

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Oceanport, New Jersey
April 19, 2001

REGULAR MEETING: The Regular Meeting of the Oceanport Mayor and Council was called to order on April 19, 2001 at 8:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilpersons Apruzzi, Gatta, Wolfe, McGann and Silkworth.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilman Lyons and Mayor Gemma.

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Borough Clerk, Patricia L. Varca 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.

CLERK'S REPORTS:

1. Raffle license made by the Oceanport First Aid Squad, to be held on May 5, 2001, 50/50 cash on premise raffle.

The Clerk advised that the paperwork was found to be in order, after which Councilman Wolfe moved to approve this license. It was seconded by Councilman McGann and unanimously approved by those Council members in attendance.

2. The Clerk read resolution R-01-42 regarding Games of Chance license applications made by the following, to participate in the Lions Strawberry Festival and Lions Fair:

A} Barbara McGuire	Shoot Out Star
B} Fred Dovidio	Dart Game
C} Valerie Vivona	Water Game

D} Andrea Provost	Flukie Ball, Grab Bag, Bottle Bust, Dart Game, Crossbow Shoot and Basketball
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E} Steven Ianni	Bull Pen Ball Game, Milk Bottle, Dart Game, Duck Pond, Shoot Out Star, Mini Hoop Shot, Hoop Shot, Water Game and Water Game
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After which the Clerk advised that the required fees had been paid and documents appeared to be in order. Councilman Wolfe moved to approve the Games of Chance licenses as read. It was seconded by Councilwoman Silkworth and approved by Council.

COMMITTEES:

COUNCILMAN APRUZZI: Councilman Apruzzi asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-01-43** authorizing the temporary closing of Port-au-Peck Avenue during the days and hours of operation of the Lions Club Strawberry Festival and Fair, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilwoman Silkworth and approved by Council.

Councilman Apruzzi advised that last Saturday was the annual Spring Egg Hunt with more than 200 children participating and he wanted to thank the Recreation Committee for putting on a great program for the kids and it was very successful.

COUNCILMAN LYONS: Absent.

COUNCILMAN WOLFE: No Report.

COUNCILMAN MCGANN: Councilman McGann advised that last week we had the annual parks clean up by the Scouts from Troop 58 and there was a very good turn out and the Scouts did an excellent job.

COUNCILWOMAN SILKWORTH: No Report.

MAYOR GEMMA: Absent.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT GATTA: Council President Gatta reported that the annual Health Screening was held on April 7 and we had approximately 130 participants and all of the results have been mailed and she thanked the services of Meridian, who assisted the Borough in continuing this project.

Council President Gatta advised that April 22 through the 28th is National Volunteer Week and she wanted to acknowledge all the volunteers in the Borough, including the Borough Staff as well as every member of the various Boards and Committees and especially to the First Aid Squad and Fire Departments, who's volunteer efforts make this community what it is by giving of themselves. She also urged all residents to thank any volunteers they know, since we are very lucky to have as many as we do here in our Borough.

Council President Gatta read a proclamation proclaiming April as Alcohol Awareness month in the Borough of Oceanport.

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

PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Mrs. Peg McQuaid, 56 Wardell Circle asked if the Borough had included Wardell Circle repaving in the Borough's improvement plan, to which Councilman McGann advised that we have included Wardell Circle in our grant application, which is scheduled to be submitted in June, and we normally hear back from the State in October or November. He also advised that we have instructed our Engineer to prepare some preliminary plans to submit with our application to the DOT Trust Fund.

Councilman McGann continued that we had two numbers for this project, one in the amount of approximately \$58,000 which would only be an overlay and the Borough Council did not think that was a sufficient program and the other estimate was approximately \$110,000 which was a more detailed improvement including the removal of many of the trees on Wardell and allowing funds to replant additional shade trees.

Councilman McGann explained that we realize the seriousness of the situation on that street and we have had problems with several trees coming down in the past several storms and that is why we have included the removal of the trees that are either dead or dying. He stated we would like to receive input from the residents of Wardell regarding the tree removal portion and we will try to leave those trees that are in good shape, but we want to take out the problem trees and in the last tour he took of that area, there are quite a few trees that need to be removed.

Councilman McGann stated if the grant is denied, that this Council will have to make some serious decisions about getting that road repaired, but we are hoping we will again be successful, as we have in the past several years in getting approved on our grant applications.

Mrs. McQuaid asked if it would help if the residents sent letters to the department in charge of approving the grants with regard to the problems on their street, to which Councilman McGann asked that they wait on that until we have our application submitted and reviewed by the appropriate officials.

Billie Jo Caruso, 47 Wardell Circle stated that if we don't hear back from the State until some time in October at the earliest, something more immediate needs to be done with the pot holes, which are very dangerous not only to drivers, but also with the large amount of walkers that are present on that street, to which Councilman Wolfe stated that the Public Works would be out shortly to try and fill in the existing pot holes in the very near future.

Mr. Ryerson, 62 Wardell Circle stated he has lived in Oceanport a very long time and for the past 7 years on Wardell and he doesn't come to Council meetings, but felt he had to come this evening to just ask that something be done since the street is becoming very dangerous.

Tom O'Donell, Wardell Circle asked if these funds are approved by the DOT for Wardell Circle, are they definitely going to be used for this street, to which Councilman Wolfe responded that the grant application is specifically for a particular street, including the length and exactly what is planned for that project and the funding can only be used for that purpose.

Mr. O'Donnell asked if the Borough is not successful in obtaining this grant, what other alternate plans are there for the reconstruction of this street, to which Councilman Wolfe commented that the grant is the better way to go since this is an expensive project and would not have an impact on the tax payers, but if it is denied, then it would have to come out of the Borough's budget.

Mr. O'Donnell asked how the residents would know if the application is approved, to which Councilman Wolfe stated it is announced by the Borough when we hear back from the State. Councilman McGann added that you will also receive notification in the form of a letter from the Borough, since our ordinance states that once the road has been newly paved, it cannot be open for five years and therefore, we want everyone to be aware of the construction, in case they want to change any of their utility services prior to the work commencing.

Mrs. Boland, 50 Wardell Circle stated that approximately ten years ago some trees were removed near her home and they were informed that the trees would be replanted, but that never happened, to which Council President Gatta commented that there are so many trees that need to be removed, trimmed, etc. and the Shade Tree Committee has such a limited budget, that it is not always feasible to take care of the replanting on a regular schedule. She also advised that the last trees removed from Wardell Circle following a wind storm cost almost \$3,000, so it is often difficult to follow through with a plan when emergencies arise and she was pleased that we are including the tree removal and replacement in the grant application for Wardell.

Mrs. Boland asked if the street was going to be made more narrow, since that was discussed the last time the residents came before the Council, to which Councilman McGann stated we had talked about that being a possibility when we were not including removing the trees, but if we can remove the troublesome trees from the area, it will make the project go much smoother and therefore allow us to leave the roadway at the present width.

Mrs. McQuaid asked if the Council could provide the name and address of whom she can write to in the State regarding the Borough's grant application, to which Councilman McGann advised he did not have that information with him, but would ask the Engineer for that information.

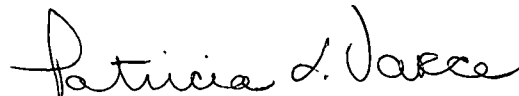
Mrs. Galvin, 63 Wardell Circle asked the Council how many grants a year do they apply for, to which Councilman McGann responded one each year to the DOT Trust Fund. Mrs. Galvin followed up asking if Wardell was at the top of the list, to which councilman McGann confirmed that it was the number one street in our application.

Council President Gatta thanked the residents for coming out tonight.

Councilman Wolfe moved to approve the vouchers on the Bill List dated April 19, 2001. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and unanimously approved by Council. 2000 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$2,450.00. TOTAL 2000 VOUCHERS \$2,450.00. 2001 VOUCHERS PAID \$67,095.81. 2001 VOUCHERS PAID THIS METING \$44,780.32. TOTAL 2001 VOUCHERS \$111,876.13. TOTAL RECREATION TRUST \$149.99. TOTAL DOG REGISTRY \$41.00. TOTAL TRUST \$3,478.17. (SEE BILL LIST)

At 8:25 p.m. Councilwoman Silkworth moved to adjourn this meeting until the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on May 3, 2001 at 8:00 P.M. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and unanimously approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,



PATRICIA L. VARCA
BOROUGH CLERK