

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Oceanport, New Jersey
January 16, 2003

- REGULAR MEETING:** The Regular Meeting of the Oceanport Mayor and Council was called to order on January 16, 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 Silkworth.
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mayor Gemma.
- OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Borough Clerk, Patricia L. Varca.
- OFFICIALS ABSENT:** 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 special meeting held on November 13, 2002 and the regular meeting held on December 19, 2002 had been made available to the members of the Governing Body, Councilman Mahon moved to waive the reading of same and approve the minutes as presented by the Borough Clerk. It was seconded by Councilman McGann and approved by Council with the exception of Councilwoman Kahle who abstained from voting since she was not a member of the Council in 2002.

CLERK'S REPORTS:

1. Police report for the month of DECEMBER, 2002 and a copy will be posted on the bulletin board.

Council President Gatta commented that before continuing with the regular agenda; there was a wonderful presentation that we have to make tonight which is usually done at our Reorganization Meeting on New Year's Day, but our recipient this year was in Florida at that time. She continued that this is the Mayor's Lifetime Achievement Award and it started back in 1991 names an individual who has given so much of their time and talent to the citizens of Oceanport and this year the recipient is a gentleman who certainly personifies the criteria of this award. Council President Gatta noted that besides being a Mayor in the early seventies, the recipient is one of our two Borough Representatives to the Two Rivers Water Reclamation Authority and served many years on the Oceanport Planning Board and is an active member of the Monmouth Conservation Foundation and Friends of Parks and Families and the list goes on and on. She continued that what she admires most is the fact that it would be easy for him to say over the years that he has given so much and just sit back and relax and enjoy, but instead he has taken on a more pro-active and aggressive approach by serving on so many committees and gives so much of himself and that is a lesson for all us to take to heart and he is truly an individual that makes Oceanport so special.

Council President Gatta then introduced to everyone our recipient of the Mayor's Volunteer of the Year, Mr. Elwood Baxter and asked him to come forward.

Mr. Baxter thanked everyone for this award and stated that he could have sat back and done nothing but he would not have enjoyed doing that because what he enjoys is being involved and doing what he does for the Borough and with the County and with as many organizations as he can and he loves this Borough and has many happy memories here and special memories in this Borough Hall.

COMMITTEES:

COUNCILWOMAN KAHLE: Councilwoman Kahle reported that last week she attended the Government Seminar sponsored by Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders where they reviewed information on the open public meetings act, the ethics ordinance, the budget process, the Monmouth County Improvement Authority with regard to obtaining low interest financing to name a few and found it to be informative.

Councilwoman Kahle advised as Liaison to the Water Watch Committee and they have planned out their water sampling dates for the coming year and are making plans for the annual spring clean up which they are going to coordinate with the Boy Scouts. She also commented that Dr. Kaloss is conducting a study on fecal coliform and when completed, she will make the results of the study known to the Council and he has also met with representatives of the Long Branch Sewer Authority and DEP regarding the discharge of wastewater. She explained that both the Water Watch Committee and the Environmental Commission are both participating in the Monmouth Coastal Watershed Partnership this year and they are looking forward to sharing information.

Councilwoman Kahle reported that the Environmental Commission is reviewing the proposed lighting ordinance and will be bringing their findings to the Council at a later date.

Councilwoman Kahle also noted that she recently met with our Public Works Superintendent, Tom Crochet, to discuss the possibility of shared services for recycling in the future.

Councilwoman Kahle also attended the Board of Health meeting and will be assisting with the Rabies Clinic scheduled to be held this Saturday at the Port-au-Peck Fire House.

Councilwoman Kahle advised that we are looking for a new Editor for the Oceanport Bulletin since our present Editor, Beth Henderson recently took on full time employment and anyone interested should contact the Clerk's Office.

COUNCILMAN MAHON: Councilman Mahon reported that the Fire Committee had conducted its first meeting this past week and one of the things they did was to adopt a new siren policy which will reduce the number of blasts and limit the hours that it is used and it will not be used between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. and hopefully that will provide relief to the neighbors who live close to the sirens. He pointed out that it will be used whenever there is a confirmed structure fire regardless of the time and the details will be worked out to have a conforming policy with the First Aid Squad as well.

Councilman Mahon advised that the Fire Committee also recommended the retirement of the American LaFrance pumper assigned to the Port-au-Peck Fire Company and the vehicle has been out of service since early September and based upon that recommendation the Council has agreed to retire the vehicle. He added that the Fire Committee is working on an overall fleet plan and some

other options are under consideration at the present time, but until some of these options are decided on, the mutual aid from neighboring communities may be a temporary option.

Councilman Mahon reported under Emergency Management we have received a free vehicle from the County which arrived this past Friday and appears to be in very good shape and the primary assignment of that vehicle will be the OEM Coordinator, Fire Official and the Fire Department and we have also made arrangements to have repairs made, with an agreement with Long Branch, to the existing 5 ton OEM vehicle and we will pay for the parts and the labor will be free. He also advised that the Borough has just also purchased another vehicle with a trailer, which is surplus military equipment, which should be arriving the next several weeks and will be used for OEM and will be of great assistance during high tides and flooding situations.

Councilman Mahon commented that one of the items on the agenda tonight is in regard to the Fire Prevention Bureau and what we are doing with this resolution is entering into an Interlocal Services Agreement with the Borough of Eatontown to provide fire prevention services to the Borough of Oceanport and this takes a previously part time operation and puts it into a full time office environment and it will computerize our records, inspections, billing, budgeting, etc. and will also increase the level of service for our residents and businesses that use these services to have them available any time during the week and additionally, it will be at or near the cost that was budgeted for this service last year and this agreement will be in place for three years at the same cost and there is an option to terminate the agreement on an annual basis if it is not working in any way. He continued that this is a first step in the shared services concept and unfortunately, the side affect of this is that it displaces a Borough employee who has been in this position for the past sixteen years in addition to operating his own full time business and he will continue in his other duties for the Borough since he wears many different hats including Emergency Management and Planning Board Chairman and we hope that works out.

Councilman Mahon stated that regarding this shared service with Eatontown, some other doors have opened including the use of a bucket truck that they have just acquired and are looking for partners to share the use of this equipment and is a piece of equipment the Shade Tree Committee had included in their five year plan.

R-03-8 Councilman Mahon then asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-03-8** appointing the Eatontown Fire Prevention Bureau as the Borough's Fire Prevention Agency under an Inter Local Services Agreement, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman McGann and approved by Council.

R-03-9
COUNCILMAN APRUZZI: Councilman Apruzzi asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-03-9** appointing the Borough Prosecutor under the Local Public Contracts Law after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman McGann and approved by Council.

R-03-10 Councilman Apruzzi asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-03-10** appointing the Borough's Public Defender under the Local Public Contracts Law after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman McGann and approved by Council.

R-03-11 Councilman Apruzzi asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-03-11** appointing the Borough Attorney under the Local Public Contracts Law after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman McGann and approved by Council.

Councilman Apruzzi then asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-03-12** appointing the Borough's Affirmative Action representative for 2003 after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman McGann and approved by Council.

Councilman Apruzzi reported that the Police Report for December shows that our Dispatchers received 941 calls of which 522 calls were answered by our Police Officers and shows that they are quite busy out protecting our citizens.

Councilman Apruzzi noted that in the recent issue of the HUB newspaper had an article written by the President of our PBA, Patrolman Steven Briskey, warning the public of telemarketers who call to solicit funds for the PBA whether local or for the State and pointed out that neither organizations make telephone calls asking for funds, but do so through mailings. He advised that if you do get one of these calls and have Caller I.D., you should report the number to the Police Department.

Councilman Apruzzi advised that the Recreation Committee recently held their reorganization meeting and Lee Poole will be the Chairman and the Vice-Chairperson will be Jeff Bottger and he pointed out that we have a lot of talent on this committee and Mr. Poole has been on the Committee for approximately 17 years and Mr. Bottger is an Engineer with T & M Associates and brings another asset of experience when we are looking to undertake a park project.

Councilman Apruzzi offered his congratulations to two volunteers and their pictures were in the newspapers and they are Toni Sverapa, a member of the Recreation Committee for her volunteer work in town including Recreation, PTO, working with the Summer Action Camp and volunteering in our school system and Ed Ryan who was recognized for his work and dedication on the First Aid Squad.

COUNCILMAN MCGANN: Councilman McGann asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-03-13** appointing the Borough Engineer under the Local Public Contracts Law after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council.

R-03-13

Councilman McGann moved to authorize the Borough Engineer to advertise and receive bids for the reconstruction of Lake Drive and Riverview Avenue, funds for which were received from a DOT grant in the amount of \$135,000. It was seconded by Councilwoman Silkworth and approved by Council.

Councilman McGann commented that with this grant, it brings our total grant amount received over the past five years to approximately \$1 million.

Councilman McGann stated he was happy to report that we have received fully executed contracts back from the NJ Sports & Exposition Authority for the sale of the property located on Port-au-Peck Avenue which is approximately 40 acres and we are proceeding with that purchase at this time and there is a little more work to do from an environmental standpoint, but everything appears to be on track and we are just waiting for the Assembly to approve the appropriation which the Green Acres Trust Fund approved in July, 2002 and the Senate has already approved this funding.

Councilman McGann wished to give special thanks to Elwood Baxter for his many years of service to the Borough and he felt that one of the most precious things people can give is their labor and their time and he has certainly done that and is still giving and his wisdom and years of experience are invaluable. He also welcomed the former Mayor of Fair Haven, William Leonard and his wife as well as our other representative to the Two Rivers Water Reclamation Authority, Mr. Ward Coles.

R-03-14 COUNCILWOMAN SILKWORTH: Councilwoman Silkworth asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-03-14** appointing the Borough Auditor under the Local Public Contracts Law after which she moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council.

R-03-15 Councilwoman Silkworth asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-03-15** appointing a Community Development representative and alternate for 2003 after which she moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and was approved by Council, with the exception of Councilman McGann who abstained from voting since he was the representative named.

R-03-16 Councilwoman Silkworth asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-03-16** transferring funds after which she moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council.

R-03-17 Councilwoman Silkworth then asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-03-17** amending the 2003 temporary budget after which she moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council.

Councilwoman Silkworth also wished to echo the words of Councilman McGann concerning Elwood Baxter and she wanted to add that her observation is that Elwood Baxter has been one of the most enthusiastic of volunteers that we have had and thanked him for his many years of service.

MAYOR GEMMA: Absent.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT GATTA: Council President Gatta offered the name of Sal Massaro as the Building Sub-Code Official retroactive to January 1, 2003.

Councilwoman Silkworth moved to approve this appointment. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council.

Council President Gatta offered the name of Lucille Chaump to fill the un-expired term on the Economic Development Committee, which term expires December 31, 2003.

Councilman Mahon moved to approve this appointment. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council.

Council President Gatta offered the appointment of Steven Draper to fill the un-expired term on the Capital Improvement Committee which term expires December 31, 2003.

Councilwoman Silkworth moved to approve this appointment. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council.

Council President Gatta then offered the following names to the Water Watch Committee for 2003 which corrects the appointments made at the Reorganization Meeting: Richard Gruskos, Kevin Kubik, William Kaloss, Steve Collins, Robert Hassfeld, Ken Koenig, James Mazzei, Ed Miller and Keith Seeley.

Councilman Mahon moved to approve these appointments to the Water Watch Committee. It was seconded by Councilman McGann and approved by Council.

Council President Gatta reported under First Aid that at last night's meeting it was reported that for the month of December, 2002 a total of 80 calls were received and 3,817 man/woman hours were expended of which 2,466 hours were for the selling of the trees and the bazaar and were quite busy during that month. She also explained that their totals for 2002 were also reported and they answered 640 calls which is a record with hours expended totaling 11,563 and those are calculated by the training, answering calls, fund raising, transports, mutual aids, etc. and if you were to divide those hours by 24 it would be 482 full days that these volunteers donated to our Borough. She also reported that we had ten squad members who answered 50% or more of all calls and traditionally at the first meeting in January, the Ex-Captain, who this year is John Connor, gives out two awards one being the Pop Ryan Award for the first aider who answered the most calls and he should have received it because he answered 90% of all calls, so it went to Ed Ryan who answered 75% of the calls and this award has been in existence for three years and Ed Ryan has received it each year. She continued that the second award is the John Hauser Award which is for the First Aider of the Year Award and it went to Laura Hornung who answered 72% of the calls while facing a very difficult year health wise.

Council President Gatta recognized James Mazzei who just received his EMT certification and congratulated him for all his hard work.

Council President Gatta announced that this Saturday, January 18, 2003 we will be holding the free rabies clinic at the Port-au-Peck Fire House from 9 – 11 a.m. for all dogs and cats.

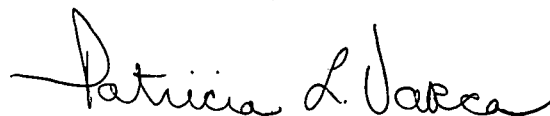
Council President Gatta announced that the Board of Health held their reorganization meeting recently and Connie Savarese was re-elected as President, Carole Connor was elected Vice-President. She also noted that the Shade Tree Committee also reorganized and Rocky Sullivan was re-elected as the Chairman and Michael Tober was elected Vice-Chairman.

Council President Gatta then opened the meeting to the public for any comments or questions they might wish to make, but seeing none, closed the public portion of the meeting.

Councilwoman Silkworth 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 \$3,294.25. 2002 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$48,051.45. 2003 VOUCHERS PAID \$158,346.06. 2003 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$805,299.04. TOTAL 2003 VOUCHERS \$963,645.10 (SEE BILL LIST)

At 8:38 p.m. Councilwoman Silkworth moved to adjourn this meeting until the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on February 6, 2003 at 8:00 P.M. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,



PATRICIA L. VARCA
BOROUGH CLERK