

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Oceanport, New Jersey
February 5, 2004

- REGULAR MEETING:** The Regular Meeting of the Oceanport Mayor and Council was called to order on February 5, 2004 at 8:00 P.M. with Mayor Gatta stating the meeting had been properly advertised in accordance with law.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councilpersons Mahon, Apruzzi, Chaump, Johnson, Briscione and Mayor Gatta.
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Councilwoman Kahle.
- 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 January 15, 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 Johnson and approved by Council with the exception of Councilwoman Chaump who abstained since she was not present at that meeting.

Councilwoman Chaump stated she also had a statement concerning the January 1, 2004 minutes and not having been at the last meeting when they were approved, she stated the resolution adopted on January 1 regarding the approved bank depositories for Borough funds, she failed to realize that the Two River Community Bank was listed and she wanted to note for the record that she should have abstained because of a conflict of interest.

Councilman Briscione also needed to amend his vote from the last meeting on the minutes of December 18, 2003 at which time he should have abstained rather than voting in the affirmative.

Mayor Gatta asked Councilwoman Johnson to make several presentations of awards to members of the First Aid Squad and Councilwoman Johnson as the Ex-Captain, presented two John Hauser awards to both Laura Hornung and Carl Sarolli as First Aiders of the year for 2003; she then also presented to Laura Hornung the award for most calls responded to during 2003 and commented that she responded to 451 calls and thanked her for always being there and ready to respond.

Councilwoman Johnson then stated she has a new award this year and presented it to Curtis Dalton as the Squad's Chief Steward and commented that he cooked for the Squad the entire month of December when they were there selling trees.

Mayor Gatta expressed the Governing Body's appreciation and thanks for the great job the volunteers in the Squad do for all of us and stated that they all do a great job and service for the Borough.

CLERK'S REPORTS:

1. Police report for the month of JANUARY, 2004 and a copy will be posted on the Bulletin Board.
2. Application for membership to the Oceanport Hook & Ladder Fire Co. made by Michelle L. Centanni and commented that the applicant had a background check from the Police Department and they sent an approval on this application.

Councilwoman Chaump moved to approve this application. It was seconded by Councilman Mahon and approved by Council.

COMMITTEES:

COUNCILWOMAN KAHLE: Absent.

COUNCILMAN MAHON: Councilman Mahon offered his thanks to the First Aiders who recently responded to a call at his home when his wife fell and they did a great job.

Councilman Mahon asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-04-18** introducing the 2004 municipal budget and setting the time and date for the public hearing on same, after which he moved to approve the resolution. It was seconded by Councilman Briscione.

The Clerk called the roll:

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

Councilman Mahon asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-04-19** regarding the self-examination of the budget after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Briscione and approved by Council.

Councilman Mahon asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-04-20** requesting approval from the Division of Local Government Services for a snow removal reserve dedication by rider to the 2004 municipal budget, after which he moved to approve same. It as seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and approved by Council.

Councilman Mahon explained that the Division of Local Government Services permits local municipalities to establish a snow reserve account and the purpose of this account is to take money normally spent on snow, since we know that we don't have the same amount of snow every year, to use any unexpended funds in that line item at the end of a year to a reserve account and essentially spend it the following year or succeeding years thereafter when snow is above and beyond what we originally budgeted for and the purpose is to safeguard our budget to eliminate spikes down the road. He continued that it is our intent this year that if the funds are available at the end of this year, to move unexpended funds for the snow removal into this reserve account as a protective means for the following year.

Councilman Mahon moved to authorize the Borough Engineer to advertise and receive bids for the Cayuga/Gooseneck Point flood alleviation project. It was seconded by Councilman Briscione and approved by Council.

Councilman Mahon reported that under Public Works the department has been inundated with snow and ice conditions over the past several weeks and they have been out doing a great job keeping the ice and snow removal under control and we experienced one minor mishap with a piece of equipment, but that is now back in service as of this afternoon and ready to go for the next snow event. He continued that there have been articles in the newspapers about neighboring municipalities having a problem securing the salt and sand needed and he advised that we have some safeguards that we are locked in with a particular company and have had no problems in ordering our ice control materials.

Councilman Mahon reported under finance and stated that the Committee met with the administrative staff over the past month and we began discussing putting some cost containment controls in place and one of the things to help in the Council in reviewing the bill list prior to the actual Council meeting, is we have stepped up the cut off date for bills to be submitted for signature and approval by the Council Liaisons responsible for those particular committees and as of last Friday the Council members have been signing the vouchers received and had an advance printing of the bill list so that we are able to review the bills that we will be voting on for payment this evening, in advance of tonight's meeting.

Mayor Gatta stated that with the introduction of the budget this evening, copies will be available tomorrow morning at the Clerk's Office.

COUNCILMAN APRUZZI: Councilman Apruzzi reported that on the January report it indicates there were 756 calls received by the Dispatchers and our officers responded to 431 calls, which is down from the last several months.

Councilman Apruzzi reported that the Shade Tree Committee met this past month and we have work to be done on Wardell Circle with the planting of new trees as part of the repaving project of this road and the trees will be planted in late March when the ground will hopefully be thawed. He commented that the last check made it showed we had 47 inches of frost and we have seen several water main breaks because of the severe cold.

Councilman Apruzzi offered his congratulations to all the First Aid volunteers who received awards this evening and he stated that their services are invaluable and he thanked them for being there for all of us all the time.

Councilman Apruzzi offered his personal condolences to the Wilcox family, the Dziedzic family and the Flynn family. He commented that Bob Wilcox was 94 years old and when he was at the wake, one of the things said about him was that everyone thought Bob would go on forever and he was with us for a very long time and gave so much to this Borough over the years and he was the first recipient of the Mayor's Lifetime Achievement award back in 1989. Councilman Apruzzi stated that the Dziedzic family have had two burdens on them with the loss of Bernie approximately five years ago and now his son has passed away and there is great sadness in their family.

COUNCILWOMAN CHAUMP: Councilwoman Chaump congratulated the First Aiders and they were all there for her on January 4th when she needed them after falling at her parent's home and thanked them for all their assistance.

Councilwoman Chaump advised that the Oceanport Drug Alliance is now called the Oceanport Drug Awareness Committee and they had their election back in November and Dr. Madeline Badalaty and Hope Santi are Co-Chairs of this Committee, the Secretary is Allison Mahon and the Treasurer is Katie LaPorta. She also reported that the Safe Homes Pledge for 2004 went out and 297 families sent it back and the Drug Awareness Committee also did a community calendar for 2004 and there are still copies available.

COUNCILWOMAN JOHNSON: Councilwoman Johnson asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-04-21** reappointing Elwood Baxter as the Oceanport Representative to the Two Rivers Water Reclamation Authority, after which she moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Briscione and approved by Council.

Councilwoman Johnson thanked the Port-au-Peck Firehouse for allowing us to conduct the rabies clinic there on January 24 and we vaccinated 170 cats and dogs and it went very well and we did remind everyone who came to make sure they got their pet licenses for 2004.

COUNCILMAN BRISCIONE: Councilman Briscione congratulated the First Aid Squad members who received awards for the dedication to the community.

Councilman Briscione reported that the Planning Board accepted jurisdiction on January 28th on the application for preliminary approval of a major subdivision by the NJ Sports & Exposition Authority to be known as the Jockey Club Estates which will be a 46 unit, single family, age restricted development at the corner of East Main Street and Port-au-Peck Ave. He continued that he and Mayor Gatta could not hear the application because it involved a use variance and the next scheduled hearing date for this application is February 25th for the Jockey Club Estates.

Councilman Briscione also offered his sympathy to the Wilcox, Dziedzic, Flynn and Capozzi family on their recent losses.

MAYOR GATTA: Mayor Gatta reported that on January 20th she and Councilman Briscione attended the Stake holder's meeting which was held at Monmouth Park and at that time on behalf of the Borough, she submitted an initial eighteen questions/concerns that we need answers to and the letter was accepted and they will be getting back to us with a response to those questions and concerns, which dealt with the lease and moving forward with how Oceanport will continue to be protected. She offered to share the list of the questions with anyone interested and we are obviously awaiting their response, which we should be getting shortly because the next meeting has been scheduled for February 11th at 3:00 p.m. at Monmouth Park.

Mayor Gatta wished to publicly thank our Chief Financial Officer, Annette David for finding an article in the newspaper about the possibility of getting Commerce Bank to give the Borough a donation toward the purchase of a defibrillator for the Police and advised Chief Bebout of this and he followed through with a letter to Commerce and we have received a check in the amount of \$1,500 for this purchase and the Police will donate the balance.

Mayor Gatta advised that this evening at our work shop meeting the Council reviewed a draft of the Public Safety Committee ordinance that we are hoping to adopt shortly and following some minor changes, she will be distributing copies of this draft to fire, first aid, OEM, Public Works and the Police for them to review and make any comments and hopefully at our next work shop we will have a final version and introduce it at our next regular meeting.

Mayor Gatta reminded everyone about our town meeting scheduled to be held on Thursday, March 11, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. and stated there are flyers out in the front foyer where residents can write in topics they would like to see on the agenda for that evening.

Mayor Gatta asked all our residents to continue to support our businesses during the bridge construction and some signs have been installed by the County but there are more signs to come as well as striping on the roadway to assist people making the left turn off Port-au-Peck Ave. to Oceanport Avenue.

Mayor Gatta also expressed her condolences to the Wilcox family, the Dziedzic family and the Flynn family.

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

PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Ed Ryan, 24 Willow Court asked if there is an ordinance with regard to clearing sidewalks of snow, since it is a dangerous situation on Main Street and on Pemberton Avenue with the young children trying to walk to school.

Councilman Mahon stated there is nothing at the present time and the Council has discussed this matter previously, to which Mr. Ryan requested they discuss it again and think about the safety issue with regard to our children.

Hugh Sharkey, 39 Algonquin Ave. stated that Councilman Briscione had mentioned earlier with regard to the Jockey Club Estates, that he and Mayor Gatta abstained from hearing this application, to which Councilman Briscione explained they cannot sit to hear the application because it is a use variance and stated on a combined Planning and Zoning Board, when there is a use variance, the Mayor and Councilperson cannot sit because he believed that was due to the fact that it could come up for appeal before the Mayor and Council.

Borough Attorney McGann stated that traditionally that is what it was and appeals from the Zoning Board of Adjustment could be heard by the Mayor and Council and some Boroughs still have those regulations on their books and other municipalities have done away with that process.

Mr. Sharkey asked with regard to the Oceanport Stake Holders group if they have met yet, to which Mayor Gatta explained that we did have a meeting prior to going to Monmouth Park and we have not established the entire Committee, but we did have two people who will be serving on the Committee in attendance and it was only to get some feedback on the eighteen questions/concerns they were working on and as we move forward, we will establish the Committee but at the present time it is merely advisory.

Mr. Sharkey asked who the two people were to which Mayor Gatta responded they were David Gruskos and Bernie Dowd and Mr. Sharkey asked if the eighteen points were done by the four of them, to which Mayor Gatta stated that the questions were put together by Councilman Briscione.

Mr. Sharkey stated that from a community point of view, we still have not gotten any feedback or input to the Mayor to bring it to the Authority's attention, to which Mayor Gatta stated that is why she gave Mr. Sharkey a copy of the questions the day she saw him and she is offering this letter to

anyone interested in order to get back comments and explained that these are our initial concerns and we will most likely have more concerns as we go forward in this process.

Mr. Sharkey asked if the meeting dates will be published in order to let the residents know in order to give input, to which Mayor Gatta stated yes, the public will be advised of the meeting dates.

Mr. Sharkey stated he was also at the Stake Holders meeting and he came away with the impression that the State has the bid specifications already prepared and they are ready to mail them out as soon as they get the go ahead with some legislative changes that they are trying to get accomplished, which was his opinion. He stated our concerns now with these eighteen points that they are addressing is eating into the clock of when they are going to mail those bid specifications out, so any type of town meeting to get some input would have to be done very quickly so that for the second time they can evaluate the town's input on top of the eighteen concerns and they are going to come back and he didn't feel this could be done before they mail out the bid specifications.

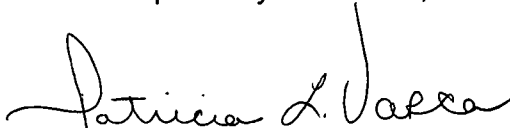
Mayor Gatta encouraged Mr. Sharkey if he has any comments or suggestions to please let her know as soon as possible and not to wait for a public meeting and she suggested he call her with any concerns he may have. She again reminded everyone that our next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, February 11th and she stated if he has anything he would like her to bring to the meeting, to call her and let her know and she will be happy to sit down with him and discuss this matter further.

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 5, 2004. It was seconded by Councilwoman Champ and approved by Council. TOTAL CAPITAL TRUST \$12,710.23. TOTAL DOG REGISTRY \$418.10. TOTAL ESCROW TRUST \$1,213.75. 2003 VOUCHERS \$33,347.81. 2003 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$18,858.55. TOTAL 2003 VOUCHES \$52,205.36. 2004 VOUCHERS PAID \$1,316,060.96. 2004 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$1,533,260.86. TOTAL 2004 VOUCHERS \$2,849,321.82. (SEE BILL LIST)

At 8:40 p.m. Councilman Apruzzi moved to adjourn this meeting until the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on February 19, 2004 at 8:00 P.M. It was seconded by Councilman Mahon and approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,



PATRICIA L. VARCA
BOROUGH CLERK