

Little Egg Harbor Township Committee Meeting Minutes

MARCH 9, 2023

7:00 P.M.

Mayor Blaise Scibetta 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 March 9, 2023 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. Kehm; Mr. Laney; Mr. Maxwell; Mayor Scibetta

Absent: Mr. Gormley

INVOCATION by Pastor Michael Dellaperute of Calvary Baptist Church

PRESENTATIONS:

- Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month
- 21st Annual March for Meals Month

Mayor Blaise Scibetta read the Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month proclamation and presented the proclamation to Cheryl Hamaty from the National MS Society.

Committeeman John Kehm read the 21st Annual March for Meals Month proclamation and presented the proclamation to Transportation Director, Kelly Denelsbeck, of Ocean County Meals on Wheels.

Mayor Scibetta stated he is working with Pastor Mike from Calvary Baptist Church and Meals on Wheels to get more help for the seniors and provide them with more than just one meal a day.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- February 9, 2023
- February 9, 2023 Executive Session

Motion to Approve: Maxwell

Second: Laney

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

Abstain: Mr. Kehm

Mayor Scibetta expressed much appreciation to Chief Hawkins, on behalf of himself and the Committee, for the culture that he is creating within the police department. Mayor Scibetta read a Facebook post that a resident wrote about Police Officer Behrens. The resident expressed great appreciation for Officer Behrens and going above and beyond his job to provide information and

resources on Mental Health to a family friend in need. Chief Hawkins stated the credit truly goes to the police officers and stating they make his job easy.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE RETIREMENT OF KRISTEN STORY by Chief James Hawkins

Chief Hawkins recognized Sergeant Kristen Story on her retirement and provided the history of Sergeant Story and the unfortunate event that occurred during her work shift October 2021. He stated due to the leg injury that came out of that event, Sergeant Story is unable to continue her career as a police officer. Chief Hawkins presented a retirement pin and plaque to Sergeant Story in recognition of her faithful and loyal service to the residents of Little Egg Harbor Township and the Little Egg Harbor Police Department.

Chief James Hawkins provided a promotional introduction and recommendation for Lieutenant Michael Hart to Captain, Sergeant John Kelly to Lieutenant and Officer Christopher Myers as Sergeant to Little Egg Harbor Police Department.

RESOLUTION 2023-100

Appointing Lieutenant Michael Hart as Captain of the Little Egg Harbor Township Police Department

Motion to Approve: Kehm Second: Laney

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

Township Attorney, Melanie Appleby, administered the oath of office to Captain Michael Hart.

RESOLUTION 2023-101

Appointing Sergeant John Kelly as Lieutenant of the Little Egg Harbor Township Police Department

Motion to Approve: Kehm Second: Maxwell

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

Township Attorney, Melanie Appleby, administered the oath of office to Lieutenant John Kelly.

RESOLUTION 2023-102

Appointing Officer Christopher Myers as Sergeant of the Little Egg Harbor Township Police Department

Motion to Approve: Kehm Second: Laney

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

Township Attorney, Melanie Appleby, administered the oath of office to Sergeant Christopher Myers.

ORDINANCE 2023-03**[SECOND READING AND ADOPTION]**

An Ordinance of the Township of Little Egg Harbor, in the County of Ocean, New Jersey, Providing for the Acquisition of Side-Loader Trash/Recycling Trucks, Mason Dump Trucks with Snow Plows and Various Public Works Equipment for the Township of Little Egg Harbor Appropriating \$1,000,000 Therefor and Providing for the Issuance of \$950,000 in Bonds or Notes of the Township of Little Egg Harbor to Finance the Same

Motion to Open to Public: Kehm Second: Maxwell All in Favor

No public comment.

Motion to Close to Public: Maxwell Second: Kehm All in Favor

Motion to Adopt: Kehm Second: Maxwell

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

ORDINANCE 2023-04**[SECOND READING AND ADOPTION]**

Amending and Supplementing Ordinance 2022-01 (Salary Ordinance) to Establish the Compensation of A Part-time Recreation Director

Motion to Open to Public: Kehm Second: Laney All in Favor

No public comment.

Motion to Close to Public: Kehm Second: Laney All in Favor

Motion to Adopt: Kehm Second: Laney

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

ORDINANCE 2023-05**[SECOND READING AND ADOPTION]**

Amending and Supplementing the Township Code so as to Amend Chapter 279, Rental Property, to Amend Article I, Rental Certificates of Occupancy, Omit Article II, Seasonal Property and Create a New Article II, Short Term Rentals

Motion to Open to Public: Kehm Second: Laney All in Favor

Mr. Mooney of Windstar Drive asked for an explanation on what the Ordinance is.

Township Attorney, Melanie Appleby, provided an explanation on the changes to Chapter 279. She stated the Ordinance will revise the chapter to reflect a permit process for Airbnb's so that residential neighborhoods are not affected by the usage. She further stated there are exceptions within the Ordinance that do not apply to certain communities such as senior living.

Motion to Close to Public: Laney Second: Maxwell All in Favor

Motion to Adopt: Kehm

Second: Maxwell

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

ORDINANCE 2023-06

[SECOND READING AND ADOPTION]

Amending and Supplementing the Township Code so as to Amend Chapter 279, Rental Property, so as to Create a New Article III, Lead-Based Paint Inspections

Motion to Open to Public: Laney

Second: Kehm

All in Favor

As per Mayor Scibetta's request, Township Attorney, Melanie Appleby, provided the public with a full explanation of the purpose of the Ordinance.

Motion to Close to Public: Laney

Second: Maxwell

All in Favor

Motion to Adopt: Laney

Second: Maxwell

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

ORDINANCE 2023-07

[SECOND READING AND ADOPTION]

Amending Chapter 215, Land Use and Development, of the Code of the Township of Little Egg Harbor, County of Ocean and State of New Jersey, so as to Amend Chapter 215, Land Use and Development, Article XIII, Supplementary Standards Pinelands Area

Motion to Open to Public: Kehm

Second: Maxwell

All in Favor

Mr. Mooney of Windstar Drive asked for an explanation on the Ordinance.

Township Engineer, Jason Worth, provided an explanation on the regulations that the Pinelands Commission is requiring to be compliant with the Pinelands Management Plan.

Motion to Close to Public: Kehm

Second: Laney

All in Favor

Motion to Adopt: Kehm

Second: Maxwell

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

ORDINANCE 2023-08

[FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION]

Authorizing the Execution of a Lease Agreement with Jersey Shore Baseball Association for the Use of Fields at Sports Complex Drive

Motion to Introduce: Kehm

Second: Laney

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

March 9, 2023 Committee Meeting Minutes
Page 5

ORDINANCE 2023-09

[FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION]

Authorizing the Execution of a Lease Agreement with Pinelands Soccer Association for the Use of Fields at Sports Complex Drive

Motion to Introduce: Kehm

Second: Laney

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

ORDINANCE 2023-10

[FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION]

Authorizing the Execution of a Lease Agreement with Cape Atlantic Ocean Church Softball League (Calvary Baptist Church) for the Use of Fields at Sports Complex Drive

Motion to Introduce: Kehm

Second: Laney

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

ORDINANCE 2023-11

[FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION]

Authorizing the Execution of a Lease Agreement with American Youth Football Association, Inc. and American Youth Cheer, as Members of Pinelands Jr. Wildcats for the Use of Fields at Sports Complex Drive

Motion to Introduce: Kehm

Second: Laney

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

ORDINANCE 2023-12

[FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION]

Authorizing the Exchange of Lands with The County of Ocean in Accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:12-16

Motion to Introduce: Kehm

Second: Laney

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

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.

Mayor Scibetta read by title all the Resolutions on the consent agenda.

RESOLUTIONS

2023-103 Authorizing the Township Administrator to Advertise and Hire a Supervisor for the Department of Public Works

March 9, 2023 Committee Meeting Minutes
Page 6

- 2023-104 Authorizing the Appointment of Samantha Crance as Per Diem Telecommunicator for the Little Egg Harbor Township Police Department *[The appointment of Samantha Crance as Per Diem Telecommunicator Trainee effective immediately at a rate of \$18/hr]*
- 2023-105 Authorizing the Appointment of David Letts as Laborer 1 for the Department of Public Works *[The appointment of David Letts as a Laborer 1 effective March 8, 2023 at a rate of \$19.35/hr]*
- 2023-106 Accepting the Retirement of and Authorizing the Compensation of Accumulated Time to Kristen Story *[Kristen Story retired as of March 1, 2023 with a total payout of \$66,260.24 for unused time]*
- 2023-107 Accepting the Resignation of and Authorizing the Compensation of Accumulated Time to Rodney Tozer *[Rodney Tozer resigned as of February 23, 2023 with a total payout of \$689.39 for unused time]*
- 2023-108 Appointing McCormick Taylor, Inc. as Engineering Design Consultants for the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Design Assistance Program
- 2023-109 Awarding One (1) Plenary Retail Consumption Liquor License to Mancini Ventures, LLC *[Awarding the bid to Mancini Ventures for one Plenary Retail Consumption Liquor License in the amount of \$401,000]*
- 2023-110 Awarding One (1) Plenary Retail Distribution Liquor License to Lotus 9 LLC *[Awarding the bid to Lotus 9 LLC for one Plenary Retail Distribution Liquor License in the amount of \$504,000]*
- 2023-111 Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Personal Property by Open Public Auction in Accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-36, N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13 and N.J.A.C. 5:34-5.8 *[Authorizing the sale of surplus personal property through Sourcewell National Cooperative, GovDeals, Inc, public auction]*
- 2023-112 Authorizing Appropriation Reserve Transfers in Accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-59
- 2023-113 Authorizing the Execution of a Shared Services Agreement with the County of Ocean for the FY23 Traffic Enforcement Program Grant *[The Traffic Enforcement Program is ran by the Ocean County Sheriff's Office in an effort to improve the safety of motorists and pedestrians on county roads and highways]*

CONSENT AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Motion to Open to Public: Kehm

Second: Maxwell

All in Favor

Mr. Mooney of Windstar Drive questioned the liquor license locations.

Township Administrator, Rodney Haines, stated the location is not required at this point and he further explained the bid process for the liquor license.

Mr. Dwyer of Frog Pond Road asked what made the Township decide to go with McCormick Taylor as the Engineer for the SRTS projects.

Mayor Scibetta explained that SRTS provided four approved companies for the Township to choose from for the project. The Township Administrator did his due diligence on each of the companies and recommended McCormick Taylor to the Committee.

Ms. Lynnhart of Lexington Drive asked if the Township is going to use the senior center or start a community garden.

Mayor Scibetta stated the Knights of Columbus does utilize the community garden throughout the year and many things that are planted there are provided by local businesses. He further stated if she is interested, he can provide thier information to her and she can reach out to them for further information.

Motion to Close to Public: Kehm Second: Laney All in Favor

Motion to Approve: Kehm Second: Laney

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

BILL RESOLUTION 2023-114

A Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Bills in the Amount of \$3,729,100.43

Motion to Approve: Laney Second: Kehm

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

MISCELLANEOUS APPROVALS

- Bingo Application No. 2023-002 for West Tuckerton Fire Co., Designer Bag Bingo at 505 Route 9 South on May 20, 2023
- Bingo Application No. 2023-003 for PTO of Little Egg Harbor Inc., Designer Bag Bingo at 305 Frog Pond Road on April 22, 2023
- Raffle Application No. 2023-008 for West Tuckerton Fire Co., On-Premise Gift Auction at 505 Route 9 South on May 20, 2023
- Raffle Application No. 2023-009 for West Tuckerton Fire Co., On-Premise Lottery Hat Raffle at 505 Route 9 South on May 20, 2023
- Raffle Application No. 2023-010 for West Tuckerton Fire Co., On-Premise 50/50 Raffle at 505 Route 9 South on May 20, 2023
- Raffle Application No. 2023-011 for PTO of Little Egg Harbor Inc., On-Premise 50/50 Raffle at 305 Frog Pond Road on April 22, 2023
- Raffle Application No. 2023-012 for St. Theresa's Church, On-Premise 50/50 Raffle at 450 Radio Road on April 30, 2023

Motion to Approve: Kehm

Second: Maxwell

All in Favor

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER COMMENTS

Township Engineer, Jason Worth, reported Mystic Beach Replenishment project will begin on March 15 and several trucks will be in transporting 11,000 yards of sand. He stated the project should be complete by April 1. He stated the permits have been received for the bulkhead improvement project and bid notices went out today for the installation and replacement on township properties located on lagoon and street ends throughout the town. He stated the plans and specs for the improvements at Stage Road are complete and have been submitted to NJDOT for approval, in the hopes of bidding the project in April. Lastly, he stated he spoke to the contractor for the community center and, weather permitting, the pickle ball court, basketball court, landscaping, and parking lot paint should all be complete by early May.

PUBLIC COMMENT - Any Topic

Motion to Open to Public: Kehm

Second: Laney

All in Favor

Ms. Lynnhart of Lexington Drive requested that a survey be done regarding the amount of people in cars that are using Marijuana. She stated she is concerned that the legal use of Marijuana may get out of hand and she is looking for the township to have a solution to get it under control before it is too late.

Ms. Newman of Reef Lane asked if the Fire District Budget was approved at their recent election.

Committeeman Kehm stated the budget was approved.

Dr. Edmunds of Spruce Drive provided the committee with notice that he is notifying the State Police in order to stop the truck traffic on Center Street.

Committeeman Kehm suggested that the Township Administrator reach out to NJDOT.

Mr. Politoski of Travistock Drive stated he can smell marijuana while he walks coming from moving vehicles.

Mr. Blacie of Leitz Blvd stated his property is eroding away and he is looking for some assistance from the town.

Township Engineer, Jason Worth, stated that particular area is on the township's radar and they are trying to tie the curbs and sidewalks in with an upcoming improvement project.

Mr. Mooney of Windstar Drive questioned the security cameras in town and requested information pertaining to the PEAC meeting. He suggested for the future that the PEAC meetings occur at a later time so working residents can attend.

March 9, 2023 Committee Meeting Minutes

Page 9

Mayor Scibetta stated the security cameras will be recorded and randomly monitored by the police department.

Township Administrator, Rodney Haines, stated the cameras will be at several public parks and facilities.

Committeeman Laney and Maxwell explained that the PEAC meeting will be on March 16 at 5pm in the Court Room and the meeting is to determine the vision and growth of the town.

Mr. Dwyer of Frog Pond Road requested an explanation on Ordinance 2023-05 and the homeowners responsibilities for Ordinance 2023-06.

Township Attorney, Melanie Appleby, stated the original chapter 279 only referenced seasonal rentals and did not have the Airbnb regulations that the town was looking to incorporate. She stated the chapter now incorporates a process for all short term rentals, some language was removed and additional language was included pertaining to new regulations from the state. She stated Ordinance 2023-06 pertains to the municipality reporting lead based testing information to the state. She continued by stating the requirements fall onto the municipalities and the municipalities have to certify an employee to do the testing. She also stated the homeowner can get their own DCA certified person to do lead testing if they prefer.

Township Administrator, Rodney Haines, stated Ordinance 2023-06 only pertains to rental properties that were constructed prior to 1978.

Ms. Didyk of Clay Hole Road informed the committee of a homeless problem that is occurring in town on Lot 287.02. She stated there are groups of people living in tents. She also stated she has informed the homeowner and no trespassing signs have been posted.

Mayor Scibetta stated he will provide the information to the Chief of Police to look into further.

Committeeman Laney stated he spoke to the Chief about Lot 287.02 and they are in the process of getting it under control.

Mr. DeLuca of Cranbury Lake Drive requested information on when the improvements will be done to Cranbury Lake Drive. He also requested the police place the radar board on Twin Lakes Drive to monitor the speed of vehicles.

Mayor Scibetta stated he met with MUA and Cranbury Lake Drive is not one of the streets for improvements in 2023. He stated that MUA is still in the process of putting in their lines in that area. He stated conversations now have to take place with the Business Administrator/CFO to see where in the budget there is money to pave the street and with the Township Engineer to decide if it is the best time to repave the street considering MUA may tear up the roads in the next few years. He also stated in the meantime, he will go out, take pictures and see if Public Works can temporarily patch/repair some of the roadway.

Motion to Close to Public: Kehm

Second: Laney

All in Favor

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Committeeman Ken Laney congratulated the Officers on their promotions. He also thanked the volunteers who helped him paint the shed blue at the community center. He stated May 27, 2023, the Saturday prior to Memorial Day, will be the grand opening of the community center/skate park/pickelball/basketball courts and he is looking forward to the event. He stated everyone is welcome to attend and the event will include bounce houses, food, music, and local businesses will have informational tables. He further stated, for those interested in participating in the event they can reach out via email to Katie Baker for more information. He continued by stating Earth Day is April 22, 2023, and the Environmental Commission will be hosting the township wide clean-up event, details are on the flyer on the back table. In addition, he provided information on the environmental hero award, flyers also on the back table, for those interested in nominating an environmental hero within the community for their outstanding service to the environment. He wished everyone a safe and happy St. Patrick's Day.

Mayor Scibetta stated Mr. Kennedy requested to briefly speak. Mr. Kennedy asked what safety equipment is required at the skate park.

Committeeman Kehm stated there will be a list of rules and regulations posted at the skate park with requirements such as helmets, safety pads, etc. along with hours of operation.

Committeeman John Kehm thanked Committeeman Laney on all the hard work done to the community center. Mr. Kehm read an article that was sent to him from a Fire Fireghter on the importance and support that they provide to the community. Mr. Kehm thanked all the firefighters who risk their lives every day to protect the community.

Deputy Mayor Dan Maxwell congratulated the officers that were promoted and expressed that LEHT has great police staff and thanked them for protecting the community. Mr. Maxwell reported that on Thursday, May 4, 2023, the Senior Advisory Board will be hosting the Senior Information Expo at the community center from 9am to 12pm. He invited all seniors to attend the event stating there will be beneficial informanace for all in attendance. He reiterated the exciting Memorial Day weekend that will be taking place within the town, including the grand opening of the community center and the Memorial Day parade on May 29, 2023. He stated the parade starts at 9am at St. Theresa's Church and is ending with a solemn ceremony at Veteran's Park. He stated for those who would like to help out with the parade, please reach out to Katie Baker for more information. Lastly, he reported that the Senior Advisory Board will be meeting Monday, March 27, 2023 at 10am at the community center. He reminded residents to change their clocks this Sunday and thanked Pastor Mark for the invocation at tonight's meeting. He finished with wishing everyone a Happy Easter.

Mayor Blaise Scibetta reported on February 15, 2023, he and Committeeman Laney attended the Municipal Alliance Committee meeting. He stated the alliance is hosting an event at the Little Egg Library called "cops and crayons" on March 18, 2023. He stated on October 21, 2023, the LEHT Chamber of Commerce is hosting the 5th Annual Harvest Festival at the sports complex. He reported

March 9, 2023 Committee Meeting Minutes
Page 11

that on February 21, 2023, he and Mr. Haines met with Congressman Van Drew to discuss current and future projects for the town. He stated the "Meet the Mayor" event at the library was a great success and one of the topics of conversation was keeping the age restricted communities, age restricted. He stated on March 30, 2023 there will be an Easter Egg Hunt at Seacrest Rehabilitation facility. He reiterated his appreciation for going out with the Meals on Wheels program and opening his eyes to what some of the seniors have and need.

BENEDICTION by Pastor Michael Dellaperute of Calvary Baptist Church

EXECUTIVE SESSION 2023-115

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, Pending Litigation, Attorney-Client Privilege and Personnel, formal action is anticipated to be taken.

Motion to Approve: Maxwell Second: Laney All in Favor

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

Second: Maxwell All in Favor

2023-116 Authorizing the Administrator to Advertise for Deputy Municipal Clerk/Deputy Registrar

Motion to Approve: Maxwell Second: Laney

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

2023-117 Authorizing the Execution of a Settlement Agreement and Release as to Township of
Hamilton V. Township of Little Egg Harbor, Docket No. ATL-3234-22

Motion to Approve: Maxwell Second: Laney

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

2023-118 Authorizing the Execution of a Memorandum of Agreement and a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Township of Little Egg Harbor Department Heads

Motion to Approve: Maxwell Second: Kehm

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

Motion to Adjourn: Maxwell Second: Laney All in Favor

March 9, 2023 Committee Meeting Minutes
Page 12

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



Kelly Lettera, RMC
Township Clerk