

Little Egg Harbor Township Committee Meeting Minutes

SEPTEMBER 14, 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.

Pastor Michael Dellaperute of Calvary Baptist 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 September 14, 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:

➤ Constitution Week (September 17-23, 2023)
Deputy Mayor Maxwell read the Constitution Week proclamation. The Municipal Clerk will provide copy to Ocean County following the meeting.

➤ National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
Mayor Scibetta read the National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month proclamation and presented the proclamation to Kim Nork from Parkers Army.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- July 13, 2023 Executive Session
- August 10, 2023
- August 10, 2023 Executive Session

Motion to Approve: Laney

Second: Kehm

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

ORDINANCE 2023-28

[SECOND READING AND ADOPTION]

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 Open to Public: Kehm

Second: Maxwell

All in Favor

No public comment.

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

Motion to Adopt: Gormley Second: Laney

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

ORDINANCE 2023-29 **[SECOND READING AND ADOPTION]**

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 Open to Public: Kehm Second: Gormley All in Favor

Mr. Long of North Spinnaker Drive stated his drains have collapsed and was asking if his road and drains were included in the ordinance.

Township Engineer Jason Worth stated the drains are included in Ordinance 2023-31.

Mr. Marcellino of Ocean Blvd spoke regarding the hazardous conditions of the roadways and questioned what streets are next to be done.

Mayor Scibetta stated during executive session they are going to discuss all the roadways in town that are in need of repairs and where all the streets fall on the list.

Ms. Jerue of West Thames Road inquired about the repaving and drains on her street. She also asked who is responsible for repaving newly paved roads that are torn up due to utilities.

Township Administrator/CFO Rodney Haines stated the ordinance includes West Thames Road. He also stated whomever is tearing up the road is responsible for fixing the roadway after utility work is complete.

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

Motion to Adopt: Kehm Second: Gormley

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

ORDINANCE 2023-30 **[SECOND READING AND ADOPTION]**

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 Open to Public: Kehm Second: Maxwell All in Favor

No public comment.

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

Motion to Adopt: Gormley Second: Laney

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

ORDINANCE 2023-31 **[SECOND READING AND ADOPTION]**

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 Open to Public: Gormley Second: Laney All in Favor

No public comment.

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

Motion to Adopt: Kehm Second: Laney

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

ORDINANCE 2023-32 **[FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION]**

An Ordinance of The Township of Little Egg Harbor, in the County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, Vacating Right-of-Way/ Road Widening Easement on Block 282.01, Lot 8.02 to JLCEOB, LLC

Motion to Introduce: Kehm 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

2023-250 Appointing Susan Kramer as Assistant Municipal Clerk for the Township of Little Egg Harbor [The appointment of Susan Kramer as Assistant Municipal Clerk for the Municipal Clerk's Office effective September 6, 2023]

- 2023-251 Supporting Proposed North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA)/Ocean County Subregional Studies Program FY2025 – FY2026 *[LEHT supports Ocean County in partnership with NJTPA to conduct an Ocean County Evacuation Plan Improvements Study to identify improvements and recommendations to ensure effective, safe and sustainable evacuation routes]*
- 2023-252 Opposing Mask and Covid-19 Vaccine Mandates by the State of New Jersey *[LEHT opposes any response to a COVID-19 resurgence which would mandate mask-wearing or vaccinations by the Governor and the New Jersey Legislature]*
- 2023-253 Awarding a Contract for Two (2) Police Patrol Vehicles and One (1) Police Department Administration Vehicle to C&C Ford Sales Inc. D/B/A Chapman Ford of Horsham *[Awarding the bid to C&C Ford Sales DBA Chapman Ford of Horsham for two police patrol vehicles and one police administration vehicle for a total amount not to exceed \$130,848.00]*
- 2023-254 Authorizing the Submission of an Application for the FY2024 Safe Routes to School Program to the New Jersey Department of Transportation *[Authorizing the preparation and submission of a grant application to NJDOT for FY2024 SRTS program for the reimbursement of costs for the construction of sidewalks in the vicinity of Frog Pond Elem. School and Pinelands Regional Junior High School]*
- 2023-255 Authorizing the Preparation of Specifications for Two Trash Trucks and Two Mason Dump Trucks for the Department of Public Works and Further Authorizing the Receipt of Bids for Same *[Authorizing the preparation of specifications, advertising and receiving bids for two trash trucks and two mason dump trucks]*
- 2023-256 Authorizing Tax Refund *[Refund of property tax overpayments on Block 326.12, Lot 12 in the amount of \$250.00; Block 331.04, Lot 28 in the amount of \$250.00; Block 262, Lot 2.08 in the amount of \$542.05; Block 262, Lot 2.12 in the amount of \$2,750.00; and Block 322, Lot 13.01 in the amount of \$1,846.75]*
- 2023-257 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 (Soliman, Remon S., Block 325.80, Lot 33)
- 2023-258 Authorizing the Tax Collector to Cancel Taxes Pursuant to N.J.S.A 54:4-3.30 on Property Qualifying for Veterans Property Tax Exemption (Stegen, Anna M., Block 191.03, Lot 89)
- 2023-259 Resolution Determining the Form and Other Details of Not Exceeding \$1,950,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2023, of the Township of Little Egg Harbor, in the County of Ocean, New Jersey, and Providing for Their Sale to the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank and the State of New Jersey, Pursuant to the State Fiscal Year 2024 New Jersey Water Bank
- 2023-260 Resolution Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of Loan Agreements to be Executed by the Township of Little Egg Harbor, in the County of Ocean, New Jersey, and Each of the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank, and the State of New Jersey, Acting by and Through

the Department of Environmental Protection, and Further Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of an Escrow Agreement, All Pursuant to the State Fiscal Year 2024 New Jersey Water Bank

2023-261 Certifying Tax Liens for Costs Incurred in Accordance with the Property Maintenance Code

2023-264 Supporting the Acquisition of Block 269, Lot 5 in the Township of Little Egg Harbor by Ocean County Natural Lands Trust Fund Program *[LEHT supports the acquisition by Ocean County through the Natural Lands Trust Fund program for the 2 acres, located at Block 269, Lot 5, to become part of Ocean County's Open Space]*

CONSENT AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

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

No public comment.

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

Motion to Approve: Maxwell Second: Kehm

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

BILL RESOLUTION 2023-262

A Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Bills in the Amount of \$4,544,218.64

Motion to Approve: Gormley Second: Maxwell

Roll Call: All Yes: Mr. Gormley; Mr. Kehm; Mr. Laney; Mr. Maxwell; Mayor Scibetta
Mr. Laney abstained from 23-00819, 23-00828, 23-00829, 23-00830, 23-00836, 23-00837, 23-00838, 23-09015 and yes to the remaining bills

MISCELLANEOUS APPROVALS

- Raffle Application No. 2023-047 for American Legion Post 493 Mystic Island, Off-Premise 50/50 Cash Raffle at 420 Radio Road on December 15, 2023
- Raffle Application No. 2023-048 for American Legion Post 493 Mystic Island, On-Premise Gift Auction at 420 Radio Road on October 8, 2023
- Raffle Application No. 2023-049 for American Legion Post 493 Mystic Island, On-Premise Gift Auction at 420 Radio Road on October 9, 2023

Motion to Approve: Kehm Second: Laney All in Favor

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER COMMENTS

Township Engineer, Jason Worth, reported the improvements to Stage Road are substantially complete with repairs and stripping underway. He stated all the bulkheads are in for the bulkhead project and the contractor is working on completing the restoration and the project should be complete by the end of the month. Lastly, he stated the Safe Routes to School application is due November 17 and the Administrator and himself are meeting tomorrow to go over the application with the organization.

PUBLIC COMMENT - Any Topic

Mr. Mooney of Windstar Drive asked about handicap parking and cameras at Mystic Beach. He also asked about the rules and regulations for identification of 12 year olds at the skate park.

Township Engineer, Jason Worth, stated he will have to look into handicap parking at Mystic Beach due to the limited space. He stated if the handicap space is marked out it needs to be van accessible, which will take up even more space, leaving less general parking spots.

Township Administrator, Rodney Haines, stated Atlantic City Electric is claiming that the pole for the camera is not their pole, so he is awaiting a response from them on who's pole it is that their light is on.

Township Attorney, Melanie Appleby, stated identification is a requirement for the Ocean County JIF.

Ms. Dougherty of Maryland Road stated she is maintaining her neighbor's property, who has had some medical issues, although there are other properties on Maryland that have not been touched and are eye sores. She stated it is not fair to the residents that the properties get slapped with a fine and nothing is done.

Township Administrator, Rodney Haines, stated he will have to look into the properties Ms. Dougherty referenced on Maryland Road and check with code enforcement.

Ms. Depaola of Sunrise Bay Blvd asked if the black boxes for black/green head flies could be installed at the Mystic Island Beach.

Committeeman Kehm stated the eagle scouts built several boxes and the administrator will check with Public Works to see if the boxes were distributed throughout town and if there are additional boxes that can be put at Mystic Beach.

Mr. Andrews of Maryland Road thanked the Committee for all they do for the Township and expressed the difficulties of finding things within our township code book. He expressed the reason for the difficulties for the property maintenance come from the township code book and information not being laid out properly.

Township Attorney, Melanie Appleby, stated the Maintenance code is online and she will send Mr. Andrews the Chapter to read pertaining to property maintenance process and regulations.

Ms. Hummel of Holland, Pa. provided updates pertaining to their due diligence and accomplishments for the property located at 28 W. Navasink Drive that is pending demolition.

Mayor Scibetta thanked Ms. Hummel for all information and hard work they have put into trying to assume the property, although he and the Committee feel they owe it to the township residents to not back off with the demolition of the property. He further stated the township has a court order for the demolition of the property and if they pull out and god forbid it fell through the timely process would have to start over. He further stated the topic is up for discussion during executive session.

Motion to Close to Public: Kehm

Second: Laney

All in Favor

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Committeeman Ray Gormley wished everyone an enjoyable rest of the summer. He also reminded everyone that school is back in session so please be mindful of children and pedestrians.

Committeeman Ken Laney reported that the Halloween Bash will be taking place on Friday, October 13 6-9pm at the Community Center. He also stated the Harvest Fest will be taking place on October 21 at the Sports Complex. He wished everyone a happy rest of the summer and a great upcoming school year for the children.

Committeeman John Kehm reported that in addition to the Halloween Bash, movie night will also be taking place outside after the bash. He stated the entire event will run from 6-10pm.

Deputy Mayor Dan Maxwell reported that he and Mayor Scibetta will be holding a meet the Mayor event on September 19 at 10am at the Little Egg Harbor Library. He also stated the next Senior Advisory Board meeting will be on September 25 at Sea Oaks.

Mayor Blaise Scibetta reported that the Community wide clean-up event, hosted by the Environmental Commission, will take place on October 19 at 9am at the Municipal Building.

EXECUTIVE SESSION 2023-263

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, Personnel and Attorney-Client privilege, formal action maybe be taken.

Motion to Approve: Kehm

Second: Maxwell

All in Favor

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

Second: Laney

All in Favor

Resolution 2023-265

Authorizing the Township to Process an Involuntary Retirement Application

Motion to Approve: Gormley

Second: Laney

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

Resolution 2023-266

Authorizing the Township Administrator to Advertise and Hire a Court Administrator for the Little Egg Harbor Municipal Court

Motion to Approve: Gormley Second: Kehm

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

Motion to Adjourn: Gormley Second: Maxwell All in Favor

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



Kelly Letten, REC
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."