

## Little Egg Harbor Township Committee Meeting Minutes

**FEBRUARY 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 February 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. Gormley; Mr. Laney; Mr. Maxwell; Mayor Scibetta

Absent: Mr. Kehm

### **PRESENTATIONS:**

- American Heart Month

Deputy Mayor Maxwell read the American Heart Month proclamation.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 1<sup>st</sup> Public Hearing
- January 12, 2023
- January 12, 2023 Executive Session
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Hearing

Motion to Approve: Laney

Second: Gormley

All in Favor

### **ORDINANCE 2023-01**

### **[SECOND READING AND ADOPTION]**

Amending and Supplementing Chapter 261, Parks, of the Township Code of the Township of Little Egg Harbor So As to Create Article II, Skateboard Park Regulations

Motion to Open to Public: Gormley

Second: Laney

All in Favor

*Mr. Mooney of Windstar Drive questioned insurance premiums and an explanation of the regulations of the skateboard park and when the official grand opening will be.*

*Mayor Scibetta and Township Attorney Melanie Appleby provided Mr. Mooney with a brief description of the rules and regulations required through the JIF. Ms. Appleby further stated there is no restrictions on non-residents versus residents and who is able to use public facilities including parks or beaches.*

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*Mayor Scibetta stated the official grand opening will be Saturday, May 27 and announcements will be made prior.*

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

Motion to Adopt: Laney                      Second: Maxwell

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

**ORDINANCE 2023-02**                      **[SECOND READING AND ADOPTION]**  
Amending and Supplementing the Township Code So As to Amend Chapter 217, Licensing

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

*Mr. Mooney of Windstar Drive requested an explanation on the purpose of the Ordinance.*

*Township Attorney Melanie Appleby stated new legislation was passed for all businesses and rental properties with new requirements for liability insurance limits.*

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

Motion to Adopt: Gormley                      Second: Maxwell

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

**ORDINANCE 2023-03**                      **[FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION]**  
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 Introduce: Laney                      Second: Gormley

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

**ORDINANCE 2023-04**                      **[FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION]**  
Amending and Supplementing Ordinance 2022-01 (Salary Ordinance) to Establish the Compensation of A Part-time Recreation Director

Motion to Introduce: Maxwell                      Second: Gormley

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

**ORDINANCE 2023-05****[FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION]**

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 Introduce: Laney

Second: Maxwell

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

**ORDINANCE 2023-06****[FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION]**

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 Introduce: Maxwell

Second: Gormley

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

**ORDINANCE 2023-07****[FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION]**

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 Introduce: Laney

Second: Maxwell

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

*Township Attorney Melanie Appleby requested that the Mayor ask for a motion to remove Resolution 2023-070 from the Consent Agenda and vote separately.*

Motion to Remove Resolution 2023-070 from the Consent Agenda and vote separately: Gormley

Second: Laney

All in Favor

**RESOLUTION 2023-070**

Ratifying the Terms of a Memorandum of Agreement and Authorizing the Execution of the Collective Negotiations Agreement with the AFSME Local 3304E (Blue Collar)

Motion to Approve: Maxwell

Second: Gormley

Roll Call: All Yes: Mr. Gormley; 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**

- 2023-071      Authorizing the Appointment of Jacob Matullo as Mechanic's Helper for the Department of Public Works *[The appointment of Jacob Matullo as Mechanic's Helper effective February 8, 2023 at a rate of \$19.35/hr]*
- 2023-072      Authorizing the Appointment of David M. Casadonte, Esquire as Alternate Municipal Prosecutor
- 2023-073      Authorizing the Township Administrator to Advertise and Hire Two (2) Laborer 1 Employees for the Department of Public Works
- 2023-074      Authorizing the Township Administrator to Advertise and Hire a Part-time Recreation Director for the Department of Public Works
- 2023-075      Authorizing the Appraisal of Township Owned Property Located at 7 Gifford Road
- 2023-076      Authorizing the Execution of a Memorandum of Agreement and an Employment Agreement with the Administrative Support Staff
- 2023-077      Authorizing the Creation of a Mayors Wellness Campaign Advisory Committee and Authorize Appointments to Said Committee
- 2023-078      Authorizing a Township-wide Garage Sale for the Weekend of July 15-16, 2023 *[Any person who desires to participate in the Township-wide garage sale on July 15 & 16, 2023 will be exempt from the regulations and permit fees as designated in Chapter 191 of the Township Code.]*
- 2023-079      Authorizing the Execution of Change Order No. 1 (Final) to the Contract for Mystic Shores Roadway Improvements to Arawak Paving Co. Inc. *[Change Order 1 decreases the original contract amount from \$507,900.00 to \$468,388.30 for Mystic Shores Roadway Improvements to Arawak Paving Co.]*
- 2023-080      Authorizing the Execution of a Shared Services Agreement with the County of Ocean for the FY 2023 Prosecutor's Program *[The Prosecutor's Program is a traffic safety program run by the Prosecutor's Office for the purpose of investigating traffic crashes that result in serious injuries and/or fatalities in Ocean County.]*
- 2023-081      Authorizing the Execution of Grant Award Agreement with Ocean Wind Pro-NJ Grantor Trust and Accepting \$719,250.00 Coastal Resiliency Grant *[A grant award in the amount of \$719,250 was awarded to the Township by the Ocean Wind Pro-NJ Trust for roadway and storm drainage resiliency improvements off Great Bay Blvd]*

- 2023-082 Supporting the Passage of State Assembly Bill A-3535 (S-2449) for Increases to Shore Protection Fund *[LEHT supports Assembly Bill 3535 and Senate Bill 2449 to increase the annual amount credited to the Shore Protection Fund from \$25 million to \$50 million to replenish 137 miles of eroded beaches from Middlesex to Cape May County]*
- 2023-083 Supporting Efforts of Congressman Jeff Van Drew, 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District, to Investigate Relation of Whale Deaths to Offshore Wind Energy Development *[LEHT supports Congressman Jeff Van Drew's efforts to investigate the impacts of offshore wind projects upon the environment and marine ecosystems.]*
- 2023-084 Authorizing Assignment of Tax Sale Certificate #22-00044
- 2023-085 Authorizing Assignment of Tax Sale Certificate #22-00045
- 2023-086 Authorizing Assignment of Tax Sale Certificate #22-00075
- 2023-087 Authorizing Tax Refunds *[Refund of property tax overpayments on Block 325, Lot 320 in the amount of \$952.15 and Block 326.216, Lot 2 in the amount of \$2,475.14]*
- 2023-088 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 (Brandon Grochala, Block 325.59, Lot 27)
- 2023-089 Authorizing the Purchase of Trash Cans and Components with Cascade Engineering Under National Cooperative Purchasing Agreement With Sourcwell Contract 041521-CEI
- 2023-090 Authorizing the Appointment of Tracie Ugland as a Clerk 1 for the Tax Assessor's Office *[The appointment of Tracie Ugland as Clerk 1 for Tax Assessor's Office effective February 9, 2023 at a rate of \$14.13/hr]*
- 2023-091 Accepting the Resignation of and Authorizing the Compensation of Accumulated Time to Michael Glock *[Michael Glock will be resigned as of February 15, 2023 with a total payout of \$601.75 for unused time]*
- 2023-092 Appointing Steven Secare as Conflict Hearing Officer
- 2023-093 Supporting the Passage of State Assembly Bill A-888 (S-522) Granting a Property Tax Exemption to Honorably Discharged Veterans Having a Service-Connected Disability in Proportion to Their Disability Percentage Rating
- 2023-094 Supporting A-1649/S-1451 Which Would Increase Income Eligibility Limits for Homestead Property Reimbursement Programs
- 2023-095 Approving Participation in the Safe and Secure Communities Grant Program Administered by the State of New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety and Acceptance of a Grant Award of \$32,400 *[Grant funds will be used towards patrol division*



*police officer(s) assigned to address quality of life issues within the community while increasing community relationship between police and residents.]*

### **CONSENT AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

*Dr. Edmunds of Spruce Drive questioned the Ordinance and Resolution pertaining to the part-time Recreation Director.*

*Mayor Scibetta explained the requirements needed to add the Recreation Director title to the salary ordinance and a resolution in order to hire a part-time Recreation Director.*

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

Motion to Approve: Maxwell                      Second: Laney

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

### **BILL RESOLUTION 2023-096**

A Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Bills in the Amount of \$6,930,548.62

Motion to Approve: Gormley                      Second: Laney

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

*Committeeman Laney abstained from 22-01211 and ES-00320 and yes to the balance.*

### **MISCELLANEOUS APPROVALS**

- Raffle Application No. 2023-006 for Harbor Bay Gaming Club, On-Premise 50/50 Raffle at 102 Newport Way from April 1, 2023 through March 29, 2024
- Raffle Application No. 2023-007 for Pinelands Jr. Wildcats Football Club Inc., Facebook Live Off-Premise Gift Auction on March 15, 2023

Motion to Approve: Laney                      Second: Gormley                      All in Favor

### **TOWNSHIP ENGINEER COMMENTS**

*Township Engineer, Jason Worth, reported the township received a NJDOT municipal aid grant last year for Stage Road and work is wrapping up in order to go out to bid. He stated the final edits have been made to the NJDEP bulkhead plans and permits will be issued within the next few days and then the bid process will begin. He stated Parkertown Beach jetty and break water work is wrapping up within the next few days with sand placement at Parkertown and Mystic by April. He stated the Township's Community Rating System (CRS) will continue to maintain a class 6 rating and all property*

*owners will receive a 20% discount on their flood insurance through the township's participation in the program.*

*Committeeman Gormley asked if the new flood maps will be out anytime soon.*

*Township Engineer, Jason Worth, stated there is no new updates and they are still re-analyzing the appeal process. He stated the maps should have gone out over a year ago, but they are still a year or two off from receiving the new maps.*

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT - Any Topic**

Motion to Open to Public: Gormley

Second: Laney

All in Favor

*Mr. Salinas of West Susquehanna Drive spoke regarding dredging and that his lagoon is closing up and wanted to know what remedies there are.*

*Committeeman Gormley stated the Committee will continue to work to find a solution to get the dredging project to go through in order to open up the waterways. He further stated there is a time frame for the permits and the Committee is hoping the permit do not expire due to the cost. He stated there were several experimental marsh restoration projects that have occurred, in approved marsh areas, that have been a tremendous success. He stated further that the state has offered several coastal resilient grant opportunities to help protect from future storms and create habitat for the endangered species. He stated the township is trying to determine a project that would be an approved use so the township could apply and hopefully receive coastal resiliency grant funding. He stated it is very difficult to determine what projects qualify and they have to be mapped navigable waterways. Committeeman Gormley stated if round a bout creek and big creek could be approved for grant funding that would take some yardage away from the proposal making the project more affordable for the homeowners. He further recommended gathering a dozen residents who are passionate about the project to sit down monthly to discuss the progress.*

*Mr. Flannery of Ramapo Road requested an explanation on how the Township Engineer determined Phase 1 versus Phase 2 and the dividing line. He also questioned the cost if the 145 homes were included in the Phase 1 project. Mr. Flannery asked if the township has reached out to Senator Van Drew for funding to help with the dredging projects.*

*Township Engineer, Jason Worth, explained access to big creek and the access getting out is what was determined as the dividing line for the two projects. He further stated he would look into what the cost would have been if the 145 homes were included in the initial project.*

*Ms. Vought of West Susquehanna Drive stated the bulkhead across the street from her is dumping six foot high pallets of dirt behind the bulkhead and it is going into the lagoon. She further stated because of this dumping, the dredging cost is probably going to be more expensive. She requested that someone from the township look into the illegal dumping that is taking place. She further stated there are sink holes in the streets and questioned what can be done to fix the flooding issue.*

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*Township Engineer, Jason Worth, stated bulkhead inspections have been done and notices will be sent out to the resident as well as others.*

*Mayor Scibetta stated he will reach out to Public Works to fill or patch the sink holes and the MUA to get a time frame for the streets.*

*Township Engineer, Jason Worth, stated the township is waiting on the MUA to replace the lines and once that is done then the streets and tide valves will get done. He further stated the MUA is awaiting funding from NJDEP and once they receive that, the project can get started.*

*Mr. Dwyer from Frog Pond Road thanked the Township Engineer and Public Works for installing the requested speed limit signs on Frog Pond Road. He also requested an update on installing sidewalks leading to the school.*

*Township Engineer, Jason Worth, stated the safe routes to school application is on a rolling basis and the township is waiting on the next round to be released then the township will look at what is best for the town.*

*Chief of Police Hawkins stated the police radar trailers were on Frog Pond Road from January 24 through January 30 and in one direction over twelve thousand vehicles were detected with an average speed of 24.4 mph. He stated they also did an analysis on Thomas Avenue and the speeds in both locations are within average range. He stated the officers will continue to be out there with significant enforcement.*

*Mr. Dwyer from Frog Pond Road thanked the Chief of Police and stated he has noticed a difference in the amount of policing in the area. He further stated he is still requesting school signage due to the amount of vehicles that travel the road in the school zone.*

*Dr. Patel of Lexington and Fern Drive spoke on small businesses in town and the need to help them promote business in town, especially a friend of his who submitted a letter to the Mayor.*

*Mayor Scibetta stated the letter was received and staff is looking into if a duel business is an allowed use within his zone.*

*Township Business Administrator Rodney Haines stated he has provided the information to the Zoning Official and he is awaiting a response.*

*Mr. Richardson of Cranberry Lake Drive stated his neighbors are building a large waterfront home and when it rains the mud, trash, and debris falls into the lagoon and into his yard. He requested that on the inspection form, a box should be added as to the cleanliness of the work site.*

*Mr. Mooney of Windstar Drive questioned what the township will be doing for the small businesses with the American Rescue Plan funds. He recommended that the township look into some kind of tax abatement for the small businesses. He also requested a full traffic study to be done within the entire town.*



*Mayor Scibetta stated the township has not decided the route to help the small businesses but they are working on it and there is money allocated for the small businesses from the American rescue plan funds.*

*Mr. Flannery of Ramapo Road questioned when the dredging permit expires and what is the criteria of extending the permit.*

*Committeeman Gormley stated the township would have to extend the permit in two years or start the process all over again.*

*Township Engineer, Jason Worth, he stated the areas that are not complete can be extended for an additional five years.*

*Mr. Rupelli of Ramapo Road questioned why the 145 homes were not included in the initial phase 1 project. He asked if the dredging is complete and if the township is going to go back out for bid again. He stated Little Egg Harbor is a boating community and dredging needs to be done for boats to get through the waterways. He further stated he is looking to help keep the waterways open.*

*Township Engineer, Jason Worth, stated the dredging is complete and the town would have to go back out to bid if they needed additional dredging projects.*

Motion to Close to Public: Laney

Second: Gormley

All in Favor

### **TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

*Committeeman Ray Gormley reported that the young man that has been sitting next to him for the last two meetings is part of a school program that allows him to be more involved in his local government. He applauded the student who came dressed in a suit and tie and was excited to learn and take interest in his hometown and local government.*

*Committeeman Ken Laney reported that he and Mayor Scibetta attended the West Tuckerton Fire Company installation dinner, which was a great event. He stated next Saturday is the Fire District Election and he recommended residents vote.*

*Deputy Mayor Dan Maxwell reported that he and Mayor Scibetta attended the Mystic Island Fire Company installation dinner, which was also a great event. He stated what a privilege it was administering the oath of office to the fire officers. He stated at the event he was speaking with a veteran and he provided information on a support group that he started at the American Legion for all police, ems, fire, veterans or employees on the third Wednesday of every month for those who suffer with depression or PTSD. Deputy Mayor Maxwell stated this past Monday was the first of many Memorial Day Parade meetings and they are looking forward to the long awaited event. He stated the next Senior Advisory Board meeting will be Monday, February 27 at 10am at Tall Timbers with Earl Sutton, MUA Director, as a guest speaker. He finished with wishing everyone a Happy Valentine's day and reminded gentlemen to not forget the flowers and chocolates.*

*Mayor Blaise Scibetta reiterated how nice both installation dinner events were and expressed appreciation for their volunteerism within the town. He reported an unofficial meet and greet that was*

held at the Pineland's Brewery stating the event is the beginning of many more to come with small businesses. He requested that any small business owner who is interested, reach out to the Mayor's office if you for a Mayors meet and greet at your location. He stated on February 28 he will be participating in the Mayors on Wheels campaign through the local meals on wheels, delivering hot food to those in need. He stated a Meet the Mayor event will be held on March 7 at 10am at the Little Egg Harbor Library. He stated April 22 is Earth Day and the Environmental Commission will be holding the community wide clean-up event and anyone who is interested can get information from the township website and Facebook page. He stated food and a t-shirt will be provided to those who participate in the event, in addition, seedlings will also be distributed on behalf of Remington & Vernick and Taylor Design. He stated the grand opening of the Community Center will be on May 27 and May 29 is the Memorial Day parade. Mayor Scibetta stated for those who would like to volunteer in the parade, reach out to the Confidential Secretary, Katie Baker, for more information. He continued by stating Pinelands Soccer Association is looking for volunteers for the upcoming season. Mayor Scibetta finished with wishing everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION 2023-097**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION 2023-077**  
**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, 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

**RESOLUTION 2023-098**

**RESOLUTION 2015-070**  
**Authorizing the Chief of Police to Interview and Make Recommendations Regarding Hiring Three Police Officers**

Motion to Approve: Maxwell                      Second: Laney

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

**RESOLUTION 2023-099**

**RESOLUTION 2023-099**  
**Authorizing the Township Administrator to Advertise and Hire a Housing and Bulkhead Inspector for the Construction/Zoning Department**

Motion to Approve: Gormley                      Second: Maxwell

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

Motion to Adjourn: Gormley                      Second: Laney                      All in Favor

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



Kelly Lettera, RMC  
Township Clerk