

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Oceanport, New Jersey
May 17, 2001

REGULAR MEETING: The Regular Meeting of the Oceanport Mayor and Council was called to order on May 17, 2001 at 8:05 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilpersons Apruzzi, Gatta, Lyons, Wolfe, Silkworth and Mayor Gemma.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilman McGann.

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Borough Clerk, Patricia L. Varca and Borough Attorney, Francis A. Margalotti.

INVOCATION: Borough Chaplain Berry gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Gemma led the audience and members of the Council in the flag salute.

As copies of the minutes from the regular meeting held on May 3, 2001 had been made available to the members of the Governing Body, Councilwoman Silkworth moved to waive the reading of same and approve the minutes as presented by the Borough Clerk. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and unanimously approved by Council.

Mayor Gemma stated at this point we are going to swear in the new Patrolman in the Oceanport Police Department and asked Jonathan Tucci to come forward and the Borough Clerk administered the Oath of Office to Patrolman Tucci, after which Mayor Gemma presented Patrolman Tucci with his badge and offered his congratulations.

CLERK'S REPORTS: No Reports.

COMMITTEES:

COUNCILMAN APRUZZI: Councilman Apruzzi welcomed Patrolman Tucci to the Oceanport Police Department and wished him well in the future.

Councilman Apruzzi asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-01-43** canceling certain funds from bond ordinance #742, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilwoman Gatta and unanimously approved by Council.

Councilman Apruzzi explained that funds had been included in this bond ordinance in the amount of \$20,000 for a sprinkler system at Blackberry Bay Park, but due to some unforeseen problems, Recreation has decided to re-schedule this project and instead go forward with the upgrading of the tot lot playground equipment at Evergreen Park.

Councilman Apruzzi then called for the introduction of a capital improvement fund ordinance, which will include the canceled funds from the previous resolution for the purchase of the playground

equipment at Evergreen Park and asked the Clerk to read the proposed ordinance by title only, as follows: **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING \$20,000 FOR PARK IMPROVEMENTS AT EVERGREEN PARK FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND.**

Councilman Apruzzi moved to approve this ordinance on first reading. It was seconded by Councilwoman Gatta.

The Clerk called the roll:

AYES: Councilpersons Apruzzi, Gatta, Lyons, Wolfe and Silkworth.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilman McGann.
ABSTAIN: None.

Councilman Apruzzi then moved to hold the public hearing on this ordinance at the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on June 7, 2001. It was seconded by Councilwoman Silkworth.

The Clerk called the roll:

AYES: Councilpersons Apruzzi, Gatta, Lyons, Wolfe and Silkworth.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilman McGann.
ABSTAIN: None

COUNCILWOMAN GATTA: Councilwoman Gatta offered her congratulations to Patrolman Tucci.

Councilwoman Gatta reported the Oceanport First Aid Squad received 32 calls during the month of April and expended 303 person hours between calls, the Health Screening and other activities.

Councilwoman Gatta advised that Saturday, June 2 is the Borough's Celebration of Women event at the Olde Wharf House from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and we are accepting reservations since space is limited and she is looking forward to this being a very successful event.

Councilwoman Gatta reported that in a recent article in the Asbury Park Press, an Oceanport teenager was given the Statewide Kindness award for donating her hair to be used for wigs for sick children and she found out that there were six other students who also received these Kindness Awards. She also learned from the Board of Education about 31 of our 7th and 8th grade students who participated in the John Hopkins Talent Search and this is offered the students in the ninety-seven percentile in math and reading skills. She stated that these students are allowed to take the SAT's and the results were overwhelming, with four 7th and 8th graders scoring as well as college bound seniors receiving 505 in verbal and 515 in math and a 7th grader who scored 550 verbal and 550 in math and one totally outstanding 8th grader who scored 1,270. She stated she would like to send all of these students a letter of congratulations on behalf of the Governing Body and everyone expressed their agreement.

COUNCILMAN LYONS: Councilman Lyons reminded everyone that the annual Memorial Day Parade and service will begin at Blackberry Bay Park at 10:30 a.m. and ceremonies will be at Borough Hall and urged everyone to come out and take part in this event. He also invited anyone

who observed this day of remembrance, to join him and the members of the VFW at Woodbine Cemetery on Saturday, May 26th, beginning at 9:00 a.m., where we will be placing flags at the graves of war veterans and commented that it is a very moving sight when you are done and see all those flags representing the veterans have been laid to rest at Woodbine, some going back to the Spanish American War.

Councilman Lyons reported that the Fire Department recently sponsored a joint drill with the Oceanport First Aid Squad and 30 volunteers were involved and he commented that this type of cooperation makes Oceanport's emergency services the envy of our surrounding communities and particularly shows the cooperation between both the Fire Department and First Aid Squad.

COUNCILMAN WOLFE: Councilman Wolfe asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-01-44** accepting the 2000 audit, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and unanimously approved by Council.

Councilman Wolfe also welcomed Patrolman Tucci to our Police Force and also wished Sgt. Hendley well on his recent retirement from the Department.

COUNCILMAN MCGANN: Absent.

COUNCILWOMAN SILKWORTH: Councilwoman Silkworth offered her congratulations to Patrolman Tucci and welcomed him to Oceanport and felt he would be welcomed back by the Department, since he had worked as a Dispatcher here several years ago.

Councilwoman Silkworth advised that there would be a retirement dinner for Sgt. Hendley at the Old Orchard Country Club on June 8, 2001.

MAYOR GEMMA: Mayor Gemma welcomed Patrolman Tucci to our Oceanport family.

Mayor Gemma announced that the Lions Club Fair would be opening on Tuesday, May 22 and in that regard, he met this morning with Peter Deller, Jr., Tom Crochet, Superintendent of Public Works and Police Chief Bebout to review the plans in regard to the fair being conducted and everything appears to be ready.

Mayor Gemma commented that the Borough has received an award for our participation in a shared services study between the Borough and Monmouth Beach with regard to the Court and he has asked the Clerk to display this award in an appropriate place in Borough Hall.

Mayor Gemma then opened the meeting to the public for any comments or questions they might wish to make, but seeing none, closed the public portion of the meeting.

Mr. Sempkowski, 74 Cayuga Ave. stated he attended the April 5th meeting in which he made his plea for something to be done about the flooding situation on Cayuga and felt that nothing was being done to help resolve this matter. He has been in contact with FEMA and has been advised that there is money available to help alleviate these problems and felt that the Borough should be acting on this matter. He continued that he wants to re-do his driveway, but not until the road has been raised and also would like to do some renovations to his home, but does not want to spend money if elevations are going to change and he will then have to have certain things re-done at additional expense.

Mr. Sempkowski stated he was advised that the representatives of FEMA would be willing to come to Oceanport and make a presentation to show the Borough Officials what needs to be done in order to apply for the grant monies and it would be 75% grant and 25% loan and he felt that the Borough should be moving on this situation. He also commented that he is aware that there is a Flood Mitigation Committee, but did not know when they met or how far along they have come and just felt very frustrated and wanted the Council to understand that he didn't want to come to the meetings and complain, but was just very frustrated.

Mayor Gemma asked Mr. Sempkowski to contact the Borough Clerk and give her the names and any other information that he had received concerning these grant programs and we will ask our Flood Mitigation Committee to make some calls and find out what we need to do and if we can qualify. He also advised Mr. Sempkowski to come back in about a month to see where we are with the information he give us in this regard.

Mr. Stu Briskey, 46 Werah Place questioned how often is the playground equipment inspected from a safety standpoint, in the various parks, to which Councilman Apruzzi responded stating that each year the Recreation Committee has two members along with Linda Gately, who is an expert in playground equipment, along with Tom Crochet and a report is presented to the entire Recreation Committee and we determine what can be repaired and what may have to be taken out of service, etc.

Mr. Briskey commented that at the Community Center were there is an area of wood chips, surrounded by some 4 x 4's, there is a two to three inch rise and the very young children seem to be constantly tripping and falling into the chips, to which Councilman Apruzzi stated that should be a level surface and the chips may have moved due to some erosion, but he will have Mr. Crochet replace the chips as soon as possible and make the area level.

Mr. Briskey stated at the April 5 meeting, Councilman Wolfe commented that any pot hole complaints were normally taken care of within 14 days of the receipt of the complaint and he advised that the pot hole at Itaska and Seneca right near the fire hydrant is still un-addressed, to which Councilman Wolfe stated he would ask Mr. Crochet to make the necessary repairs as soon as possible.

As no one else from the public wished to be heard, Mayor Gemma moved to close the public portion of the meeting.

Councilman Wolfe moved to approve the vouchers on the Bill List dated May 17, 2001. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and unanimously approved by Council, with the exception of Councilman Wolfe who abstained from voting on the vouchers due Stavola. 2000 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$280.00. TOTAL 2000 VOUCHERS \$280.00. 2001 VOUCHERS PAID \$68,805.50. 2001 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$83,733.35. TOTAL 2001 VOUCHERS \$152,538.85. TOTAL TRUST \$1,339.00. TOAL CAITAL ACCOUNT \$1,000.00. (SEE BILL LIST).

At 8:35 p.m. Councilwoman Silkworth moved to adjourn this meeting until the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on June 7, 2001 at 8:00 P.M. It was seconded by Councilwoman Gatta and unanimously approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted, *Patricia L. Varca*
PATRICIA L. VARCA, BOROUGH CLERK