

Little Egg Harbor Township Committee Meeting Minutes

JUNE 8, 2023

7:30 P.M.

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

Pastor Jeff Seavey from Pinelands Community Church said an opening Invocation.

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 June 8, 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. Kehm; Mr. Laney; Mr. Maxwell; Mayor Scibetta

PRESENTATIONS:

- Alzheimer's Awareness Month
- Gun Violence Awareness Month
- "What Does Memorial Day Mean to You" Essay Contest Winners

Committeeman Kehm read the Alzheimer's Awareness Month proclamation and presented the proclamation to Seacrest Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center.

Committeeman Laney read the Gun Violence Awareness Month proclamation.

Mayor Scibetta provided certifications to the winners of the "What Does Memorial Day Mean to You" essay contest. Shay Tomasella of George J. Mitchell School and Bryce Mehert of Tuckerton Elementary School read their essays for all in attendance. Mya McCarthy of Frog Pond Elementary School was not in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- May 11, 2023
- May 11, 2023 Executive Session

Motion to Approve: Laney

Second: Gormley

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

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Chief James Hawkins provided a professional background and recommendation to the Mayor and Committee to hire Luke Wiatrowski as Police Officer for Little Egg Harbor Police Department.

RESOLUTION 2023-170

Appointing Luke Wiatrowski as Police Officer for the Township of Little Egg Harbor Police Department

Motion to Approve: Kehm

Second: Laney

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

ORDINANCE 2023-13

[SECOND READING AND ADOPTION]

An Ordinance by the Township of Little Egg Harbor, County of Ocean, State of Jersey, Authorizing the Sale of 485 Parkertown Road, Also Known as Block 114, Lot 62 on the Tax Map of the Township of Little Egg Harbor Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13.2 and N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13(b)(5)

Motion to Open to Public: Maxwell

Second: Kehm

All in Favor

No public comment.

Motion to Close to Public: Gormley

Second: Kehm

All in Favor

Motion to Adopt: Kehm

Second: Laney

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

ORDINANCE 2023-14

[SECOND READING AND ADOPTION]

An Ordinance by the Township of Little Egg Harbor, County of Ocean, State of Jersey, Amending and Supplementing the Township Code so as to Amend Chapter 22 Entitled "Court, Municipal" so as to Create Article I, Entitled "Municipal Court Discovery"

Motion to Open to Public: Kehm

Second: Maxwell

All in Favor

No public comment.

Motion to Close to Public: Laney

Second: Kehm

All in Favor

Motion to Adopt: Kehm

Second: Laney

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

ORDINANCE 2023-15

[SECOND READING AND ADOPTION]

An Ordinance by the Township of Little Egg Harbor, County of Ocean, State of Jersey, Amending and Supplementing the Township Code so as to Amend Chapter 299, Streets and Sidewalks, Article I, Excavation of Streets, so as to Amend Various Permit Fees

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

No public comment.

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

Motion to Adopt: Laney Second: Gormley

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

ORDINANCE 2023-16

[SECOND READING AND ADOPTION]

An Ordinance by the Township of Little Egg Harbor, County of Ocean, State of Jersey, Amending and Supplementing the Township Code so as to Amend Chapter 261 Entitled "Parks"

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

No public comment.

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

Motion to Adopt: Kehm Second: Maxwell

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

ORDINANCE 2023-17

[SECOND READING AND ADOPTION]

An Ordinance of the Township of Little Egg Harbor, in the County of Ocean, New Jersey, Providing for Various Improvements to the Township Recreation Complex and Appropriating \$1,600,000 Therefor and Providing for the Issuance of \$1,570,000 in Bonds or Notes of the Township of Little Egg Harbor to Finance the Same

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

No public comment.

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

Motion to Adopt: Kehm Second: Maxwell

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

ORDINANCE 2023-18

[FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION]

An Ordinance by the Township of Little Egg Harbor, County of Ocean, State of Jersey, Repealing and Replacing Chapter 242 of the Township Code of the Township of Little Egg Harbor Entitled "Noise"

Motion to Introduce: Maxwell Second: Kehm

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

ORDINANCE 2023-19 [FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION]

An Ordinance by the Township of Little Egg Harbor, County of Ocean, State of Jersey, Amending and Supplementing Chapter 261 of the Township Code of the Township of Little Egg Harbor Entitled "Parks" so as to Amend §261-26, "Noise"

Motion to Introduce: Kehm Second: Maxwell

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

ORDINANCE 2023-20 [FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION]

An Ordinance by the Township of Little Egg Harbor, County of Ocean, State of Jersey, Amending and Supplementing the Township Code so as to Amend Chapter 299, Streets and Sidewalks, Article V, "Rights-Of-Way" and Create a New Article VI, "Encroachment Upon Rights-Of-Way"

Motion to Introduce: Kehm Second: Laney

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

ORDINANCE 2023-21 [FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION]

An Ordinance by the Township of Little Egg Harbor, County of Ocean, State of Jersey, Amending and Supplementing the Township Code so as to Amend Chapter 18, Entitled "Community Development, Department of"

Motion to Introduce: Maxwell Second: Kehm

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

ORDINANCE 2023-22 [FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION]

An Ordinance by the Township of Little Egg Harbor, County of Ocean, State of Jersey, Amending and Supplementing Chapter 261, Entitled "Parks"

Motion to Introduce: Laney Second: Kehm

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

ORDINANCE 2023-23 [FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION]

An Ordinance by the Township of Little Egg Harbor, County of Ocean, State of Jersey, Amending and Supplementing Chapter 134, Entitled "Animals"

Motion to Introduce: Kehm Second: Laney

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

ORDINANCE 2023-24**[FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION]**

An Ordinance by the Township of Little Egg Harbor, County of Ocean, State of Jersey, Authorizing the Acquisition by Donation of Block 262, Lot 16 on the Tax Map of the Township of Little Egg Harbor From FS Properties 152, LLC Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-4

Motion to Introduce: Laney

Second: Laney

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

ORDINANCE 2023-25**[FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION]**

An Ordinance by the Township of Little Egg Harbor, County of Ocean, State of Jersey, Amending the Township Code of the Township of Little Egg Harbor, so as to Amend Chapter 14, Entitled "Claims Approval"

Motion to Introduce: Laney

Second: Maxwell

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

ORDINANCE 2023-26**[FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION]**

An Ordinance of the Township of Little Egg Harbor, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, authorizing the increase of final appropriations to exceed the municipal budget appropriation limits for CY 2023 and to establish a cap bank pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14

Motion to Introduce: Maxwell

Second: Laney

Roll Call: All Yes: Mr. Gormley; 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

- 2023-171 Supporting Ocean County Representation on the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) *[Supporting Ocean County and urging the Board of Public Utilities to designate a qualified individual from Ocean County to assure representation of the interests of the residents and businesses of OC and LEHT]*
- 2023-172 Supporting World Elder Abuse Awareness Day *[Supporting Ocean County and urging residents to join in supporting World Elder Abuse Awareness Day by wearing purple on June 15, 2023]*

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- 2023-173 Urging the State Legislature to Advance A-5570 (S-3925) and A-757 (S-1697) to Support the Needs of Volunteer Fire Companies *[A-5570 urges state legislature to annually distribute monies through grant programs to fund volunteer fire companies for operations and purchasing of emergency equipment and A-757 allows volunteer firefighter, first aid and rescue squad members to claim an additional \$5,000 as a deduction from their gross income]*
- 2023-174 Establishing the Opening of Township Committee Meetings with an Invocation *[Guidelines establishing the opening of Township Committee meetings with an Invocation]*
- 2023-175 Authorizing the Reappointment of Mandi M. Johnson as Tax Assessor for the Township of Little Egg Harbor *[The reappointment of Mandi Johnson as Tax Assessor for a four year term beginning July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2027]*
- 2023-176 Authorizing the Appointment of Kathy Tucker as Part-time Recreation Director for the Department of Public Works *[The appointment of Kathy Tucker as part-time Recreation Director effective May 31, 2023 at an annual salary of \$20,000]*
- 2023-177 Authorizing the Appointment of Despina Kountouris as Clerk 1 for the Construction/Zoning Department *[The appointment of Despina Kountouris as Clerk 1 for the Construction/Zoning Department effective June 14, 2023 at a rate of \$14.13/hr]*
- 2023-178 Authorizing the Appointment of Kelley Bethea-Bagwell as Per Diem Telecommunicator for the Little Egg Harbor Township Police Department *[The appointment of Kelley Bethea-Bagwell as per diem telecommunicator for the LEHT Police Department effective June 9, 2023 at a rate of \$22/hr]*
- 2023-179 Accepting the Resignation of and Authorizing the Compensation of Accumulated Time to Erica Bonfiglio *[Erica Bonfiglio resigned as of May 21, 2023 with a total payout of \$15,486.68 for unused time]*
- 2023-180 Authorizing the Township Administrator to Advertise and Hire an Assistant Township Administrator in the Administration/Finance Office
- 2023-181 Authorizing a Memorandum of Agreement with AFSCME NJ Council #63, Local 3304D *[Authorizing the execution of a memorandum of agreement with AFSCME NJ Council #63 to compensate for the position as Registrar Vital Statistics]*
- 2023-182 Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement with Dilworth Paxson LLP as Bond Counsel for the Township of Little Egg Harbor *[Authorizing a new agreement for bond counsel services with Dilworth Paxson LLP, which is now affiliates of Gluck Walrath LLP]*
- 2023-183 Authorizing the Renewal of Plenary Retail Consumption and Plenary Retail Distribution Licenses for the 2023-2024 Licensing Year *[All LEHT Plenary Retail Consumption and Distribution Liquor Licensees have met state and township requirements for the renewal of the 2023-2024 licensing year]*

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- 2023-184 Authorizing the Renewal of Club Licenses for the 2023-2024 Licensing Year *[All LEHT Club Liquor Licensees have met state and township requirements for the renewal of the 2023-2024 licensing year]*
- 2023-185 Authorizing the Execution of Grant Award Agreement with Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services, and Accepting \$8,800 Lead Grant Assistance Program *[Authorizing the electronic submission of a grant agreement with DCA, DLGS, to accept funds for the Lead Grant Assistance Program in the amount of \$8,800.00]*
- 2023-186 Authorizing the Filing of an Application for the NJDOT Municipal Aid Road Program FY 2024 for Improvements to Leitz Boulevard *[Authorizing the filing of an application with NJDOT in the amount of \$799,278.75 for Improvements to Leitz Blvd]*
- 2023-187 Authorizing the Filing of an Application for the NJDOT FY 2024 Safe Streets to Transit Program for Pedestrian Safety Improvements to Radio Road *[Authorizing the filing of an application with NJDOT for the FY 2024 Safe Routes to Transit Program in the amount of \$748,127.55 for Pedestrian Safety Improvements to Radio Road]*
- 2023-188 Authorizing the Execution of Change Order No. 1 (Final) for Recreation Improvements at the Community Center to Shore Top Construction Corp *[Change Order 1 decreases the original contract amount from \$399,242.80 to \$394,340.66 for Recreation Improvements at the Community Center with Shore Top Construction]*
- 2023-189 Authorizing Tax Refunds *[Refund of property tax overpayments on Block 262, Lot 11.03 in the amount of \$785.12; Block 262, Lot 11.02 in the amount of \$1,871.37 and Block 325.421, Lot 5 in the amount of \$1,146.75]*
- 2023-190 Authorizing the Execution of a Certification of Compliance with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964"
- 2023-191 Certifying Tax Liens for Costs Incurred in Accordance with the Property Maintenance Code
- 2023-192 Introduction of the 2023 Municipal Budget

CONSENT AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Motion to Open to Public: Gormley

Second: Kehm

All in Favor

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

Motion to Approve: Maxwell Second: Kehm

Roll Call: All Yes: Mr. Gormley; Mr. Kehm; Mr. Maxwell; Mayor Scibetta
 Mr. Laney abstained from 2023-177 and yes to the remaining.

BILL RESOLUTION 2023-193

A Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Bills in the Amount of \$4,046,850.29

Motion to Approve: Gormley Second: Kehm

Roll Call: All Yes: Mr. Gormley; Mr. Kehm; Mr. Laney; Mr. Maxwell; Mayor Scibetta
 Mr. Laney abstained from 00445, 00607 and B06025 and yes to the remaining bills.

MISCELLANEOUS APPROVALS

- Bingo Application No. 2023-004 for West Tuckerton Fire Co., Designer Bag Bingo at 505 Route 9 South on September 30, 2023
- Raffle Application No. 2023-022 for St. Theresa's Church, Off-Premise 50/50 Raffle at 450 Radio Road on Various Dates from August 1, 2023 through July 9, 2024
- Raffle Application No. 2023-023 for Georgian Court University, On-Premise Gift Auction at 261 Country Club Blvd on June 19, 2023
- Raffle Application No. 2023-024 for Mystic Island Cooperative Association, On-Premise Pull Tab Tickets at 114 Pilsudski Way on Various dates from August 1, 2023 through July 31, 2024
- Raffle Application No. 2023-025 for Italian American Social Club, On-Premise Pull Tab Tickets at 105 Falcon Drive on Various Dates from September 1, 2023 through August 16, 2024
- Raffle Application No. 2023-026 for Pinelands Jr. Wildcats Football Club, Inc., Off-Premise Gift Raffle at 140 S 7th Avenue on July 29, 2023
- Raffle Application No. 2023-027 for Pinelands Jr. Wildcats Football Club, Inc., On-Premise 50/50 Raffle at 140 S 7th Avenue on July 29, 2023
- Raffle Application No. 2023-028 for West Tuckerton Fire Co., On-Premise Gift Auction at 505 Route 9 South on September 30, 2023
- Raffle Application No. 2023-029 for West Tuckerton Fire Co., On-Premise Lottery Hat Raffle at 505 Route 9 South on September 30, 2023
- Raffle Application No. 2023-030 for West Tuckerton Fire Co., On-Premise 50/50 Raffle at 505 Route 9 South on September 30, 2023

Motion to Approve: Kehm Second: Laney All in Favor

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER COMMENTS

Township Engineer, Jason Worth, reported the NJDOT grant applications that were approved at tonight's meeting are due July 1 but he will be submitting the applications tomorrow. He also stated there are several federal grant applications that will be coming out in July and August and applications will be on next month's agenda for the grant funding. He continued by stating the township bulkhead project is underway and the three locations along Twin Lakes Blvd are in construction and one is almost complete after restoration. He stated the contractor will have the other two completed within the next few weeks. He stated there was a preconstruction meeting with the contractor for the Stage Road project and the project will begin with storm drainage improvements after July 4, then concrete work and the paving is anticipated to begin the week of August 21 (prior to the start of the new school year). He stated Ocean County has bid and awarded the project for the replacement of Otis Bog Bridge and he will coordinate with them on the paving of Stage Road. He continued by stating the county is having a pre-construction meeting next week with the contractor, which he will be in attendance for coordination purposes and will report back all details to the Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT - Any Topic

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

No public comment.

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

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Committeeman John Kehm wished the Committee and all fathers a Happy Father's Day.

Committeeman Ray Gormley wished everyone a Happy Father's Day and a safe and enjoyable Fourth of July.

Committeeman Ken Laney reported that the Community Center grand opening was a great and thanked all who donated, participated and volunteered for the event. He wished everyone a Happy Father's Day and a safe Fourth of July.

Deputy Mayor Dan Maxwell reported a few days after the Community Center grand opening, the Memorial Day parade was welcomed back. He stated a lot of effort went into the event and the turn-out and smiles on everyone's faces was worth it. He thanked all who provided their facilities for staging as well as those who volunteered and provided their time, services and safety to make the event a great success. He stated the day was about those fallen and the ceremony event after the parade was excellent and the town paid tribute and honored those who fought for our country. He continued by thanking

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the Pilgrim Academy 7th grade class for donating their time to mulch the fields and parks to make the community look its best. He stated there is a document shredding event scheduled for Saturday, June 17 at the Community Center from 9am to noon for those residents that are interested. He wished everyone a Happy Father's Day and an enjoyable and safe Fourth of July.

Mayor Blaise Scibetta reiterated how great the Community Center grand opening event was and thanked everyone for volunteering, donating and making it a true success. He stated now that the skate park is open if anyone is in need of safety equipment, they can reach out to the part-time Recreation Director Kathy Tucker, for more information. He stated two local businesses donated equipment to keep kids safe while biking and skate boarding. He also thanked the local schools for donating their gyms to various sports organizations during the Spring Sports Season. He finished by wishing everyone a safe and healthy Fourth of July.

EXECUTIVE SESSION 2023-194

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 maybe be taken.

Motion to Approve: Gormley

Second: Laney

All in Favor

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

Second: Maxwell

All in Favor

Resolution 2023-195

Urging the State Legislature to Advance Passage of Legislation S-3906 for "Give it Back" Property Tax Relief

Motion to Approve: Laney

Second: Maxwell

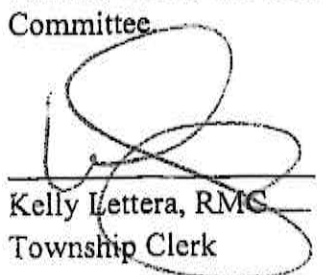
Roll Call: All Yes: Mr. Gormley; Mr. Kehm; Mr. Laney; Mr. Maxwell; Mayor Scibetta

Motion to Adjourn: Maxwell

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

** "Any invocation that may be offered before the official start of the Committee meeting is offered by a person who is expressing private thoughts as governed by his or her own conscience, to and for the benefit of the Committee. The views or beliefs expressed by the invocation speaker have not been previously reviewed or approved by the Committee and do not necessarily represent the religious beliefs or views of the Committee in part or as a whole. No member of the community is required to attend or participate in the invocation and such decision will have no impact on their right to participate actively in the business of the Committee."*