

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Oceanport, New Jersey
October 21, 2004

- REGULAR MEETING:** The Regular Meeting of the Oceanport Mayor and Council was called to order on October 21, 2004 at 8:03 P.M. with Mayor Gatta stating the meeting had been properly advertised in accordance with law.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councilpersons Kahle, Mahon, Holden*, Chaump, Briscione and Mayor Gatta.
Councilman Holden took his seat at 8:05 p.m.
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Councilwoman Johnson.
- OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Borough Clerk, Patricia L. Varca and A/Borough Attorney, Martin A. McGann.
- INVOCATION:** Borough Chaplain Berry gave the invocation.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Gatta led the audience and members of the Council in the flag salute.

Mayor Gatta advised for the record that at the workshop meeting held on October 18th, the Governing Body went into Executive Session regarding a grievance discussion and a matter of personnel.

As copies of the minutes from the regular meeting held on October 7, 2004 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 Councilwoman Chaump and approved by Council.

CLERK'S REPORTS: No Reports.

COMMITTEES:

COUNCILWOMAN KAHLE: Councilwoman Kahle asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-04-81** awarding a contract for garbage, trash and recycling collection in the Borough to DeLisa Demolition, Inc. for a five year term at a cost of \$2,009,445.00, after which she moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Mahon and approved by Council.

Councilwoman Kahle then moved to include the Mid Monmouth Knights Basketball Team as an approved sports group under Oceanport Recreation. It was seconded by Councilwoman Chaump and approved by Council.

Councilwoman Kahle reported that the Borough held its flu vaccine clinic on Wednesday, October 13th and stated we were very lucky to be able to have had the vaccines since many other towns have had to cancel their clinics. She stated they were also able to get a few more vaccines than originally thought and we were able to vaccinate 169 people and had to turn some people away. She offered her thanks to the Monmouth County Board of Health who handled the clinic very professionally as well as the First Aid Squad and senior volunteers who helped out. She also noted

that Captain Sutton and Patrolman VanBrunt were present during the clinic to make sure there were no problems and also thanked Councilwoman Johnson who was present at the clinic as well.

COUNCILMAN MAHON: Councilman Mahon asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-04-82** regarding a request to the Director of Local Government Services to insert an item of revenue into the 2004 budget with regard to a NJ DOT Discretionary Grant in the amount of \$35,000, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilwoman Kahle and approved by Council.

Councilman Mahon then asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-04-83** awarding a contract for the 2004 road improvement program which includes Burnt Mill Circle, Evergreen Lane and Manitto Place, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilwoman Kahle and approved by Council.

Councilman Mahon asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-04-84** awarding a two-year contract for salt supplies after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilwoman Kahle and approved by Council.

Councilman Mahon explained that the first resolution regarding the \$35,000 were leftover funds from Lake Drive where the bids came in lower than expected and our Engineer has been able to have the transferred to the Burnt Mill Circle/Evergreen Lane project, which is also being done through a DOT Grant.

Councilman Mahon stated the 2004 road improvement program contract totals \$317,000+ and explained that we have received a grant from the DOT for Burnt Mill Circle in the amount of \$142,000 and the \$35,000 being transferred, leaving the balance as the Borough's share. He added that we are hopeful for a start date on construction in the first week in November, but it is contingent on the contracts being approved by the DOT in a timely manner.

Councilman Mahon stated the salt contract awarded is a two-year contract and explained that what this does is set our per ton price for two years and continued that if it doesn't snow in 2005, we do not have to order any, but if there are storms and everyone is trying to order supplies, we are guaranteed of the salt product and the price and we will not have to deal with a supply and demand situation. He also advised that last year we were able to get approved a line item for a reserve to snow removal, so any leftover funds can be placed in that reserve for future use.

COUNCILMAN HOLDEN: Councilman Holden reported under Police that he has spoken with the Chief about our school security and wanted to advise the public that the Chief is taking appropriate action in our schools to keep our children safe. He added that the Chief will also be having security at each of the polling places on Election Day for safety measures.

Councilman Holden reminded everyone that the annual Veteran's Day ceremonies will be held on November 11th at 11:00 a.m. at the Borough Hall in conjunction with Mayor Gatta's Wall of Honor project.

COUNCILWOMAN CHAUMP: Councilwoman Chaump asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-04-85** regarding the Green Acres loan in the amount of \$282,500 for multi-park projects, after which she moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Mahon and approved by Council.

Councilwoman Chaump moved to waive the street opening permit fees for those residents living on Shrewsbury Avenue who are still hooked up to well water and she commented there are only four homes on that street. It was seconded by Councilwoman Kahle and approved by Council.

Councilwoman Chaump reported that Blackberry Bay Park has been seeded and hay spread and trees will be planted by the Recreation Committee in the spring in front of the sun shade. She also advised that three water fountains have been ordered, two for the Community Center, which are being done through a grant from the Sports Foundation, and one is going to Trinity Place Park through the capital budget.

Councilwoman Chaump reported that Jonathan Seeley was performing his Eagle Scout project which is to resurface the basketball courts at Blackberry Bay Park and painting the backboards there and at the Community Center and Evergreen Park, with the help of Tom Crochet, Superintendent of Public Works.

Councilwoman Chaump also reported that the Recreation Committee has applied for a Monmouth County Park Open Space Grant for improvements at Old Wharf Park and also applied for a grant from the DEP Statewide Livable Community for the reconstruction of the tennis courts and lights at Blackberry Bay Park.

Councilwoman Chaump advised that the seniors will be conducting bingo games the 4th Wednesday of every month with refreshments at 1:30 p.m. and the games beginning at 2:00 p.m. She also stated that they are also in the process of re-doing their by-laws.

Councilwoman Chaump expressed her thanks and appreciation to the First Aid Squad for the quick response and care given to her mother after a fall in September and she reminded everyone of the importance of filling out the orange medication cards, which are extremely helpful during an emergency.

Councilwoman Chaump reported that the First Aid Squad had responded to 54 calls as of October 18th and they have received their CAFRA approval today for the proposed expansion of their building.

Councilwoman Chaump reported under the Oceanport Drug Awareness, the 2005 calendar is completed and lists community events as well as birthdays and anniversaries and they will be on sale and with the money they have also done two programs, there was a 3D Dimensional Program for 5th and 6th graders at Maple Place School and 7th and 8th graders also.

Councilwoman Chaump advised the Coastal Alliance received a grant in the amount of \$32,500 per year for the next three years through 2007 and the 8th graders have already attended several programs in October and they will be doing a program at Shore Regional High School together with the 7th and 8th graders from both Oceanport and West Long Branch about what to know about dating and what every parent and teen should know. She also advised that Shore Regional has sent out to the sending districts that attend Shore, a survey and in order to do the survey, they need 60% of the parents to agree to do the survey in order to survey the students about what is going on with regard to drugs and alcohol and when the survey is returned, it will be compiled by an outside source for the data and in order for the SAC Coordinator at Shore to be proactive in the fight against drugs and alcohol use by young people. She added that the results will be confidential.

COUNCILWOMAN JOHNSON: ABSENT.

COUNCILMAN BRISCIONE: Councilman Briscione called for the 2nd reading of an ordinance regarding the creation of a LOSAP program in the Borough and asked the Clerk to read the Affidavit of Publication and the proposed ordinance by title only as follows: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING

THE CREATION OF A LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARDS PROGRAM FOR ELIGIBLE VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS AND VOLUNTEER FIRST AID SQUAD MEMBERS.

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

Ed Ryan, 24 Willow Court stated that he was at a seminar last week and the cost if you had to have a paid Squad was well over \$285,000 for responding to 400 calls and he stated that in Oceanport last year, the Squad responded to over 800 calls, so he urged everyone to support the LOSAP ballot question.

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

Councilman Briscione moved to adopt this ordinance on final reading and to advertise same in accordance with law. It was seconded by Councilman Holden.

The Clerk called the roll:

AYES: Councilpersons Kahle, Holden, Chaump and Briscione.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilwoman Johnson.

ABSTAIN: Councilman Mahon.

Councilman Briscione called for the 2nd reading and public hearing of an ordinance regarding an Interlocal agreement with Eatontown and Oceanport for an impound yard and asked the Clerk to read the Affidavit of Publication and the proposed ordinance by title only as follows: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT TO EXECUTE AN INTERLOCAL SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH THE BOROUGH OF EATONTOWN FOR THE STORAGE OF IMPOUNDED/SEIZED VEHICLES.

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

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

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

The Clerk called the roll:

AYES: Councilpersons Kahle, Mahon, Holden, Chaump and Briscione.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilwoman Johnson.

ABSTAIN: None.

Councilman Briscione advised that the improvements to the intersection of Highway 36 and Oceanport Avenue have made a great improvement and he commented Chief Demaree of West Long Branch for writing to the State about this location as well as the NJ Sports & Exposition Authority who wrote in support of the improvements.

Councilman Briscione reported that the Planning Board Master Plan Sub-Committee has been meeting and they are in the process of reviewing the re-examination of the Master Plan that was prepared by the Planner.

Councilman Briscione commented with regard to the Stakeholders Committee, he had spoken with Bruce Garland, Sr. Vice-President of Racing Operations earlier today and the bid process for the possible lease of both the Meadowlands and Monmouth Park have been extended until today for prospective parties. He continued that Mr. Garland advised him that the process has been suspended as of yesterday and we will be receiving correspondence indicating that shortly, and while he could give him no further information, he would surmise that due to the upcoming change in administrations, a thorough review of the process is probably underway. Councilman Briscione stated on a positive note, in the October 12th letter to the editor in the Press, Senator Cody stated "it would be a priority of my Acting Governorship to insure that Monmouth Park is restored to its original glory and that the horse racing industry in New Jersey once again thrives". He continued that we look forward to working with the new Governor on this important issue for Oceanport to insure that this takes place.

Councilman Briscione advised that he has spoken with our Borough Auditor regarding his standard reporting request document for the emergency services and has asked him to review same and send his comments and any recommendations since he has developed and used these forms in other municipalities.

MAYOR GATTA: Mayor Gatta reminded everyone that October is Breast Cancer Awareness month.

Mayor Gatta advised that she had received a call from Joe Henderson, President of the Board of Education asking for two members of the Council to sit with two members of the Board and discuss possible ways to share some services and save money. She advised that she has appointed the Council Liaisons to Education to serve on this committee, both Councilpersons Chaump and Briscione and has forwarded a letter to Mr. Henderson advising him of the appointees.

Mayor Gatta acknowledged and thanked Councilwoman Johnson for all her hard work and efforts in organizing the flu clinic and appreciated all she did and also thanked Councilwoman Kahle, our Police personnel and all the volunteers who assisted with this program. She also commented that we were very lucky to be able to have this program take place since many towns have had to cancel their clinics.

Mayor Gatta stated she had attended the last get together of the domestic crisis team at the West Long Branch First Aid Building and it is a partnership between the volunteers from Oceanport and West Long Branch and the Police.

Mayor Gatta thanked everyone who dropped off photos for the Wall of Honor and stated anyone who has not as yet given a photo of their family members who has or is serving in the military, to please do so as soon as possible and explained that we are doing this in such a way that we will be able to add photos on a continual basis.

Mayor Gatta announced that Monday, October 18th was the cut off day for receipt of proposals for Borough Attorney, Auditor and Engineer positions and we have distributed them to the Council members for review and will discuss them at the workshop meeting scheduled for November 15th.

Mayor Gatta stated as she touched on at the last meeting, the Borough has been certified as "storm ready" and we are only one of thirteen municipalities in the State and one of two in Monmouth

County that have achieved this status. She continued this will give us points with regard to our flood insurance rating that we are working. A formal presentation of this program will be given at our regular meeting scheduled for November 18th and she congratulated and thanked Buzzy Baldanza for all his work in this regard. She added that this will also help us in our grant request for funds for a new siren.

Mayor Gatta stated that she and the Council attended Old Timer's Night at the Port-au-Peck Chemical Hose Fire Company and congratulated both Ricky Gallo and Bill McNish for 25 years of service in the fire company.

Mayor Gatta asked everyone to keep Kris Petrillo, a young Borough resident, in our thoughts and prayers since he has just enlisted in the military.

Mayor Gatta then opened the meeting to the public for any comments or questions they might wish to make.

Ed Ryan, 24 Willow Court commented that West Long Branch presently has 20 police officers and in 1981 they had 13 and we had 14 and now they have 20 and we still have 14. He urged the Governing Body to consider hiring at least two more officers when they begin work on the 2005 budget.

Joe Lombardo, 50 Iroquois Ave. and a member of the First Aid Squad thanked the Borough Council for their support on the LOSAP question that will be on the ballot in November. Mr. Lombardo also stated that in receiving the CAFRA approval today for the First Aid Squad addition, they have requested the Squad submit a conservation deed and asked if the Borough Attorney could assist them in this regard, to which Mr. McGann stated he would be happy to assist and needed a description of the property, which Mr. Lombardo gave him.

Mr. Lombardo also commented that the Squad will have to install a bench near the creek and allow for two parking spaces, even though he had explained that this was not a good idea and thought they were in agreement, but the paperwork states there must be a bench and two parking spaces. His argument about having the parking spaces there was due to the fact that when there is an emergency call, the volunteers are in a hurry to park their cars and get the equipment moving and he was concerned if someone was in the back with young children, there might be some problems, but they obviously changed their minds.

Councilman Holden recognized both Dale Burd and Jim Slattery who were in the audience and commended and thanked them for all the initial research work they did regarding the LOSAP program and hoped the voters would approve this since the volunteers in this town are always there for everyone.

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

Councilman Mahon stated he had forgotten a few items he wanted to mention and stated he wanted to remind the residents that leaf collection has begun and will run through December 17th and urged everyone to get their leaves out as soon as possible so that the Public Works Department can get everyone cleaned up before we have snow.

Councilman Mahon noted that all Departments Heads will be receiving a notice tomorrow from our CFO advising that November 1 is the cut off date for any further purchase orders unless they are

approved by the CFO or the Borough Clerk. He also noted that we are going to get ready to transfer monies as of November and one of the areas is gasoline and diesel which at this point, has expended 99% of the budget due to the high fuel prices.

Councilman Mahon moved to approve the vouchers on the Bill List dated October 21, 2004. It was seconded by Councilwoman Kahle and approved by Council with the exception of Councilman Holden who abstained from voting on the vouchers due Pasquale Menna. TOTAL CAPITAL TRUST \$15,576.32. TOTAL DOG REGISTRY \$382.80. TOTAL ESCROW TRUST \$6,864.55. OPEN SPACE \$31,097.21. TOTAL 2003 VOUCHERS \$69,797.91. 2004 VOUCHERS PAID \$12,163,159.19. 2004 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$541,486.64. TOTAL 2004 VOUCHERS \$12,704,645.83 (SEE BILL LIST)

At 8:55 p.m. Councilman Mahon moved to adjourn this meeting until the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on November 4, 2004 at 8:00 P.M. It was seconded by Councilman Briscione and approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patricia L. Varca".

PATRICIA L. VARCA
BOROUGH CLERK