

Little Egg Harbor Township Committee Meeting Minutes

SEPTEMBER 8, 2022

7:00 P.M.

Mayor John Kehm called the Little Egg Harbor Township Committee Meeting to order and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Time: 7:00 p.m.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

Township Clerk Kelly Lettera read the Open Public Meeting Statement: *"This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Law. Notice of this meeting of September 8, 2022 was duly advertised, posted in the Municipal Complex, and has remained posted as required under the aforesaid statute. The Municipal Clerk is directed to include a record of this statement in the minutes of the meeting."*

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mr. Laney, Mr. Maxwell; Mr. Scibetta; Mayor Kehm

Absent: Mr. Gormley

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- August 11, 2022
- August 11, 2022 Executive Session

Motion to Approve: Maxwell

Second: Scibetta

All in Favor

ORDINANCE 2022-10

[FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION]

An Ordinance of the Township of Little Egg Harbor, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, Amending and Supplementing Chapter 299, Street Vacations

Motion to Introduce: Scibetta

Second: Laney

Roll Call: All Yes: Mr. Laney, Mr. Maxwell; Mr. Scibetta; Mayor Kehm

ORDINANCE 2022-11

[FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION]

An Ordinance of the Township of Little Egg Harbor, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, Amending and Supplementing Chapter 156, Certifications of Occupancy

Motion to Introduce: Maxwell

Second: Scibetta

Roll Call: All Yes: Mr. Laney, Mr. Maxwell; Mr. Scibetta; Mayor Kehm

ORDINANCE 2022-12

[FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION]

An Ordinance of the Township of Little Egg Harbor, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, Amending and Supplementing Chapter 323, Vehicles and Traffic, Article II, Parking, Stopping and Standing, so as to amend § 323-7.1, "Public Parking Spaces for Charging of Electric Vehicles"

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Motion to Introduce: Laney Second: Scibetta

Roll Call: All Yes: Mr. Laney, Mr. Maxwell; Mr. Scibetta; Mayor Kehm

ORDINANCE 2022-13 **FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION**

An Ordinance of the Township of Little Egg Harbor, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, Amending and Supplementing Chapter 215, Land Use and Development, and Adopt a New Subsection Under Article XII, Improvement Standards, as § 215-12.20 Entitled "Electric Vehicle Supply/Service Equipment and Make-Ready Parking Spaces"

Motion to Introduce: Maxwell Second: Scibetta

Roll Call: All Yes: Mr. Laney, Mr. Maxwell; Mr. Scibetta; Mayor Kehm

CONSENT AGENDA

A Consent Agenda includes items of business which are not controversial and do not require individual discussion. The Consent Agenda is moved, seconded, and voted upon as one item by the Governing Body.

The Municipal Clerk read by title all the Resolutions on the consent agenda.

RESOLUTION 2022-208

Appointing Kasey P. Powers as Qualified Purchasing Agent for the Township of Little Egg Harbor and Establishing a New Bid Threshold in Accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:11-3(a) *[The appointment of Kasey Powers as QPA and establishing the bid Threshold at \$44,000]*

RESOLUTION 2022-209

Authorizing the Appointment of Jonathan Flamma as a Mechanic for the Department of Public Works *[The appointment of Jonathan Flamma as Mechanic for DPW effective August 24, 2022 at a rate of \$19.85/hr]*

RESOLUTION 2022-210

Authorizing the Promotion of Brian Flynn to the Position of Clerk 2 *[An appointment promoting existing employee Brian Flynn from a Clerk 1 to Clerk 2 position]*

RESOLUTION 2022-211

Authorizing the Promotion of Maria Hanna to the Position of Clerk 2 *[An appointment promoting existing employee Maria Hanna from a Clerk 1 to Clerk 2 position]*

RESOLUTION 2022-212

Authorizing the Release of Performance Guarantee Posted by Total Marine Inc. for Road Opening and Trench Restoration *[Release of cash bond in the amount of \$3,450.00 for the road opening and trench restoration of 355 Great Bay Boulevard]*

RESOLUTION 2022-213

Authorizing the Execution of an Indemnification and Hold Harmless Agreement and Execution of a General Permit 6 CAFRA Application, as to Block 325.113, Lot 1

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RESOLUTION 2022-214

Authorizing the Tax Collector to Cancel Taxes and Provide a Refund Pursuant to N.J.S.A 54:4-3.30 on Property Qualifying for Veterans Property Tax Exemption (Judith Boulware, Block 191.06, Lot 39)

RESOLUTION 2022-215

Authorizing the Tax Collector to Cancel Taxes and Provide a Refund Pursuant to N.J.S.A 54:4-3.30 on Property Qualifying for Veterans Property Tax Exemption (Nicholas Nagy, Block 325.105, Lot 26)

RESOLUTION 2022-216

Authorizing the Tax Collector to Cancel Taxes and Provide a Refund Pursuant to N.J.S.A 54:4-3.30 on Property Qualifying for Veterans Property Tax Exemption (Erica Nelson, Block 285.11, Lot 2.26)

RESOLUTION 2022-217

Authorizing the Tax Collector to Cancel Taxes and Provide a Refund Pursuant to N.J.S.A 54:4-3.30 on Property Qualifying for Veterans Property Tax Exemption (Shawn Reilly, Block 282, Lot 1.19)

RESOLUTION 2022-218

Authorizing the Tax Collector to Cancel Taxes and Provide a Refund Pursuant to N.J.S.A 54:4-3.30 on Property Qualifying for Veterans Property Tax Exemption (Edward Crawford, Block 325.98, Lot 51)

RESOLUTION 2022-219

Authorizing the Tax Collector to Cancel Taxes on Property Qualifying for Veterans Property Tax Exemption (Bernard R. Staunch, Block 325.309, Lot 2)

RESOLUTION 2022-220

Authorizing the Tax Collector to Cancel Taxes on Property Qualifying for Veterans Property Tax Exemption (John H. Kuper, Block 285.11, Lot 10.16)

RESOLUTION 2022-221

Certifying Tax Liens for Costs Incurred in Accordance with the Property Maintenance Code *[Tax liens are for work performed by the Public Works Department to abate violations for the preservation of the public health, safety and general welfare or to eliminate a fire hazard]*

RESOLUTION 2022-222

Authorizing a Corrective Action Plan *[Office of State Comptroller requires submission of a corrective action plan for LEH sick and vacation leave policies]*

RESOLUTION 2022-223

Awarding a Contract for 2022 Drainage Improvement Project to West Bay Construction, Inc. *[Awarding a contract to West Bay Construction, Inc. for the 2022 Drainage Improvement Project in the amount of \$368,947.75]*

RESOLUTION 2022-224

Awarding a Contract for Mystic Shores Road Improvements to Arawak Paving Co, Inc. *[Awarding a contract to Arawak Paving Co., Inc. for Mystic Shores Road Improvements in the amount of \$507,900.00]*

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RESOLUTION 2022-225

Rejecting All Bids Received for Mystic Beach and Parkertown Beach Replenishment and Stabilization Project and Authorizing the Re-Advertisement and Receipt of Bids [*Rejection of bids for Mystic Beach and Parkertown Beach Replenishment and Stabilization Project, bids exceed the cost estimate for the project*]

CONSENT AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Motion to Open to Public: Laney

Second: Maxwell

All in Favor

Mr. Mooney of Windstar Drive questioned if the Township gets reimbursed by the County or the State for the Veterans Tax refunds.

Township Business Administrator/CFO Rodney Haines stated the Township does not get reimbursed by the County or the State for Veterans Tax Exemptions. He further stated the exemptions have been approved since the beginning of the year but the Township had to wait for the tax rate in order to get them on the agenda. He stated, in the future, the exemptions will not be part of the valuation base and will not affect the taxes. He further stated he believes the statute does not allow for a refund to the Township.

Mayor Kehm stated it is a good idea to look into if the town is able to get a refund and see if there is anything out there that provides for reimbursement to the Township.

Laura Erber of Flax Court asked for a brief explanation on Resolution 2022-222.

Township Business Administrator/CFO Rodney Haines stated the state comptroller has reviewed the sick and vacation policies and the report expressed some violations within the Townships collective bargaining agreements, which the Township needed to correct. He stated the corrective action plan was to address those issues, of which some have already been corrected while others will be negotiated during the next round of collective bargaining agreements.

Motion to Close to Public: Scibetta

Second: Maxwell

All in Favor

Motion to Approve: Maxwell

Second: Scibetta

Roll Call: All Yes: Mr. Laney, Mr. Maxwell; Mr. Scibetta; Mayor Kehm

BILL RESOLUTION 2022-226

A Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Bills in the Amount of \$4,409,780.51

Motion to Approve: Maxwell

Second: Scibetta

Roll Call: All Yes: Mr. Laney, Mr. Maxwell; Mr. Scibetta; Mayor Kehm

Committee Member Laney abstained from bill 22-00799.

MISCELLANEOUS APPROVALS

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- Raffle Application No. 2022-26 for OES #54, On-Premise 50/50 Raffle at West Tuckerton Fire Co., 505 Route 9 South on October 22, 2022
- Raffle Application No. 2022-27 for OES #54, On-Premise Gift Auction at West Tuckerton Fire Co., 505 Route 9 South on October 22, 2022
- Raffle Application No. 2022-28 for American Legion Post 493 Mystic Island, Off-Premise 50/50 Raffle at 420 Radio Road on January 23, 2023
- Raffle Application No. 2022-29 for American Legion Post 493 Mystic Island, Off-Premise 50/50 Raffle at 420 Radio Road on December 16, 2022
- Raffle Application No. 2022-30 for Pinelands July 4th Celebration Inc., On-Premise Gift Auction at Parkertown Volunteer Fire Co., 830 Railroad Avenue on October 8, 2022
- Raffle Application No. 2022-31 for Pinelands July 4th Celebration Inc., On-Premise 50/50 Raffle at Parkertown Volunteer Fire Co., 830 Railroad Avenue on October 8, 2022
- Raffle Application No. 2022-32 for PTO of Little Egg Harbor Inc., Casino Night at Parkertown Volunteer Fire Co., 830 Railroad Avenue on October 15, 2022
- Raffle Application No. 2022-33 for Fund-A-Bull Bulldogs in Rescue, On-Premise Gift Auction at Pinelands Brewing Co., 140 7th Avenue on October 23, 2022

Motion to Approve: Laney

Second: Maxwell

All in Favor

PUBLIC COMMENT - Any Topic

Motion to Open to Public: Scibetta

Second: Maxwell

All in Favor

Mr. Sayer of Fazio Court spoke on behalf of Pinelands Baseball regarding the money that will be possibly allocated to the Recreation Complex. He stated in the last year he has seen excitement and tremendous growth in the amount of volunteers, players and coaches for Pinelands Baseball. He continued by stating 50 tons of dirt topped the fields earlier in the year and only one rain date came from that. Mr. Sayer provided the Committee with a list of items that the money could be allocated towards for the fields such as fencing, a rebuild or portable fiberglass for mound one and two, bases, an additional 50 yards of dirt and lights for field 2, outlets on all three fields and a permanent indoor baseball facility with bathrooms, storage, meeting room and concession stand.

Mayor Kehm stated Congressman Van Drew ear marked one million dollars for the fields. He stated that money has been recently received and the Township Business Administrator/CFO Rodney Haines is working with the Committee on some project ideas for those fields. He thanked Mr. Sayer for adding additional ideas and possible projects that they can use during discussions on how to utilize the money.

Ms. Johnson of Concetta Court provided the Committee with two Pinelands Baseball t-shirts. She thanked the Committee and expressed how happy her and her children are to be able to play baseball in the town they live in.

Ms. Johnson's son Max asked if a community garden could be a possible project idea for those children who get bored while watching baseball.

Mayor Kehm thanked Max and stated that was a great idea.

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Ms. Degan of Atlantis Blvd questioned what the plans are for rebuilding the lagoon at the end of Atlantis Blvd. She also requested that the plantings take place in the fall if possible so by spring they will be in bloom.

Mayor Kehm stated once the dredging is complete there are plans to beautify the area with plantings and trees.

Mr. Mooney of Windstar Drive stated he fully supports the youth and the children are the investment for the future and it is important to keep them active and off the streets. He requested that the Committee look into supporting the seniors of the town as well.

Mayor Kehm stated the Committee provided softball fields years back and are looking to incorporate a pickle ball court at the Community Center in addition to always supporting the seniors of the town.

Mr. Moore of Cranbury Creek requested that the fence at the fire department get repaired or replaced. He stated that after the fire that took place last week, the fence was damaged and now there are unmarked cars coming out of the area.

Motion to Close to Public: Scibetta

Second: Maxwell

All in Favor

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER COMMENTS

Charlie Cunliffe of T&M Associates, Alternate Engineer for the Township Engineer Jason Worth was in attendance. Mr. Cunliffe reported on behalf of the Township Engineer that specifications are getting wrapped up for the skate park/basketball courts/pickle ball courts at the Community Center and bids will be taken in on September 23, 2022 at the Municipal Building. He stated the Floodplain Management Committee will be holding a meeting on Monday, September 12, 2022 at 2pm in the Municipal Building Court Room. He continued with the Mystic Island Phase 1 Dredging Project work will start up again on Monday, September 12 and dredging in Atlantis will be wrapping up this coming week. He finished with stating he will speak to the Township Engineer about the plans for plantings at the end of the Atlantis lagoon.

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Committeeman Dan Maxwell stated the next Senior Advisory Board meeting will be September 26 at 10am at the Community Center with Chief Hawkins, Lindsay Llauguet from the Prosecutors Office and Jeffery Moran of the Ocean County Surrogate's Office attending as guest speakers. He also stated the LEHT Board of Health will be hosting a free rabies clinic on November 12 from 10am to noon at the Community Center.

Committeeman Kenneth Laney, Jr. stated the Committee is in the process of looking at a preliminary drawing of art work for the front of the Community Center. He stated if anyone would like to look at it, they can do so after the meeting.

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Deputy Mayor Blaise Scibetta thanked the Pinelands Baseball for all the hard work they do with volunteering and with the children in the program. He also stated he would like to see baseball, football and baseball have a sports day in the future to bring all the sporting organizations together. He continued with stating that the Committee will continue to look at options for all the organizations in town including the seniors. Committeeman Scibetta continued with a reading on behalf of a family member he lost in the September 11 event and encouraged everyone to provide today's children with the history of the tragic event that took place, so it does not get lost or forgotten. He ended with announcing the Township wide clean-up event that will be taking place the first Saturday in October.

Mayor John Kehm thanked Deputy Mayor Scibetta for his 9/11 memorial reading. He finished with providing the public with volunteer information for Rescue Squad 85 because they are in need for additional volunteers.

EXECUTIVE SESSION 2022-227

A Resolution Authorizing the Convening of an Executive Session in Accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act

Township Attorney Melanie Appleby stated the Committee needs to go into Executive Session to discuss contractual matters and personnel, possible formal action is anticipated to be taken.

Motion to Approve: Scibetta Second: Maxwell All in Favor

Motion to Close Executive Session and Reconvene Regular Township Meeting: Scibetta

Second: Laney All in Favor

Township Attorney Melanie Appleby read into the record Resolution 2022-228 "Authorizing the Township Administrator to negotiate with Larry Ditzel for a part-time position as plumbing subcode inspector for the Township.

Motion to Approve: Scibetta Second: Maxwell

Roll Call: Yes: Mr. Maxwell; Mr. Scibetta; Mayor Kehm
 Abstain: Mr. Laney

Motion to Adjourn: Scibetta Second: Maxwell All in Favor

I hereby certify the foregoing Minutes were formally approved by the Little Egg Harbor Township Committee.



Kelly Lettera, RMC
Township Clerk