

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Oceanport, New Jersey
November 7, 2002

- REGULAR MEETING:** The Regular Meeting of the Oceanport Mayor and Council was called to order on November 7, 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, Silkworth and Mayor Gemma.
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Councilpersons McGann and Wolfe
- OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Deputy Borough Clerk, Kimberly A. Jungfer.
- 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 October 17, 2002 had been made available to the members of the Governing Body, Councilwoman Gatta 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 with Councilwoman Silkworth abstaining.

CLERK'S REPORTS:

The Deputy Clerk reported she had received the Police Report for the Month of October, 2002 and it will be posted in Borough Hall.

COMMITTEES:

COUNCILMAN MAHON: Councilman Mahon reported that the transition to fire dispatch by Monmouth County has started as of November 1st and it seems to be going smoothly. As soon as the Fire Department receives the appropriate radio equipment to convert the pagers the process will begin, in the mean time dual dispatch is being conducted between the local and county dispatch.

Councilman Mahon updated everyone, as mentioned by someone during public comment, regarding Monmouth Beach's public radio announcement system used for emergencies. Officials within Monmouth Beach have been contacted including Fire Chief Pat McConville and he stated he has forward all the information to the our police chief. The cost of a local system would be between \$13,000. and \$15,000. which would include everything necessary to broadcast. He stated he was not sure which department or committee would continue with this but the estimates are in. Mayor Gemma asked why the Borough couldn't share Monmouth Beach's system and Councilman Mahon stated that he asked but the nature of the system does not lend itself, because it is a low power system and frequencies could conflict. Mayor Gemma asked that further research be done for possibly a shared service. Councilman Mahon added that Long Branch is looking into the same system and he would check with them as to possibly sharing with them.

R-02-62

COUNCILMAN APRUZZI: Councilman Apruzzi asked the Deputy Borough Clerk to read **R-02-62** regarding the Borough Employees Deferred Compensation Program updating the plan so that it complies with recent tax law amendments after which he moved to approve same. Councilwoman Silkworth seconded the motion, which was approved by Council.

R-02-63

Councilman Apruzzi asked the Deputy Borough Clerk to read **R-02-63** transferring funds to various line items in the budget after which he moved to approve same. Councilwoman Gatta seconded the motion, which was approved by Council.

ORD.#
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Councilman Apruzzi called for the 2nd reading and public hearing on an ordinance amending the street and sidewalk excavation ordinance and asked the Deputy Clerk to read the Affidavit of Publication and the proposed ordinance by title only as follows: **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "THE STREET AND SIDEWALK EXCAVATIONS ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF OCENAPORT" PASSED AND APPROVED ON JUNE 2, 1925.**

Mayor Gemma explained that the purpose for this amendment was to protect the Borough roads when various utilities and construction projects have to open the road; it gives strict standards from repair.

Mayor Gemma opened the meeting to the public for any comments on this subject only.

As no one from the public wished to be heard Councilman Apruzzi moved to close the public hearing on this matter. It was seconded by Councilwoman Gatta and approved by Council

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

The Deputy Clerk called the roll:

AYES:	Councilpersons Mahon, Apruzzi, Gatta, Silkworth
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	Councilperson McGann and Wolfe
ABSTAIN:	None

Councilman Mahon pointed out that this amendment to the ordinance goes beyond the normal patch job, the requirements will extend the restoration requirements to a much large area and hopefully it will reduce the incidents of potholes and prolong the life of roads the Borough has made improvements to.

Councilman Apruzzi stated that the Mayor and Council have received a letter from CFO, Lesley Connolly, with great regret resigning from the Borough. It will be a big loss for all of us for she has done a great job of guiding us over the past three years and she will be sorely missed. She will be with us to the end of the year and she would make herself available so that we could go to her at least through the budget process. We are also in the process of looking for someone to replace her effective January 1, 2003.

Councilman Apruzzi reported he received a letter from Patricia Straine, who husband passed away in the World Trade Center, thanking the Borough for the beautiful bench that was erected at Old Wharf Park. Mrs. Straine donated the bench and Public Works installed it.

Councilman Apruzzi said he received a call from Uris Monument and Ted Siden who are doing the 911 memorial monument and it is just about ready. The Borough has to decide the date of the dedication. It will be placed at Old Wharf Park, a place where everyone can come by and see it.

Councilman Apruzzi reported that with reference to the Green Acres loan for Blackberry Bay Park, he received information that the award may not happen until the Spring of 2003.

Councilman Apruzzi stated that he saw former Councilwoman Gloria Filippone over the weekend and she is looking much better, but she is still a long way to coming back to where she was. He stated that Bob Wilcox is making a substantial return to good health and has gotten his speech back.

Councilman Apruzzi gave his condolences to the family of Tom Hendley, who lost his son about a week ago.

Councilman Apruzzi thanked the voters of Oceanport for allowing him to come back for another three years and he congratulated Ellynn Kahle on her winning the election and looks forward to working with her come January 1st. He also thanked Gary Wolfe for his fifteen years of service to the Borough.

COUNCILWOMAN GATTA: Councilwoman Gatta reported that the Veteran's Day ceremony will be held Monday, November 11th at 11:00 a.m. at the Borough Hall. Lieutenant Colonel Bill Stevenson from Fort Monmouth will be the guest speaker and again this year the essay winners from grades 3 through 8 from the schools will be there along with the veterans and emergency services personnel. Councilwoman Gatta stated she has started reading the essay that were just provided to her, and they are outstanding and would invite the whole community to attend the ceremony.

Councilwoman Gatta stated that a few weeks ago she had a very interesting experience. As liaison to the First Aid, they have always asked to her take a course in CPR or Defibrillator training, which are provided by the First Aid to all the organizations and residents in town. Councilwoman Gatta continued that she decided to take the class with her partner, who was here this evening, Jonathan Ryan and she honestly said it was the most outstanding two hours she spent. There is so much to learn and she will be writing about this for the bulletin because she would like to encourage all residents to take the course.

Councilwoman Gatta congratulated Councilman Apruzzi on his re-election and Ellynn Kahle on her election to the Council and thanked Gary Wolfe for his fifteen years of dedicated service on the Council.

COUNCILMAN WOLFE: Absent.

COUNCILMAN MCGANN: Absent.

COUNCILWOMAN SILKWORTH: Councilwoman Silkworth congratulated Councilman Apruzzi on his re-election and Ellynn Kahle on her election and thanked Gary Wolfe for his fifteen years of service.

MAYOR GEMMA: Mayor Gemma announced that there will be a special meeting of the Mayor and Council on November 13th at 6:30 p.m. where the Council would pass documents giving the Borough the ability to go to the Monmouth County Improvement Authority for bonding at a low rate of interest for the remainder of the funds needed for the acquisition of the "Soccer Fields". This money, with the money coming in from the Green Acres program should be the financial package to buy this property. The debt service on the bond will be funded through the Open Space Tax already in place, thereby no additional tax dollars will be needed. The next step would be the State subdividing the property and to close title probably sometime in the Spring of 2003. Then the State would probably go for the approvals of the senior housing behind the bank and that would probably finalize that chapter of the excess properties of the Sports and Exposition Authority.

Mayor Gemma stated that he learned of a method of disseminating information to the residents from Verizon. For \$300. per year they will dedicate of phone number and 80 people at a time can call this number for a pre-recorded message, which could be notifying of emergency or school closings. It might be something to consider, for as it would not be the end all for getting information to the public, it would be an method in the overall system to disseminate information quickly.

Mayor Gemma continued that Shrewsbury used this phone system during the August storm regarding blackouts, informing people of depending where they lived when power was expected to be restored. What this did was free up the number of repetitive calls to dispatch, so a system such as that offered by Verizon is something to consider. Councilwoman Silkworth suggested the Technology Committee review the system.

Mayor Gemma expressed his condolences to Tom Hendley and his family on the loss of his son.

Mayor Gemma congratulated Phil and Ellynn on the wonderful job they both did and gave thanks to Gary.

Mayor Gemma noticed that out of all the communities in the area ranked one of the highest in voter turnout, 53% and last year after 9/11 turnout was 65% and in a year we've dropped 12% in voter turnout and that is sad statement to make, in light of what is going on in the world.

Mayor Gemma then opened the meeting to the public for any comments or questions.

Ed Ryan, Willow Drive, wished to comment on the Police Department and the fact that there has been no additional manpower to that Department in over twenty years despite the growth that has taken place. He continued that there was an occasion a few months ago where there was a first aid call at Monmouth Park, our police were transporting a prisoner to Freehold and West Long Branch had to cover and they didn't know where to go inside. Mr. Ryan stated he couldn't see why one or two patrolmen can't be added to the Police Department.

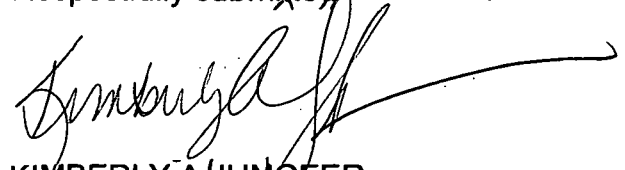
As no one else from the public wished to be heard Mayor Gemma closed the public portion of the meeting.

Councilman Apruzzi moved to approve the vouchers on the Bill List dated November 7, 2002. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Gatta and approved by Council. (SEE BILL LIST) TOTAL CAPITAL TRUST \$81,984.30, TOTAL DOG REGISTRY \$324.00, TOTAL ESCROW TRUST \$936.25, TOTAL FIREWORKS TRUST \$5,500.00, TOTAL L.E.T.F. \$3,615.00, TOTAL AD HOC

\$10.00, 2002 VOUCHERS PAID \$78,629.90, 2002 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING
\$1,423,758.25, TOTAL 2002 VOUCHERS \$1,502,388.15.

At 8:25 p.m. Councilwoman Gatta moved to adjourn this meeting until the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on November 21, 2002 at 8:00 P.M. It was seconded by Councilwoman Silkworth and unanimously approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kimberly A. Jungfer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

KIMBERLY A JUNGFER
DEPUTY BOROUGH CLERK