

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Oceanport, NJ
November 18, 1993

REGULAR MEETING: The Regular Meeting of the Oceanport Mayor and Council was called to order on November 18, 1993 at 8:02 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilpersons Clark, Terra, Filippone, Miller, Wolfe and Mayor Cavanagh.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilman Taylor.

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Borough Clerk, Patricia L. Varca and Borough Attorney, Francis A. Margalotti.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Oceanport Girl Scout Jrs. of Troop #83 led the Governing Body and members of the audience in the flag salute.

Mayor Cavanagh stated we are going to go out of order this evening and read a proclamation proclaiming the week of November 22 -27 as NATIONAL FAMILY WEEK in the Borough of Oceanport and presented the proclamation to the Troop.

Mayor Cavanagh then read a proclamation congratulating the Oceanport United Methodist Church on their recent 125th Anniversary, stating afterwards he wanted to thank Mr. Prang since most of the material for the proclamation came from the program he developed for their celebration. Mayor Cavanagh also commented that he was pleased that there are members of the Church with us this evening and asked them to come up and accept the proclamation.

Mrs. Stella Little thanked the Mayor and Council for this proclamation and commented that the Pastor was sorry he was unable to attend, but knew he would be pleased.

Mayor Cavanagh then returned to the regular meeting agenda.

As copies of the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on November 4, 1993 had been made available to the Governing Body for their review, Councilman Wolfe moved to waive the reading of same and accept the minutes as presented by the Borough Clerk. It was seconded by Councilman Terra and approved by Council with the exceptions of Councilmen Clark and Miller abstaining since they were both absent.

CLERK'S REPORTS: NO REPORTS.

COMMITTEES:

COUNCILMAN CLARK: Councilman Clark offered his congratulations to the United Methodist Church on their 125th Anniversary and thanked them for inviting him to their celebration, which was very enjoyable.

Councilman Clark also recognized four Boy Scouts in the audience tonight who are working on their citizenship patch and also extended his thanks to Peter Moore for the hundreds of hours he volunteers of his time to help out with the Scouts.

Councilman Clark asked the Clerk to read resolution R-93-52 regarding the insertion of an item of revenue into the 1993 budget in the amount of \$559.61 under the Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Miller and approved by Council.

R-93-53 Councilman Clark asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-93-53** regarding the insertion of an item of revenue into the 1993 budget in the amount of \$5,570.95 under the Recycling Tonnage Grant, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Miller and approved by Council.

R-93-54 Councilman Clark then asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-93-54** transferring funds, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Wolfe and approved by Council.

COUNCILMAN TERRA: Councilman Terra also offered his congratulations to the members of the Oceanport United Methodist Church and commented that he was sorry he was unable to attend the celebration, but stated he would be there at the 150th.

ORD. #641 Councilman Terra called for the second reading and public hearing of a capital surplus ordinance and asked the Clerk to read the Affidavit of Publication and the proposed ordinance by title only as follows: **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DISBURSEMENT OF \$2,500. FROM THE BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT CAPITAL SURPLUS ACCOUNT FOR THE PURCHASE OF AN AMBULANCE.**

Mayor Cavanagh commented that we have received bids for a new ambulance and the bids came in just a bit higher than we had in our bond ordinance, therefore, we have to move in more money from our Capital Account to the ordinance.

Mayor Cavanagh then opened the meeting for any comments on this subject only.

As no one from the public wished to be heard, Councilman Terra moved to close the public hearing on this ordinance. It was seconded by Councilman Wolfe and approved by Council.

Councilman Terra moved to adopt this ordinance on second and final reading and to advertise same in accordance with law. It was seconded by Councilwoman Filippone.

The Clerk called the roll:

AYES: Councilpersons Clark, Terra, Filippone, Miller and Wolfe.
NAYS: NONE.
ABSENT: Councilman Taylor.
ABSTAIN: NONE.

Councilman Terra then commented about the recent televised edition of Eye Witness Video which showed a home on Gooseneck Point Road at the height of the December 11 storm catching fire and burning to the ground. He stated he was commenting on this not only as a Councilman, who is in charge of the Fire and Police Departments, but as a resident who lives on that street and he is furious about the manner in which this broadcast portrayed the volunteers and made it appear that this house was on fire and no one was doing anything about the situation. He continued that at the time the house was on fire, it was about the peak of the flooding and there was between 4-5 feet of water in the street and two other fires were happening at the same time. Councilman Terra stated that some of the volunteers did make it down the street and after making sure no one was in the house, attempted to do whatever possible to try and put out the fire, but with the high winds there was nothing that could be done. He also stated that the video shown portrayed the sequence of events out of order, so it looked like the house was burning for some time before anyone showed up, which was not the way it happened.

Councilman Terra expressed his disgust in the manner in which this story was handled and he was also not pleased with the comments made by the individuals in the video and spoke with them several days after the storm and explained that there were many heroes helping during the storm made up of the volunteers from the Fire, Police, First Aid and our own residents, and as he has stated before, these are the

real heroes and no one felt more sorry about the loss of this home, than the firemen who did all they could, and were just not able to save this home.

Councilman Clark stated that when the boat arrived down on Gooseneck, one of the volunteers in the boat trying to help, was someone who's home had been knocked off its foundation, as well as the home of his parents, and yet there he was in the boat trying to help his fellow residents.

Councilwoman Filippone commented that her two sons are volunteer firemen, one in Oceanport and one in Highlands and her son in Highlands contacted right after the Eye Witness Video program and was incensed at the portrayal of the volunteers during the storm. She stated that we all appreciate what our volunteers do for us all the time and without them, she does not know what would happen during emergencies like the December storm.

COUNCILWOMAN FILIPPONE: Councilwoman Filippone reported the Oceanport First Aid Squad responded to 27 calls in October for a total of 171 man/woman hours and she reminded the residents that these volunteers are always there for us. She also advised that only 42% of Borough residents responded to the Squad's fund drive and she hoped that during the holidays, residents would remember the First Aid Squad because without adequate funds, they will not be able to operate.

Councilwoman Filippone thanked the Atlanticville for the excellent coverage on the Oceanport First Aid Squad's fund drive and also expressed the appreciation of the Squad members.

Councilwoman Filippone offered her congratulations to the Oceanport United Methodist Church on their 125th anniversary and commented that this is her adopted Church. She commented that it is a wonderful group of people and they have become the pillars of this Community and they are always there to help out and be part of the community.

Councilwoman Filippone thanked the members of the VFW Post for their tremendous cooperation with the Veteran's Day ceremonies and she appreciated all their help and thanked Commander Cliff Hepburn for all he did. She commented that our Guest Speaker from Fort Monmouth was a Col. Dolores Loew who gave a very moving and interesting presentation of the women's roll during war time and she found it very informative and interesting. Councilwoman Filippone recognized in our audience tonight Col. Betty Berry and Commander Marion Wardell, who are both members of the Oceanport United Methodist Church and the VFW as well as Bob Cartwright.

Councilwoman Filippone also congratulated Marsha Thompson who was awarded the Governor's Cup for Diving, which is a yearly award, one given to an outstanding man and woman diver, regardless of age, and she commended her on this achievement.

COUNCILMAN MILLER: Councilman Miller expressed his congratulations to the Oceanport United Methodist Church on their recent 125th anniversary and stated he was sorry he had to miss the celebration, but he was ill with back trouble.

Councilman Miller congratulated Chuck Schanck on becoming a member of the Recreation Committee and commented that he had been a member a while back, when his children were young and now he is back with us because he has grandchildren and wants to be involved again.

Councilman Miller reported under the Water Watch that the samples taken last Saturday show what effect the horses have on the readings, since the last sampling done was when the horses were still at Monmouth Park and we had experienced very heavy rains before the sampling and the numbers were very high, but this last sampling was the best ever, with no sites being in the polluted range and site 1 west of the bridge was zero, Branchport Creek was 7 and the highest was off Gooseneck with a reading of 9.

Councilman Miller advised we are still awaiting the consent order from the DEPE to allow the track to begin construction on the closed system and he just hoped they would get around to releasing this as soon as possible.

Councilman Miller reported the Holiday Tree Lighting would be held on December 10, 1993 and Recreation has purchased a new sound system, and we will have the Chorus from Maple Place School and possibly Shore Regional in attendance with us and he invited the public to attend.

Councilman Miller also informed the public that men's basketball would begin at Maple Place School, Tuesdays and Wednesdays after Thanksgiving until May.

Mayor Cavanagh commented that he has been in contact with the DEPE inquiring about the delay in the release of the Consent Order and hopefully we will be able to get this matter moving in the very near future.

COUNCILMAN TAYLOR: ABSENT.

COUNCILMAN WOLFE: Councilman Wolfe reported that the signs have been posted for the construction to begin on East Main Street and actual construction should begin in the very near future, with the curb work to be done first, which should take approximately a week and the paving to follow shortly thereafter. He felt that the entire project should not take more than three weeks and he was pleased that this work was being done through a grant from the DOT Trust Fund, so that we do not have to spend tax payers dollars on this project and we will continue to pursue these types of grants as they become available, since we have been quite successful in the past.

Councilman Wolfe reported that he recently sent out the final report form covering the federal share of the FEMA monies and we should now begin receiving the 25% from the State share of the costs from the December 92 storm. He stated that although it is almost a year since the storm, we could not have received our money any faster, since there were projects that were not complete and you cannot file the last report until all projects have been completed, which at times leaves you waiting for contractors and businesses to complete their end. He commented that in speaking with our FEMA representative, he was advised that they have received 560 applications with only 60 filing the final report form, which is what we just did. He thanked Diane Super for completing the various forms this past week and getting the paperwork out within two hours.

Councilman Wolfe also wanted to publicly thank Donna Clark who has done an excellent job since she began working for the Borough and she has done a great job in keeping all of the records connected with the storm and whatever information he is looking for, she is able to just go to a file and give him what he has requested and he is very grateful for her assistance.

Councilman Wolfe thanked Councilwoman Filippone for the excellent job she did regarding the Veteran's Day services and each year they get better and better and he felt that Col. Loew's presentation was quite appropriate with the dedication in Washington of a war memorial to the women who participated in military services.

Councilman Wolfe congratulated the Oceanport United Methodist Church on their 125th anniversary and stated he enjoyed the celebration very much. He commented when he first moved to Oceanport, his son attended the Oceanport Nursery School, which caught fire over a weekend and left many parents concerned about their children. He stated when this happened, the United Methodist Church stepped forward and opened its doors for the nursery school children, who were able to attend there during the winter and spring and he stated it is just one more way that the Church helps out the community.

MAYOR CAVANAGH: Mayor Cavanagh advised that on Sunday at 2 P.M. at Trenton State the Shore Regional Girls Field Hockey teams will be playing for the championship in Group I, which is the first time they have ever been in this group and they are at this point undefeated. He commented that we will need a

firetruck to welcome them home, which is the custom that we have followed in the past and asked Councilman Terra to please arrange this with the Fire Chief, who is in the audience tonight.

Mayor Cavanagh was pleased to announce that we have just received the 1993 Supplement Fire Grant which is better than the 1992 grant, since we did not receive that until February of 1993.

Mayor Cavanagh announced that December 12 was the Oceanport First Aid Squad annual holiday bazaar and urged everyone to come out and support the volunteers and it is always a very enjoyable time.

Mayor Cavanagh extended from all the members of the Governing Body a very Happy Thanksgiving holiday to all our residents and stated that in these difficult economic times, we should all take a minute during the holiday to think about those who are less fortunate and who may not be having a happy holiday.

Mayor Cavanagh then opened the meeting to the public.

PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Stuart Briskey, 43 Manitto Place stated he was speaking in his capacity as Fire Chief and went on to say that obviously the firemen were not pleased with the video shown by Eye Witness Video on Sunday and he was pleased to hear the comments this evening from the Council. He advised that the Mutual Aid, Mid Monmouths Association will be forwarding a letter to Eye Witness Video expressing their views on this show as well as the Chief's Council. He asked if the Mayor would also send a letter as well indicating the manner in which the volunteers were portrayed, which Mayor Cavanagh stated he had no problem doing.

Chief Briskey stated that 9-1-1 is now in operation and so far appears to be working well and questioned if the Borough was going to advertise this fact, so that all the residents are aware of this program.

Councilman Terra stated that there is an article which will appear in the next Bulletin, which should be out during the next few weeks.

Chief Briskey commented that he wanted to just remind the Governing Body once again, that the Fire Department has spent over \$7,000 in repairs due to the December 11, 1992 storm and still have not received any reimbursement from the FEMA funds. He also wanted to state that he realized that Councilman Wolfe was doing everything necessary to complete the required paperwork, but he just wanted the Council to be aware of the expenses the Department had incurred.

Mr. Bob Cartwright, River Street suggested that the Council think about the purchase of an air type boat, which draws little if any water, and could be used in the event we ever experience another storm like last December, which would be able to carry perhaps two stretchers and fire hose especially in light of the fact that this Borough is practically surrounded by water.

Mayor Cavanagh stated that Jim Slattery was looking into this possibility under Emergency Management and we have discussed this previously.

Councilman Miller advised that recently, through a grant, the Water Watch Committee was able to purchase a 20' Ski Barge with a 50 HPM and that draws very little water and would be able to carry the items Mr. Cartwright mentioned, as well as the firemen themselves.

Mayor Cavanagh suggested that the Fire Chief should take a look at this equipment in order to familiarize himself with it and Councilman Miller advised that it is being kept for the winter at the Pleasure Bay Marina on Comanche Dr.

As no one else from the public wished to be heard, Mayor Cavanagh closed the public portion of the meeting.

Councilman Clark moved to approve the bills as listed on the Voucher Register dated November 18, 1993. It was seconded by Councilman Wolfe and approved by Council with the exception of Councilmen Clark and Terra who abstained from voting on the vouchers due Ed Brister. TOTAL 1992 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$13,375.16. TOTAL 1993 VOUCHERS \$1,110,495.86. TOTAL 1993 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$109,894.43. TOTAL 1993 OPERATING FUND \$1,220,390.39. TOTAL RECREATION TRUST ACCOUNT \$1,457.47. TOTAL TRUST ACCOUNT \$1,863.00. TOTAL PUBLIC ASSISTANCE II ACCOUNT \$350.00. TOTAL DOG REGISTRY ACCOUNT \$22.36. TOTAL TRUST OTHER ACCOUNT \$770.00. TOTAL MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT \$400,000.00. TOTAL GENERAL LEDGER-TAX OVERPAYMENT \$1,263.46. TOTAL GENERAL LEDGER-SHORE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL \$144,075.46. TOTAL GENERAL LEDGER-REDEMPTION \$16,934.71. TOTAL GENERAL LEDGER-REDEMPTION REFUND \$534.54. TOTAL GENERAL LEDGER-FIRE PREVENTION \$30.83. (SEE VOUCHER REGISTER)

At 9:00 P.M. Councilwoman Filippone moved to adjourn this meeting until the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on December 2, 1993 at 8:00 P.M. It was seconded by Councilman Clark and approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,



PATRICIA L. VARCA
BOROUGH CLERK