

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – August 21, 2023

The meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lower, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey was held on August 21, 2023 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

Proclamation - Supporting the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over 2023 Statewide Labor Day Crackdown

Mayor Sippel read a proclamation supporting the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over 2023 Statewide Labor Day Crackdown.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes – August 7, 2023

Res. #2023-282 Approval for the Payment of Vouchers \$ 463,389.89

Res. #2023-283 2023 Drive Sobor or Get Pulled Over Labor Day

Res. #2023-284 Approval for Run The Vineyards Down the Shore 5K Run

Res. #2023-285 Approval of Contribution to Lower Township Chamber of Commerce (\$4,000)

Res. #2023-286 Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87, Chapter 159 (Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over \$7,000)

Res. #2023-287 Authorizing Payment of 2023 County Taxes (Third & Fourth Quarters)

Res. #2023-288 A Resolution Authorizing a Grant Application to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Spotted Lanternfly Program – 2023 Chemical Control Treatment Grant

Res. #2023-289 Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to N.J.S.A.40A:4-87, Chapter 159 (Lanternfly Control Program \$15,000)

Res. #2023-290 Insertion of Special Item of Revenue Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87,Chapter 159 (Lead Grant Assistance Program \$22,700)

Res. #2023-291 Authorization for the Refund of Taxes

Res. #2023-292 Approval for Saint Barbabas By-The-Bay Episcopal Church to conduct a Flea Market

Res. #2023-293 A Resolution Authorizing the Contract with Any Excuse for a Party, LLC for Lower Township Family Fun Night, Sept 8, 2023

Res. #2023-294 Approval of Change Order #1 – Final – to Asphalt Paving Systems for the Reconstruction of Fire Lane – Bayshore Road to Sunnyside Drive (decrease of \$43,727.76)

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

Regular Agenda

Monthly Reports

Clerk, Dog, Finance, Vital Statistics

Personnel Action Report

Engineer Report

Will Hanson gave Council an update on the following projects being handled by DeBlasio & Associates including: Diamond Beach Park Improvements; Replacement of Various Pavilions; Reconstruction of Wildwood Avenue; Reconstruction of Carriage Lane, Briarwood Drive, Bridle Path, Paddock Lane, Timber Lane and Trotter Way; Lincoln Boulevard Restroom Facility; Beach Access Paths Survey and Installation; Rotary Community Park Renovations; Bay Outfall Extensions; and Reconstruction of Ridgewood Avenue.

Gary Douglass, Public Works Director, addressed Council regarding the effects of the last storm on Roseann Avenue. He communicated the concerns of the residents and made a recommendation, based on discussions with the inspector and engineer, to remove the screen from the chamber of the 200 block of Roseann Avenue. Mayor Sippel voiced approval. Deputy Mayor Perry agreed.

Public Comment

Ray Flickinger, Washington Blvd., complimented the Township on the Douglass Park Pavilions and a successful National Night Out and Benefit Concert.

Council Comments

Mayor Sippel announced the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony, Family Fun Night and the time change for the next Council Meeting. He also thanked Public Works for their work on the Foster House.

Deputy Mayor Perry gave an update on the Fishing Creek Road paving project.

Councilmember Roy gave an update on the MUA Sewer Extension project.

Councilmember Coombs reminded residents to use caution as schools will be back in session soon.

Councilmember Conrad commented on the Fishing Creek Road paving project and congratulated Rino's Pizza for 40 years in business.

Closed Session

Res. #2023-295 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**

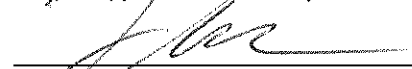
| | MOTION | SECOND | AYE | NAY | RECUSE | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|--------|--------|--------|-----|-----|--------|---------|--------|
| CONRAD | | | X | | | | |
| COOMBS | | X | X | | | | |
| ROY | X | | X | | | | |
| PERRY | | | X | | | | |
| SIPPEL | | | X | | | | |

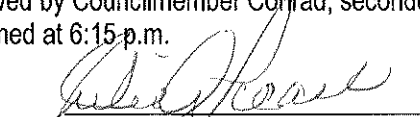
Council Adjourned to Closed Session at 5:19 p.m.

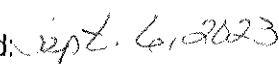
Council returned to Open Session at 6:14 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business to address, motion to adjourn moved by Councilmember Conrad, seconded by Mayor Sippel. Motion to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.


Frank Sippel, Mayor


Township Clerk

Approved:  6/12/23