

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Oceanport, New Jersey
January 18, 2001

REGULAR MEETING: The Regular Meeting of the Oceanport Mayor and Council was called to order on January 18, 2001 at 8:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilpersons Apruzzi, Gatta, Lyons, Wolfe, Silkworth and Mayor Gemma.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilman McGann.

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 reorganization meeting held on January 1, 2001 and the regular meeting held on January 4, 2001 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 Gatta and unanimously approved by Council with the exception of Councilwoman Silkworth who abstained from voting on the minutes of January 4, 2001 since she was absent.

CLERK'S REPORTS: No Reports.

COMMITTEES:

COUNCILMAN APRUZZI: Councilman Apruzzi moved to hire Christine Lyn Smith as the Borough's Recreation Coordinator, which is a part time position, with an annual salary of \$5,000. It was seconded by Councilwoman Gatta and unanimously approved by Council.

Councilman Wolfe added that this is an already existing position in the Borough, which has been vacant since the last Director resigned.

Councilman Apruzzi reported that the Recreation Committee held their reorganization meeting and the officers for 2001 are as follows: Toni Sverapa-Chairperson; Ed Miller, Vice-Chairman; Linda Gately, Treasurer; Laura Tagerty, Recording Secretary and Chuck Drawbaugh, Corresponding Secretary.

COUNCILWOMAN GATTA: Councilwoman Gatta reminded everyone that the free rabies clinic will be held this Saturday at the Port-au-Peck Fire House from 9-11 a.m.

Councilwoman Gatta reported that there is a severe blood shortage in our area and stated that there will be a blood drive on Wednesday, January 24 at the Oceanport First Aid Squad from 6-9 p.m. and urged anyone who is able to please donate during this critical time.

Councilwoman Gatta stated at last night's First Aid Squad meeting, the out going Captain presented the John Hauser Award, which is given to the member who has exemplified the ideals of the Squad and it was presented to Linda Fujimoto.

Councilwoman Gatta also stated that John Connor also presented a new award, which is going to be an annual one, the Edwin "Pappy" Ryan award given to the First Aid Squad member who has responded to the most calls during the year and it was presented to Ed Ryan, who had responded to 359 calls out of 424 which works out to his responding to 85% of all calls. She added that there were also two other members who responded to over 300 calls, which were Jane Ciani, and John Connor and she asked if the Governing Body could acknowledge these volunteers at one of our upcoming Council meetings, to which the Mayor stated we would do.

Councilwoman Gatta advised that during the month of December the First Aid Squad expended 3,072 hours of volunteer time between responding to calls, selling trees and wreaths and conducting their annual fund raiser Holiday Bazaar and added that there were 46 calls in the Borough, 10 of which were mutual aid calls, so our volunteers had a very busy month.

Councilwoman Gatta commented that she attended the Senior Citizens meeting yesterday where they had a speaker on elder fraud, since New Jersey has the third highest senior population and she was surprised how prevalent fraud is among seniors. She stated that they handed out a booklet, of which she has several copies that she wants to distribute to the Clerk's Office, Police Chief and to Anita McLean at Oceanport Gardens. She is also going to make up a brief article, touching on the major fraud scams that are taking place for the next Bulletin, in an attempt to alert all of our seniors about this problem.

COUNCILMAN LYONS: No Report.

COUNCILMAN WOLFE: Councilman Wolfe moved to accept the improvements done on Zocco Lane, Block 61, Lots 2, 26 and 27 and to return the remaining performance bond to the developer, Palatial Homes, upon the posting of a maintenance bond in the amount of \$13,732.56 contingent upon the payment of all fees and taxes, which is the recommendation of the Borough Engineer. It was seconded by Councilwoman Gatta and unanimously approved by Council.

Councilman Wolfe asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-01-16** regarding transferring funds, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council.

Councilman Wolfe asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-01-17** granting a veteran's tax deduction for Block 24, Lot 14, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council, with Councilman Lyons abstaining.

Councilman Wolfe asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-01-18** authorizing a refund of overpayment of property taxes, after which Councilman Wolfe moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilwoman Gatta and approved by Council with Councilman Lyons abstaining.

Councilman Wolfe asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-01-19** appointing a Monmouth County Community Development representative and alternate for 2001, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilwoman Silkworth and unanimously approved by Council.

Councilman Wolfe advised that the weather reports are predicting the possibility of snow this weekend and he asked the residents to be patient, since Public Works has to work on the main roads first, and to keep their cars off the street while they are plowing and to drive safely.

COUNCILMAN MCGANN: Absent.

COUNCILWOMAN SILKWORTH: Councilwoman Silkworth reported that the contracts for the heating and air conditioning at the Port-au-Peck Fire House have been signed by both the Mayor and Clerk and have been mailed back to the contractor. She has advised the architects to move as quickly as possible on this project and there is a pre-construction meeting scheduled for some time next week.

Councilwoman Silkworth reported that at our work shop meeting on Tuesday, the new generator was discussed and the problem with the existing panel box, which it was voted to replace at a cost of \$6,500. She advised that Carl Gallina of Birdsall Engineering met this morning with our Borough Electrician who felt that he would have to charge around the same price as the electrician already working with the contractor since the box is a custom made one and Mr. Gallina was able to get the price lowered to \$6,144 and she has told them to order the new box, which will have ample room for the new heating and air conditioning as well as any needs in the future. Councilwoman Silkworth stated that unfortunately the bad news is that since it is a custom built box, it will take six to seven weeks to have built.

MAYOR GEMMA: Mayor Gemma offered his congratulations to Councilpersons McGann and Silkworth on their re-election as well as to all the people appointed on New Year's Day, since he was unable to get a flight out of Florida in order to get back in time for the meeting. He stated that as announced on that day, there has been a recent meeting of our Public Safety Departments—Police, Fire, First Aid, Emergency Management and Public Works and the purpose of these meetings is to get the Departments to talk to one another and exchange ideas as well as review procedures, budget needs and experiences in order to make their Departments work better. He has received a copy of the minutes of the initial meeting, which went well and is not attended by any Council people and looks forward to seeing how this progresses in the future.

Mayor Gemma also offered congratulations to Patrolman Mike Chenoweth and his family on the very recent birth of their daughter, Delaney.

Mayor Gemma announced he will be attending Mayors Legislative Day in Trenton on Wednesday, January 24 and he will be reminding our Legislators of some of the Borough's needs and some areas that both Councilpersons Silkworth and McGann have spoken to them about previously.

Mayor Gemma advised that the Council will be meeting early Saturday morning to begin work on our 2001 budget.

Mayor Gemma then opened the meeting to the public for any comment or questions, but hearing none, closed the public portion of the meeting.

Councilman Wolfe moved to approve the vouchers on the Bill List dated January 18, 2001. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and unanimously approved by Council. 2000 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$22,987.14. TOTAL 2000 VOUCHERS \$22,987.14. 2001 VOUCHERS PAID \$566,282.86. 2001 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$75,688.25. TOTAL 2001 VOUCHERS \$641,971.11. TOTAL DOG REGISTRY \$253.60. TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNT \$33,029.10. (SEE BILL LIST)

At 8:20 p.m. Councilwoman Silkworth moved to adjourn this meeting until the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on February 1, 2001 at 8:00 P.M. It was seconded by Councilwoman Gatta and unanimously approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,



PATRICIA L. VARCA
BOROUGH CLERK