

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Oceanport, New Jersey
December 4, 1997

- REGULAR MEETING:** The Regular Meeting of the Oceanport Mayor and Council was called to order on December 4, 1997 at 8:06 P.M.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councilpersons Gemma, Filippone, Miller, Taylor, Wolfe, Silkworth and Mayor Cavanagh.
- OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Borough Clerk, Patricia L. Varca and Borough Attorney, Francis A. Margalotti.
- INVOCATION:** The invocation was given by Borough Chaplain Berry.
- 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 November 20, 1997 had been made available to the members of the Governing Body, Councilman Wolfe moved to waive the reading of same and approve the minutes as presented by the Borough Clerk. It was seconded by Councilwoman Silkworth and unanimously approved by Council.

CLERK'S REPORTS:

1. Police report for the month of NOVEMBER, 1997 and a copy will be posted on the Bulletin Board.

Mayor Cavanagh stated we are going to go out of order this evening and before we get to the matter concerning the Police Department, he wanted to say a couple of things because it is unusual that we get this type of an audience at our normal meetings, so if no one objects, he has moved up a presentation that would have taken place at the end of the year, but because he wanted Councilman Taylor to receive this with someone in the audience, he is going to do this tonight. Mayor Cavanagh stated that when we have a Councilperson who will not be returning the next year, we always have a plaque dedicated to them and this one expresses the appreciation of the members of the Governing Body to Lawrence E. Taylor for his years of service to the Borough from January 1, 1992 through December 31, 1997.

Mayor Cavanagh briefly commented that he wanted to do it this evening because he felt that Councilman Taylor deserved to be acknowledged in front of a full audience for what he has done for this Borough and he has been extremely efficient in a quiet manner, but nevertheless, a tremendous asset to not only the Mayor, but to everyone on the dais during his two terms. Mayor Cavanagh congratulated Councilman Taylor and wished him well in the future.

Mayor Cavanagh stated that he would like to say a few words before we go further about the out going Chief of Police, Bob Joyce, and express to him the Mayor's appreciation for his assistance over all of the fourteen years that he has been here, during Bob's positions as Captain and Chief and he has always been extremely professional and he has never had to inquire as to what was going to happen next or what he thought should happen, and he felt he would be remiss if he did not publicly

say that he appreciates his professionalism and he is very grateful to him, as are the members of the Governing Body, for running what he thinks is the finest Police Department in Monmouth County, with his apologies to his friends that may be present this evening from other Departments.

Mayor Cavanagh commented that the Chief has been very helpful to the Governing Body in obtaining a traffic light at the corner of Monmouth Boulevard and Myrtle Avenue, which we have been trying to receive approval for over many years and Chief Joyce has been instrumental in helping with the negotiations and discussions with the County and we have been recently advised by the County, in writing, that this light will be installed in 1998.

Mayor Cavanagh reported that the Borough Council, through the Police Committee, have been negotiating with the PBA and although we do it very quietly, he wanted to announce tonight that we have reached an agreement on a three year contract with the PBA and the Council and he will be signing a Memorandum of Understanding as will they and it will take several weeks before the entire contract is drawn up, but he wanted to express his appreciation to the members of the Department and to their negotiating committee as well as to the Borough's Police Committee for the work they did and again, the professionalism of the Department comes through when we negotiate our contracts and the civility that comes through on everyone's part.

Councilman Miller commented that this is the end of his eighth year on the Council and for all those eight years he has been a member of the Police Committee and as the Mayor stated earlier, we worked very closely with Chief Joyce and he has run a very professional ship and has been very cognizant of the need for continuing education for his employees in the Department and because of this they are highly effective and professional. He continued that one of the things that he has done is basically train the people who will come after him and he has left some big shoes to fill, but in this particular case the motion he is going to make for Kip Bebout to succeed him, is a person with big feet to fill those shoes.

Councilman Miller then moved to appoint Clifford K. Bebout, III to the position as Chief of Police effective January 1, 1998. Councilwoman Silkworth stated that it gave her great pleasure as backup Liaison on the Police Committee to second this motion, after which it was unanimously approved by Council.

The Clerk administered the Oath of Office to Clifford K. Bebout, III as Chief of Police, effective January 1, 1998 and the entire Borough Council offered their congratulations to in coming Chief Bebout.

Captain Bebout offered his thanks and appreciation to his family and friends for coming out tonight and for their support and also thanked Fire Chief, John Carroll and the members of the Port-au-Peck Chemical Hose Fire Company for allowing him to use the firehouse for a party this evening and invited everyone to come over after the meeting.

COMMITTEES:

COUNCILMAN GEMMA: Councilman Gemma offered his condolences to the families of Michael Jordan and Pat King.

Councilman Gemma offered his congratulations to Kip on his promotion and wished Bob Joyce well in the future and extended his appreciation for the job he has done in this Borough.

Councilman Gemma reported that we have received a refund from the Statewide Excess Liability Insurance company in the amount of \$411.23 and he will be turning the check over to the Borough Clerk after the meeting.

COUNCILWOMAN FILIPPONE: Councilwoman Filippone also expressed her condolences to Michael Jordan's family and to Pat King's family and commented that Michael Jordan gave an awful lot of time to this Borough for many years as a volunteer first in the Fire Company and an Ex-Captain and he was also a very vital member of the First Aid Squad and the people in this town gave him a very fine tribute and a well deserved one.

Councilwoman Filippone reminded everyone that the First Aid Bazaar is scheduled to be held on Saturday, December 13 at the First Aid Building and asked everyone to come out and support them and they will also be selling Christmas trees, wreaths and grave blankets. She commented that this is a very important fund-raiser for the Squad, even though during their fund drive, they received donations amounting to \$27,000 but it does not cover their expenses with all the supplies and equipment they need as well as the continued increase in training.

Councilwoman Filippone reported that the Oceanport Historical Society had another very fine meeting this month and we have a very dynamic group of people and we had thirteen people come out to hear Mark VanSant give a historical presentation on old Oceanport, which was very interesting. She continued that the Historical Society is extremely active at the present time and recently removed most of the items that had been stored in the attic at Borough Hall and brought them over to the Wolfhill Farm building and there was quite a lot of things that were very interesting that they hope to be able to display in the future for all the residents to be able to look at and anyone interested in becoming a member of the Historical Society should just attend the next meeting.

Councilwoman Filippone mentioned on a personal note, that this evening her son came home after working a thirteen hour day and commuting and got home, cleaned up and sat down to dinner, when the first aid siren went off and everyone told him to stay and have his dinner, but after the siren rang again, he had to leave because no one was responding and he had to go and it was a call at the racetrack. She just wanted everyone to understand how much our volunteers give to this community and we have to remember them every day and without them we would be in a very desperate situation.

COUNCILMAN MILLER: Councilman Miller echoed the sentiments stated by Councilwoman Filippone about Michael Jordan and Pat King.

Councilman Miller also offered his congratulations to Kip on his promotion to the position of Chief as of January 1, 1998.

Councilman Miller advised that this Sunday at 5:00 P.M. we will have the annual Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony and there will be carols sung from the Choirs from both Maple Place and Shore Regional with Santa arriving and refreshments served afterwards at the Port-au-Peck Firehouse.

Councilman Miller had a surprise for Councilwoman Filippone, who usually has nice things to report about other people, and offered his congratulations on the fact that her daughter, Gay, will be a member of the first class of the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame in Shore Regional High School and she will be inducted on March 21, 1998 at the Old Orchard Country Club at 7:00 P.M.

COUNCILMAN TAYLOR: Councilman Taylor offered his condolences to both the families of Mike Jordan and Pat King.

Councilman Taylor also offered his congratulations to Kip on his new position as Chief of Police and he is sure he will do an excellent job. He also wished Bob Joyce a happy and healthy retirement.

COUNCILMAN WOLFE: Councilman Wolfe asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-97-65** regarding a transfer of funds, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Miller and unanimously approved by Council. R-97-65

Councilman Wolfe moved to release a performance bond in the amount of \$57,651.84 to Mr. Fiore for Block 1, Lot 5 upon the recommendation of the Borough Engineer. It was seconded by Councilwoman Silkworth and unanimously approved by Council.

Councilman Wolfe extended his best wishes to Kip on his promotion to Chief of Police.

COUNCILWOMAN SILKWORTH: Councilwoman Silkworth echoed the sentiments expressed by the Council regarding both the condolences and the congratulations.

MAYOR CAVANAGH: Mayor Cavanagh offered his congratulations to Councilwoman Filippone's daughter.

Mayor Cavanagh commented that while obviously condolences are in order for Mike Jordan, Mrs. Jordan said to him at the wake, that she was imagining him, Ski and Snapper standing around together at some place and the thought of that took some of the sadness out of the moment.

Mayor Cavanagh stated that insofar as Pat King is concerned, he thinks it was a very cogent reminder to everyone that the members of the Police Department put their lives at risk all the time and Pat King no more deserved what happened to him than anyone can figure out and it is a ridiculous tragedy that has no real sense to it and he also would extend his condolences to his family.

Mayor Cavanagh opened the meeting to the public for any comments or questions they might have, but seeing none, closed the public portion of the meeting.

Councilman Wolfe moved to approve the bills as listed on the Voucher Register dated December 4, 1997. It was seconded by Councilman Taylor and unanimously approved by Council. TOTAL 1996 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$2,100.00. TOTAL 1997 VOUCHERS \$61,383.96. TOTAL 1997 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$46,931.17. TOTAL 1997 OPERATING FUND \$108,315.13. TOTAL DOG REGISTRY ACCOUNT \$279.20. TOTAL GENERAL LEDGER LIEN REDEMPTION \$2,012.91. (SEE VOUCHER REGISTER)

Mayor Cavanagh stated that we are going to adjourn this meeting and go back to our regular work shop meeting before we go over to the firehouse. He also expressed his appreciation to the members of the audience who stayed tonight, since this will probably be his last public meeting and at least there was someone here to share it with the Council.

At 8:35 P.M. Councilwoman Silkworth moved to adjourn this meeting until the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on December 18, 1997 at 8:00 P.M. It was seconded by Councilman Taylor and unanimously approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patricia L. Varca". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

PATRICIA L. VARCA
BOROUGH CLERK