

Little Egg Harbor Township Committee Meeting Minutes

AUGUST 10, 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 Ryan Bowen of Great Bay Gospel Fellowship 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 August 10, 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. Lancy; Mr. Maxwell; Mayor Scibetta
Absent: Mr. Kehm

PRESENTATIONS:

- 2023 Mayors Essay Contest, Frog Pond Elementary School Winners
 - Fiona Huff
 - Rhoda Ofori

Fiona Huff and Rhoda Ofori, winners of the 2023 Mayors Essay Contest, read their essays to the audience, received plaques from the Committee and they sat at the dais with the Committee Members for the entire meeting.

- Patriot Day, National Day of Service and Remembrance
Committeeman Laney read the Patriot Day, National Day of Service and Remembrance proclamation and presented the proclamation to the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion.

- Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- July 13, 2023

Motion to Approve: Laney

Second: Gormley

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

ORDINANCE 2023-27**[SECOND READING AND ADOPTION]**

An Ordinance of the Township of Little Egg Harbor, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, to Establish the Compensation of Township Employees

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

No public comment.

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

Motion to Adopt: Maxwell Second: Laney

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

ORDINANCE 2023-28**[FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION]**

An Ordinance of The Township of Little Egg Harbor, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, Amending and Supplementing the Township Code So As To Amend Chapter 22 Entitled "Court, Municipal," So As To Amend Article I, Entitled "Municipal Court Discovery"

Motion to Introduce: Maxwell Second: Laney

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

ORDINANCE 2023-29**[FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION]**

An Ordinance of The Township of Little Egg Harbor, in the County of Ocean, New Jersey, Providing for Paving and Improvements to Various Roads in and for the Township of Little Egg Harbor and Appropriating \$2,000,000 Therefore and Providing for the Issuance of \$1,900,000 in Bonds or Notes of the Township of Little Egg Harbor to Finance the Same

Motion to Introduce: Gormley Second: Maxwell

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

ORDINANCE 2023-30**[FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION]**

An Ordinance of The Township of Little Egg Harbor, in the County of Ocean, New Jersey, Providing for Pedestrian Safety Improvements to Oak Lane Located in the Township of Little Egg Harbor and Appropriating \$900,000 in Bonds or Notes of the Township of Little Egg Harbor to Finance the Same

Motion to Introduce: Gormley Second: Laney

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

ORDINANCE 2023-31**[FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION]**

An Ordinance of The Township of Little Egg Harbor, in the County of Ocean, New Jersey, Providing for Township-Wide Drainage Projects In and For The Township of Little Egg Harbor and Appropriating \$480,000 Therefor and Providing for the Issuance of \$456,000 in Bonds or Notes of The Township of Little Egg Harbor to Finance the Same

Motion to Introduce: Laney

Second: Maxwell

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

- 2023-225 Authorizing the Appointment of Jacob Reed as Laborer 1, Clean Communities (Seasonal) for the Department of Public Works *[The appointment of Jacob Reed as DPW Laborer 1 (Clean Communities-Seasonal), effective August 9, 2023 at a rate of \$14.13/hr]*
- 2023-226 Appointing Tracey Figueiras as Emergent Deputy Court Administrator Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2B:12-10 *[Appointing Tracey Figueiras as Emergent Deputy Court Administrator in the absence of the Deputy Court Administrator at a rate of \$75.00 per call out]*
- 2023-227 Authorizing the Appointment of Brittany Rabinowitz as Full Time Public Safety Telecommunicator for the Little Egg Harbor Township Police Department *[Brittany Rabinowitz is currently a per diem public safety telecommunicator trainee. This appointment is for FT Public Safety Telecommunicator for the Police Department effective August 9, 2023 at a rate of \$20.09/hr]*
- 2023-228 Authorizing the Appointment of Danielle Henry as a Per Diem Telecommunicator for the Little Egg Harbor Township Police Department *[The appointment of Danielle Henry as per diem telecommunicator for the LEHT PD, effective August 9, 2023, at a rate of \$22/hr]*
- 2023-229 Authorizing the Township Administrator to Advertise and Hire a Clerk 1 for the Clerk's Office
- 2023-230 Authorizing the Solicitation of Proposals for Health Insurance Consultant/Broker *[Authorizing the Township Administrator and Township Attorney to prepare documents to solicit proposals for Health Insurance Consultant/Broker]*

- 2023-231 Authorizing the Preparation of Specifications for Two Police Vehicles and One Vehicle for Administrative Use by the Police Department and Further Authorizing the Receipt of Bids for Same *[Authorizing the preparation of specifications in addition to advertising and receiving bids for two police vehicles and one police administrative vehicle]*
- 2023-232 Providing for an Issue of General Obligation Bonds Consisting of General Improvement Bonds and Special Assessment Bonds, Authorizing the Sale of \$3,048,000 Principal Amount of General Improvement Bonds, Series 2023A and \$9,600,000 Principal Amount of Special Assessment Bonds, Series 2023B, Authorizing Advertisement of a Notice of Sale; Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to Sell and Award the Bonds; Determining the Form and other Details of the Bonds; and Authorizing Other Matters Relating Thereto
- 2023-233 Approving Charges Associated with the Demolition of 28 West Navasink Drive, Pursuant to Chapter 148 and Authorizing Said Charge to Become a Lien and to be Added to and Become a Part of the Taxes to be Assessed and Levied on Said Property *[Approving charges, in the amount of \$7,877.93, for costs associated with the demolition of 28 Navasink Drive and placing a lien against the property and become part of the taxes to be assessed and levied]*
- 2023-234 Authorizing Tax Refund *[Refund of property tax overpayments on Block 172, Lot 9.19 in the amount of \$244.44]*
- 2023-235 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 (Block 262, Lot 2.08)
- 2023-236 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 (Block 331.04, Lot 28)
- 2023-237 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 (Block 326.06, Lot 35)
- 2023-238 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 (Block 326.12, Lot 12)
- 2023-239 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 (Block 325.106, Lot 41)
- 2023-240 Canceling Taxes and Authorizing a Refund Pursuant to N.J.S.A 54:4-3.30 (Block 325.59, Lot 27)

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- 2023-241 Establishing the Bid Threshold for Russia/Belarus Certification Purposes *[Requiring a Russia-Belarus certification for contracts for goods and services that exceed LEHT \$6,600 established bid threshold]*
- 2023-242 Awarding a Contract for Sports Lighting Improvements at the Recreation Complex to Ronald Janney Electrical Contractor, Inc. *[Awarding the bid to Ronald Janney Electrical for Sports Lighting Improvements to the Recreation Complex in the amount of \$253,750.00]*
- 2023-243 Awarding a Contract for Recreation and Site Improvements at the LEHT Recreation Complex to Shore Top Construction Corp. *[Awarding the bid to Shore Top Construction for Recreation and Site Improvements to the Recreation Complex in the amount of \$990,206.00]*
- 2023-244 Awarding a Contract for Demolition of Structure Located at 28 West Navasink Drive (Block 325.104, Lot 37) to Mathis Construction *[Awarding the bid to Mathis Construction for the demolition of the structure located at 28 West Navasink Drive in the amount of \$15,900.00]*
- 2023-245 Awarding a Contract for Demolition of Structure Located at 108 East Navasink Drive (Block 325.105, Lot 5) to Mathis Construction *[Awarding the bid to Mathis Construction for the demolition of the structure located at 108 East Navasink Drive in the amount of \$15,900.00]*
- 2023-246 Authorizing the Execution of a Memorandum of Agreement and an Employment Agreement with the Administrative Support Staff *[MOA to include Anna Nelson, Payroll Clerk, in the Administrative Support Staff contract beginning January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2026]*
- 2023-247 Certifying Tax Liens for Costs Incurred in Accordance with the Property Maintenance Code

CONSENT AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Motion to Open to Public: Gormley

Second: Laney

All in Favor

Ms. Hummel of Holland, PA stated she, her husband and two others are the potential owners of the property located at 28 W. Navasink Drive. She provided the Committee with a timeline to make the property safe and presentable and revoke the demolition order on the property.

Township Attorney Jean Cipriani recommended that the Committee move forward with the approval of the two Resolutions. She stated due to amount of time it has taken to get to this point of the process with the property while giving the Township the flexibility to move forward with the demolition or follow the potential owner's timeline. She also stated the timeline will be given to the Committee and a decision will be made on the next steps.

Mr. Jake Wilczek of Mayflower Drive asked of the purpose of Resolution 2023-241.

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should be complete within the next few weeks. Lastly he stated the two projects that were awarded tonight for the Recreation Complex, notices of award will go out tomorrow and pre-construction meeting will be after.

Mayor Scibetta asked the Township Engineer to better explain the paving on Route 9.

Mr. Worth explained that the paving project is not your typical paving preservation project and is a chip sealing to extend the life of the project. He stated this type of project lasts about 6-8 years and he stated the state will continue to move forward more with these type of preservation projects on the roads to extend the life of the roadways.

Mr. Tomasiak of S. Baltimore Drive asked about the drains and bulkhead on his street.

Township Engineer, Jason Worth stated he will take a look at those drains tomorrow and get back to him.

PUBLIC COMMENT - Any Topic

Mr. Ferwerda of Warren Grove spoke regarding the health and quality of life in his neighborhood. He provided the Clerk with two letters, that were later provided to the Committee, dated August 10, 2023 and October 19, 1970.

Ms. Kugelmann of W. Potomac Drive questioned if the bulkhead on Twin Lakes Blvd is going to be done. She asked who is responsible to fix it. She stated she is new to the area and asked about the paving of her road. She also asked about the dredging for W. Potomac and Susquehanna. She also asked if there is an ordinance in place regarding not raising your house during the summer months.

Township Engineer Jason Worth stated the bulkhead on the corner is not getting done because it is not a township bulkhead and is privately owned. He stated the owner is responsible to maintain and fix it and if it is not being done then code enforcement can issue a violation. Mr. Haines stated he will notify them to inspect tomorrow. Mr. Worth stated the township has been patiently waiting for the MUA to complete their work and once they are done then the township can pave and put in new drainage.

Mayor Scibetta stated Mr. Worth and Committeeman Gormley will speak to her after the meeting regarding the dredging because there is a history and process that has been ongoing for years.

Township Attorney Jean Cipriani stated the ordinance raising houses can be looked into.

Mr. Houser of Silver Lake Court, Mr. Harding of Mirror Lake Drive and Mr. Hartman of Mirror Lake Drive provided the Committee with pictures of storm drains that are not draining properly and they requested sidewalks and curbs on Calabreeze. They also stated everyone in the town should pay for the dredging whether they live on the water or not.

Mr. Curtin of Mayflower Drive requested a summary of Ordinance 2023-30 that pertains to Oak Lane.

Township Engineer Jason Worth provided Mr. Curtin with a summary of the improvements that will be taking place on Oak Lane and surrounding roads based off the ordinance.

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

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Committeeman Ray Gormley wished everyone a great rest of the summer.

Committeeman Ken Laney stated the Glow Party is tomorrow night from 6-8pm at the community center. He stated the Harvest Fest is October 21 and the Chamber of Commerce is looking for vendors and sponsors to participate in the event. He ended with hoping everyone had a great summer and looking forward to a cool fall season.

Deputy Mayor Dan Maxwell congratulated and thanked the two essay winners. He also thanked the police department for the National Night Out event. He also recognized a former police officer, Tommy Williams, that currently passed and sent condolences to his family. He stated the next Senior Advisory Board meeting will be September 25 at 10am at Sea Oaks.

Mayor Blaise Scibetta recognized the two essay winners and thanked them for attending the meeting. He read an article of a family member who was lost on September 11, 2001. He also sent prayers and condolences to Kimberly Hoffman's family and friends who lost her life tragically over the weekend. Lastly, the next Meet the Mayor event will be on September 19 at 10am at the LEHT library. He thanked everyone who was attendance at tonight's meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION 2023-249

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

Township Attorney Jean Cipriani 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: Lancy All in Favor

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

Second: Maxwell All in Favor

Motion to Adjourn: Lancy Second: Gormley 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."*