

Little Egg Harbor Township Committee Meeting Minutes

OCTOBER 12, 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 Jason Rios of Tuckerton United Methodist Church said the 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 October 12, 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:

Mr. Edward Andrews, LEHT Planning Board Vice-Chairperson, spoke highly about the Township Engineer Jason Worth informing the Committee and Township residents of an achievement award he nominated Mr. Worth for and he received through the New Jersey Planning Board Officials (NJPO). Every year NJPO honors ten achievement awards in planning for projects, large and small, that reflect a good sense in planning by professionals, whose efforts benefit their community's quality of life. The achievement award was provided to Jason Worth from T&M Associates for all the great work he has done for and in the Township of Little Egg Harbor including but not limited to the shoreline in Iowa Court, the replenishment of the beaches, dredging, roadwork, drainage and bulkhead improvements. Mr. Andrews also thanked the Committee for continuously retaining T&M Associates over the years. Mr. Gormley thanked Mr. Worth as well as all the professionals for all the hard work they do for the township. He further stated the award could not have gone to a better person. He stated that Mr. Worth is a great representative of the town and for all the residents of the community.

- Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Committeeman John Kehm read the Domestic Violence Awareness Month proclamation.

- Down Syndrome Awareness Month

Deputy Mayor Daniel Maxwell read the Down Syndrome Awareness Month proclamation and presented it to Chris Filiciello and his son Mateo.

- National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

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Mayor Blaise Scibetta read the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month proclamation.

- National Friends of Libraries Week (October 15-21, 2023)

Committeeman Ken Laney read the National Friends of Libraries Week proclamation and presented the proclamation to Dorothy Uhl, Branch Manager and staff of the Little Egg Harbor Library.

- "The Defense of Little Egg Harbor"

Deputy Mayor Daniel Maxwell read the "The Defense of Little Egg Harbor" proclamation and presented the proclamation to Michael Czurlanis from the LEHT Cultural and Heritage Society.

- Local Environmental Hero Award presented by Erica Napolitano, LEHT Environmental Commission to Walmart

Erica Napolitano presented the Local Environmental Hero award to a Walmart Representative. She stated the Fall Clean-up event is Saturday from 9-12pm for all that is interested and they can register on-line.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- September 14, 2023

Motion to Approve: Kehm

Second: Laney

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

ORDINANCE 2023-32

[SECOND READING AND ADOPTION]

An Ordinance of The Township of Little Egg Harbor, 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 Open to Public: Kehm

Second: Laney

All in Favor

No public comment.

Motion to Close to Public: Laney

Second: Kehm

All in Favor

Motion to Adopt: Maxwell

Second: Laney

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

ORDINANCE 2023-33

[FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION]

Bond Ordinance Providing for the Mystic Island Drainage Improvements – Phase III Project, Appropriating \$3,800,000 Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of \$3,800,000 Bonds and Notes to Finance a Portion of the Costs Therefor, Authorized In and By the Township of Little Egg Harbor, in the County of Ocean, New Jersey

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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

- 2023-267 Awarding a Contract for Employee Benefits Consultation/Brokerage Services for Medical/Dental/Prescription/Vision Services for 2024-2025 to Connor, Strong and Buckelew *[Awarding a contract to Connor, Strong and Buckelew for Employee Benefits Consultation/Brokerage Services for Medical/Dental/Prescription/Vision Services in an amount not to exceed \$111,000.00 for 2024-2025]*

- 2023-268 Authorizing the Appointment of Jillian Williams as Clerk 1 for the Municipal Clerk's Office *[The appointment of Jillian Williams as Clerk 1 for the Municipal Clerk's Office effective October 4, 2023 at a rate of \$14.13/hr]*

- 2023-269 Authorizing the Appointment of Melissa Penk as Clerk 1 for the Construction/Zoning Department *[The appointment of Melissa Penk as Clerk 1 for the Construction/Zoning Department effective October 18, 2023 at a rate of \$14.13/hr]*

- 2023-270 Authorizing the Appointment of Brian Flynn as Deputy Registrar and Kelly Lettera and Jillian Williams as Alternate Deputy Registrars *[N.J.S.A. 26:8-17 provides that the local Registrar shall appoint a Deputy Registrar and up to two Alternate Deputy Registrars to serve in their absence]*

- 2023-271 Authorizing Pet Parade/Pet Costume Contest at Little Egg Harbor Recreation Complex During Annual Harvest Festival *[Authorizing a one day exemption to Chapter 261-20 of the township code for the pet parade/pet costume contest at the recreation complex on October 21, 2023 from 11am to 5pm]*

- 2023-272 Authorizing the Execution of a Shared Services Agreement with the County of Ocean for the Drug Recognition Expert Callout Program *[A traffic safety program run by the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office for the purpose of utilizing a DRE callout program to assist with identifying and removing intoxicated drivers from the roadways]*

- 2023-273 Authorizing the Execution of a Shared Services Agreement with the County of Ocean for the Driving While Intoxicated Enforcement Program *[A traffic safety program ran by the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office for the purpose of identifying and removing intoxicated drivers from the roadways]*

- 2023-274 Authorizing the Execution of a Shared Services Agreement with the County of Ocean for the "Move Over" Law Enforcement Program *[The "Move Over" Law Enforcement Program is a traffic safety program run by the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office for the purposes of identifying, educating, and removing reckless drivers from the roadways.]*
- 2023-275 Authorizing the Release of Performance Guarantee Posted by Callazzo Site Plan for Block 80, Lot 14.04 for On-Site Improvements *[Authorizing the release of performance guarantee to Callazzo Site Plan for on-site improvements in the amount of \$69,714.00]*
- 2023-276 Authorizing the Release of Performance Guarantee Posted by Callazzo Site Plan for Block 80, Lot 14.04 for Right of Way Improvements *[Authorizing the release of performance bond to Callazzo Site Plan for right of way improvements in the amount of \$30,369.60 and a cash bond in the amount of \$3,374.40]*
- 2023-277 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 (Lester Kohn, Block 124.02, Lot 37)
- 2023-278 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 (Jackie Giorgianni, Block 325.94, Lot 4)
- 2023-279 Authorizing the Tax Collector to Cancel Taxes on Property Qualifying for Property Tax Exemption
- 2023-280 Certifying Tax Liens for Costs Incurred in Accordance with the Property Maintenance Code
- 2023-281 Reviewing the Little Egg Harbor Board of Fire Commissioners, District No. 1 Compensation in Accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:14-88

CONSENT AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Ms. Cabanas of Tiller Court questioned the resolutions pertaining to tax exemptions. Township Administrator/CFO Rodney Haines explained the resolutions are to provide an exemption of taxes on the properties that are veteran owned.

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

Motion to Approve: Kehm Second: Gormley

Roll Call: All Yes: Mr. Gormley; Mr. Kehm; Mr. Laney; Mr. Maxwell; Mayor Scibetta
Mr. Laney abstained from Resolution 2023-269 and yes to the remaining resolutions.

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BILL RESOLUTION 2023-282

A Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Bills in the Amount of \$3,745,986.82

Motion to Approve: Maxwell

Second: Laney

Roll Call: All Yes: Mr. Gormley; Mr. Kehm; Mr. Laney; Mr. Maxwell; Mayor Scibetta
Mr. Laney abstained from 23D10070 and yes to the remaining bills

MISCELLANEOUS APPROVALS

- Raffle Application No. 2023-050 for Italian & American Social Club, On-Premise 50/50 Raffle at 99 Golf View Drive on December 10, 2023
- Raffle Application No. 2023-051 for PTO of Little Egg Harbor Inc., On-Premise 50/50 Raffle at 590 Nugentown Road on November 3, November 10 and November 17, 2023
- Raffle Application No. 2023-052 for Social Activities Committee of Mystic Shores, On-Premise 50/50 Raffle at 204 Shenandoah Drive on Various Dates Beginning January 15, 2024 through November 9, 2024
- Raffle Application No. 2023-053 for Women's Club by the Bay, Inc., On-Premise 50/50 Raffle at 102 Newport Way on Various Dates starting January 22, 2024 through November 18, 2024

Motion to Approve: Gormley

Second: Kehm

All in Favor

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER COMMENTS

Township Engineer, Jason Worth, reported that Ocean County is milling and paving Oak Leaf and Spruce Drive in accordance with the schedule c request and agreement. He stated Ocean County will be working on the Otis Bog Bridge located between Nugentown and Stage Road and expecting the project to begin October 23 and is expected to last 75 days. He stated survey work has started for the roadways that were approved for reconstruction at the last meeting, including East and West Thames, Cranbury Lake Drive, Lake Singleton, Lake Huron, Lake Sinclair, Oak Lane and Daddy Tucker and work will continue over the next several weeks. Lastly, at the Recreation Complex, the smart pole will be installed on Tuesday, lighting equipment for field 2 will be installed by October 30, sidewalk paving around the complex and soccer fields will be done next week, prior to the Harvest Fest, in addition to the construction of the pickle ball and basketball courts; all work will be wrapped up in next few weeks. Mayor Scibetta requested that he notify the School District, Public Works and the Police Department regarding Otis Bog Bridge reconstruction. Mr. Worth stated he already put them in contact with all three and the County did notify them of the work that is being done. Mayor Scibetta also requested posting a notice on our website regarding the reconstruction to confirm residents are notified of the work that will be taking place.

PUBLIC COMMENT - Any Topic

Ms. Cabanas of Tiller Court stated she sent an email regarding portable bathrooms at the recreation center. She further stated someone is taking the bolts off the fence and she recommended that the

township look into the issues for repair at the Community Center. She also asked why the mercantile fees have gone up.

Mayor Scibetta stated he went to the recreation complex after the Meet the Mayor event and looked at all the issues Ms. Cabanas informed him of and he sent pictures to the Township Engineer who contacted the contractor to fix them. He also stated that in the new year, the Committee will be looking into portable bathroom facilities at several public locations throughout town.

Township Administer/CFO Rodney Haines stated he will speak to the Zoning Official regarding the fees and look into what other towns fees are in comparison to Little Egg Township's.

Deb from West Susquehanna Drive stated her road floods constantly and she needs the road repaired in order to get out of her house. She also expressed the concern regarding her neighbor that is dumping dirt in the lagoon

Mayor Scibetta stated the township is waiting for the MUA to do their part then the township can pave the road.

Township Engineer Jason Worth stated the MUA has finally gone out to bid on the project and the township will continue to wait until their project is complete.

Ms. Weed-Schertzer requested formal communication regarding a meeting that will be taking place for the Mystic Island Phase 2 dredging.

Mayor Scibetta stated at this point there is no scheduled meeting regarding the dredging for Mystic Island Phase 2. He stated proper noticing will take place if/when there is a meeting regarding the project.

Committeeman Gormley stated at the last meeting a woman was asking about dredging in that area and he offered to sit down with maps and explain to a small group of residents what occurred previously and why it was turned down.

Ms. Fraser of South Binnacle Drive questioned if the other side of Binnacle is going to be done in a future project.

Township Engineer Jason Worth stated the other side will be done after their current project goes out to bid and is completed.

Mr. Tomesco of Toms Court asked if the Mystic Island Phase 1 dredging project has been completed with the bonds floated.

Township Administer/CFO Rodney Haines stated the bonds have just been sold and he is finalizing the cost so the public hearings can be done soon.

Motion to Close to Public: Kehm

Second: Lancy

All in Favor

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TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Committeeman Ray Gormley had no comments.

Committeeman Ken Laney stated he attended a kids, cops and safety rocks event at the library this past weekend regarding bullying awareness, bike safety, prosecutors office special needs registry and proper car seat installation. He thanked all of those in attendance. He stated the Halloween Bash is tomorrow night at the Community Center from 6pm till the end of the movie. He stated the movie is the Nightmare Before Christmas and starts at 8pm.

Committeeman John Kehm stated the Halloween Bash will be street parking only and he is looking forward to seeing a lot of kids at the event. He further expressed his thanks to Mr. Worth for all the hard work he has done for the township over the years. He stated while he was Mayor he provided grant information to the Administrator to apply for funding and Mr. Worth applied and the township received over 5 million dollars in funding.

Deputy Mayor Dan Maxwell reported that the LEH Chamber of Commerce will be holding their Harvest Festival event on October 21 at the recreation complex with the Board of Health having a pet costume parade. He also reported that the Free Rabies Clinic will be on November 18 at the Community Center from 9am-12pm. He stated the next Senior Advisory Board meeting will be on October 30 at Cranbury Creek. He wished everyone a happy fall and Halloween and reminded everyone that daylight savings starts November 5.

Mayor Blaise Scibetta reported the Meet the Mayor event had a great turn out with a lot of good feedback; the next event will be in December. He continued speaking about the Atlantic City Electric meeting with the new representative and they informed him of the multiple issues that LEHT has been dealing with for years. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION 2023-283

EXECUTIVE SESSION 2023-2024
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 Attorney-Client privilege, formal action maybe be taken.

Motion to Approve: Laney Second: Gormley All in Favor

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

Second: Laney All in Favor

Motion to Adjourn: Kehm Second: Laney All in Favor

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kelly Lettera', written over a horizontal line.

Kelly Lettera, GMC, 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."*