

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Oceanport, New Jersey
February 19, 2004

- REGULAR MEETING:** The Regular Meeting of the Oceanport Mayor and Council was called to order on February 19, 2004 at 8:00 P.M. with Mayor Gatta stating the meeting had been properly advertised in accordance with law.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councilpersons Kahle, Mahon, Apruzzi, Chaump, Johnson, Briscione and Mayor Gatta.
- OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Borough Clerk, Patricia L. Varca and A/Borough Attorney, Martin A. McGann.
- INVOCATION:** Borough Chaplain Berry gave the invocation.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Gatta led the audience and members of the Council in the flag salute.

As copies of the minutes from the regular meeting held on February 5, 2004 had been made available to the members of the Governing Body, Councilman Apruzzi moved to waive the reading of same and approve the minutes as presented by the Borough Clerk. It was seconded by Councilwoman Chaump and approved by Council with the exception of Councilwoman Kahle who abstained since she was not present.

CLERK'S REPORTS: No Reports.

COMMITTEES:

COUNCILWOMAN KAHLE: Councilwoman Kahle reported that the Environmental Commission had reviewed the plans for the age restricted development that is being proposed behind the bank and they have no objections to this project. She also commented that the Commission will again be conducting its annual Poster Contest with this year's theme Birds in the Oceanport environment and this is always a very successful program for our school children.

Councilwoman Kahle advised that under the Fire Department they are very busy with setting up photo I.D. cards for all of the members and this is being done under a County program and they will also be having a gear inspection on March 8th at 6:30 p.m. at the Port-au-Peck Chemical Hose Fire House and there is a new Explorer's Program at the Hook & Ladder for our teenagers which will foster the spirit of volunteerism and fire fighting in our teenagers and the Council thanks Joe Wolf for getting this program going.

Councilwoman Kahle also reported that the Fire Committee has met three times under Chief Scott Sirianni and he is doing a great job in getting both houses together and getting more communication between all our fire personnel and we are looking forward to a good year of leadership in the Fire Department.

Councilwoman Kahle reminded everyone that the Hook & Ladder Fire Company will be holding its annual ham dinner on Palm Sunday, April 1, 2004 and urged everyone to attend.

Councilwoman Kahle reported that the Buildings & Grounds Committee met yesterday regarding the status of the Municipal Building and she will be reporting on this matter in the future.

COUNCILMAN MAHON: Councilman Mahon asked the Clerk to read resolution **#R-04-22** transferring funds after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council.

Councilman Mahon then asked the Clerk to read resolution **#R-04-23** appointing Frohling & Hudak, LLC as bond counsel for 2004, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilwoman Chaump and approved by Council.

Councilman Mahon reported that there is ongoing work in the Finance and Administration Department and we are putting together dates that will be distributed to the various departments and these dates will be deadline for receipt of specifications for items that need to out for bid and we are trying to consolidate the bid specifications in order to do as few advertisements as possible in an effort to save money.

Councilman Mahon also advised that we are continuing to work on purchasing guidelines which should be in place within a matter of weeks and will give Department Heads a different set of requirements with regard to when and how many quotes are received regardless of whether it is on a State contract or not.

Councilman Mahon reported under Public Works we had yet another snow storm and the Department is busy with pot hole repair and have repaired a significant number of pot holes over the past several weeks and they as well as us are looking forward to spring and they will be installing some signs that the Board of Education requested through Councilwoman Chaump, regarding directional signs for Maple Place School and then getting the baseball fields ready for spring in association with the Recreation Committee.

Councilman Mahon stated with regard to the Borough's web site, within the next two weeks or so we should be able to have young Patrick Hickey who is doing this as part of his Eagle Scout project, begin his work instructing our three web site administrators, Mrs. Varca, Mrs. Jungfer and Det. Sgt. Baldanza within our facility. He advised that anyone can go to oceanportboro.com and it is up and running, but it is not complete nor ready for operation at this point and he complimented Pat Hickey for his hard work and efforts on this Eagle Scout project.

Councilman Mahon commented as Councilwoman Kahle stated in her report, we had the first meeting with regard to the space improvements at Borough Hall and it was an enlightening experience and he thanked design professional Tina Carnavale who is lending her experience to the committee and over the course of the next two months before we meet again, Tina will be working with each of the Department Heads to refine their space requirements and he also thanked Walter Joyce who was also in attendance at the meeting and gave us some good advice and he will be asking the Council to move on some items such as a Letter of Interpretation from the DEP, elevation certificate and a foundation review for this building as we go forward.

COUNCILMAN APRUZZI: Councilman Apruzzi reported that Recreation held their meeting to elect the 2004 officers and they are as follows: Chairperson is Lee Poole; Vice Chairperson is Jeff Bottger; Treasurer is Toni Sverapa; Recording Secretary is Linda Gately and Corresponding Secretary is Kevin Kornik. He also advised that we have instructed our Engineer to go ahead with the proposals for bids for Blackberry Bay Park and we did add to that proposal three alternates to the

bid proposal which are the lights for the tennis courts, a batting cage at the hard ball field which is on the right side in the same position that the current batting cage is now and 300' of sod for the right baseball field and again, are only alternates and the Council will determine if there are any funds for these items.

Councilman Apruzzi announced that this is his last meeting and has been with the Borough Council for twelve years and it has been an honor and privilege to be here and serve the residents of Oceanport. He continued that it is also a humbling experience because you are elected by your peers and people who believe you are going to do a good job and he hoped that he has done that for all the people who have supported him as well as those who did not. He gave special thanks to all the volunteers who have worked with him over the years such as Recreation, Shade Tree and the Capital Improvement Committees who work tirelessly for the Borough to make it a better place to live. He also gave thanks to the employees with a special thanks to Patti Varca our Borough Clerk and he felt she is the source of all our information and experience and also to Kim Jungfer who works with the Clerk; he thanked Chief Kip Bebout who he has worked with over the past twelve years as the Police Liaison and he will miss everyone and it is a difficult decision to make, but it is time for him and his wife to move on and he wished everyone well and also to the present and future Council people who will have many challenges to face for this Borough.

COUNCILWOMAN CHAUMP: Councilwoman Chaump reported that she attended the Library Association meeting on February 10th and they elected a new President who is Linda Dresden; the Vice President is Mary Loveland and there is an opening for a Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary is Joan Hall and the Treasurer is Donna Marra. She continued that in 2002 the Library had a circulation of 30,472 items and in 2003 it went up to 35,391, which is an increase of 16%, and they have had 163 new registrations for library cards in the Borough.

Councilwoman Chaump reported under Senior Citizens she attended their meeting on February 17th and they have 132 members and the President, Al Desantis reported that the scheduling of the Olde Wharf House is going very well now that they are handling it and thanked Mayor Gatta and Councilwoman Kahle for making this happen. She also advised that the seniors will be having a trip in March to Atlantic City.

Councilwoman Chaump also attended the First Aid meeting on February 17th and reported that in January they had 48 calls which equated to 573 man/woman hours and they are also purchasing two new defibrillators from their budget and they are also ordering one for the Police Department for which they will be reimbursed and two older defibrillators will be given to the Police so now every squad car will have a defibrillator in them.

Councilwoman Kahle asked if the school has any defibrillators to which it was explained that people have to be trained and there are none on site at the schools.

Councilwoman Chaump stated as Councilman Mahon commented on earlier, we are putting up signs which was requested by the Superintendent and Principal at Maple Place School since people have a hard time finding Maple Place from Shrewsbury Avenue.

Councilwoman Chaump commented that she attended a meeting today with Senator Karcher which Mayor Gatta had asked her to attend this meeting in her place and Senator Karcher discussed the Department of Transportation, which she is involved with and the 12th District has only a half million dollars to spend in this area and the Senator advised that she supports impact fees for developers and possibly the Transportation Trust Fund could be bankrupt in the next two years. She continued that the Senator was interested in the concerns of the municipalities and the subject went

to property taxes and that was the major concern of everyone and Senator Karcher asked that all municipalities pass a resolution for the constitutional convention and/or special legislation session to address property tax relief and she is in support of both and other possible solutions were discussed by the Senator as well as her concerns about senior citizens and property taxes and Councilwoman Chaump advised that she voiced her opinion about what ever happened to the Lottery which was supposed to go for education and the Senator stated that it was and these things are dedicated for special purposes, but eventually the money goes into the general fund.

Councilwoman Chaump stated that Senator Karcher also discussed regionalization and as a former Board of Education member for eleven years, Councilwoman Chaump felt that some type of incentive to regionalize and not to have something taken away. Councilwoman Chaump stated that the Senator also spoke about the Stake Holders group and she hand delivered a letter from Mayor Gatta which Councilman Briscione will discuss under his report and the Senator advised that she will be at the meeting on February 23rd which is being held by the NJ Sports & Exposition Authority at the Holiday Inn in Tinton Falls and the Senator also commented that she is trying to meet with every municipality to discuss the particular problems and we will be setting up a meeting with the Senator for this purpose.

COUNCILWOMAN JOHNSON: Councilwoman Johnson attended the Library meeting with Councilwoman Chaump and found it quite interesting.

Councilwoman Johnson reported that hopefully by the next Council meeting she will have a definite date for the Health Screening this year, which will again be held at the First Aid Building in April.

Councilwoman Johnson reminded everyone that the retirement dinner for Sgt. Donnie Ross was scheduled for Saturday, February 28th and tickets can be obtained from either Chief Bebout or Captain Sutton.

Councilwoman Johnson personally wanted to thank Councilman Apruzzi for all his years of service and for all his help and wished him lots of luck in the future.

COUNCILMAN BRISCIONE: Councilman Briscione commented that selfishly he is going to miss the ability to draw on the experience of Councilman Apruzzi and wished him well in his new location:

Councilman Briscione called for the introduction of a bond ordinance for various improvements and asked the Clerk to read the proposed ordinance by title only as follows: **BOND ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$484,228. AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$460,016. 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.**

Councilman Briscione moved to approve this bond ordinance on first reading. It was seconded by Councilwoman Chaump.

The Clerk called the roll:

AYES: Councilpersons Kahle, Mahon, Apruzzi, Chaump, Johnson and Briscione.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

Councilman Briscione then moved to hold the public hearing on this bond ordinance at the meeting scheduled to be held on March 4, 2004 and to advertise same in accordance with law. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi.

The Clerk called the roll:

AYES: Councilpersons Kahle, Mahon, Apruzzi, Chaump, Johnson and Briscione.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

Councilman Briscione called for the introduction of an amendment to bond ordinance #761 amending the street improvement line item to include improvements to the rear parking lot at Borough Hall and asked the Clerk to read the proposed ordinance by title only as follows:

ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND ORDINANCE #761 ENTITLED "BOND ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$661,560. AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$628,482. BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH FOR VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS OR PURPOSES TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY.

Councilman Briscione moved to approve this ordinance on first reading. It was seconded by Councilwoman Johnson.

The Clerk called the roll:

AYES: Councilpersons Kahle, Mahon, Apruzzi, Chaump, Johnson and Briscione.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

Councilman Briscione then moved to hold the public hearing on this ordinance at the meeting scheduled to be held on March 4, 2004 and to advertise same in accordance with law. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi.

The Clerk called the roll:

AYES: Councilpersons Kahle, Mahon, Apruzzi, Chaump, Johnson and Briscione.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

Councilman Mahon explained that the money that we saved last year that had been budgeted for the road improvement program, when the bids came in for less money, we are re-appropriating the surplus funds for a couple of different things and this item is not permissible under the line items as listed in the bond ordinance so we are amending this to include improving the rear parking lot which has been in a substandard condition for some years and a source of many problems.

Councilman Briscione called for the introduction of the amendment to the salary ordinance for 2004 salaries and asked the Clerk to read the proposed ordinance by title only as follows: **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE TO FIX AND DETERMINE**

THE SALARIES OF CERTAIN BOROUGH OFFICIALS" PASSED AND APPROVED MARCH 16, 1939.

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

The Clerk called the roll:

AYES: Councilpersons Kahle, Mahon, Apruzzi, Chaump, Johnson and Briscione.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

Councilman Briscione then moved to hold the public hearing on this ordinance at the meeting scheduled to be held on March 4, 2004 and to advertise same in accordance with law. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi.

The Clerk called the roll:

AYES: Councilpersons Kahle, Mahon, Apruzzi, Chaump, Johnson and Briscione.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

Councilman Briscione then called for the introduction of an ordinance establishing the Public Safety Advisory Committee and asked the Clerk to read the proposed ordinance by title only as follows: **AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT.**

Councilman Briscione moved to approve this ordinance on first reading. It was seconded by Councilwoman Kahle.

The Clerk called the roll:

AYES: Councilpersons Kahle, Mahon, Apruzzi, Chaump, Johnson and Briscione.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

Councilman Briscione then moved to hold the public hearing on this ordinance at the meeting scheduled to be held on March 4, 2004 and to advertise same in accordance with law. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi.

The Clerk called the roll:

AYES: Councilpersons Kahle, Mahon, Apruzzi, Chaump, Johnson and Briscione.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

Councilman Briscione stated that the next Planning Board meeting which is scheduled for Feb. 25th will involve the continuation of the hearings on the application of the NJ Sports & Exposition Authority for preliminary approval of 46 age restricted units located at the corner of East Main Street and Port-au-Peck Avenue and he would encourage anyone who has any concerns about this development or just want to obtain information about this matter to attend the meeting which begins at 8:00 p.m.

Councilman Briscione commented that with regard to Monmouth Park he and the Mayor attended the 2nd Stake Holders meeting on February 11th and there was a private portion and public portion of this meeting and the Sports Authority is continuing its efforts to explore the possibility of leasing the Meadowlands and Monmouth Park to a private entity. He continued that as a result of the meeting, we came away with the following: the timeframe for a possible lease will be in the six month range, meaning in all probability the Sports Authority will run the racetrack for the 2004 meet and one of the reasons for this is that the Authority is awaiting enabling legislation to be passed which will allow them to lease the tracks and to transfer their rights to off track betting parlors to the leasee and one of the other things is that there will be specific language in the lease that ensures that Monmouth Park remains a racetrack. He continued that they are starting to provide some of the answers to the questions that we submitted to them at the first Stake Holders meeting and some of those are that the leased area will be comprised of all property in Block 122 and Block 127, Lot 1 and that basically encompasses all the racetrack property including the grand stands, stable area and the parking lot on Oceanport Ave.

Councilman Briscione stated that it is expected that the lease will be long term in nature and the tenant will have the responsibility of paying the taxes to the town and the Borough Attorney will be expected to review the lease and the Authority has agreed to that. He continued that any requests for site plan approval or building renovations by the leasee will be subject to municipal zoning, planning and building department reviews and we are very strong on that issue and do not want anything done without us having the opportunity to review the plans.

Councilman Briscione advised that the next Stake Holders meeting will be scheduled after that enabling legislation has been passed and he noted that there is a public hearing on this matter organized by Assemblymen Panter and Morgan which will include the Sports Authority officials and it will be held on Monday, February 23rd at 7:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in Tinton Falls and he encouraged anyone interested in this matter to attend and stated that Monmouth Park is our largest taxpayer and an important part of the local economy.

Councilman Briscione reported that another issue that came up at the Stake Holders meeting was the statement made by George Zoffinger that this Committee would not be deciding the issue of slot machines within the scope of this lease transaction and additionally, as part of our efforts to represent the interests of Oceanport he and the Mayor have independently met with Assemblymen Morgan and Panter, Senator Karcher and Congressman Pallone on three different occasions and we have also reached out to industry experts to gain new perspective on the situation, both have agreed to meet with us.

Councilman Briscione commented that there are a lot of rumors out there about the racetrack and he urged everyone to use caution in taking any of them seriously since the ones he has tried to track down have proven to be false. He continued that the meeting was opened to the public at 4:30 p.m. and most of the public questions dealt with the future of the employees, union contracts, whether Oceanport should retain a Lobbyist and the issue of slot machines. He also advised that there are some other recent issues that have been in the newspapers that will affect racing at Monmouth Park and he explained that racing in New Jersey has faced pressure from casinos in

Atlantic City since their inception causing a decline in handle, attendance and subsequently the closure of two thoroughbred racetracks, Garden State and Atlantic City. He further explained that this has resulted in the decline in the number of racing days from 300 days ten years ago to 141 presently. Councilman Briscione continued that the State has supplemented purse money in the past to maintain a strong thoroughbred meet and more recently with the advent of slot machines in racetracks in Delaware, West Virginia and just recently in New York has further threatened the viability of racing in New Jersey and Pennsylvania and Maryland are in the process of moving slot legislation in these States and both Governors are in support of the legislation. Councilman Briscione advised that in response to this pressure there is an agreement that is close to being signed between the Sports Authority, thoroughbred horsemen and the casino industry whereby the casino industry will fund purses in the amount of approximately \$90 million over the next four years and this will enable Monmouth Park to remain competitive with neighboring States over this time period and will also delay the need or the implementation of VLT's or slot machines at the racetrack.

Councilman Briscione advised that the next measure that was in the papers today is that there is master off track wagering participation that will enable the operating racetracks to open off track wagering sites in surrounding counties possibly within the year. He continued that legislation for this had been approved back in 1991 and this could result in additional purse money for the racetracks and for our purposes, what this will likely do will help the track economically which is good for us and most likely result in a reduction in attendance which will reduce the impact on our infrastructure, our Public Works and our emergency services.

Councilman Briscione stated the last item deals with slot machines and commented as part of their due diligence, he and Mayor have investigated some of the proposed legislation that may have a bearing on the operation of Monmouth Park. He continued that the first is Assembly concurrent resolution #111 which proposes a constitutional amendment to the NJ Constitution to authorize wagering on slot machines at not more than four racetracks and this is pending technical review by Legislative Counsel; the other is Senate #333 which directs the State Lottery Commission to establish video lottery at not more than three horse tracks, provides for the NJ Casino Control Commission and the NJ Division of Gaming Enforcement oversight and this bill has been referred to the Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Committee of which Senator Karcher is Co-Chair. He advised that he has done some research on slot machines in neighboring States and while no one on this Council has taken a position on the necessity of slot machines or VLT's and we felt it was necessary to go on record to insist on the provision that if slot machines or VLT's are installed at Monmouth Park, then we would want the Legislation to include the provision for a host fee for the municipality where the track is located and installation of slots or VLT's will increase the burden on our infrastructure, our emergency services and our Public Works Department and it would be impossible to increase the services to this facility without financial assistance. He stated that as a Council we have decided to draft correspondence to Senator Karcher outlining our position and the correspondence included proposed legislation from Pennsylvania detailing the host fees and Committee hearings on this Legislation are scheduled to begin on Monday.

MAYOR GATTA: Mayor Gatta encouraged all our residents to attend the meeting on Monday, February 23rd at the Holiday Inn in Tinton Falls and while you read in the paper that everyone claims to be a Stake Holder, the reality is Oceanport is the main Stake Holder in this entire transaction and we have the most to gain or lose and we need our residents out there to ask whatever questions they may have and to also support the positions that the Council feel very strongly about and the purpose of this public hearing is to hear from all the residents out there and asked again, if at all possible to please pass the word around and it will be posted outside on our Community Events Sign at Borough Hall.

Mayor Gatta offered the name of Joseph Irace to fill a vacancy on the Recreation Committee which term expires December 31, 2006.

Councilman Apruzzi moved to approve this appointment. It was seconded by Councilwoman Chaump and approved by Council.

Mayor Gatta stated for the record, the Governing Body has conducted three executive sessions during workshop meetings as follows: Jan. 12 regarding contract negotiations; Feb. 5 regarding personnel; Feb. 17th again regarding contract negotiations.

Mayor Gatta also stated for the record that the capital program as outlined in the 2004 Municipal Budget incorrectly listed a police car in the amount of \$7,727 and this is not for a car, but for an in car camera and the correction has been made by the Auditor's Office on that budget sheet.

Mayor Gatta reminded everyone about our own town meeting that we will be having here on Thursday, March 11th at 7:30 p.m. here in the Council Chambers and she asked that anyone who has a topic they would like to be discussed, they fill out one of the flyers in the foyer so we can continue to develop our agenda for that evening and we are receiving response from our residents and we would like everyone to have an opportunity to hear their concerns addressed at this meeting.

Mayor Gatta stated as a matter of information, the Council is currently working on developing requests for proposals for all our acting positions, which include the Borough Attorney, Public Defender, Prosecutor and Borough Engineer. She continued that we are also in the process of discussing how we will be addressing banning pay for play and we have sample ordinances from other towns and the Council is deciding how best to move forward in this area.

Mayor Gatta reported that this afternoon she spoke with Freeholder Ed Stominski and also with the County Engineer, Ted Giannechini in relation to the bridge on East Main Street and expressed our concerns that we have been requesting additional signage for some time as well as striping at the intersection of East Main and Port-au-Peck Ave. for left hand turns off Port-au-Peck Ave. and obviously the weather has delayed this going forward, but she was assured that the work order has been cut and that both the signs and the striping will be occurring this coming week. She also asked about the completion of the bridge project and was informed that because of the fact that they have an alternative plan to remove the fill, it may make up for any time lost due to the inclement weather and they are looking at the completion for either the last week in May or first week in June.

Mayor Gatta announced that the bids are out for the Cayuga/Gooseneck project and bids are returnable on Friday, February 27th at 10:00 a.m. and the Borough Engineer will have a recommendation for the Council at the workshop meeting on March 4th.

Mayor Gatta stated she received a letter from Madeline Barrett who is from our Coastal Alliance and she was a participant with our Community Day/Make A Difference Day and one of the goals on that day was hopefully to acquaint the people of Oceanport about the various volunteer organizations in the Borough and she wrote to compliment us on the program and to also advise that she has gotten a volunteer who is helping with the Coastal Alliance from that particular event back in October and obviously, it was very worth doing and it is something we will do again.

Mayor Gatta stated as she informed the Council, she is scheduled to meet with Assemblymen Panter and Morgan tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. however, the meeting has been cancelled and it is re-scheduled for Wednesday, March 10th so she has asked the Council to let her know if there is anything they would like her to discuss.

Mayor Gatta stated lastly is a bittersweet matter and continued that Councilman Apruzzi is at his last Council meeting here in Oceanport and she wished him well in all his future endeavors and stated that he will be missed and his input that he gave on Council and she commended him for giving so freely of himself to so many committee assignments. Mayor Gatta commented that for those who don't know, Councilman Apruzzi was first sworn in on January 1, 1984 and he served until December 31, 1989; he was appointed again on December 29, 1997 through December 31, 1998; he then filled an un-expired term January 1, 1999 through December 31, 1999 and he was then elected to serve again beginning January 1, 2000 through February 29, 2004. She continued that he has served for many years on the Recreation Committee not only as a Council Liaison, but when he was off Council, he was a member of the Committee and he has served on many other committees including Police, Finance & Administration, Shade Tree, Capital Improvement, Special Events, and he has contributed a tremendous amount of time and effort to this Borough and everyone appreciates all he has done and wish him all the best.

Councilman Apruzzi thanked Mayor Gatta for her kind words and stated he forgot to thank one very important person and thanked his wife Carrie who put up with all the late meetings and nights and hours out and he thanked her for being there for him during all those years.

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

PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Peter Deller, Sr., 1262 Turf Drive stated he was here this evening to speak on behalf of boaters and the boat ramp located at Blackberry Bay Park and the problems that exist with that facility. He continued he passed out a letter to the Governing Body this past week which was dated 2002 and in his view could have been dated 1973, since each and every problems listed in that correspondence has existed that long and nothing has been done to this day to attempt to resolve the problem. He continued that four months ago he was asked by the Recreation Committee to go out and get estimates for a floating dock and a walkway down to the dock and he was given five days to do this and it was completed within those five days and he received three estimates all of which were very close to \$6,500 and he turned the paperwork over the Chairman of the Committee and he was assured that something would be done within last year's budget.

Mr. Deller stated that when he asked for verification for this project, he was told not to worry and that the money was there, but nothing happened and he thought it would go in this year's budget, but now it appears it has been pushed to 2006. He stated that if you watch the people trying to get in and out of their boats at that ramp, it is next to impossible and he felt that there is no reason that we cannot find \$6,500 out of the \$300,000 we are borrowing from Green Acres to resolve this problem. Mr. Deller felt that if we can have alternates added on to the bid proposal for sod, batting cages, he questioned why we can't add this project on as well and hoped that this request would be considered.

Councilman Briscione stated he saw the letter this week and felt this person was quite knowledgeable about boating and the ramp and in response to that he spoke with our Borough Engineer about the procedures for any changes to that ramp and we would need to apply for a waterfront development permit which would require plans and an application to be filed and the DEP would have 45 days to deem it complete or ask for more information and once it is deemed complete it will take 3 months to issue a decision. He continued that the good thing that he said was that this

project would probably qualify for existing Green Acres money that has been set aside for the park and felt that the Council would be willing to look into this at the next workshop meeting.

Mr. Dellera stated he was given the task of finding fields for the kids to play baseball on for next season and the Summer's End Festival and he tried to speak with Pete Verdi of the racetrack about the possibility of using some of their property, but he has been unable to catch up with him, but he did go over to the Fort and leave word for the General to contact him about possibly using the Fort property.

Mr. Dellera stated he did receive a call from John Gallo about a different matter and they got to talking and John informed him that there are three baseball fields on the Fort property and Pete advised that the one he is interested in using is the one right here close to Oceanport and asked him for a contact person to see if we can get our young people permission to use the field and he will speak with Councilwoman Kahle in the future about recreation matters.

Councilman Briscione pointed out to Mr. Dellera that the problem with using the track for Summer's End is that we will not be able to have fireworks because there will still be horses at the track and the noise is very disruptive to the horses in the stable area.

Mayor Gatta suggested that before Mr. Dellera goes any further with possible sites for Summer's End, he speak with Phil Payne, the Borough Fire Marshal, to make sure any sites he is looking into are acceptable under the fire requirements.

Councilman Apruzzi advised Mr. Dellera that we need the fields for baseball for the 2005 season, not the 2004 season and asked him to keep that in mind and thought that the Fort idea is a very good one and hopefully everything will work out.

Councilman Mahon commented that he had the opportunity to speak with Freeholder Stominski and he is is the Freeholder Liaison to the County Parks Commission and he has arranged for a County Representative to meet with us to discuss field issues at Wolfhill Farm and that is for next week and he would like him to join them at that meeting and it is not only for baseball, but for soccer as well.

Councilman Mahon stated the other issue is that Councilman Briscione has looked into the letter regarding the boat ramp and he has also been in contact with Mr. Garifolo of the DEP who has money available provided the Borough provides a match, which would be a minimum of 25%, so this may be resolved in the near future.

Councilman Apruzzi pointed out that last year Eatontown held their 4th of July fireworks on Fort property at the west gate so when he speaks with someone from the Fort, he should see if that area is a possibility, because there is a pond there.

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

Councilman Mahon moved to approve the vouchers on the Bill List dated February 19, 2004. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council. TOTAL ESCROW TRUST \$621.25. 2003 VOUCHERS PAID \$52,206.36. 2003 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$647.13. TOTAL 2003 VOUCHERS \$52,853.49. 2004 VOUCHERS PAID \$2,936,480.44. 2004 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$337,546.31. TOTAL 2004 VOUCHERS \$3,274,026.75. (SEE BILL LIST)

At 9:00 p.m. Councilwoman Johnson moved to adjourn this meeting until the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on March 4, 2004 at 8:00 P.M. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patricia L. Varca".

PATRICIA L. VARCA
BOROUGH CLERK