

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Oceanport, New Jersey
March 19, 1998

- REGULAR MEETING:** The Regular Meeting of the Oceanport Mayor and Council was called to order on March 19, 1998 at 8:07 P.M.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councilpersons Apruzzi, Filippone, Miller, Wolfe, McGann Silkworth and Mayor Gemma.
- OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Borough Clerk, Patricia L. Varca and Borough Attorney, Francis A. Margalotti.
- INVOCATION:** The invocation was given by Borough Chaplain Berry.
- 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 5, 1998 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 Wolfe and unanimously approved by Council.

CLERK'S REPORTS: No Reports.

COMMITTEES:

COUNCILMAN APRUZZI: Councilman Apruzzi congratulated the students this evening in doing a great job as the Mayor and Council.

Councilman Apruzzi advised that John Kerwin, Recreation Director, has toured all of the parks and has found them to be in very good shape and provided a list of minor items and some painting, which list has been forwarded to Tom Crochet, Superintendent of Public Works.

Councilman Apruzzi reported that the new kiddy park equipment for the Community Center is just about ready to be purchased and the funding is in place and he explained that this playground equipment will be similar to what was installed at Blackberry Bay Park last year. He also commented that the Public Works Department is going to help prepare the site, but we are looking for volunteers to help assemble the equipment and there will be an article looking for assistance in the next Bulletin.

Councilman Apruzzi announced that the Spring Egg Hunt will be held on April 4, 1998 at Blackberry Bay Park at 11:00 A.M. and if necessary, the rain date will be the following day.

Councilman Apruzzi also advised that the Recreation Committee is in the process of interviewing various Fireworks Companies because we were not pleased with the company we had been using over the past several years and they should be making a decision in the near future.

COUNCILWOMAN FILIPPONE: Councilwoman Filippone commended the students this evening and stated that she has seen many Student Governments and felt this group one of the best and they were very talkative.

Councilwoman Filippone reminded the Borough residents that the 14th annual Health Screening will be held on March 28 at the Oceanport First Aid Squad Building and the pre-registration, which is required, will be at the Borough Hall on Tuesday, March 24 between 3:30-5:00 P.M. and 7:00-8:00 P.M. She continued the cost for the complete blood test is \$28 and if men want to have the PSA it will be an additional \$20 and she urged everyone to take advantage of this program. She also advised that this is also used as a small fund raiser for the First Aid Squad because without their assistance, the program would be impossible to conduct.

Councilwoman Filippone reported that the first meeting regarding the Memorial Day Parade will be held in the Borough Hall on March 30, 1998 at 7:30 P.M. and anyone interested in attending is welcome.

Councilwoman Filippone announced that the Monmouth County Board of Health has advised that they are planning an extensive study of the problems in the Shrewsbury River and they will be looking into both the Branchport Creek area as well as the Pleasure Bay side to find out why there is such a high coliform count and they will also use some of the data from Councilman Miller's two water sampling groups, since he has been collecting data for approximately the past seven years.

Councilwoman Filippone stated that the Borough Council has decided to turn over the Borough's Welfare Program to the County of Monmouth, since we have a very low number of clients and it would save the Borough money, therefore, effective April 2, 1998 the County will take over the program and since the clients have to go to Atlantic Highlands for their food stamps, that office will now also issue their money. She explained that the people on welfare receive from \$73 to \$210 per month which does not include housing, but it is certainly not a lot of money to try and live on in today's economy. She commented that the only thing the Borough will be responsible for now is the burial of indigents and everything else will be handled by the County.

COUNCILMAN MILLER: Councilman Miller congratulated the Student Governing Body and stated that they did an excellent job.

Councilman Miller thanked Tom Crochet and the employees in the public Works Department for completing the project at the Old Wharf Park in removing the old dock that was falling apart and the job is completed and eventually we may set up some picnic tables in the area. He also stated that there were some ruts made due to the wet weather, but Tom filled them in and will seed them as soon as the weather allows.

Councilman Miller was pleased to announce that the Oceanport Landing will have a pump out station facility this summer thanks to Keith Seeley and it will be open to the public for a nominal fee. He hoped that our other marina will try and also get this type of facility because he felt that this was part of the problem with our river.

Councilman Miller reported under the Shade Tree Committee that the Ron Maher Tree Nursery will be manned by Shade Tree members on April 4 and April 11 for anyone interested in trees that we have and residents should bring a shovel and something to cart the tree home in and all they ask is a small donation in order to allow them to re-plant more trees.

Councilman Miller stated that on April 4 the Bike Safety Program will be held at the Wolfhill School beginning at 9:00 A.M.

Councilman Miller thanked Mr. Kemmerer of Mohawk Avenue for his donation of a Purple Martin Bird House and as soon as the weather clears up, Tom Crochet will be installing this in Charles Park.

COUNCILMAN WOLFE: Councilman Wolfe asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-98-33** regarding the last 1997 transfer of funds, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and unanimously approved by Council.

R-98-33

Councilman Wolfe reported that he and Councilman McGann and Tom Crochet will be reviewing the street sweeping bids shortly in order to award the annual bid for this service to the Borough.

Councilman Wolfe thanked Tom Crochet to going out on Tuesday and spreading a load of baseball field clay and hopefully, as soon as the weather permits, he will be able to grade the clay, since the baseball season will begin shortly.

COUNCILMAN MCGANN: Councilman McGann congratulated the students on the excellent job they did this evening.

Councilman McGann also commended the Public Works Department employees for the great job they have been doing dealing with the continuing flooding problems we have been experiencing.

COUNCILWOMAN SILKWORTH: Councilwoman Silkworth extended her congratulations to the Student Government and commented that she thought they did an excellent job with some complex issues.

Councilwoman Silkworth reported that the Economic Development Committee is continuing to meet with the Master Plan Sub Committee of the Planning Board to discuss the proposed Village Center.

Councilwoman Silkworth was pleased to report that we have received a check from the State Wide Workers' Compensation Loss Control Escrow Account in the amount of \$463.53 from 1997.

MAYOR GEMMA: Mayor Gemma commented that it has been said occasionally that people sometimes fear the youth and the fear that we have is that they will do a better job than we will and to that, he congratulated the students this evening. He continued that on Monday evening he attended a Council meeting in another town and it consisted of people yelling at each other, someone video taping the Council and someone else video taping that person and tonight, each of the members of the Student Government showed civility, thought and debated back and forth, which are all the things that should be taking place in democracy and congratulated them on doing an excellent job.

Mayor Gemma stated that tonight everyone gave thanks to Tom Crochet, Superintendent of the Public Works Department and Tom Crochet is sitting in the audience and he asked everyone to give him a round of applause to show everyone's appreciation.

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

PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Tom Caruso, 47 Wardell Circle stated that on his portion of the street, between Nicholson Place and Wardell, it is very narrow and the street sweeper never seems to go that way so its always dirty and the snow plow misses his house every time it snows.

Mayor Gemma asked Councilman Wolfe to comment on this and Councilman Wolfe stated we will make sure the street sweeper knows of this street and we will highlight it on the map when he is ready to begin. As far as the snow plowing, Councilman Wolfe stated that if the large truck is plowing Wardell Circle, it is not possible for the truck to come down to Mr. Caruso's location because the street is so narrow, but the small pick up would go there, but it would take awhile, since we have to take care of the major streets first.

Mike Mangan, 540 Shrewsbury Ave., asked when the traffic light is going to be installed at Monmouth Boulevard and Myrtle Avenue?

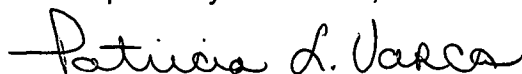
Mayor Gemma stated that he had just received Mr. Mangan's letter and had written a response earlier today and advised that the County is responsible for this traffic light installation and although the funds will be appropriated during the summer, it was felt that it would be best to begin the project after the track closed in September, otherwise it would only contribute to the increased traffic for our residents.

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

Councilman Wolfe moved to approve the bills as listed on the Voucher Register dated March 19, 1998. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council, with the exception of Councilman McGann who abstained from voting on the bills due from Atlantic Coast Communications. TOTAL 1997 VOUCHERS \$600.00. TOTAL 1997 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$821.50. TOTAL 1997 OPERATING FUND \$1,421.50. TOTAL 1998 VOUCHERS \$99,599.13. TOTAL 1998 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$180,247.36. TOTAL 1998 OPERATING FUND \$279,846.49. TOTAL TRUST ACCOUNT \$784.14. TOTAL PUBLIC ASSISTANCE II ACCOUNT \$1,477.00. TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNT \$625.80. TOTAL GENERAL LEDGER-DDEF \$575.00. TOTAL GENERAL LEDGER-SRHS \$174,879.60. TOTAL GENREAL LEDGER-TAX OVERPAYMENT \$397.64. TOTAL GENERAL LEDGER-LIEN REDEMPTION \$12,949.79. TOTAL GENERAL LEDGER-FIRE PREVENTION \$500.10. TOTAL GENERAL LEDGER-ELECTRICAL INPSECTIONS \$302.00. (SEE VOUCHER REGISTER)

At 8:25 P.M. Councilwoman Filippone moved to adjourn this meeting until the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on April 2, 1998 at 8:00 P.M. It was seconded by Councilwoman Silkworth and unanimously approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,



PATRICIA L. VARCA, BOROUGH CLERK