

Little Egg Harbor Township Committee Meeting Minutes

NOVEMBER 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.

Pastor Ryan Bowen of Great Bay Gospel Fellowship 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 November 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:

- Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month

Deputy Mayor Maxwell read the Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month proclamation.

- National Family Caregiver Month

Mayor Scibetta read the National Family Caregiver Month proclamation and the Mayor and Committee presented the proclamation to Linda Ciccio.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- September 14, 2023 Executive Session
- October 12, 2023
- October 12, 2023 Executive Session

Motion to Approve: Laney

Second: Maxwell

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

ORDINANCE 2023-33

[SECOND READING AND ADOPTION]

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

November 9, 2023 Committee Meeting
Page 2

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: Gormley Second: Laney

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

ORDINANCE 2023-34 **[FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION]**

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 215, Land Use and Development, of the Code of the Township of Little Egg Harbor, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, so as to Amend Chapter 215, Land Use and Development, Article VII, General Provisions, so as to Create §215-7.16, Privately-Owned Salt Storage

Motion to Introduce: Laney Second: Maxwell

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

ORDINANCE 2023-35 **[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: 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

- 2023-284 Supporting Meals on Wheels of Ocean County *[A resolution of support that LEHT is working with the Ocean County Meals on Wheels Program to ensure no senior goes hungry]*
- 2023-285 Authorizing the Promotion of David Letts to the Position of Supervisor in the Department of Public Works *[An appointment promoting existing employee David Letts from laborer 1 to DPW Supervisor position]*
- 2023-286 Accepting the Resignation of and Authorizing the Compensation of Accumulated Time to Christopher Myers *[Christopher Myers will be resigning as of November 15, 2023 with a total payout of \$24,961.13 for unused time]*

November 9, 2023 Committee Meeting
Page 3

- 2023-287 Authorizing the Rescission of Resolution 2023-270 and Further Authorizing the Appointment of Jillian Williams as Deputy Registrar and Brian Flynn as Alternate Deputy Registrar *[Rescinding Resolution 2023-270 and appointing Jillian Williams as Deputy Registrar and Brian Flynn as Alternate Deputy Registrar]*
- 2023-288 Authorizing the Adoption of a Form Required to be Used for the Filing of Notices of Tort Claims Against the Township of Little Egg Harbor in Accordance with the Provisions of the New Jersey Tort Claims Act, N.J.S.A. 59:8-6
- 2023-289 Authorizing the Execution of Change Order No. 1 (Final) for the 2022 Bulkhead Improvement Project to Albert Marine Construction *[Change Order 1(Final) decreases the original contract amount from \$1,144,840.52 to \$1,119,066.00 for the 2022 Bulkhead Improvement Project with Albert Marine Construction]*
- 2023-290 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 (Michael J. Caporrino, Block 325.81, Lot 25)
- 2023-291 Approving Charges Associated With the Demolition of 108 East Navasink Drive, Pursuant to Chapter 148 and Authorizing Said Charge to Become a Part of the Taxes to be Assessed and Levied on Said Property
- 2023-292 Reviewing The Little Egg Harbor Board of Fire Commissioners, District No. 3 Compensation in Accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:14-88

CONSENT AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

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

No public comment.

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

Motion to Approve: Laney Second: Maxwell

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

BILL RESOLUTION 2023-293

A Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Bills in the Amount of \$6,911,807.72

Motion to Approve: Gormley Second: Laney

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

BEST PRACTICES

November 9, 2023 Committee Meeting
Page 4

Business Administrator/CFO, Rodney Haines stated every year the state of New Jersey requires the Township to fill out the best practices checklist which he has completed and the inventory is in accordance with the guidelines. He stated the Township scored 34 and the state aid will not get reduced since it was above a score of 20. He also stated no vote is required and the checklist will be uploaded to the website after the meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS APPROVALS

- Raffle Application No. 2023-054 for Mirage Men's Club Foundation, Inc., On-Premise 50/50 Raffle at 99 Golf View Drive on December 5, 2023
- Raffle Application No. 2023-055 for American Legion Post 493 Mystic Island, On-Premise 50/50 Raffle at 420 Radio Road on Various Dates from January 1 through December 27, 2024
- Raffle Application No. 2023-056 for American Legion Post 493 Mystic Island, Instant Pull-Tab Raffles at 420 Radio Road on Various Dates from January 1 through December 31, 2024

Motion to Approve: Laney

Second: Gormley

All in Favor

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER COMMENTS

Township Engineer, Jason Worth, reported the township was notified by the NJDOT that the Municipal Aid application for Leitz Blvd was approved and the township will be receiving \$471,340 for the project. He stated the bulkhead project is wrapping up, the change order was on tonight's agenda for approval and the project will be finished within the next few weeks. He stated at the Recreation Complex, the smart pole, the swing set, and the lights on the second soccer field were installed and the contractor will be continuing with the improvements. He also stated the sports courts were paved and everything should be finished by the springtime. He ended with stating that the surveys were done for the roads that were bonded for at the preceding meetings and projects will be out to bid within the upcoming months.

PUBLIC COMMENT - Any Topic

Mr. Dougherty of Delaware Drive requested a summary on the ordinances up for introduction on tonight's agenda.

Township Engineer Jason Worth stated Ordinance 2023-34 is a model ordinance that the state requires for salt storage within the township.

Township Attorney Melanie Appleby explained Ordinance 2023-35 pertaining to noise enforcement.

Mr. Houser of Silver Lake Court asked if there is anything the township can do about the feeding of seagulls and pigeons. He stated there are droppings all over his property and he requested the town to pass an ordinance prohibiting the feeding of pigeons and seagulls. He also stated the tax officer was in his neighbor's back yard while they were not home and he stated they have a large dog which could have been a problem if they were when she entered. He stated she should not be entering someone's back yard without permission.

November 9, 2023 Committee Meeting
Page 5

Township Business Administrator Rodney Haines stated he will speak to the Tax Assessor regarding what is legal for her staff to do during assessments.

Ms. Walsh of Lakewood Ct. provided her background and interest with working with the township to develop a community garden at the community center. She stated her first proposal had financials included, although she is no longer looking for funding and still willing to provide the township with her services to benefit the community.

Mayor Scibetta thanked Ms. Walsh for her proposal and stated the township is in the process of looking into it, although they are also looking into other grant options, organizations and services. He further recommended that she apply to volunteer for the Environmental Commission or the community garden at the senior center.

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Committeeman Gormley stated due to the holiday season, he encourages residents to be extra cautious on the roadways due to the increase in traffic and their surroundings. He further stated do not hesitate to call the police if something does not seem right.

Committeeman Laney thanked the Chamber of Commerce and local businesses for a great Harvest Festival this year with a great turnout and beautiful weather. He also thanked Kathy Tucker and all the volunteers for a wonder Halloween Bash and drive-in movie at the Community Center. He continued with the holiday gift giveaway taking place at the Community Center on December 1 between 12 to 6pm. Mr. Laney requested residents to drop off new or like new goods which will be given away to those who attend the next day. He also stated senior card games are beginning on November 13 at the senior center and continuing through December. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and happy holidays ahead.

Deputy Mayor Maxwell reported Saturday November 11 is Veterans Day and requested all resident thank a Veteran for all they have sacrificed for our country. He stated November 18 the Board of Health will have their free rabies clinic at the Community Center from 10am to noon. Deputy Mayor Maxwell thanked the Environmental Commission and volunteers for the community clean-up event. He reported the next Senior Advisory Board meeting will be on Monday, November 27 at Cranbury Creek. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and look forward to seeing everyone next month.

Mayor Scibetta reported the VFW and American Legion will both have Veterans Day remembrance events at 11:11am. He further reported the clean-up event had 115 volunteers, cleaned 6 miles of roads and are looking forward to the next event. He finalized by saying there are people in need and there are pantry's and services out there for those that are in need especially around the holidays. He wished all residents and employees a very Happy Thanksgiving.

EXECUTIVE SESSION 2023-294

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

November 9, 2023 Committee Meeting
Page 6

Township Attorney Melanie Appleby stated the Committee needs to go into Executive Session to discuss Contractual Matters, Personnel attorney-client privilege, formal action maybe be taken.


Motion to Approve: Gormley Second: Laney All in Favor

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

Second: Laney All in Favor

Motion to Adjourn: Laney Second: Maxwell 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."*