet Camera Project to add ALPR License and Fleet Refresh (\$89,328.)

Res. #2022-277 Approval of Change Order #2 to Axon Enterprises, Inc Phase II of the Axon Body 3 Cameras to add Auto Tagging License, Signal Sidearm Kit and Respond Device Licenses (\$59,679.)

Res. #2022-278 A Resolution Supporting A Grant Application to the Cape May County Division of Open Space and Farmland Preservation Trust for Historic Cold Spring Village

Res. #2022-279 A Resolution Approving the Lower Township Children's Fund Concert

Res. #2022-280 Approval of Change Order #1 to Asphalt Paving Systems, Inc. for Unanticipated Supplemental Items for the Sheriff Taylor Boulevard & Roadway Striping Program (\$14,120.00)

Res. #2022-281 Authorizing the Pay Out of Terminal Leave (D.Lepor \$59,535.60)

Res. #2022-282 Authorizing the Pay Out of Terminal Leave (M.Loper \$276.61)

Res. #2022-283 Approval of Change Order #1 to DeBlasio & Associates for Additional Engineering Services for the Reconstruction of Miami Avenue from Peters Road to the Dead End

Res. #2022-284 Approval for Run the Vineyards – Down the Shore 5K Run

Res. #2022-285 Approval for Beach to Brewery 10K Run Scheduled for September 17, 2022

- Res. #2022-286 Authorization for Refund of Taxes
- Res. #2022-287 A Resolution Establishing an Emergency for the Ohio Avenue Pumping Station
- Res. #2022-288 Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to NJSA 40A:4-87, Chapter 159 (Emergency Management Performance Grant \$10,000)
- Res. #2022-289 Resolution for Special Emergency Appropriation as per NJSA 40A:4-53 Authorizing Preparation of an Approved Tax Map
- Res. #2022-290 Approval of Change Order #1 for Additional Tax Years 2018 through 2022 for Preparation and Delivery of Approved Tax Map
- Res. #2022-291 Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Compensatory Time (K.Boyle \$4,554.42)
- Ord. #2022-10 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 592, Taxation of the Code of the Township of Lower, To Impose a Municipal Occupancy Tax of 3% on Hotels, Motels and other Transient Accommodations. This is the first reading of this Ordinance. The second reading and public hearing is scheduled for October 3, 2022.
- Ord. #2022-11 An Ordinance for Special Emergency Appropriation as per NJSA 40A:4-53 Authorizing the Preparation of An Approved Tax Map. This is the first reading of this Ordinance. The second reading and public hearing is scheduled for October 3, 2022.

Mayor Sippel commented in favor of Res. #2022-274 and Res.#2022-279. He also thanked OEM for their assistance with the Emergency Management Performance Grant, Res. #2022-288.

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

Regular Agenda

- Ord. #2022-09 An Ordinance Amending Chapter Seven Entitled "Traffic" of the General Ordinances of the Township of Lower This is the second reading and public hearing of this Ordinance. This ordinance has been posted, published and made available to the public.

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

Manager's Report – no report given

Monthly Reports

Finance

Public Comment

Robert Borkowski, 202 E. Virginia Ave., Johanna Hulton, 207 E. Virginia Ave., and Joanne Ramsey, 205 E. Virginia Ave., addressed Council regarding suspicious activity at a neighboring property and urged the Township to do something to help.

Council Comments

Councilmember Conrad reminded residents to be cautious of school children at bus stops and informed that Greenwood Avenue issues are being addressed.

Councilmember Coombs reminded residents to use caution with school back in session.

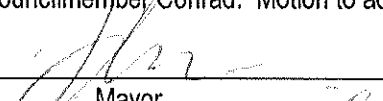
Councilmember Roy – no additional comments

Deputy Mayor Perry commented on infrastructure projects in progress and requested patience from residents as projects are being completed.

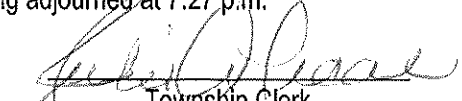
Mayor Sippel announced the following upcoming events: 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony, Family Fun Night and Run for the Fallen. He also reminded that the recycling yard returns to their off-season hours beginning Sept 18th. He addressed the concerns regarding E. Virginia Ave and instructed Manager Laffey to set up a meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Councilmember Roy, seconded by Councilmember Conrad. Motion to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.



Mayor
Frank Sippel



Township Clerk

Approved: Sept 19, 2022