

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Oceanport, New Jersey
February 6, 2003

- REGULAR MEETING:** The Regular Meeting of the Oceanport Mayor and Council was called to order on February 6, 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 and Mayor Gemma.
- OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Borough Clerk, Patricia L. Varca and Francis A. Margalotti.
- INVOCATION:** Borough Chaplain Berry gave the invocation.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Council President Gatta led the audience and members of the Council in the flag salute.

As copies of the minutes from the Reorganization Meeting held on January 1, 2003 and the regular meeting held on January 16, 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 Apruzzi and approved by Council.

Mayor Gemma then advised we were going out of order this evening and called for the introduction of an ordinance to exceed the 1% CAP by another 0.5% and explained that the Governing Body can exceed the CAP by up to 5% with an ordinance but we are only exceeding it by ½ of a percent and are able to bank the remaining 3½ % and then asked Councilman McGann to introduce the ordinance.

Councilman McGann asked the Clerk to read the proposed ordinance to exceed the 1% CAP amount by title only, as follows: **AN ORDINANCE PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL CAP LAW CONCERNING THE 2003 MUNICIPAL BUDGET OF THE BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY.**

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

The Clerk called the roll:

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

Councilman McGann then moved to hold the public hearing on this ordinance at the regular meeting scheduled for February 20, 2003 and to advertise same in accordance with law. It was seconded by Councilwoman Gatta.

The Clerk called the roll:

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

R-03-18

Mayor Gemma then asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-03-18** introducing the 2003 municipal budget and setting the date for the public hearing on same to be held on March 6, 2003, after which Councilman McGann moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilwoman Gatta.

The Clerk called the roll:

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

At 8:06 p.m. Mayor Gemma stated he had to leave the meeting and Council President Gatta took over the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Council President Gatta called for the presentation of the First Aid awards and asked Ex-Captain John Connor to come forward.

Mr. Connor explained that each year the Squad gives out a Captain's Award known as the John Hauser Memorial Award and this year it is being presented to Laura Hornig for outstanding service above and beyond the call of duty while at the same time facing great adversity in her personal life and asked her to come forward and accept this award.

Mr. Conner then stated that the Squad also gives out an award for the most calls answered during 2002 and that award goes to Ed Ryan again this year and asked him to come up and accept the award.

Council President Gatta commented on the John Hauser award presented to Laura Horning as the First Aider of the Year, who answered 72% of all the calls during 2002 while fighting cancer and she felt that Laura was a role model to all of us and felt that she makes all of us very proud to have her as a member of the Squad and we know she is a cancer survivor and we know that she will continue to be a role model for everyone and it was a difficult time for her and she did an outstanding job.

Council President Gatta continued that the First Aider who had answered most calls during 2002 which was 75% of all calls is Ed Ryan and this is not a new award for him and he has received it in the past years and this award was named after his father and she thanked Ed for all his time and effort he gives to the residents of this Borough.

Council President Gatta informed everyone that what John Connor was too modest to say was that he responded to almost 90% of all calls during 2002 and obviously could not give the award to himself and commented that John responded to 455 calls during 2002 and what is remarkable about the First Aid is that during 2002, ten squad members answered over 250 emergency calls and read the following names and number of calls made: John Conner-455 calls; Ed Rayn-372 calls; Laura Hornig-355 calls; Jane Ciani-323 calls; Linda Johnson-312 calls; Lynn Arnold-301 calls; Wes

Sherman-280 calls; Joe Lombardo-273 calls; Alan Johnson-270 calls and Matt Brown-253 calls. She thanked the members who were present in the audience for all they do for our community and during 2002 there was an all time high of 640 calls which equated to 11,563 man/woman hours made up of not only answering calls, but fund raising, fund drives, training, educating, transports and mutual aid calls. Council President Gatta extended everyone's thanks and appreciation to all of the members of the First Aid Squad.

CLERK'S REPORTS:

1. Police report for the month of JANUARY 2003 and a copy will be posted on the bulletin board.
2. Application for membership to the Oceanport Hook & Ladder Fire Company made by Travis Aho and the Clerk reported that a background check had been completed and approved by the Police Department, after which Councilman Mahon moved to approve this application. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council.
3. The Clerk read a letter received from Councilwoman Silkworth dated January 26, 2003 resigning her position as Councilwoman effective January 31, 2003.

Council President Gatta asked for a motion to accept this letter of resignation with deep regret and Councilman Mahon moved the motion. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council.

Councilman McGann stated he regretted the Council receiving this letter of resignation and he wanted to comment that he enjoyed working with Councilwoman Silkworth over the years and she served the Borough in a great capacity over the years as a member of the Council.

Council President Gatta commented that she thought we all share those sentiments and it is with deep regret that we have to accept this resignation and she always found Councilwoman Silkworth to be a very dedicated member of this Governing Body and knows she will be missed by all of us on the dais and we wish her well in her new endeavors.

COMMITTEES:

COUNCILWOMAN KAHLE: Councilwoman Kahle announced that we have an opening for an Editor for the Oceanport Bulletin since our former editor, Beth Henderson, has found full time employment and anyone interested should contact the Borough Offices.

Councilwoman Kahle moved to authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to sign the authorization for the Monmouth County Mosquito Commission to continue their aerial spraying program in 2003 for mosquito control. It was seconded by Councilman Mahon and approved by Council.

R-03-19 COUNCILMAN MAHON: Councilman Mahon asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-03-19** authorizing the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute a Quitclaim Deed for the property known as Block 16, Lot 19 located on Hiawatha Ave., after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council.

Councilman Mahon reported that both the Fire and Police Chiefs have worked out the details for the new siren policy for the Borough and they have reduced the number of blasts and limited the use of the siren to confirm structure fires, not the initial alarm, between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6

a.m. He continued that the blasts for fire have also been reduced to four cycles and he is pleased to see the Fire Department has gone forward with this and it will be a help to the residents who live next to the sirens. He also noted that the First Aid Squad policy has also been brought back to 10 p.m. so this policy is now in effect for the entire Borough and it will be included in the 2003 Borough Directory.

Councilman Mahon advised that the Fire Department is in the process of retiring the American LaFrance Pumper and they will strip all of the usable equipment from the truck and then will refer it back to the Council for disposition.

Councilman Mahon commented on the letter of resignation read earlier this evening and stated that six or seven years ago he was appointed by the Mayor and Council to serve on the Capital Improvement Committee and Councilwoman Silkworth was a Liaison to that Committee and in the five years working with that Committee and her, he learned much about her and she gave him some good advice and stated she is a wonderful person. He continued that she recruited him over the course of a few years and she has been a source of great advice to both he and Councilwoman Kahle and felt she would be sorely missed by him and was glad to say that she will be a continuing source of advice to him because she is also their Municipal Chairman, but in any case she will be missed by everyone on Council and her service and assistance was much appreciated by him.

R-03-20

COUNCILMAN APRUZZI: Councilman Apruzzi asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-03-20** transferring funds, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Mahon and approved by Council.

Councilman Apruzzi moved to appoint Annette David as the Borough's Chief Financial Officer, effective January 14, 2003 to fill the un-expired term ending December 31, 2006. It was seconded by Councilman McGann and approved by Council.

Councilman Apruzzi commented that he has worked with Councilwoman Silkworth for the past five years and found her to be of the highest quality as an individual, great ethics and integrity and great experience that we will sorely miss on this Council. He continued that with his five years on Council and her eight years, you get a lot of information as to how the Borough runs and in passing it on to all of us on the dais, is the best thing she ever did for us and we will miss her and wished her well and felt that we will see her in the future.

COUNCILMAN MCGANN: Councilman McGann offered the name of James Butler as the Borough's Prosecutor effective March 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003 due to the vacancy created by Mr. Pollock's retirement from this position after approximately twenty years. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council.

Councilman McGann reported that the Public Works Department employees have been working inside on the equipment during the extreme cold weather and due to the greater increase in snowfall, we have gone through our salt/sand supply quickly and have spent a considerable amount of money this year due to the snow but we do have a full supply on hand and feel it will accommodate the Borough over the next few weeks of winter. He also advised that when weather permits they have been filling the pot holes and asked the residents that if they do see a pot hole, they should call the Superintendent of Public Works and report it and we need as many eyes as we can get to make sure we get all the pot holes.

MAYOR GEMMA: Absent.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT GATTA: Council President Gatta reported that on January 18th we had a rabies clinic and we serviced 83 dogs, 34 cats and 75% of the animals were from Oceanport and she thanked the Port-au-Peck Chemical Hose Fire Company for allowing us to use the firehouse for this clinic.

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

Mr. Chris Bagot, 200 Comanche Drive commented that he had sent a letter approximately two months ago to Councilman Mahon with regard to some library books and wondered what the status was of his inquiry, to which Councilman Mahon responded that he had referred the letter to the Library Association who just held their first meeting Tuesday evening and they were going to contact Mr. Bagot when they reached a decision and he will check with them to try and find out what is happening.

Col. Betty Berry, 25 Hiawatha Ave. asked what the hold up is putting the traffic light on at Monmouth Boulevard and Myrtle Avenue, to which Councilwoman Gatta stated that when they did the striping, the reflective arrows required did not take on the pavement and the weather has been too cold since then to attempt to re-paint them and that is basically the problem. She also advised that our Engineer has been checking weekly with the County, as well as some of our Council members, trying to find out when the light will become a reality.

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

Councilman Apruzzi moved to temporarily appoint Councilwoman Gatta to the Finance Committee to sign the vouchers. It was seconded by Councilman McGann and approved by Council.

Councilman Apruzzi moved to approve the vouchers on the Bill List dated January 16, 2003. It was seconded by Councilman McGann and approved by Council. CAPITAL TRUST TOTAL \$11,031.95. DOG REGISTRY TOTAL \$582.20. ESCROW TRUST TOTAL \$444.23. 2002 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$15,161.70. TOTAL 2002 VOUCHERS \$15,161.70. 2003 VOUCHERS PAID \$74,547.00. 2003 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$1,621,234.84. TOTAL 2003 VOUCHERS \$1,695,781.84. (SEE BILL LIST)

At 8:25 p.m. Councilman Apruzzi moved to adjourn this meeting until the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on February 20, 2003 at 8:00 P.M. It was seconded by Councilman McGann and approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,



PATRICIA L. VARCA
BOROUGH CLERK