

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Oceanport, New Jersey
November 21, 2002

- REGULAR MEETING:** The Regular Meeting of the Oceanport Mayor and Council was called to order on November 21 2002 at 8:00 P.M. with Mayor Gemma stating the meeting had been properly advertised in accordance with law.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councilpersons Mahon, Apruzzi, Gatta, McGann, Silkworth and Mayor Gemma.
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Councilman Wolfe
- OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Deputy Borough Clerk, Kimberly A. Jungfer 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 regular meeting held on November 7, 2002 had been made available to the members of the Governing Body, Councilwoman Silkworth moved to waive the reading of same and approve the minutes as presented by the Deputy Borough Clerk. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council. Councilman McGann abstained as he was not present at that meeting.

CLERK'S REPORTS:

1. Raffle application made by the Oceanport PTO for an off-premise draw raffle of \$1000.00 of merchandise gift certificates to Monmouth Mall to be held March 7, 2003. The Deputy Clerk reported that the paperwork was found to be in order after which Councilwoman Silkworth moved to approve same. Councilman Apruzzi seconded the motion which was approved by Council.

COMMITTEES:

COUNCILMAN MAHON: Councilman Mahon asked the Deputy Clerk to read **R-02-65**, authorizing the private sale by public auction of Block 16, Lot 19, Hiawatha Avenue. Councilwoman Silkworth moved to approve the resolution. Councilman Apruzzi seconded the motion which was approved by Council.

Councilman Mahon reported that as of November 1st the dual dispatch began as part of the transition of Fire dispatch to the Monmouth County Radio System. So far there are some minor bumps but not anything that has been insurmountable. Word has been received from the contractor that the crystals have been received that are necessary for the frequency change over in the various pagers. The first batch of 20 pagers is going out tomorrow morning to be converted, 10 for Hook and Ladder and the balance for Fire Police and Port-Au-Peck. Additionally, 5 pagers that are programmable by laptop have been converted. One of the problems is that there are firemen who

are also members of the First Aid Squad. Under the present system one pager is good enough because it operates from the two different tone alerts when there is a call. As for the conversion, those firemen will no longer be able to hear the alert tone on the first aid side. That is a burden created by the Fire Department after speaking with the Fire Chief and the Assistant Chief the Fire Department is going to bare the cost of that change over.

Mayor Gemma asked Councilman Mahon about the repair of the fire truck and Councilman Mahon responded that based upon his conversation with the Chief there is no money left in this year's budget. He has suggested that the money be encumbered from the Temporary 2003 Budget,

COUNCILMAN APRUZZI: Councilman Apruzzi stated as announced at the last Council meeting the CFO, Lesley Connolly will be leaving effective 12/31/02. We have advertised for a replacement and have received 5 resumes, which Council will begin to look over and make judgments as to a replacement following interviews.

Councilman Apruzzi said Sal Gentile passed away a week ago Tuesday at the age of 82. He will be sorely missed. He served the Borough as part of the Recreation Committee for 32 years and was one of the founders of the Oceanport Library. We have much to be thankful for the time Sal gave the community.

Councilman Apruzzi announced he received the resignation from Richard Gruskos, a member of the Recreation Committee for 11 years so the Committee is in the process of looking for a replacement for him. Richard sited family situations and busy work schedule as reasons for leaving, but he would like to come back at a future date. If anyone knows of anyone who would be interested in joining the Recreation Committee to please contact himself, any member of Council or any member of the Recreation Committee.

Councilman Apruzzi reported that the Holiday Tree Lighting will be on Sunday, December 8th at 5:00 p.m. in front of Borough Hall and the Holliday Decorating Contest will be December 26, 27 and 28.

COUNCILWOMAN GATTA: Councilwoman Gatta commented that the First Aid report for the month of October stated there were 44 calls which generated 683 man hours with everything else that the First Aid does through out the month, so far this year there has been 502 calls which is an increase over the number of calls for previous years.

Councilwoman Gatta stated the First Aid reported that 45% of the households have contributed towards the Fund Drive and it is still in progress and would encourage any residents that still haven't done so to please consider doing so.

Councilwoman Gatta reported that December is going to be extremely busy month for the First Aid in addition to answering calls and doing training, starting Sunday, December 1st they will be selling trees, wreaths, grave blankets and roping and everyone should come out and support the First Aid. Also on December 14th they will have their holiday bazaar at the First Aid Building on Pemberton Avenue, where there will be a chance auction and baked goods. This endeavor takes an entire year to accumulate the items and they have some fantastic things. It was emphasized that next to the Fund Drive, this is the First Aid's main fundraiser.

Councilwoman Gatta reported that on November 11th the Veteran's Day program was held. The winning essays from the students are in the vestibule and she asked that everyone take some

time and read the essays; the children did a wonderful job. Councilwoman Gatta thanked the schools for their cooperation in helping make the program a memorable one.

Councilwoman Gatta extended best wishes and Happy Thanksgiving to the residents of Oceanport and to the residents who will be celebrating Chanukah a blessed holiday.

COUNCILMAN WOLFE: Absent.

COUNCILMAN MCGANN: Councilman McGann asked the Deputy Clerk to read **R-02-66** refunding overpayment of taxes to a resident after which he moved to approve same. Councilwoman Gatta seconded the motion which was approved by Council. R-02-66

Councilman McGann asked the Deputy Clerk to read **R-02-67** authorizing the Mayor and Borough Clerk to sign the contract of sale for a portion of Block 88, Lot 26 after he moved to approve same. Councilwoman Silkworth seconded the motion which was approved by Council. R-02-67

Councilman McGann stated that this is the second to last step in acquiring the "Soccer Fields", the execution of a contract to purchase the property of which we have received significant grant monies from the Green Acres Program, together with a low interest loan from the Monmouth County Improvement Authority. Hopefully all the conditions can be fulfilled and we will be ready for a closing sometime in the year 2003.

Councilman McGann reported that the leaf collection is in full swing and Public Works is doing a great job. He added that most of the snow fence is up and the salt and sand piles are full and hopefully there will be no snow so the materials can be saved for next year.

Councilman McGann sent his condolences to the family of Sal Gentile, who did much for the Borough and will be sorely missed.

COUNCILWOMAN SILKWORTH: Councilwoman Silkworth reported that there is now a vacancy on the Capital Improvement Committee with the resignation of Colleen Martin, who has been with the Committee almost since the beginning and will be relocating to California. Councilwoman Silkworth continued that the Capital Improvement Committee is one that looks for residents who are not involved in any other part of community activity. The Committee looks for people who will bring independent thought to the Committee but also represent the Borough. She asked if anyone knows of anyone who might be to interested please spread the word of the vacancy.

Councilwoman Silkworth said everyone on the Council has already spoke of Sal and also wished everyone happy holidays so she would like to echo those sentiments.

Councilwoman Silkworth stated that there is a new light at the Old Wharf House explaining there had been problems in the past with the previous fixture which was a little to high to easily get to to change the bulb. Fortunately the Sewerage Authority donated a fixture, which Tom Crochet painted and cleaned up, a new footing was poured and now there is adequate lighting at that location.

Councilwoman Gatta stated that at the senior meeting on Wednesday they expressed their appreciation for the new fixture.

MAYOR GEMMA: Mayor Gemma sent his condolences to the family of Sal Gentile. The Mayor stated Sal served a very long time and when you look back at the things you do as Mayor, one of the best things he ever did was name Sal "Man of Year", as Sal deeply appreciated the award and it is always better to honor someone when they are still alive.

Mayor Gemma stated that the good news Councilman McGann talked about is that the Borough received a grant from the Department of Transportation for \$135,000.00 specifically for Lake Drive and Riverview Road and our engineer reports that this money should fund the entire project. Next year, if nothing else, the Borough will improve these road and he thanked Councilman McGann and Tom Rospos for their hard work in getting the funds.

Mayor Gemma stated that as Councilwoman Gatta indicated the Veteran's Day Ceremony was a success not only because of the veterans that attended but also because of the children that were here and it is nice to see the children understand who the veterans are and what they mean to us. He thanked Councilwoman Gatta for all her work on the ceremony.

Mayor Gemma said he asked residents in the recent bulletin how are we doing. The Mayor encouraged everyone to honestly and openly complete the surveys and return them for they will be utilized. The survey will be quantified and enable the governing body to address the concerns of the residents.

Mayor Gemma wished everyone happy holidays.

Mayor Gemma 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.

Councilman Apruzzi moved to approve the vouchers on the Bill List dated November 21, 2002. It was seconded by Councilwoman Gatta and approved by Council with Councilman Apruzzi abstaining from the payment to himself for reimbursement of refreshments for the Veterans Day Ceremonies. TOTAL DOG REGISTRY ACCOUNT \$16.20, TOTAL ESCROW TRUST ACCOUNT \$64.00, 2002 VOUCHERS PAID \$135,773/91, 2002 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$262,139.76, TOTAL 2002 VOUCHERS \$397,913.67. (SEE BILL LIST)

At 8:25 p.m. Councilwoman Gatta moved to adjourn this meeting until the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on December 5, 2002 at 8:00 P.M. It was seconded by Councilwoman Silkworth and approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,



KIMBERLY A. JUNGFER
DEPUTY BOROUGH CLERK