

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Oceanport, New Jersey
April 14, 2003

- REGULAR MEETING:** The Regular Meeting of the Oceanport Mayor and Council was called to order on April 14, 2003 at 8:00 P.M. with Mayor Gemma stating the meeting had been properly advertised in accordance with law.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councilpersons Kahle, Mahon, Apruzzi, Gatta, McGann, Cooper and Mayor Gemma.
- OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Borough Clerk, Patricia L. Varca and Borough Attorney, Francis A. Margalotti.
- 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 March 20, 2003 had been made available to the members of the Governing Body, Councilman McGann moved to waive the reading of same and approve the minutes as presented by the Borough Clerk. It was seconded by Councilwoman Gatta and approved by Council.

CLERK'S REPORTS:

1. Raffle application made by Shore Pop Warner to be held on 6/8/03, off premise 50/50 cash raffle.

The Clerk reported that the paperwork was found to be in order and the required fees had been paid, after which Councilman McGann moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilwoman Kahle and approved by Council with the exception of Councilman Mahon who abstained from voting on this raffle application.

2. The Clerk read resolution **R-03-33** approving the Games of Chance applications for the Lions Strawberry Festival to be held at the Lions Club Fair on Mary 20th through the 25th, after which Councilman McGann moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilwoman Kahle and approved by Council.

COMMITTEES:

Mayor Gemma stated we are going to go out of order this evening because Councilman McGann needs to leave shortly so he asked Councilman McGann to give his report first.

ORD.
#761

COUNCILMAN McGANN: Councilman McGann called for the second reading of a bond ordinance regarding various improvements in the Borough and asked the Clerk to read the Affidavit of Publication and the proposed bond ordinance by title only as follows: **BOND ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$661,560. AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$628,482. BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH FOR VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS OR PURPOSES AUTHORIZED TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY.**

Mayor Gemma then opened the meeting to the public for any comments or questions on this subject only.

As no one wished to be heard on this subject, Councilman McGann moved to close the public hearing on this matter. It was seconded by Councilwoman Gatta and approved by Council.

Councilman McGann then moved to adopt this bond ordinance on second and final reading and to advertise same in accordance with law. It was seconded by Councilwoman Gatta.

The Clerk called the roll:

AYES: Councilpersons Kahle, Mahon, Apruzzi, Gatta, McGann and Cooper.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

Councilman McGann reported that the Public Works Department employees were out picking up leaves and he asked the residents to be patient, since it has been slow going with the extreme changes in our weather and hopefully, they will begin cleaning up the parks as well. He also advised that the employees were also trying to keep up with filling in the potholes, but it is an ongoing job due to the severe winter but they are doing their best to address these matters.

Councilman McGann then left the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

COUNCILWOMAN KAHLE: Councilwoman Kahle reported that the Water Watch Committee is continuing to test our waterways and were pleased that we had no effect from the sewer break in Raritan. She also advised that there will be a community clean up day on May 18th and the Girl Scouts will be meeting at Blackberry Bay Park and anyone interested in helping out should plan to be there at 9:00 a.m.

COUNCILMAN MAHON: Councilman Mahon reported that the Fire Department, First Aid and Emergency Management conducted a disaster drill at Monmouth Park last Sunday and there were lots of participation from all our emergency services and everyone learned a lot and there will be a meeting shortly at the First Aid Squad to critique the manner in which everyone performed to find out where we were really great and which areas we might need to work on in the future.

Councilman Mahon also advised that the Hook & Ladder Fire Company held its regular meeting on Tuesday and during the meeting explained where they were going to use some of the funds they raise throughout the year and they will be installing a generator at their own cost, having an overhead door operator and key pad installed and their annual ham dinner was a great success, although it was a slow start, but finished with a great attendance by many residents.

Councilman Mahon commented that at the dinner he heard some complaints about the condition of Horseneck Point Road as well as a problem with bees swarming at the Community Center and near the restrooms at Blackberry Bay Park and he has forwarded these items on to Tom Crochet, Superintendent of Public Works.

Councilman Mahon also advised that the Ordinance Committee of the Fire Department is making progress in putting together changes that are agreed to by both houses into the Fire Department Ordinance and they would like to have a meeting of the two houses, here in the Council

Room, prior to making the presentation to the Council, so that all the members of the two companies can be aware of exactly what the changes are going to be.

Mayor Gemma requested that prior to the firemen conducting their own meeting, he suggested that a copy be given to the Borough Attorney to review first, just in case there are items that need to be re-worded in his opinion.

Councilman Mahon reported that the Fire Department is currently meeting all new ISO standards by the purchasing of new equipment for the Department, which includes items in the bond ordinance adopted this evening such as new air packs, etc.

Councilman Mahon also commented that prior to coming out to the regular meeting he had brought up a matter from the Fire Department with regard to the purchase of a new truck in the future, but that discussion was not completed and will continue upon going back into the work shop meeting.

Councilman Mahon then moved to authorize the sale of Borough owned property known as Block 66, Lot 8 located on Shrewsbury Avenue at a minimum opening bid of \$23,600. with a deed restriction on this lot prohibiting the building of any structure on this lot unless the successful purchaser is able to purchase additional property to make this a conforming lot under the current requirement in the Borough's zoning ordinance. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council.

Mr. Margalotti, Borough Attorney added that the auction will only be open to the adjoining property owners of the subject lot.

R-03-34

COUNCILMAN APRUZZI: Councilman Apruzzi asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-03-34** appointing a Class I Special Police Officer, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilwoman Gatta and approved by Council.
Councilman Apruzzi announced that the Spring Egg Hunt has been re-scheduled to Saturday, April 19th at 11:00 a.m. at Blackberry Bay Park.

Councilman Apruzzi reported that the changes in regard to the Recreation Ordinance have been agreed upon by the Committee and the Chairman, Lee Poole, will be forwarding a letter shortly to the Mayor and Council advising of the Committee's recommendations to the ordinance which will include having members of the various sports associations appointed to serve on the Committee.

Councilman Apruzzi pointed out that Tom Crochet is certified from the State to spray for various insects and will be working in the areas of the Community Center and Blackberry Bay shortly.

Councilman Apruzzi noted that we have been notified by Green Acres that there is another round of awards coming up shortly and there were several documents missing from our original application which have been forwarded to the Green Acres and hopefully we will be successful this time around, although \$3 million of the \$5 million available has already been awarded.

Councilman Apruzzi wished all our residents a Happy Easter and Happy Passover.

COUNCILWOMAN GATTA: Councilwoman Gatta reported that we had our annual health screening last Saturday with 133 participants and the results have already been mailed out to the residents and she publicly thanked Monmouth Medical Center, the First Aid Squad for housing this event as well as volunteering to help with the program and all the volunteers who helped not only with the registration, but also on the day of the program as well and she commented that without this support of

volunteers, we would not be able to run these types of screenings. She also commented that she has received a lot of good feedback about the various types of screenings that had been added this year and we are already discussing new things for next year's screening.

Councilwoman Gatta stated that the disaster drill that Councilman Mahon spoke about earlier was quite amazing to see what took place and she is also interested in attending the meeting where the event will be critiqued.

Councilwoman Gatta wished all our residents a Happy Easter and Happy Passover.

R-03-35

COUNCILWOMAN COOPER: Councilwoman Cooper asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-03-35** authorizing veteran's tax deductions, after which she moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilwoman Gatta and approved by Council.

R-03-36

Councilwoman Cooper then asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-03-36** authorizing a senior citizen tax deduction, after which she moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilwoman Gatta and approved by Council.

MAYOR GEMMA: Mayor Gemma advised that all Council members received a memo from the Planning Board advising that on April 23, the Planning Board will be conducting a public hearing with regard to zoning ordinance changes pertaining to the Village Center which will then be forwarded to the Governing Body and this is another step toward the development of our downtown village center concept.

Mayor Gemma thanked all the volunteers who participated in the disaster drill last Sunday and commented it shows how well all our emergency services work together.

Mayor Gemma also wished all our residents a Happy Easter and Happy Passover.

Mayor Gemma then opened the meeting to the public for any comments or questions they might wish to make.

PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Dave Chachko, 501 Port-au-Peck Ave. commented that there was some discussion at the last Council meeting regarding the Sports Foundation so he thought he would come here tonight and explain the conception of this Foundation. He explained that the Oceanport Sports Foundation is a non-political, non-profit, 501.c3 NJ organization created to generate revenue, which through a grant process, will be made available for projects intended to improve any and all recreational facilities within the Oceanport community. He continued that the idea is the result of many years of frustration within the proactive group of Oceanport parents and residents who have decided to take it upon themselves to provide a solution to what appears to be the one and only excuse for our parks and ball fields to be allowed to remain in what we consider a sub-standard and dangerous condition and that excuse is the lack of funds.

Mr. Chachko stated that it is the intention of the Sports Foundation to raise these funds by organizing a variety of events that will attract the participation of not only the Oceanport residents, but non-residents and corporations as well. He explained that once a year the Foundation will notify all recreational and sports programs operating within the Borough of Oceanport of exactly how much revenue is available in the form of grants and after an appropriate amount of time to review the submitted proposals from these organizations, the Foundation will award the available monies in the

form of grants, to programs which provide the greatest positive impact on as many Oceanport residents as possible during that particular fund raising year. He stated that the awarding process will be the decision of the Foundation's Board of Trustees and we are going to kick off our agenda this year with a Day at the Races on June 8th at Monmouth Park and at a cost of \$50 per person, 100 people will gather at the tented pavilion for an afternoon of socializing, horse races and fund raising and the Foundation expects to raise in excess of \$15,000 during this event and it is hoped that the Borough Council will actively support the Oceanport Sports Association and all of our efforts and the Foundation is open to all suggestions and ideas.

Councilman Apruzzi asked if Mr. Chachko could come to the next Recreation Committee in order to the Foundation, as he did tonight, so there are no misconceptions and what the Foundation is trying to accomplish to which Mr. Chachko stated he would be happy to attend.

Mayor Gemma commented that one of the concerns that we have where sports foundations have disconnected with the town such as what has happened in Colts Neck and West Long Branch which has created a lot of problems and he wanted to make sure that we all work together so that does not happen here and avoid the issues of things being done without the Council's knowledge or approval. He also stated that there are other examples where the sports foundations become very powerful because it has discretionary dollars and begins to create its own policy directives and this is a concern that other towns have faced.

Mr. Chachko responded by saying that it is not the intention of the Sports Foundation to develop projects necessarily, but here to finance them, but also it doesn't mean we wouldn't come up with ideas if there were none presented that they feel would be worthy of consideration and he looked at the foundation as being a solution provider.

Mayor Gemma stated Councilman Mahon had mentioned that the Foundation was working on creating by-laws and working with Recreation, so that the by laws of the Sports Foundation coincide and are complimentary with the admission statement of the Borough and Recreation Committee so that there is no disconnect and it might be a way, when he meets with the Recreation Committee, that no one perceives the Sports Foundation as anything other than a mechanism to raise revenue to supplement what the goals and policies are here.

Mr. Chachko stated he felt that was fine, but none of us want to get into a debate about this and all they want to do is make sure that all the communication is there and we are considering running the Foundation as a business and make decisions and move on them, rather than sitting and debating every issue.

Mayor Gemma wondered if the ordinance changes that are coming down from the Recreation Committee, if the Sports Foundation is going to be used effectively to help supplement programs and a mechanism so that Recreation knows that the Foundation knows and the Foundation knows what the goals and objectives of Recreation and could a representative of the Foundation have a standing seat on Recreation.

Councilman Apruzzi suggested that a representative of Recreation be in attendance at the Foundation meetings just to understand what is going on and bring that back to the Recreation Committee on a regular basis, but Mr. Chachko pointed out that most of the meeting held are going to be about organizing events to raise money and that is it for 11 months of the year and month 12 will be to consider the proposals from all the sports programs and Recreation. He stated that if anyone is interested in helping us plan events they are more than welcome and we can use all the

help we can get, but we are looking to put on events to entertain a lot of people and hopefully, raise a lot of money.

There was some discussion about events the Recreation Committee used to run, but cannot any longer due to trust accounts not being permitted by the Borough Auditors and it was suggested that the Recreation Committee could help run the events, such as bus trips and the Foundation would get the funds. Mr. Chachko had no problem with this concept, but felt that we need to avoid the misconception that the Foundation is the Recreation Committee or the Recreation Committee is the Sports Foundation because there are other groups out there that are going to want grants from the Foundation and we certainly will entertain those ideas.

Mayor Gemma stated that he felt that if the goals and objectives are the same there might be a way to work together in this process, to which Mr. Chachko agreed.

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

Councilwoman Cooper moved to approve the vouchers on the Bill List dated April 14, 2003. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council. TOTAL DOG REGISTRY \$129.10. 2002 VOUCHES PAID \$71,280.36. 2002 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$5,499.48. TOTAL 2002 VOUCHERS \$76,779.84. 2003 VOUCHERS PAID \$3,153,465.94. 2003 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$775,172.97. TOTAL 2003 VOUCHERS \$3,928,638.91 (SEE BILL LIST)

At 8:30 p.m. Councilwoman Gatta moved to adjourn this meeting until the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on May 1, 2003 at 8:00 P.M. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,



PATRICIA L. VARCA
BOROUGH CLERK