

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – May 3, 2021

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on May 3, 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

Presentation - LCMR Mock Trial Team

Barbara Bakley-Marino, LCMR Mock Trial Team Coach, shared words of encouragement to her team and voiced confidence in their upcoming State Championship.

Mayor Sippel presented Certificates of Congratulations to the LCMR Mock Trial Team on behalf of the Lower Township Council and Manager Laffey for winning the 2021 State Championship: The Mock Trial Team Members include: Anya Davids, Nikolas Frey, Elise Heim, Holly Karavanas, Olivia Longshore, John Payne, and Coach Barbara Bakley-Marino. Council also presented a plaque to LCMR School District Superintendent Mr. Joe Castellucci.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes/Closed Session Minutes – April 19, 2021

Res. #2021-148 Authorization for the Payment of Vouchers \$578,020.13

Res. #2021-149 A Resolution Amending Resolution 2019-380 in order to Authorize Additional Services Associated with the Current Shared Service Agreement Between the Township of Lower and the Lower Cape May Regional School District Pertaining to Website Design, Hosting, and Maintenance Services

Res. #2021-150 Authorization for Refund of Taxes (2 properties, \$715.38)

Res. #2021-151 Authorizing the Sale of Township of Lower Surplus No Longer Needed for Public Use on GovDeals Online Auction Website (Playground Equipment)

Res. #2021-152 Authorization to Transfer Funds from the Tax Premium Account

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

Regular Agenda

Res. #2021-153 Resolution for Emergency Temporary Appropriations

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

Ordinance #2021-09 – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 90, Police Department, of the Code of the Township of Lower, Enacting Article IV in Order to Establish a Police Chaplain Program for the Lower Township Police Department – This is the second reading and hearing for this Ordinance. This Ordinance has been published, posted and made available to the public.

Deputy Mayor Perry voiced favor with the Ordinance establishing a Police Chaplain.

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

Ordinance #2021-10 – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 552, Smoking, of the Code of the Township of Lower, to Prohibit Individuals from Smoking Marijuana in Public Places Throughout the Township. This is the second reading and public hearing for this Ordinance. This Ordinance has been posted, published and made available to the public.

James Sanford, Diamond Beach, voiced concern with how the ordinance will affect public areas on private beaches. Solicitor Stefankiewicz shared what Solicitor Belasco explained at the last meeting that private property is not covered by this ordinance and property owners have the ability to enact and enforce their own regulations if they so choose.

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

Monthly Report - Finance

Manager's Report

Manager Laffey gave Council an update on several Parks & Recreation projects including: Jonathan Hoffman Park, Clem Mulligan Park ad Rec. Center HVAC upgrades. He also congratulated Keith Palek on his retirement.

Public Comment

James Sanford, Diamond Beach, asked for an update and voiced concern with Emergency Medical Services to Diamond Beach. Mayor Sippel advised Mr. Sanford to call Manager Laffey with his questions.

Susan Zumar, Diamond Beach, voiced concern with new construction on Richmond Avenue as flooding and drainage problems still exist.

Solicitor Stefankiewicz suggested that the Land Use Board may have approved it subject to approval from other outside agencies.

Councilmember Conrad suggested Ms. Zumar submit a letter of comments to NJDEP.

James Sanford addressed Councilmember Roy regarding previous concerns with flooding and infrastructure issues in Diamond Beach.

Bill Greenfield, Villas, addressed Council regarding storm drain issues between New York and Ohio Avenues.

Council Comments

Mayor Sippel gave an update on Governor Murphy's Executive Order relaxing many COVID-19 restrictions. He also announced the Villas VFW Memorial Day Service, Shred Day, and Township Pool passes to go on sale.

Deputy Mayor Perry – no comments

Councilmember Conrad commented on Township paving projects and reminded everyone to stay safe.

Councilmember Coombs commented in favor of the Governor's Executive Order relaxing some restrictions. He also congratulated the LCMR Mock Trial Team on their State Championship.

Councilmember Roy congratulated the LCMR Mock Trial Team and voiced favor with restrictions being lifted.

Closed Session

Res. #2021-154 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**

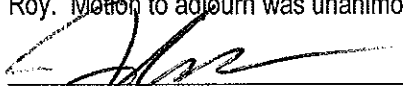
	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	RECUSE	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD			X				
COOMBS			X				
ROY			X				
PERRY		X	X				
SIPPEL	X		X				

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

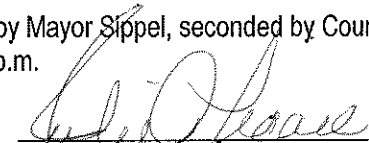
Council returned to Open Session at 6:00 pm

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 6:01 p.m.



Mayor



Township Clerk

Approved: *May 17, 2021*