

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – October 3, 2022**

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on October 3, 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, David Stefankiewicz, Township Solicitor and Karen Fournier, Deputy Township Clerk

**Work Session**

**Consent Agenda**

Approval of Minutes – September 19, 2022

- Res. #2022-305 Authorization for the payment of vouchers \$ 787,820.34
- Res. #2022-306 Authorization for the Payout of Accumulated Compensatory Time (E. Danze \$2,523.29)
- Res. #2022-307 Local Arts Program Grant (approval of application)
- Res. #2022-308 Authorizing Competitive Contracting for Banking Services for the Township of Lower
- Res. #2022-309 Certification of Lot Clearing Charges to the Tax Collector
- Res. #2022-310 Bid Acceptance and Contract Award of 2022 NJDOT Reconstruction of Fire Lane - Bayshore Road to Sunnyside Drive (LT-C-029)
- Res. #2022-311 Bid Acceptance and Award of Suspended Module Open Grid with Grip Sports Tile for Freeman Douglass Park Hockey Rink
- Res. #2022-312 Insertion of Special Item of Revenue pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-87; Chapter 159 (Body Armor \$6,210.)
- Res. #2022-313 Authorization for Refund of Taxes
- Res. #2022-314 Authorizing Payout of Terminal Leave (R. Smith \$11,230.29)
- Res. #2022-315 Authorizing Payout of Terminal Leave (L. Schubert \$42,329.18)
- Res. #2022-316 Authorizing Payment of 2022 County Taxes (Fourth Quarter)

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

**Regular Agenda**

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 second reading and public hearing of this Ordinance. This Ordinance has been published, posted and made available to the public.

Steven Ewing, 773 Route 109, addressed Council in opposition to Ordinance #2022-10. As a motel owner he voiced concern about the adverse effect it may have on his business. He requested Council consider a lesser percent tax be imposed, if any at all.

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

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 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				
COOMBS		X	X				
ROY			X				
PERRY	X		X				
SIPPEL			X				

Res. #2022-318 A Resolution Ratifying a Four (4) Year contract agreement between the Township of Lower and the Lower Township Superior Officers

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

**Administrative Reports**

Floodplain Management Annual Update  
Tax Sale Summary

**Public Comment** – no comments

**Council Comments**

Councilmember Conrad shared his sympathy for the loss of Coach Frank Simonsen and Frank Porter, both long time volunteers in the community.

Councilmember Coombs echoed Councilmember Conrad's comments and offered condolences to the Simonsen and Porter families.

Councilmember Roy reiterated the above sentiments and encouraged volunteerism within the community.

Deputy Mayor Perry – no comments

Mayor Sippel announced the following October events: National Night Out, Military Appreciation Night, Shred Day, Benefit Concert, Trunk or Treat, Free Flu Shots and Haunted Trails.

**Closed Session**

Res. #2022-317 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**

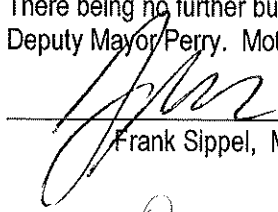
	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	RECUSE	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONRAD			X				
COOMBS	X		X				
ROY		X	X				
PERRY			X				
SIPPEL			X				

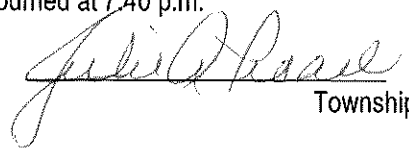
Council adjourned to Closed Session at approximately 7:10 p.m.

Council returned to Open Session at approximately 7:39 p.m.

**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 7:40 p.m.

  
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Frank Sippel, Mayor

  
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Township Clerk

Approved: 