

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Oceanport, New Jersey
May 15, 2003

- REGULAR MEETING:** The Regular Meeting of the Oceanport Mayor and Council was called to order on May 15, 2003 at 8:00 P.M. with Council President Gatta stating the meeting had been properly advertised in accordance with law.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councilpersons Kahle, Mahon, Apruzzi, Gatta, and Cooper, (Councilwoman Cooper entered at 8:05 p.m.).
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Councilman McGann and Mayor Gemma.
- OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Deputy Borough Clerk, Kimberly A. Jungfer and Borough Attorney, Francis A. Margalotti.
- INVOCATION:** Borough Chaplain Berry gave the invocation.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Council President Gatta led the audience and members of the Council in the flag salute.

As copies of the minutes from the regular meeting held on May 1, 2003 had been made available to the members of the Governing Body, Councilman Mahon moved to waive the reading of same and approve the minutes as presented by the Borough Clerk. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council.

CLERK'S REPORTS:

1. The Deputy Clerk indicated she was in receipt of the Police Report for April 2003 and it would be posted in the Borough Hall.
2. Raffle application for the Oceanport First Aid and Rescue Squad to hold an off-premise 50/50 to be drawn on December 13, 2003. The Deputy Clerk indicated that the paperwork was found to be in order with the appropriate fees paid. Councilman Apruzzi moved that the application be approved. Councilman Mahon seconded the motion, which was approved by Council.
3. Raffle application for the Lupus Foundation to hold an off premise 50/50 to be drawn on July 20, 2003. The Deputy Clerk indicated that the paperwork was found to be in order with the appropriate fees paid. Councilman Apruzzi moved that the application be approved. Councilwoman Kahle seconded the motion, which was approved by Council.

COMMITTEES:

COUNCILWOMAN KAHLE: Councilwoman Kahle wanted to remind everyone that there was going to be a community clean up at Blackberry Bay Park on Sunday from 9 to 11 a.m. in conjunction with the Water Watch Committee, the Girl Scouts and the Boys Scouts and invited anyone to join them.

COUNCILMAN MAHON: Councilman Mahon reported that with regard to the Fire Department, he has distributed to the Mayor and Council a copy of a grant request that was submitted in April for

\$101,500. with a \$10,000. Borough match, which has already been budgeted. The grant would be for personal protective equipment, thermal imaging camera, detection devices and communications equipment. Councilman Mahon thanked the Fire Committee and Fire Official Phil Payne for putting the application together.

Councilman Mahon stated the second topic he would like to report on is an emergency services impact assessment for the proposed sale of Monmouth Park Racetrack. He explained that the Mayor has requested he reach out to the emergency services to see what the potential impact would be on these services if the racetrack is sold. Each of the agencies is looking at what potential expenses could be if the sale is approved. There is a meeting scheduled for the 22nd of this month and will get a first look at what the agencies have come up with so far.

Councilman Mahon reported on an item from last meeting with regard to the request for some assistance from the Mosquito Commission. Based on the requests that were added at the last Council meeting an updated request was sent to the Mosquito Commission and they came out yesterday and worked with the Public Works Superintendent to identify some of the locations. In particular they are going to do some work on the creek at Pemberton and Summerfield as well as the area behind Cayuga Avenue where it abuts Blackberry Bay Park. He continued that the other areas mentioned will be passed along to the Commission and any areas that might be of concern should be mentioned and Tom Crochet, who is working hand in hand with the Mosquito Commission, will make them aware of additional locations.

COUNCILMAN APRUZZI: Councilman Apruzzi called for the introduction of an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance regarding real estate signs and asked the Clerk to read the proposed amendment by title only, as follows: **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED THE "BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT ZONING ORDINANCE" PASSED AND APPROVED ON JULY 3, 1969.**

Councilman Apruzzi explained that a similar ordinance was introduced at a previous meeting, but after discussion with realtors that were present the Council revisited the ordinance such as it would be appropriate for what the realtors were looking for and also in the best interest of the Borough.

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

The Deputy Clerk called the roll:

AYES: Councilpersons Kahle, Mahon, Apruzzi and Cooper
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Councilman McGann and Mayor Gemma
ABSTAIN: None

Councilman Apruzzi then moved to hold the public hearing on this ordinance at the regular meeting scheduled to be held on June 5, 2003 and to advertise same in accordance with law. It was seconded by Councilman Mahon.

The Deputy Clerk called the roll:

AYES: Councilpersons Kahle, Mahon, Apruzzi and Cooper
NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilman McGann and Mayor Gemma

ABSTAIN: None

R-03-38

Councilman Apruzzi asked the Deputy Clerk to read resolution **R-03-38** creating a Shade Tree Trust after which he moved to approve same. Council Mahon seconded the motion, which was approved by Council.

Councilman Apruzzi explained that this resolution came to light from citizens in the town looking to do things like this and to be able to plant trees in the names of individuals and the funding will be used specifically for trees and ornamental bushes only on public property.

R-03-39

Councilman Apruzzi asked the Deputy Clerk to read resolution **R-03-39** requesting approval from the State for a dedication by rider for the Shade Tree Trust Fund after which he moved to approve same. Councilman Mahon seconded the motion, which was approved by Council.

Councilman Apruzzi stated that the annual Memorial Day Parade would be held Monday, May 26th starting at Blackberry Bay Park at 10:30 a.m. All groups that are marching should be there no later than 10 to 10:15 a.m. There are quite a few invitations out and this year the Monmouth Beach Scouts will be joining us. The ceremonies will be here at Borough Hall at 11:00 a.m.

Councilman Apruzzi announced that the Lions Club Strawberry Festival will be held the week of May 20th and encouraged everyone to go out and support the Festival because the Lions return lots of dollars back to the Community in the way of scholarships, donations to different organizations such as Recreation and Shade Tree. It is good for the Community to come out and support that great function.

Councilman Apruzzi announced that on June 8th the Borough will be holding the memorial ceremony for the individuals who perished on 9/11 at 2 p.m. at Old Wharf Park. A few guests will be invited whose family members were directly involved with the events of 9/11.

COUNCILMAN MCGANN: Absent.

R-03-40

COUNCILWOMAN COOPER: Councilwoman Cooper asked the Deputy Clerk to read resolution **R-03-40** accepting the 2003 Audit after which she moved to approve same. Councilman Mahon seconded the motion, which was approved by Council.

Councilwoman Cooper moved to enter into an agreement with JCP&L for the installation of a street light at the corners of Oceanport and Pemberton Avenues which would require a Borough contribution of \$259.00. Councilman Apruzzi seconded motion, which was approved by Council.

Councilwoman Cooper advised that in a follow up to the survey, the Council is working on a comment card that will be available at the various departments throughout the Borough to be filled out to let the governing body know how the service was. There will be a comment box where they can be deposited at Borough Hall or they can be mailed back.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT GATTA: Council President Gatta announced that on Tuesday, May 20th at 7:30 p.m. there will be the first meeting of the Oceanport networking program that is hoped to be implemented as an out come of the Woman's Day program. All those who attended the Woman's Day Program have been contacted but anyone in the town is invited to come. One of the goals of the program was to develop a networking system to help people in various areas of concerns. This is

just the beginning and hopefully it will escalate into something that is helpful for everyone in the Borough.

Council President Gatta reported that last week Detective Sergeant Buzzy Buldanza taught members of the First Aid Squad a two-day course in extrication, which resulted in 20 of the First Aid members becoming certified in extrication. She continued that Kathy Kenny, First Aid member, completed a 120-hour class and passed the test to become an EMT.

Council President Gatta announced that this past weekend at the West Long Branch First Aid Dinner, their squad gave a plaque to the Oceanport First Aid Squad recognizing the Oceanport First Aid Squad's cooperation and dedication in answering mutual aid calls for West Long Branch in 2002. She continued that we talk about sharing services and wanting to share services with other towns, and this is an outstanding example of us sharing volunteers. Council President Gatta commended the First Aid on their volunteerism not only in Oceanport, but in surrounding towns.

Council President Gatta again emphasized the threat of West Nile Virus. She reminded everyone to get rid of standing water, call the County Health Department about dead crows, please use insect repellent when outside, don't handle any dead animals and talk to the County Mosquito Commission if you have any questions. Remember the only protection is prevention.

Council President Gatta reported that the Coastal Drug Alliance was at the senior meeting this Wednesday through the efforts of the 2nd Vice President of the club, Peter Dellara, and presented a program, "Thinking Outside the Pill Box". This program speaks of interactions between over the counter medications and/or prescription drugs and alcohol.

Council President Gatta stated that a newsletter will be arriving to the Coastal Alliance towns shortly talking about programs in Long Branch, Oceanport and West Long Branch. In regard to Coastal Alliance as well, she gave thanks to the efforts of Don Brockelbank, who is a physical education teacher at Maple Place School and also an Alliance member, in that we have been awarded an \$866.00 grant to provide two adventure programs for students in Long Branch, Oceanport and West Long Branch.

Council President Gatta wanted to repeat what Councilman Apruzzi said about the Lions Club Fair this coming week. She asked the residents to please support the fair for the Lions Club who donates a lot back to our community and it is a wonderful affair for all families to attend.

MAYOR GEMMA: Absent

Council President Gatta then opened the meeting to the public for any comments or questions they might wish to make.

Ed Ryan, 24 Willow Court thanked Councilwoman Cooper for contacting him regarding the streetlight he spoke about at the last meeting.

Mr. Ryan stated with regard to West Nile Virus he was concerned with the area between Pemberton Avenue and Main Street and Councilman Mahon stated it was on the list to be done.

Mr. Ryan was concerned that Oceanport has not added a patrolman in over 15 years and they asked for another patrolman this year, which they did not get. He has also learned that there is a grant available from the Federal Government, which would pay 75% of a patrolman's salary for three

years. Mr. Ryan continued that he does not like going to a call only to find that a neighboring town is covering because Oceanport officers are transporting to Freehold.

Councilman Apruzzi stated Chief Bebout has not asked for an additional officer and the grant is correct, but once there is an officer on board you have not only that commitment of 25%, but all the benefits that are appropriated for that individual and that is a sizeable amount, approximately 20% of a salary is what the benefits cost. That has to be considered when looking at the package.

Mr. Ryan stated that the town has gotten bigger and bigger over the last 15 years and yet a patrolman has not been added and expressed concern with the potential new development. Mr. Ryan continued that it is not seen how much the police do helping the Fire Department, First Aid and residents and Oceanport does not appreciate the Oceanport Police Department.

Councilman Apruzzi stated he usually reads the monthly Police Report but did not do it this evening for brevity. The number of dispatcher's calls this past month were 848, with patrols answering 472 in the month of April, which he announces every month.

Lee Poole, 10 Center Street stated he was there this evening as Chairperson of the Oceanport Recreation Committee and announced they had received an award from the Girls Scouts on April 30th for Community Service at the Monmouth Council of Girls Scouts Adult Recognition Dinner. The award thanks the Recreation Committee for their continued support of the Girl Scouts, specifically the use of the Community Center for their meetings and adult programs. Mr. Poole asked that the plaque be displayed at the Borough Hall.

Robert Holden, 7 Blue Point Cove, stated he read an article in the paper regarding a tower and was shocked. He stated he is appalled that the town is even considering something like this and fears it is paving the way for a cell phone tower. He stated he is looking for assurance from the Council that this not going to happen here behind the Borough Hall. He feels it would be a horrible mistake to allow a tower in Oceanport.

Councilman Mahon explained that the Borough is looking at the end of a life span of the present radio tower. At the same time, we are facing some areas in town that have dark spots, transmission problems particularly for the First Aid Squad because they, as volunteers, use portable radios as opposed to permanent radios with antennas mounted on the roofs of their cars. As the Borough looks at the solutions to those problems, there are a variety of solutions and each one is being investigated to see which is the best fit for Oceanport, which Councilman Mahon explained in great detail. Interest in the communications tower is to create a tower that is multi purposed to save the Borough money. He further advised we are also examining is refurbishing the existing tower which will save money and the County Park System has been contacted to see if there is any interest in locating a tower at one of the highest elevations in town which is Wolf Hill Farm and hosting a tower for the Borough. The Borough also has permission as long as it does not interfere with simulcasting transmissions to also locate a transmission antenna on the roof of the racetrack property and have investigated locating a repeater antenna on the senior citizen building.

Mr. Holden still was strongly opposed to any type of cell type tower in the Borough because it will depreciate property values, become an eye sore and felt Oceanport is better than that. He moved here because he never envisioned something of this nature in the town. Mr. Holden advised the Borough Council that without assurances that this will not happen, that there are horrible political ramifications because everyone he has spoken to is appalled at the idea of a tower.

Councilman Mahon stated that the article referred to in the paper is filling the need to see what the feedback to a cell tower would be.

Mr. Holden asked Councilman Mahon if he could give his assurance that there would be no tower behind Borough Hall and Councilman Mahon stated he could not do that.

Mr. Holden then asked Council President Gatta for the same assurances and Council President Gatta stated that she would like to give that assurance but she does appreciate the comments and she stated she is only one person.

Gene Schecher, 26 Itaska Place, stated he arrived late and wanted to know what happened with the signs. Council President Gatta stated that the first reading of the revised Ordinance was done this evening and Mr. Schecher was given a copy of the ordinance from the Deputy Clerk.

As no one else from the public wished to be heard Council President Gatta closed the public portion of the meeting.

Councilwoman Cooper moved to approve the vouchers on the Bill List dated May 15, 2003. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council. Councilwoman Kahle abstained from item #03-0606 payable to Ellynn Kahle due to a conflict and Councilman Mahon abstained on item #03-0525 payable to New Jersey Highway Authority due to a conflict. (SEE BILL LIST) TOTAL CAPITAL TRUST \$22,000. TOTAL DOG REGISTRY \$351.60, TOTAL ESCROW TRUST \$757.75, 2002 VOUCHERS PAID \$79,999.36, 2002 VOUCHER PAID THIS MEETING \$5,5881., TOTAL 2002 VOUCHERS PAID \$82,580.36, TOTAL 2003 VOUCHERS PAID \$4,866,371.06, TOTAL 2003 VOUCHER PAID THIS MEETING \$328,352.57, TOTAL 2003 VOUCHERS \$5,194,723.63.

Councilman Mahon wanted to make a few announcements stating it was a busy weekend for programs in Oceanport. The Sophomore Carnival is taking place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday at the Community Center in West Long Branch, the Oceanport PTO will be having a flea market fund raiser in the Wolf Hill School parking lot from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday to which Councilwoman Cooper, who is involved in the affair, added it has been moved indoors due to the weather forecast, and at the Port-Au-Peck Firehouse the National Junior Honor Society will be having a benefit car wash from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.. There is also the Michael Thorne run in West Long Branch, which he knows some residents are involved in. He asked everyone to come out and support those events.

At 8:40 p.m. Councilman Apruzzi moved to adjourn this meeting until the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on June 5, 2003 at 8:00 P.M. It was seconded by Councilman Mahon and approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,



KIMBERLY A. JUNGFER
DEPUTY BOROUGH CLERK