

REGULAR MEETING

Oceanport, New Jersey
February 7, 1991

REGULAR MEETING: The regular meeting of the Oceanport Mayor and Council was called to order on February 7, 1991 at 8:05 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilpersons McGee, Filippone, Miller, Rodman, Wolfe and Mayor Cavanagh.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilman Terra.

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Borough Clerk, Patricia L. Varca and Borough Attorney, Francis A. Margalotti.

INVOCATION: Rabbi Daina gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Cavanagh led the audience and members of the Council in the flag salute.

As copies of the minutes from the regular meeting held on January 17, 1991 had been made available for review by the Governing Body, Councilman Rodman moved to waive the reading of same and to approve the minutes as presented by the Borough Clerk. It was seconded by Councilman Miller and approved by those Councilpersons in attendance.

CLERK'S REPORTS:

1. Police report for the month of JANUARY, 1991 and a copy will be posted on the Bulletin Board.
2. Taxi license applications made by the following:
 - a] Michael Bottone t/a Mickey's Cab
 - b] Charter One Leasing Group, Inc. t/a Station Limousine/Charter
One Transportation
 - c] Charter One Leasing Group, Inc. t/a Station Limousine/Charter
One Transportation

As the paperwork was reported to be in order and all vehicles had been inspected and approved by the Police Department, Councilman Miller moved to approve the taxi license applications. It was seconded by Councilman Wolfe and approved by those Councilpersons in attendance.

COMMITTEES:

COUNCILMAN MCGEE: Councilman McGee reported under Buildings & Grounds that he and Councilman Miller are putting forth a long time plan for all of the Borough buildings and he hopes to have a more detailed report at our next meeting.

COUNCILMAN TERRA: ABSENT.

COUNCILWOMAN FILIPPONE: Councilwoman Filippone congratulated George Ottino, for having rescued the girl from the railroad tracks in Little Silver the other day and she had read about it in the Asbury Park Press and she stated all of us in Oceanport can be very proud that one of our citizens was as brave as he was.

Councilwoman Filippone reported that Myron Lavake who was with the County Board of Health died very suddenly this week and she continued that Myron was a great environmentalist and unfortunately his timing was not so great in many ways, not the least of which is that he had been working with us with the racetrack situation for the past year and just this week, the racetrack advised that some of the implementation has come to fruition and at our last work shop meeting we discussed the fact that the racetrack has now gone out to bid for the manure house and Myron was on the committee. Councilwoman Filippone stated that Myron's passing is a great loss to the County.

Councilwoman Filippone advised that on February 23, 1991 at the Port-au-Peck Chemical Hose Fire Co. between the hours of 9 and 11 A.M. will be the rabies clinic and its for dogs and cats and the cats are especially important to be vaccinated this year because we know that the rabies epidemic has hit as close to east of Route 9 and it is really getting closer and closer and she stated that dogs and cats must be on leashes or in a cage.

Councilwoman Filippone informed the public that the annual Health Screening will be held on April 13, 1991 and she will give out further information at a later date.

Mayor Cavanagh commented that it is tragic that we lost Myron Lavake and stated that he had attended every meeting since we began these sessions and he had been involved before that on a County level so he had a kind of integral part in getting us off the ground and it is rather ironic when we look at the first season where these reforms are going to be implemented and we will be dealing with a one structure housing for the manure and the water tight containers will be utilized this year and he is encouraged and Mr. Handel specifically informed him that they will be in operation by the time the meet begins and that entire problem may be substantially improved and we think it will be and that is in no small part a tribute to Myron Lavake and the work he did with us in this regard and we will miss him and he wished his family condolences and the Council's appreciation for what he did for us when he was involved.

COUNCILMAN MILLER: Councilman Miller reported he has just received from Bill Sullivan, Chairman of the Shade Tree Committee a survey of what was done by this organization last year and it included removing dead trees, pruned trees on several streets, the Committee gave 100 willow oaks seedlings to the fifth graders at Wolfhill School for Earth Day last year, we donated money for the dogwood tree honoring Janet Bova at the Wolfhill School and planted 3" caliper trees at Bridgewaters Drive Condominiums, Turf Drive and Port-au-Peck Avenue. He will have a report that he will be making at a future work shop meeting on what the plans are for this coming year.

Councilman Miller thanked the Oceanport Hook & Ladder Fire Co. volunteers for helping out him and Councilmen Terra and Wolfe for putting up the beautiful flag which we purchased for Old Wharf Park and it now has a light and flies 24 hours per day.

Councilman Miller thanked Mike Giordano and his Public Works Department for installing 10 redwood garbage receptacles that were purchased last year out of money Councilmen Terra and Wolfe received from the Clean Communities Grant and they were placed at Blackberry Bay Park and the Community Center. He stated the Public Works Department also installed a bench at the basketball courts at Blackberry Bay Park and put up anti-

litter signs in all our parks and entrances into the Borough, which again were purchased through the grant funds and hopefully we will receive another one this year.

Councilman Miller thanked Mr. Stacey from the Two River Times for sitting down with him after the last Council meeting and wrote a very nice article on our Water Watch Committee and as a result we were able to recognize two new members to our group. He continued that the Water Watch Committee has an AdHoc Committee that the Mayor put into effect which includes members of the Environmental Commission, Board of Health and the Waterways Committee and there are four charges, the first being that we have formally adopted the Shrewsbury River as our task; the second is involved with clean up; the third is involved with education and they have already begun some programs in the Maple Place School and the Wolfhill School as far as environmental awareness is concerned and the last is involved with getting volunteers to watch the water for any kinds of unusual happenings and we will also be getting involved with a water monitoring process. He commented that in this particular area Councilpersons Terra, Filippone, Wolfe and himself will all be involved in a Baykeeper project which is sponsored by the American Littoral Society and it has to do with the entire New York Harbor area, of which the Shrewsbury River is an estuary and we will be going to training to learn how to test for five or six different items and this will be an on going project which will probably begin in March and continue into the fall and we will be responsible for one or two sites along our shores.

Councilman Miller stated he would like to expand this Water Watch involvement into the area of doing a follow up on non-point source pollution sources and target several of our storm drains that empty into the river and see if we can test for any run off as far as coliform is concerned or other pollutants.

COUNCILMAN RODMAN: Councilman Rodman reported as Liaison to the Education Committee here in Oceanport, he was recently asked to sit in on the selection of Teacher of the Year at our two schools in the Borough and he is pleased to report that Renee Bonan at Wolfhill and Donna Lavinsky at Maple Place have been selected as the outstanding teachers of the year at these two facilities and each school will receive \$500 each to be spent at the direction of these teachers for the improvement of the educational programs. Councilman Rodman commented that the competition this year was spirited for those two elected situations and it reflects well on the schools that there were that many people who were thought highly enough of to be nominated.

Councilman Rodman announced that yesterday the Governor signed legislation which now pushes the school election date back to April 30 and the advertisement which was carried in the Press the other day was erroneous and it is April 30 and school districts should be getting their financial figures in mid March which will give them just enough time to put their budgets together for that election date.

Councilman Rodman commented as previously discussed by both Councilwoman Filippone and the Mayor he came upon a public notice in the Star Ledger about the construction of the facility at the track and they are out to bid now with the hope of awarding bids by mid February and the facility is about 60' long and 75' wide and will be serviced by front end loaders and will be well back from Port-au-Peck Avenue--about as far remote on a piece of property at Monmouth Park as anything can be from public observation which is good for this type of a facility. He continued that

Monmouth Park is hoping to complete construction by the time horses begin to arrive and they will also be going out to bid soon for the new containers which have been designed to act as receptacles for the stall waste, which is the straw and manure, which is good progress and he is glad to see the track working with everyone in solving this situation and he is hopeful that this year we will be able to report cleaner river levels.

COUNCILMAN WOLFE: Councilman Wolfe thanked Gary Edwards of Edwards Electric and a local resident and as Councilman Miller stated earlier, we had purchased a flag for Old Wharf Park and on Sunday afternoon the Fire Department assisted in raising the flag and we called Gary Edwards at his home that day regarding the installation of a light at that location and he had his crew out there the following day and in the spirit of the community and showing the support for our troops in the Middle East, he donated his company's time and equipment to install that light at the park.

Councilman Wolfe commented that during this past summer we had the tennis courts at the Community Center resurfaced by a local company and they had made a comment with regard to some additional work that would have to be done at the courts which was outside the scope of his contract and he gave an estimate of between \$300-\$400 for the work. He stated that he approached Sal Lagrotteria who is also a local resident and discussed the problem with him and asked for an estimate and Mr. Lagrotteria volunteered his equipment and services to take care of this work and saved the Borough the money. He offered his thanks to both Sal Lagrotteria and his son, Sal, Jr. for continuing to donate their time and efforts for the good of the Community.

R-91-19 Councilman Wolfe asked the Clerk to read resolution R-91-19 regarding the transfers of funds, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Miller and approved by those Councilpersons in attendance.

R-91-20 Councilman Wolfe asked the Clerk to read resolution R-91-20 amending the 1991 temporary budget, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilwoman Filippone and approved by those Councilpersons in attendance.

Councilman Wolfe moved to return \$70,444.26 to Mr. & Mrs. Fiore for the major subdivision known as Block 1, Lot 5 per the recommendation of the Borough Engineer. It was seconded by Councilman Miller and approved by the Councilpersons in attendance.

Councilman Wolfe moved to authorize the Borough Engineer to prepare plans and specifications and go out for bid for the reconstruction project for Bridgewater's Drive. It was seconded by Councilman Rodman and approved by those Councilpersons in attendance.

Mayor Cavanagh commented for the public who may now know, thankfully the State has finally approved a grant for the reconstruction of Bridgewater's Drive which includes drainage and constructions costs.

MAYOR CAVANAGH: Mayor Cavanagh informed the public that we are in the middle of budget discussions and he felt that we will probably introduce the budget on February 21 if all goes according to plan and we have until February 25, 1991 to introduce the budget. He stated as all the other surrounding municipalities are at the present time, there are more requests to review and worthwhile programs than funds, so we are attempting to work our way through them.

Mayor Cavanagh thanked Mr. Hank Ward of the Oceanport Shell Station for donating a flag which has a yellow ribbon and supports our troops in hopes of them returning home soon and we have an American flag and POW/MIA flag at Borough Hall and recently installed the flag at Old Wharf Park and as a sign of respect and admiration for the troops we will also fly this at Old Wharf Park.

Mayor Cavanagh then opened the meeting to the public for any comments they might care to make.

PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Mr. Greg Roonan, 1259 Turf Drive commented that he received the Bulletin today and found an opinion survey enclosed and he asked what purpose and what weight does this survey carry and the reason he is asking is because looking at the survey, he is involved in many things in this town and he would not be qualified to answer some of these questions because he does not know what should be eliminated or postponed and he is not really sure what this is about. He continued that the first question is whether or not to cut municipal services and if you answer yes, which most people probably would, then you must decide where the cuts will be made and how will we know where the cuts are needed. Mr. Roonan stated that he does not know if we have ample employees in the Police Department or if the shifts should be cut in half or if they should be increased.

Mr. Roonan was concerned that if people have a pet peeve in any of these categories then they might just mark down to eliminate a particular item without really researching the matter and he again wondered what weight these surveys will carry and what this is supposed to prove.

Mayor Cavanagh stated that it is the inaugural time we have attempted to do this and Little Silver did a similar survey several months ago and the Mayor informed him that he was amazed at how much response they received in terms of interest and some of the commentary was very good and some of it was as Mr. Roonan described without much thought or research. but on the whole, Mayor Bruno and the Little Silver Council felt it was very informative. He continued that he was not sure at this point in time how much weight we are going to attach to the survey, but what it really is doing is giving another attempt to give people an opportunity to tell us what they think.

Mr. Roonan questioned if we should not give the public a little more information about these areas first and let them know what the Police have been doing for the past year and what the municipalities around us are doing before asking for their opinions. He stated that he spoke with several Police Departments today and other than one town which some times does it, none that he called operates with a one man shift and when they do, we answer the calls to back them up when there is only a one man shift. Mr. Roonan stated that most everyone loves recycling and this is one area where everyone can see what is happening. He stated that under Recreation, Future Development of Parks he felt this was a huge issue and makes people wonder if the question is about new parks, maintenance of old parks, baseball fields, etc. and he understands it is expensive to maintain these programs and maintenance and the Council has been very generous over the last several years and we appreciate it very much but he is concerned if 94 senior citizens send it in and say to eliminate that portion.

Mayor Cavanagh stated that first of all the public must have some confidence in the ability of the Governing Body to evaluate what we receive in response to this survey and he has always been an advocate of giving the

people as much opportunity as possible to speak. He continued that perhaps after reading through the surveys we may find that we need to spend some time in the Bulletin giving people more of an understanding of what those issues contained in the survey are about. He stated that over the last year or so we have spent a lot of time in the Bulletin telling the public what Recreation has done and there has been a lot to talk about in that area.

Mayor Cavanagh commented to Mr. Roonan that he has a lot of faith in the people in this town and he feels that he is going to receive responses that say a lot of good things and he really believes that and that people are going to comment that we have a very professional Police Department who do a good job.

Mr. Roonan was just concerned about what the people are going to say, since he is very involved with several different programs in the town and does not feel he has enough knowledge to answer the questions in the survey.

Mayor Cavanagh advised that we had a survey done about one month ago through Storer Cable and the representatives of Storer kept saying that no one would respond to the survey and that was not true and some of the commentary received was very good and some of the comments were from people who were angry with the company, but there were very good comments.

Mr. Roonan asked if that enabled the Mayor and Council to make their decision on what they got back, to which Mayor Cavanagh stated he can make as good or better a decision then he could have made with nothing back and it was not all that the decision was based on, which is the same case with this survey we are speaking about tonight. Mayor Cavanagh stated we spend hours going over our budgets and each of those departments that have been referenced in the survey have Council Liaisons and Department Heads and we talk to all of them and the Liaisons usually present very lengthy presentations about each department and all that this survey does is give us one other avenue for the public to give us some input before the budget is completed.

Mayor Cavanagh stated that when we hold our public hearing on the Budget it is always the night the budget is being adopted and sometimes it might be more helpful if people were to make certain comments before the budget is being adopted and maybe not but he does not think that it can prejudice or harm anything as long as we take it in the context of being just another tool to evaluate what we all have to do up here in the next several weeks and he stated that Mr. Roonan is correct in that most people are very tax conscious at this time and so is your Governing Body.

Mr. Roonan asked if perhaps more information could be given out to the residents and the survey redistributed because if you really want the input then we should try to make it really work and let's give more information.

Mayor Cavanagh stated that he feels especially with all the publicity we have given Recreation and the Police Department in the Bulletin, he thinks that people have a basic grasp of what is going on in their Borough.

Mr. Roonan commented that to put this survey together the people reading the questions feel they have to pick one out of the choices given and then some of the questions just have other comments. He stated they are not the same for each question and how could we possibly cut back in the Public Works area and the comment as to whether or not to cut back in

the Police Department, he questioned how many people in this town even know how many employees are in that Department.

Mayor Cavanagh stated that if he receives a lot of response about this either pro, con or commentary, then he thinks the Chief and he will have to sit down and maybe at a public meeting allow him to make a public presentation or an article in the Bulletin with regard to any questions raised about the size of his department or the number of police officers on a particular shift and perhaps that will be necessary and if so, it will be a good educational experience for everyone.

Mr. Roonan stated that he really would not be able to answer any of these questions and could only respond to the section on other comments and he is someone that is involved in the community in several different areas.

Mayor Cavanagh stated that Mr. Roonan may be right and he will speak to him after the February 15 deadline and perhaps he may say that next year we might have to change the format somewhat or change the prologue before we send it out again and he feels that anything you learn from any situation can always be helpful.

Councilman Miller commented that when we put this survey together we started out with a very specific series of questions and when we got together we really did not like that format, because what we wanted was a more of a free wheeling response from the town and he thinks that by Mr. Roonan coming in tonight saying that he cannot really answer the questions, but yet he got on the telephone and started asking questions, it almost triggered the type of response we are looking for.

Mr. Roonan stated that the problem was that he is here tonight asking about this, but what about all the other residents.

Councilman Miller stated that some residents may ask for more information before they are able to respond and that will lead to reaction by the Governing Body, but the reason we went from the more specific to the general is that we really do not want to zero in on any one particular area in general.

Mr. Roonan commented that the question about the police shifts going from two officers to one officers is pretty specific and if someone is asking to cut the patrols in half, he needs to have it justified to him that he only wants one officer out there, when at this point in time they are also responding to fires and first aid calls.

Mayor Cavanagh stated if we received an overwhelmingly high response that said we should reduce the force, his initial reaction would be to have the Chief make a presentation as to why we have two officers on patrol and what it involves so that the people would understand. He again stated that he feels we are going to receive a lot of positive comments from the residents in this Borough.

Mr. Roonan asked if the survey results are going to be made public to which Mayor Cavanagh stated he would have an article in the Bulletin but he was not sure if he would give the numbers or just advise the public through his Mayor's message as to what the results were. He stated he may have to say in his article that some of the things that were raised in his opinion, evoke a need for further discussion, and we will then follow that up by placing articles on specific areas in the Bulletin.

Mayor Cavanagh stated that this is a difficult time of the year for everyone and we are all sensitive to the fact that the people's property taxes have become difficult but by the same token we are obligated to give residents some service for all the money that they do pay. He commented that it is a difficult job to balance it right and by and large we do a good job.

Mayor Cavanagh stated there is no motivation for this survey other than using it to gather information and perhaps in the future we may have to re-word some of our questions.

Paul Roller, 69 Monmouth Road commented that the Police Department in this town is made up of highly professional people who do a very good job and you can never have enough police officers.

Mr. Roller stated he is here tonight as the newly elected President of the Oceanport Recreation Basketball Association and we have a problem this year with a shortage of funds and we are trying to raise money through a Sonny Giordano yearbook, as we do each year and we are trying to work harder this year in raising funds through the ads and he requested the Borough take an ad. He stated the reason for the shortage this year is because they have to pay the referees now and also they needed new equipment this year.

Mayor Cavanagh stated we have purchased an ad in this yearbook in previous years and will take a look at this when we meet again.

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

Councilman Wolfe moved to approve the bills as listed on the Voucher Register dated February 7, 1991. It was seconded by Councilman Miller and approved by those Councilpersons in attendance. TOTAL 1989 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$16,500.00. TOTAL 1990 VOUCHERS \$2,232.20. TOTAL 1990 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$27,617.54. TOTAL 1990 OPERATING FUND \$29,849.74. TOTAL GENERAL LEDGER TAX OVERPAYMENTS \$375.53. TOTAL GENERAL LEDGER MIDDLE DEPARTMENT INSPECTION AGENCY \$1,165.00. TOTAL 1991 VOUCHERS \$57,858.42. TOTAL 1991 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$57,230.49. TOTAL 1991 OPERATING FUND \$115,088.91. TOTAL TRUST ACCOUNT \$14,332.00. TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNT \$10,000.00. TOTAL DOG REGISTRY ACCOUNT \$954.40. TOTAL GENERAL LEDGER ADDED & OMITTED COUNTY TAX \$2,454.93. TOTAL GENERAL LEDGER ADDED & OMITTED LIBRARY TAX \$82.43. TOTAL GENERAL LEDGER ADDED & OMITTED OPEN SPACE TAX \$61.83. TOTAL GENERAL LEDGER MISC. \$579.08. TOTAL GENERAL LEDGER FIRE PREVENTION \$9.75. (SEE VOUCHER REGISTER)

At 8:40 P.M. Councilwoman Filippone moved to adjourn this meeting until the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on February 21, 1991 at 8:00 P.M. It was seconded by Councilman Miller and unanimously approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia L. Varca

PATRICIA L. VARCA
BOROUGH CLERK