

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – December 19, 2022

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on December 19, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the meeting room of 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

Deputy Mayor David Perry

Mayor Frank Sippel

Also present: Michael Laffey, Township Manager, David Stefankiewicz (via phone), Township Solicitor and Karen Fournier, Deputy Township Clerk

### Work Session

#### Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes – December 5, 2022

Res. #2022-382 Authorization for the payment of vouchers \$ 769,243.61

Res. #2022-383 A Resolution Re-Appointing Kathleen Brown as Municipal Tax Collector for the Township of Lower Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:9-142

Res. #2022-384 Approving Change Order #2 – Final to Fred M Schiavone Construction for Additional Paving and Fencing and As-Built Quantity Adjustments for 2022 NJDCA Small Cities Program Cloverdale Avenue, Evergreen Avenue and Spruce Avenue Storm Sewer Improvements (LT-C-026)  
\$27,084.96

Res. #2022-385 Approving a Professional Service Contract with DeBlasio & Associates for the FY2023 NJDOT Municipal Aid Including the Survey and Design Phase of the Reconstruction of Wildwood Avenue – Bayshore Road to Bay Drive Engineering Phase (LT-C-034) (\$60,000)

Res. #2022-386 Award National Cooperative Purchasing Agreement with Sourcewell to Central Jersey Equipment LLC to Purchase One (1) 2023 John Deere Gator XUV825M Contract #031121-DAC (\$19,871.16)

Res. #2022-387 Authorizing the Sale of Township of Lower Surplus No Longer Needed for Public Use on GOVDEALS Online Auction Website

Res. #2022-388 Authorizing the Release of Approximately \$163,612.02 in Surplus from the Township of Lower's Share of the Aggregate Excess Loss Contingency Fund

Res. #2022-389 A Resolution Vacating the Foreclosure of 931 Seashore Road, Block 753.04, Lot 4, Due to the Issuance of a Prior Tax Sale Certificate Not Named Within the Original Foreclosure and Amending Resolution 2022-354 to Reinstate Cancelled Taxes Associated with Same

Res. #2022-390 A Resolution Amending the Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual of Lower Township

Res. #2022-391 Transfer of 2022 Appropriations

Res. #2022-392 Award National Cooperative Purchasing Agreement with Sourcewell to Cherry Valley Tractor Sales to Purchase one (1) Powerstar 75 New Holland Cab Tractor Sourcewell Contract #110719CNH with Alamo Interstater W/4 oz Knives Sourcewell #0780821 (\$98,631.55)

Res. #2022-393 Award National Cooperative Purchasing Agreement with Sourcewell to Cherry Valley Tractor Sales to Purchase One (1) TS6 110 New Holland Cab Tractor with Alamo Samuari 18Ft Mid Mount Boom (\$158,008.64)

Res. #2022-394 A Resolution Requesting Release of Performance Guarantee for New Singular Wireless PCSLLC dba AT & T Mobility; Block 410.01; Lot 36.01; Escrow #Z20-08-02

Res. #2022-395 Approval for the Tax Collector to Proceed with Foreclosures of Group#2

Res. #2022-396 A Resolution Approving an Agreement Between the Township of Lower and Kevin Lewis, Lower Township Chief of Police

Res. #2022-397 Awarding a Competative Contract to TD BANK for Banking Services for the Township of Lower 2023-2024-2025 (36 Months)

Res. #2022-398 A Resolution Urging Governor Murphy to use Covid Relief Funds to Offset the Increased Premium Costs of the New Jersey State Health Benefit Program

Councilmember Conrad commented in favor of Resolution #2022-398 and voiced discontent about the increase in State Health Insurance premiums.

Mayor Sippel shared the consensus of other NJ mayors urging Governor Murphy to reverse the premium costs for State Health Benefits.

On the Consent:

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

**Regular Agenda**

Ordinance #2022-15 – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 400, Land Development, of the Code of the Township of Lower, to Create An Overlay Zoning District in the GB-1 Zone to Govern Class 5 Cannabis Retail Licenses and Class 6 Cannabis Delivery Licenses.

Mayor Sippel commented on Ordinance #2022-15 and shared the Planning Board's recommendation.

Motion to table Ordinance #2022-15 made by Deputy Mayor Perry, seconded by Mayor Sippel.

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

**Engineer Report**

Marc DeBlasio shared the 2022 Year End Summary of Services provided to the Township by DeBlasio & Associates and wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Councilmember Conrad thanked DeBlasio & Associates for correcting the drainage issues on Cloverdale Avenue.

**Monthly Report**

Clerk, Construction, Dog, Tax Collector, Treasurer, Vital

**Public Comment**

Cheryl Alessandrine, 302 Clubhouse, Shore Animal Control Officer, spoke highly of Linda Gentile and the work of Shore Animal Control.

Marcia Groff, 112 W. Atlantic Ave., Shore Animal Control Officer, addressed Council to advocate for Shore Animal Control.

Maria Caplan, 136 Racetrack Dr., volunteer for CMC Animal Shelter, addressed Council in favor of Shore Animal Control.

Andrew Groff, 112 W. Atlantic Ave., highlighted the value of Shore Animal Control and their commitment to the community.

**Council Comments**

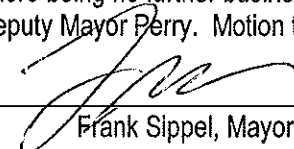
Councilmember Conrad shared holiday wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

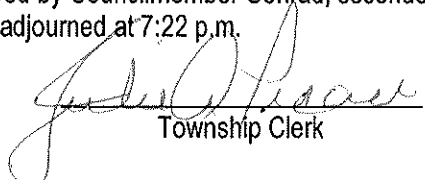
Deputy Mayor Perry informed about a veteran program called "We Value Our Veterans Community" and voiced interest in participating in the program. He also wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Mayor Sippel voiced support of the Veterans Community Program and shared Happy Holiday wishes to all. He also announced the New Year's Eve Celebration event at the Recreation Center.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Councilmember Conrad, seconded by Deputy Mayor Perry. Motion to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

  
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Frank Sippel, Mayor

  
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Township Clerk

Approved: Jan 4, 2023