

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Oceanport, New Jersey
April 3, 2003

- REGULAR MEETING:** The Regular Meeting of the Oceanport Mayor and Council was called to order on April 3, 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, Councilwoman Gatta moved to waive the reading of same and approve the minutes as presented by the Borough Clerk. It was seconded by Councilman Mahon and approved by Council with the exceptions of Councilmen Apruzzi and McGann who abstained since they were both absent.

CLERK'S REPORTS:

1. Police report for the month of MARCH, 2003 and a copy will be posted on the Bulletin Board

COMMITTEES:

COUNCILWOMAN KAHLE: Councilwoman Kahle reported under Buildings & Grounds that the Borough Hall has been re-painted and this was badly needed since it has not been painted in about thirty years and a new Borough Hall sign is on order and should be up on the building in the next several weeks and the shutters and window boxes are also being replaced.

COUNCILMAN MAHON: Councilman Mahon reported that a meeting was held with the Fire Chief, Police Chief and the County Supervisor regarding a progress report on the fire dispatch and reviewed some procedural changes that will be implemented to improve the fire dispatch program.

Councilman Mahon advised that the siren at the Community Center has had a muffler installed which should be a help to the neighbors in that area and the Fire Chief and fire fighters will be monitoring the sound level now that we have the muffler in place to make sure we can have the same recognition level throughout the town. He commented that while testing that siren they noticed that the Wolfhill siren was out of service and that has been referred to our electrician for repair.

Councilman Mahon reported under Emergency Management, last night Capt. Sutton, who is our Emergency Management Coordinator, held a local emergency planning council meeting and each of the three groups involved were represented at the Maple Place School and Capt. Sutton is working hard with the members of the committee to update the Operations Plan of the Borough and there is a lot of effort being put into this right now in order to get everything up to date and Capt.

Sutton is doing exceptional work. He also advised that there is a meeting coming up on April 16 sponsored by the NJ League of Municipalities and he will be attending that meeting with Capt. Sutton which will cover Local Crisis Management and Security Preparation at the PNC Arts Center in Holmdel.

Councilman Mahon commented under the Cable Technology Committee they recently met and discussed three different items one of which is the reverse 9-1-1 system for emergency public notification and there are three different areas we can go in this area and Chief Bebout is investigating adding this component to a new phone system that would be installed in the Borough and the cost is the neighborhood of \$40,000 and we are also looking to the County of Monmouth and the possibility of the County being a host for that service and also waiting for information back from the Board of Education as to the possibility of sharing in their service. He also advised that the Committee is also working on the Borough Web Site development and has had some very good discussions between Councilman Apruzzi and Jim Whitson who is also a member of the Planning Board and a new member, Joe Foster. He continued that Mr. Whitson will work with young Pat Hickey who is doing some work in this area for his Eagle Scout project.

Councilman Mahon reported the traffic light out front is presently in the blink mode and will go to a full working light next week and the County has advised him they are in contact with the residents who have had problems the their property including Mr. Feiter and Mr. Montalvo and also the resident who had a problem with the lack of a walkway and a stripe has been added as of last week and hopefully the light will be in full operation by next week.

COUNCILMAN APRUZZI: Councilman Apruzzi reported that he has been contacted by the Oceanport Garden Club this past week regarding having a 9/11 memorial service in the location where a tree was recently planted near the Library and there is a plaque there in memory of all the victims of September 11th and the ceremony will be held on May 4 at 2:00 p.m. and everyone is invited to attend.

Councilman Apruzzi also commented that the Borough will be having a 9/11 dedication of a monument, which will be placed at Old Wharf Park and this is due to a donation from the Joe Uris Monument Company plus Braun/Day Funeral Homes.

Councilman Apruzzi also wished to remember all our men and women who are fighting overseas and asked that they be kept in our prayers and our thoughts through this very difficult time.

Councilman Apruzzi reported that on March 10th the second meeting was held with regard to possible changes in the Recreation Committee ordinance concerning membership and at that time he put together a memo and that memo went to Recreation and other members and the next step will be for the Recreation Committee to codify their recommendations based on that memo as to what they think the changes should be and that memo will be forwarded to the Council and reviewed and then prepared for introduction.

Mayor Gemma pointed out that it will be the members of the Borough Council who will ultimately decide upon what changes will be made and adopt the ordinance at which time, prior to the final adoption, there will be a public hearing for the residents to come before that meeting and ask any questions they may have on this matter.

COUNCILWOMAN GATTA: Councilwoman Gatta reported that last Thursday a meeting was held of our local component of the Coastal Alliance for the prevention of drugs and alcohol abuse and she sent out quite a few letters hoping to help rejuvenate this committee and she was pleased to report

that five new residents came forth to participate, as well as interest from other residents who were unable to attend the meeting. She continued that one of the outcomes of this meeting is to re-do the calendar that we were unable to get out this year and have received many comments from our residents who missed having that calendar, which lists birthdays, anniversaries, etc. and the calendar will be out next year and distributed by the scouts, which is what we have done in the past.

Councilwoman Gatta advised that we held our Women's Day Program last Saturday and we had eighty women attend and had representation from both the State and Federal Governments and Monmouth Medical Center and it was an outstanding day and the Committee worked extremely hard and she thanked Linda Gately and Toni Sverapa who are in the audience as well as the First Aid Squad members, who worked exceptionally hard that day and we received such positive feedback from not only the attendees, but also from those who made presentations. She continued that in speaking with the woman from the Federal Government, with all the things going on in the world, she commented that the women's day program truly rejuvenated her and she wants to use this program as a model in other municipalities in New York and north Jersey. Councilwoman Gatta also thanked all the vendors and businesses in the Borough who helped out and commented that they were able to donate \$345 to the First Aid Squad.

Councilwoman Gatta announced that this Saturday is the Health Screening and we have over 135 residents participating this year and it is an all time high thanks to the cooperation of Monmouth Medical Center and also again, the First Aid Squad, who is allowing us to use their building for this program. She reported that we will also have in addition to the blood screening, we will be having derma screening, foot screening, skin cancer screening, etc. She offered her thanks to both Patti Varca and Kim Jungfer for assisting in registering people for the screening after the registration date.

Councilwoman Gatta reminded everyone that the Maple Place School is putting on the play, The Music Man and yesterday they put on a show for the seniors free of charge and she has heard nothing by great reviews and urged everyone to attend on Friday at 7 p.m. and two performances on Saturday at 1:00 p.m. and again at 7:00 p.m. at the Maple Place School.

Councilwoman Gatta advised that yesterday the Board of Health held its meeting and we have been notified that starting April 15th, anyone seeing a dead crow they should contact the Monmouth County Board of Health immediately and they will begin picking them up and testing for West Nile virus. She also advised that recently a rabid skunk was found in the Borough and residents are reminded to avoid animals such as skunks, raccoons, ground hogs, foxes, etc. because of potential danger.

Councilwoman Gatta reported that on this Sunday at 9:00 a.m. at the Monmouth Park Race Track property the Fire, Fire Police, First Aid, Police, OEM and volunteer scouts will be having a mass casualty drill and anyone who is interested in watching are welcome to go over.

COUNCILMAN McGANN: Councilman McGann called for the introduction of an amendment to the zoning ordinance with regard to open house signs and asked the Clerk to read the proposed ordinance 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 McGann moved to approve this ordinance on first reading. It was seconded by Councilman Mahon.

The Clerk called the roll:

AYES: Councilpersons Kahle, Mahon, Apruzzi, Gatta, McGann and Cooper.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

Councilman McGann then moved to hold the public hearing on this ordinance at the regular meeting scheduled to be held on May 1, 2003 and to advertise same in accordance with law. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi.

The Clerk called the roll:

AYES: Councilpersons Kahle, Mahon, Apruzzi, Gatta, McGann and Cooper.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

Councilman McGann advised that spring clean up has begun and piles of leaves are at the curb and we are about 60% through the town and asked residents to be patient and to please try and keep the leaves raked at the curbs free of branches and any other type of debris. He continued that the branches have to be tied and bundled and are picked up by the garbage contractor.

Councilman McGann reported that the construction work has begun on Wardell Circle and the water company will be coming in to install a new water main on the westerly side of Wardell Circle and that contract has been awarded by the Water Company and will take place in conjunction with the Borough's reconstruction project of that roadway.

Councilman McGann offered his best wishes to Col. Berry and hoped she would be back with us soon.

COUNCILWOMAN COOPER: Councilwoman Cooper asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-03-32** authorizing the Tax Collector to refund an overpayment of property taxes for Block 142, Lot 11 in the amount of \$1,262.14, after which she moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Mahon and approved by Council.

MAYOR GEMMA: Mayor Gemma read a letter from the Oceanport First Aid Squad commending the job done by Councilwoman Gatta with the recently held Women's Day Program and the donation that followed of \$345 and wanted to publicly thank her for her continuing efforts. Mayor Gemma also added his comments to her for a job well done with the women's program.

Mayor Gemma commented on the joint exercise being held on Sunday morning and continued that this is a function of police, fire, first aid and emergency management working well together and Capt. Sutton coming onboard as our OEM Coordinator has really moved this program forward and he is very proud of the work everyone is doing to reach our goal.

Mayor Gemma reported that he had a conversation with Tom Rospos, Borough Engineer, earlier this evening regarding development at the end of Horseneck Point and concerns that had been raised about some of the work that had been done and hopefully these issues will be resolved and ultimately we may not be able to address all their concerns, but we have invited a representative of the DEP to come here and discuss some of the design criteria with regard to water quality CAFRA

regulations and try and see if we can change some of these designs to help the homeowners in the area.

Mayor Gemma echoed the sentiments echoed earlier regarding our prayers and concerns for all our troops overseas and sent our good wishes to Col. Berry.

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

Ed Miller, 94 Hiawatha Ave. commented that the building has been re-painted during the nineties and was waterproofed at the same time due to the leaking in the building.

Mr. Miller stated it was his understanding that Councilman Mahon was involved with the Oceanport Sports Foundation and he had never received a straight answer from Mr. Chachko when he attended one of the Recreation Committee meetings as to just exactly what the Foundation was all about and how did it impact the Recreation Committee and asked Councilman Mahon to explain the concept to him.

Councilman Mahon explained that Mr. Chachko would be coming to the next Council meeting and continued that the Oceanport Sports Foundation was set up by the initial fourteen members and it is growing and the capacity is thirty members and the Foundation was formed to raise money for one specific purpose and to grant that money back to the town for the improvement of recreational facilities within the Borough of Oceanport. Councilman Mahon commented that it is not the purpose of the Committee to do anything in terms of undertaking improvements on their own other than to provide an additional means of funding resources for projects that the Borough wants to undertake and also includes eligible programs for these funds to be used for any Borough recreational facilities that are in use by recreational programs of the Borough and would include something at the Board of Education at either Maple Place or Wolfhill Schools for recreational purposes and anywhere that recreational programs are held that Borough residents participate.

Councilman Mahon stated as an example, a fundraiser is being planned for June 8th as a Day At the Races and reservations have already been made and tickets will be generated shortly. He pointed out that Dave Chachko was elected by the trustees to be the President of the Foundation.

Mr. Miller asked who some of the other members are, to which Councilman Mahon advised that John O'Connell, Lee Poole, Glenn Miller, Rick Karinja, George Karpus, Jim Hoffman, Lorraine Kohler, John Carroll and himself and the Trusteeship was set up essentially to represent each of the eight organizations that conduct recreational programs.

Mr. Miller asked how the Recreation Committee will be able tap into these funds to which Councilman Mahon stated that the Foundation envisions is that it would be essentially like one would apply for a scholarship and in October the Foundation will determine what funds they will keep as a nest egg and then will dedicate a portion of the funds as a grant pool and they will notice the Borough, the Recreation Committee, the Board of Education and each of the recreational associations within the community and advise them of the amount of funding that is available and ask for an application from them which would essentially be a request for funding, in the categories listed.

Mr. Miller asked if the Foundation is incorporated, to which Councilman Mahon explained that they are not incorporated, but is Articles of Associations and registered with the State and once they

receive these requests, under their by-laws, they are required to sit down every February and review the applications received.

Mayor Gemma asked if the Foundation has by-laws yet, to which Councilman Mahon stated they do and Mayor Gemma asked if the Foundation would be willing to share them with the Recreation Committee so they could have a better understanding of the Foundation and its purpose to which Councilman Mahon advised that the representatives of the Foundation will be attending a Borough Council meeting in the near future and announcing what the organization is about and address any issues. Mayor Gemma asked that when a representative of the Foundation is scheduled to attend a Council meeting, that someone make sure to notify the Recreation Committee in order to address any questions they may have about this organization.

Mr. Miller commented that he has heard both the Mayor and Councilman Apruzzi make statements earlier about the war and wondered why there was nothing on the Borough sign about supporting the troops, to which Councilman Apruzzi explained he had stopped in today to address that issue, but there are community events coming up that need to be advertised and Councilman Mahon pointed out that there is a sign at the Port-au-Peck Firehouse, which is close by. Councilman Apruzzi stated that when the other signs come down at Borough Hall, we will have something put up, hopefully even welcoming our troops home.

Mr. Miller asked if anyone would mind, since he has a benefactor willing to donate yellow ribbons, if he were to put some up on the Borough trees out front of Borough Hall as we did during the Gulf War and no one raised any objection, but Mayor Gemma just asked that he check with Tom Crochet about how to place them securely on the trees so that they don't blow away.

Gloria Gledhill, Government Affairs Contact with NJ American Water Company stated she has left everyone a packet of information to keep everyone up to date on what is happening and what information is being sent to our customers on a regular basis. She commented that this is her fourth year visiting the towns and the nice thing is that they have been very proactive in coming out and visiting the towns they serve and she urged any of the Council to contact her if they have any questions or problems. She stated last year she was in contact with Councilwoman Gatta and came in and did a presentation for the senior citizens, which is a free service and although they no longer give tours of the actual water plants since 9/11, they still go into school and speak to the children.

Ms. Gledhill commented that the 2002 water quality reports will be mailed out to all residents in June and its good information about the source of your water and the testing that is done and she advised that they test the water four times more than is required in an effort to make sure the quality of water remains at the highest standard. She continued that the water company has undertaken a \$20 million project at the Swimming River Water Treatment Plant that will result in an even higher quality of water and the plant will be ready to meet upcoming regulations and should be a better tasting water because we are adding ozone to the treatment process, which cuts down on the amount of chlorine that you have to put in and it is a more effective disinfectant and the water tastes better for our customers.

Ms. Gledhill also reminded everyone that if NJ American Water Company representatives have to come into your home for any reason, the company will contact you first and then everyone has a photo I.D. with the company logo and the representatives name so if someone does appear at your door and you have not been notified before and you don't see an I.D. badge, contact the police immediately.

Councilman McGann commented she was very pleased to see her here this evening and explained that the water company had installed a new water main on Port-au-Peck Avenue from Pocohantas Ave. up to Monmouth Blvd. and the trench is in the middle of the roadway and is in terrible shape and needs to be milled out and repaved and asked for whatever assistance she could give in order to have that taken care of as soon possible and asked that she contact Mrs. Varca when she knows approximately when this will be repaired.

Mr. Miller asked what the water company is doing to ensure the public's safety against a possible terrorist attack, to which Ms. Gledhill stated she could not go into detail about exactly what they are doing, but that they have greatly increased their security and monitoring systems and have access to all police and fire agencies in order to notify the public if there was an emergency.

Councilman Mahon commented that Mr. Miller had spoken earlier about the sign out front and to show support for our troops and he has with him tonight a POW/MIA flag, which we don't presently fly and he thought it appropriate that all public buildings should fly this flag.

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 3, 2003. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council. TOTAL CAPITAL TRUST \$3,009.00. TOTAL DOG REGISTRY \$72.60. TOTAL ESCROW TRUST \$900.00. 2002 VOUCHERS PAID \$69,769.79. 2002 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$1,510.57. TOTAL 2002 VOUCHERS \$71,280.36. 2003 VOUCHERS PAID \$3,020,126.27. 2003 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$41,345.32. TOTAL 2003 VOUCHERS \$3,061,471.59. (SEE BILL LIST)

At 8:45 p.m. Councilwoman Gatta moved to adjourn this meeting until the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on April 14, 2003 at 8:00 P.M. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,



PATRICIA L. VARCA
BOROUGH CLERK