

Little Egg Harbor Township Committee Meeting Minutes

JULY 14, 2022

7:30 P.M.

Mayor John Kehm called the Little Egg Harbor Township Committee Meeting to order and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Time: 7:30 p.m.

Committee Member Gormley requested that everyone stand for a moment of silence due to the passing of former Chief of Police Elkenny Pullen, Jr.

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 July 14, 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. Gormley; Mr. Laney, Mr. Maxwell; Mr. Scibetta; Mayor Kehm

PRESENTATION

- 2022 Mayors Essay Contest, Frog Pond Elementary School Winners

Mayor Kehm stated in 2013 the Township decided to start an essay contest for the elementary schools giving the students the opportunity to be "Mayor for a Day". He continued by saying that many great ideas came out of those essay's so they Township has decided to provide the opportunity to the students annually. He stated this year one winner was chosen from team purple and one winner from the green team were selected. Mayor Kehm presented awards to Eric Cooper and Madison Harper, 6th graders at Frog Pond Elementary School at a prior school event and the students joined Mayor Kehm at the dais at tonight's meeting to be "Mayor for a Day". Mayor Kehm also provided the winners with medals and name plaques.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- June 9, 2022
- June 9, 2022 Executive Session

Motion to Approve: Gormley Second: Laney All in Favor

RESOLUTION 2022-166

Appointing Corporal Christopher Arcienegas as Sergeant of the Little Egg Harbor Township Police Department

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Chief James Hawkins spoke on the history of former Chief Pullen and provided condolences to the family.

Chief James Hawkins provided the Mayor and Committee with the background and recommendation for the promotion of Corporal Christopher Arcienegas.

Motion to Approve: Scibetta Second: Maxwell

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

Township Attorney, Melanie Appleby, administered the oath of office to appoint Christopher Arcienegas as Sergeant to the Little Egg Harbor Township Police Department.

Mayor Kehm requested a brief intermission to while the police officers and the student "Mayor for a day" exit the Committee room.

ORDINANCE 2022-06

[SECOND READING AND ADOPTION]

An Ordinance of the Township of Little Egg Harbor, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, Amending and Supplementing Chapter 212, Land Development, of the Township Code of the Township of Little Egg Harbor So As to Create Chapter 215, Land Use and Development

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

No comment from the public.

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

Motion to Adopt: Gormley Second: Scibetta

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

ORDINANCE 2022-07

[SECOND READING AND ADOPTION]

An Ordinance of the Township of Little Egg Harbor, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, Providing for Road Improvements to Various Roads Located in the Township and Appropriating \$1,500,000 therefor and providing for the issuance of \$1,425,000 in Bonds or Notes of the Township of Little Egg Harbor to finance the same

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

Ms. Marilyn McHugh asked for clarification on how the \$1,425,000 Ordinance impacts the tax payers.

Township Attorney, Melanie Appleby, stated she is not the person that does the bond ordinances and she would have to discuss the ordinance with the CFO in order to answer the question.

Mayor Kehm stated the CFO is on vacation and he will be back in office on Monday.

RESOLUTION 2022-168

Accepting the Resignation of and Authorizing the Compensation of Accumulated Time as Full-Time Telecommunicator and Authorizing the Appointment of Cassandra Follmer as a Per Diem Telecommunicator for the Little Egg Harbor Township Police Department *[The resignation of Cassandra Follmer on July 12, 2022 as Full-time telecommunicator with a total payout of \$238.81 for unused time and requesting appointment as per diem telecommunicator effective July 13, 2022.]*

RESOLUTION 2022-169

Authorizing the Appointment of Melissa Caldwell as a Part-time Clerk 1 for the Construction/Zoning Department *[The appointment of Melissa Caldwell as a part-time Clerk 1 effective June 15, 2022 at a rate of \$14/hr.]*

RESOLUTION 2022-170

Authorizing the Appointment of Thomas Smith as Per Diem Plumbing and Mechanical Inspector for the Construction/Zoning Department *[The appointment of Thomas Smith as per diem plumbing and mechanical inspector effective June 28, 2022 at a rate of \$35/hr.]*

RESOLUTION 2022-171

Authorizing the Appointment of Jodi Cassidy as a Clerk 1 for the Police Records Department *[The appointment of Jodi Cassidy as Clerk 1 for police records effective July 13, 2022 at a rate of \$14/hr.]*

RESOLUTION 2022-172

Rescinding Resolution 2022-139 *[Rescinding Resolution 2022-139, which appointed Jayme Ahart as a seasonal Laborer 1, Clean Communities]*

RESOLUTION 2022-173

Authorizing the Execution of a Shared Services Agreement with the County of Ocean for the Narcotic Strike Force *[Shared Services Agreement with the County of Ocean for the purpose of setting the terms and conditions regarding the assignment of police officers employed by the Township to the Narcotic Strike Force for the purpose of combating the growing gang element and enforcing firearm and anti-drug laws of the State of New Jersey]*

RESOLUTION 2022-174

Authorizing a Memorandum of Agreement with AFSCME NJ Council #63, Local 3304D *[A memorandum of agreement with AFSCME NJ Council #63, Local 3304D, White Collar (Union) adding the new title, Account Clerk/Clerk 2, to the current contract]*

RESOLUTION 2022-175

Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Real Property by Open Public Auction in Accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13 and N.J.A.C. 5:34-5.9 *[Authorizing the sale of ten surplus properties through Sourcewell National Cooperative, GovDeals, Inc, public auction]*

RESOLUTION 2022-176

Updating and Establishing Rotating List of Towing Contractors Pursuant to Township Code, Chapter 309, Towing and Storage *[Updating the rotating list of towing and storage contractors, removing Master Craft and re-establishing the rotating list with the active contractors]*

RESOLUTION 2022-177

Authorizing the Purchase of Two Radar Message Boards and Accessories for the Police Department Under State Contract 17-FLEET-00776 (American Rescue Plan Act Funding)

RESOLUTION 2022-178

Authorizing the Purchase of Firearms and Accessories for the Police Department Under State Contracts 17-FLEET-00767 and 17-FLEET-00764 (American Rescue Plan Act Funding)

RESOLUTION 2022-179

Certifying Tax Liens for Costs Incurred in Accordance with the Property Maintenance Code

RESOLUTION 2022-180

Authorizing the Township to Participate in the Self Examination of the Budget

RESOLUTION 2022-181

Re-Adoption of the 2022 Municipal Budget [*The budget has total general appropriations of \$26,268,729.61. The amount to be raised by taxation to support the budget will be \$19,912,620.09*]

RESOLUTION 2022-182

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 police property through Sourcewell National Cooperative, GovDeals, Inc. public auction*]

CONSENT AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Motion to Open to Public: Gormley

Second: Scibetta

All in Favor

Mr. Art Mooney of Windstar Drive questioned Resolutions 2022-168 and 169 and the "use it or lose it" rule.

Mayor Kehm stated some employees that are receiving payouts are grandfathered in but there is a payout cap and the remainder is taken out of the townships hands by the state.

Mr. Art Mooney of Windstar Drive questioned Resolution 2022-173 and the purpose of the shared service.

Chief Hawkins stated the Resolution provides greater resources to the Township including a stipend for each officer who participates.

Mr. Art Mooney of Windstar Drive questioned the marijuana law and if Resolution 2022-173 is affiliated with the Township's participation.

Chief Hawkins stated marijuana use for police officers is not supported and once further information is provided from the state regarding this, the township will act appropriately.

Motion to Close to Public: Maxwell

Second: Laney

All in Favor

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

PUBLIC COMMENT - Any Topic

Motion to Open to Public: Scibetta Second: Gormley All in Favor

Mr. Peter Ferwerda of Warren Grove spoke about the Planning Board, Master Plan and pot holes on township roadways including Warren Grove.

Ms. Marilyn McHugh of Lake Huron Drive requested a call back from her numerous calls she made regarding potholes and divots on Lake Huron Drive.

Township Engineer, Jason Worth, stated he will speak to the County as well as the Public Works Department regarding the potholes and divots on Lake Huron Drive.

Ms. Marilyn McHugh of Lake Huron Drive provided pictures of several houses that are in disarray and effecting the value of homes that are well maintained. She further requested information on the liability, maintenance and hours of operation for the skate park.

Township Attorney, Melanie Appleby, stated when projects like the skate park take place within a Township, the Township's insurance company has to approve it prior and the Township has gone through.

Mayor Kehm stated there will be hours of operation but they have not yet been determined at this time and the Township will maintain the skate park.

Deputy Mayor Scibetta stated there is a twenty year warranty with the company on the parts for the skate park.

Ms. Marilyn McHugh of Lake Huron Drive questioned what the Township does for the senior community.

Mayor Kehm explained the several activities and events that took place prior to COVID that will hopefully will get re-instated soon.

Mayor Kehm provided Ms. McHugh with the legal process for abandoned houses in the Township and stated the Township is in the process of working on several properties.

Mr. Fred Mallett of N Forecastle Dr. questioned the township owned bulkhead improvements and pothole improvements that need to be done in town.

Committeeman Gormley stated once the permits are received on eleven bulkhead sites then the Township will then go out to bid. He further stated the drone inspections are complete and the residents who need improvements will be notified.

Mr. John Moore (stated no address) provided the Committee Members with pictures of Block 178, Lot 32 (Seameadow Drive) regarding poor visibility at the intersection from the overgrown trees and grass on the property. He also stated his daughter is interested in a different property that she has not heard back from the Township on.

Township Attorney, Melanie Appleby, explained the process for the sale of Township Owned Property and stated she would look into it and get back to Mr. Moore.

Ms. Andrea Dinkowitz of Atlantis Blvd spoke regarding the dredging, interest rates and what areas she feels still needs to be dredged.

Township Engineer, Jason Worth, stated the Atlantis dredging project is not yet completed and the remainder of state channels will be completed by the state.

Committeeman Gormley explained in detail the interest rates for the dredging and the sale of the bonds.

Mr. Ward Tomasiak of South Baltimore Drive requested further clarification on why a second round dredge letter went out to residents when they showed no interest last round. He stated the residents are looking for all residents to pay the same price equally for all of the dredging projects.

Committeeman Gormley stated residents were requesting for the cost to be lower, so the Township provided less mud to be removed at a cheaper rate since there is a dumping area that is close that the vendor can utilize.

Township Attorney, Melanie Appleby, stated the towns determined it was not feasible to do the dredging as one project. She further explained that the contractors did not want to commit over a series of years for a set price for the various dredging projects.

Township Engineer, Jason Worth, stated the contractor is in the area through the Fall season and they are able to provide a more competitive price for the reduction of mud being removed. He continued stating once the contractor demobilizes to another location or the dumping area fills up, the costs will go up as well. He stated this was the Township's last opportunity to get the best price due to the contractor being in the area.

Mayor Kehm stated he realizes interest rates are going up and it may weigh on the residents decision, which is why a poll was done to see who is and is not interested.

Ms. Andrea Dinkowitz of Atlantis Blvd questioned the outcome for those who are on a limited income and what the Township is going to do for those people in need.

Township Attorney, Melanie Appleby, stated there are limited circumstances where the law allows for a grace period for payments but the application needs to be even across the board for all residents pertaining to the particular projects.

Ms. Karen Kessler-Gerosky of Silver Lake Court stated in May 2022, illegal dumping took place on 18 Merilake Drive, which is township owned property.

Mayor Kehm thanked Ms. Kessler-Gerosky and stated the township will look into the illegal dumping and take care of it.

Mr. Dennis Kessler of Lake Michigan Drive spoke regarding the potholes on Lake Superior and Lake Michigan and a complaint that he submitted in March 2022 for an abandoned house on Lake Michigan and the abandoned gas station and dilapidated shed.

Township Attorney, Melanie Appleby, stated she spoke with the code enforcement officer this morning regarding the abandoned houses including Lake Michigan that need attention and she is looking into all of them. She further stated the process can be lengthy due to statutory requirements. She further stated she will look into the gas station due to NJDEP being involved.

Mr. Tim Dziomba of Twin Lakes Blvd spoke regarding the dredging projects and the costs affiliated.

Mr. Fred Mallett of N Forecastle Dr. stated regardless of dredging if you do not use your boat the lagoons will fill with mud. He further stated bulkheads and living on the water require maintenance.

A resident, whom their name and address was not able to be heard, questioned if everyone on the water will be getting dredged.

Township Engineer, Jason Worth, stated all lagoon areas were surveyed but only areas less than four feet were determined they needed to be dredged.

Ms. Marilyn McHugh of Lake Huron Drive questioned the bills, bonds and total costs for her dredging project.

Committeeman Gormley stated her dredging project is not complete yet so bills have not gone out at this point.

Ms. Dottie Ricci of Lake Michigan Dr. showed concerned with several abandoned properties that need attention including the house on Ventnor Ave.

Mayor Kehm and Township Attorney, Melanie Appleby, reiterated the legal process and why it is so time consuming.

Mr. Ward Tomasiak of South Baltimore Drive spoke on abandoned houses, dredging and potholes. He stated the abandoned houses and potholes need to be fixed before dredging projects.

Mr. Tim Dziomba of Twin Lakes Blvd commended Little Egg Harbor Township Police Officers for all their hard work.

Motion to Close to Public: Scibetta

Second: Gormley

All in Favor

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER COMMENTS

Township Engineer, Jason Worth, reported that Mystic Island Phase I dredging is 60% complete with over 59 thousand cubic yards of sediment removed and an additional 50 thousand cubic yards more will be. He continued stating the contractor will be starting the Atlantis project again on August 8, and should be complete by Labor Day. He further stated the Township bulkhead project is still awaiting the approval of permits and once they receive them then the bid process can begin. Mr. Worth spoke regarding the drainage project survey work being complete and the bid process will begin soon. He continued with the Township Floodplain Management Plan and a meeting they will be conducting on Monday, July 18 at 2:00 pm at the community center. He stated the township is looking for public input to discuss the hazard within the floodplain and goals and objectives moving forward.

Mayor Kehm asked Mr. Worth if he has heard anything pertaining to the infrastructure grant.

Township Engineer, Jason Worth, stated he has no further information regarding the infrastructure grant at this time, but he will look into it.

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Committeeman Daniel Maxwell thanked Mr. Oris for the presentation and the hard work he is doing for PEAC. He stated the next Senior Advisory Board meeting is Monday, July 25 at the Community Center with Commissioner Barbara Jo Crea and Chief Hawkins as guest speakers. He further stated the Board of Health will be holding a free rabies clinic on Saturday, November 12, from 10:00am to Noon at the Community Center.

Committeeman Ray Gormley wished everyone a happy healthy summer.

Committeeman Kenneth Laney, Jr. thanked the Pineland Celebration Committee for the July 4th celebration and congratulated the West Tuckerton Fire Company on their 75 years of service to the community. He further stated he met with the Sea Crest Rehabilitation Health Care Center and was presented with a beach buggy on behalf of Marquis Health Consulting Services for their "Toes in the Sand" project. He ended by wishing everyone a great summer.

Deputy Mayor Blaise Scibetta expressed his frustrations regarding the abandoned buildings in town and requested that the Attorney to look into becoming more aggressive with the Township's laws and in order to get the abandoned properties under control. He reported that July 16 & 17 is the free annual garage sale sponsored on behalf of the Township Committee and the Environmental Commission. He continued by stating the list of properties participating and the map will be listed on the Township website by the end of the week for the annual garage sale. He further reported that the Environmental Commission is holding a rain barrel workshop on July 26 at 6:00pm at the Community Center for anyone interested in building a rain barrel. Deputy Mayor announced the National Night Out event will be held on August 2 from 5:00pm to 8:00pm at the sports complex sponsored by the police department. He stated there will be food trucks, activities, emergency services, dj's, at the event and only requirement is to bring a non-perishable item for the food pantry. He stated during that time the grand re-opening and ribbon cutting of the soccer fields will also take place. He ended with the

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Harvest Fest event, which is being held on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, on October 22 from 11:00am to 5:00pm at the sports complex.


Mayor John Kehm wished everyone a great night and a safe summer.

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