

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Oceanport, New Jersey
February 7, 2002

- REGULAR MEETING:** The Regular Meeting of the Oceanport Mayor and Council was called to order on February 7, 2002 at 8:00 P.M.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councilpersons Apruzzi, Gatta, Wolfe, McGann and Silkworth.
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Councilman Mahon 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:** 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 December 20, 2001 and the reorganization meeting held on January 1, 2002 had been made available to the members of the Governing Body, Councilman Wolfe moved to waive the reading of same and approve the minutes as presented by the Borough Clerk. It was seconded by Councilwoman Silkworth and approved by Council with the exception of Councilwoman Silkworth who abstained from voting on the minutes from December since she was not present..

CLERK'S REPORTS:

1. Police report for the month of January, 2002 and a copy will be posted on the bulletin board.
2. Application for membership to the Oceanport Fire Department made by Edwin H. Barnwell.

The Clerk advised that she had received an approved background check from the Police Department on this applicant after which Councilman Wolfe moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilwoman Gatta and approved by Council.

COMMITTEES:

COUNCILMAN MAHON: Absent.

COUNCILWOMAN GATTA: Councilwoman Gatta reported that on Wednesday Feb. 13, 2002 at 6 p.m. the Coastal Monmouth Drug Alliance will be holding their meeting at the Maple Place School and commented that anyone interested is welcome to attend.

Councilwoman Gatta reported that the annual Health Screening will be held on Saturday, March 16, 2002 and the pre-registration will be on Tuesday, March 12 in the Borough Hall and she will be reporting further on this in the near future.

Councilwoman Gatta also advised that Student Government Day will be held on Thursday, March 21, 2002 with the 7th graders from Maple Place School conducting their meeting at 7 p.m. in the Borough Hall.

Councilwoman Gatta commented that as most of us are aware there was a terrible fire on Sunday morning and Donna Shaw, who is a member of our First Aid Squad, and her daughter lost their home and all their possessions. She also advised that anyone who is interested in donating items that are needed should contact Carole Connor, Jane Ciani or Kathy Maida who have a list of what is needed for the family and there will be some type of fund raiser in the near future for the Shaws.

R-02-17 Councilwoman Gatta asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-02-17** approving a grant application for funds for playground replacement at Charles Park, after which she moved to approve. It was seconded by Councilman Wolfe and approved by Council.

R-02-18
COUNCILMAN WOLFE: Councilman Wolfe asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-02-18** canceling taxes on property now owned by the Borough located on Onondaga Avenue, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilwoman Gatta and approved by Council.

R-02-19 Councilman Wolfe asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-02-19** awarding a contract to ComCast for Internet services for the Borough Hall under the Local Public Contracts Law exemptions, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilwoman Silkworth and approved by Council.

Councilman Wolfe moved to authorize the Borough Engineer to prepare plans and specifications for the 2002 road program and go out for bids when the plans are approved. It was seconded by Councilwoman Gatta and approved by Council.

ORD.#
749 **COUNCILMAN MCGANN:** Councilman McGann called for the second reading and public hearing on an amendment to the personnel policy and asked the Clerk to read the proposed ordinance by title only, as follows: **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "THE BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT PERSONNEL POLICY" PASSED AND APPROVED ON MARCH 20, 1986.**

Council President Apruzzi opened the meeting to the public on this subject only.

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

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

The Clerk called the roll:

AYES: Councilpersons Gatta, Wolfe, McGann and Silkworth.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilman Mahon.
ABSTAIN: None.

Councilman McGann called for the introduction of an ordinance regarding the Cap Law in connection with the 2002 municipal budget and asked the Clerk to read the proposed ordinance by title only as follows: **AN ORDINANCE PURSUANT TO LOCAL CAP LAW CONCERNING THE 2002 MUNICIPAL BUDGET OF THE BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY.**

Councilman McGann moved to approve this ordinance on first reading. It was seconded by Councilman Wolfe.

The Clerk called the roll:

AYES: Councilpersons Gatta, Wolfe, McGann and Silkworth.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilman Mahon.
ABSTAIN: None.

Councilman McGann then moved to hold the public hearing on this ordinance at the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on February 21, 2002 and to advertise same in accordance with law. It was seconded by Councilman Wolfe.

The Clerk called the roll:

AYES: Councilpersons Gatta, Wolfe, McGann and Silkworth.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilman Mahon.
ABSTAIN: None.

Councilman McGann moved to table the 2nd reading of the amendment to the zoning ordinance dealing with environmental impact statements pending further review after comments made by our Planning Board. It was seconded by Councilman Wolfe and approved by Council.

COUNCILWOMAN SILKWORTH: Councilwoman Silkworth reported bids were received for replacing roofs on the Port-au-Peck Chemical Hose Fire House, Public Works Building and the two wings on the Municipal Building and acknowledged the low bidder for these projects is G & M Roofing, Hackensack, NJ in the amount of \$158,000 and the award will be made in April for this work, which the bidder has agreed on that time frame.

Councilwoman Silkworth moved to return the bid bonds to the unsuccessful bidders for this project. It was seconded by Councilwoman Gatta and approved by Council.

R-02-20

Councilman Wolfe asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-02-20** introducing the 2002 municipal budget and setting the date of March 7, 2002 for the public hearing to be held. It was seconded by Councilwoman Gatta and approved by Council.

Councilman Wolfe then asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-02-21** regarding the Borough's ability to adopt the 2002 municipal budget, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilwoman Gatta and approved by Council.

R-02-21

MAYOR GEMMA: Absent.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT APRUZZI: Council President Apruzzi commented that he was out of town when the fire took place on Sunday morning at the Shaw residence and while there was no loss of life, they did lose their family pets, which is very devastating and was sure that the residents and organizations in the Borough would rally round Donna and her daughter and help out as much as possible.

Council President Apruzzi opened the meeting to the public for any comments or questions they might wish to make, asking that they come up to the microphone and give their name and address for the record.

PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Ray Ciani, President of the First Aid Squad advised the Council that First Aid and the Fire Department have now combined both their water rescue plans and will work together in this regard and he gave copies of the plans to the Governing Body. He also advised that they have also reviewed the Emergency Management Plan for the Borough and gave a copy of the EMS portion to Jim Slattery and gave a copy to Councilwoman Gatta and the Clerk for the Borough's files.

Michael Keats, 17 Maple Ave., stated at the last Planning Board meeting, which relates to the zoning amendment tabled earlier, Mr. Kunkowski from Woodbine Cemetery, under oath, discussed the issue of his plans for more mausoleums and he questioned him on that matter. Mr. Keats stated he has written his comments on that matter and gave copies to the members of the Governing Body and the Clerk and also asked that the Council go back and listen to the tape of Mr. Kunkowski's testimony at the Planning Board meeting because he felt it was important to the environmental impact issue.

Councilman Wolfe stated for the record he wanted to say that this is an issue dealing with the Planning Board and as a member sitting on that Board, he is not going to review this document outside the Planning Board and suggested that Mr. Keats present this to the Board, he would be happy to review the document.

Stu Briskey, 46 Werah Place commented that as he is sure the Council is aware, 50% of our siren capacity has been out; 100% was out on September 11th and 50% was brought back because of the events of that day, but now we have a situation where the dispatch frequency and plectron are sitting on top of a refrigerator not mounted, with a cable going through a window to a jury rigged antennae. Mr. Briskey continued that between the siren situation and the plectron situation, he felt this was a very big hazard to both the volunteers and to the residents of the Borough. He also stated that we have \$10,000, which was collected from the insurance when the siren was hit by lightning and he wanted to know if anything is going to be done to rectify this problem.

Council President Apruzzi advised that a new antennae has been ordered and should be in place within the next 3-5 days based upon information he has received from Chief Bebout and it will be installed by the people supplying the antennae and it will take care of all the frequency problems including the fire frequency.

Mr. Briskey asked what is being done to bring our siren capacity back to 100%, to which Council President Apruzzi stated the Council is still evaluating this matter.

Mr. Vecchione, Woodbine Way commented that he felt there was a lack of communication between the members of the Governing Body and the volunteers about the matter of the siren and suggested that everyone sit down together and discuss this matter as well as the funds received from the insurance settlement.

Council President Apruzzi advised that the Council has discussed this matter but there have been no promises made about where those funds will be utilized and everyone knows the funds are in a reserved account and there are no secrets where the money goes and the Fire Chiefs are here at the meeting this evening and they are aware of what has been happening and what was discussed. He felt that if anyone in the audience who feels differently to come forward and make their concerns known to the Council.

Stu Briskey, 46 Werah Place stated on New Year's Day Councilman Wolfe, along with other members of the Governing Body, gave thanks to the volunteers and as a volunteer of 23 years in this Borough and in the spirit of Mayor Guliani who gave back the \$10 million check, he gave back that part of his thank you. Mr. Briskey continued that Councilman Wolfe gave a chronological review of emergencies that happened in this Borough beginning with the 92 flood, to which Mr. Briskey commented that the volunteers did not receive one penny of FEMA money, even though all the forms were filled out and submitted and he would like to see the accounting of what funds the Borough received because of the time the volunteers expended; also brought up was the blizzard of 96 or 97 and everyone is aware that all the plows broke down due to lack of maintenance and one of our fireman plowed out both the First Aid and Firehouse properties; he brought up the \$4,000 that had been earmarked for hose which funds disappeared; Mr. Briskey added we had an emergency generator that someone wanted to save on maintenance costs and the generator failed and cost the taxpayers \$52,000 and no one got upset.

Mr. Briskey stated that if anyone wants to thank the volunteers, and this is his opinion, something should be done for them like giving them a siren so they can get out and help the residents and get the radio in working order to assist them in responding to calls and once again, he would be happy to see where that 1992 money and where it was spent and the accounting on the \$4,000 earmarked for the hose.

Ed Ryan, 24 Willow Court stated that the volunteers were promised that siren at the Hook & Ladder would be fixed a year ago and it is still not working and since the recent fire we had, we found that there was a problem with the frequencies, which no one bother to advise the volunteers of the situation. He commented that he has been a volunteer in this Borough for over 50 years and he felt this was the worst it has ever been and the siren system is lousy and it has been well over a year and he wanted to know when it was going to be fixed and not told that the Council is working on the problem.

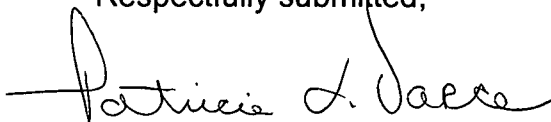
Councilman Wolfe advised that he spoke with Chief Rick Gallo and told him to run a siren test and find out which sirens are not in working order and let us know what needs to be addressed and also commented that the money was only received toward the end of 2001 from the insurance company and assured everyone that this matter would be addressed very soon.

As no one else from the public wished to be heard, Council President Apruzzi moved to close the public portion of the meeting.

Councilman Wolfe moved to approve the vouchers on the Bill List dated February 7, 2002. It was seconded by Councilwoman Gatta and approved by Council. TOTAL CAPITAL TRUST \$4,837.30. TOTAL DOG REGISTRY \$220.00. TOTAL ESCROW TRUST \$842.50. TOTAL RECREATION TRUST \$1,685.50. 2001 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$51,522.59. TOTAL 2001 VOUCHERS \$51,522.59. 2002 VOUCHERS PAID \$69,954.21. 2002 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$1,484,311.60. TOTAL 2002 VOUCHERS \$1,554,265.81. (SEE BILL LIST)

At 8:30 p.m. Councilwoman Silkworth moved to adjourn this meeting until the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on February 21, 2002 at 8:00 P.M. It was seconded by Councilman McGann and approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Patricia L. Varca".

PATRICIA L. VARCA
BOROUGH CLERK