

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Oceanport, New Jersey
October 4, 2001

- REGULAR MEETING:** The Regular Meeting of the Oceanport Mayor and Council was called to order on October 4, 2001 at 8:00 P.M.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councilpersons Apruzzi, Gatta, Lyons, Wolfe, McGann, Silkworth and Mayor Gemma.
- OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Borough Clerk, Patricia L. Varca 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 September 6, 2001 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 Councilman Apruzzi and unanimously approved by Council.

Mayor Gemma advised that he is aware that flyers were sent around to the residents of Horseneck Point Road and Riverside Avenue by Pat Pfleger informing everyone that there will be a meeting at the Make It Happen Center on Fort Monmouth, Wednesday, October 10 at 7:00 p.m. and we have asked our Congressman to attend as well as any of the Fort Monmouth personnel who have been involved with the road blocks and the closing of Fort Monmouth. He continued that while we recognize the need for security at this time, they must also understand the needs of our residents.

Mayor Gemma advised that he wants the Fort representatives to be able to tell everyone how long this is going to last and listen to the concerns of our residents who are affected and try to work together to not only meet the security needs of the Fort, but to also respect the liberties of our residents.

Mayor Gemma invited everyone to attend the meeting and express their concerns and questions and hopefully, we will be able to resolve this issue.

CLERK'S REPORTS:

1. Police Report for the month of SEPTEMBER 2001 and a copy will be posted on the Bulletin Board.

COMMITTEES:

COUNCILMAN APRUZZI: Councilman Apruzzi reported that Chief Bebout has hired two new Relief Dispatchers, Pat Shaffery and Wayne Smith, who will be able to fill in when the need arises.

Councilman Apruzzi commented on the Police Report that our Dispatchers received 1,064 calls in September and our Officers responded to 586 calls, so it was another busy month.

Councilman Apruzzi reported that the renovations to Blackberry Bay Park fields will begin approximately the middle of October and the work will be undertaken by our Public Works Department under the Supervision of Tom Crochet.

COUNCILWOMAN GATTA: Councilwoman Gatta reported that the First Aid Squad resolved the personnel matter last evening and the matter was addressed internally, which follows their Charter, and no action was taken.

Councilwoman Gatta announced that the flue and pneumonia clinic will be held on Friday, November 2 at the First Aid Squad Building from 1:30-3:00 p.m. and the flu shot is only for those over 50 years of age or with a chronic illness and the pneumonia shots are for those 65 and older who have not received that vaccine. She continued that each of the shots is \$10 or free if you have a Medicare Part B card.

Councilwoman Gatta advised that under the Shade Tree Committee, our Public Works Department has been assisting in trimming some of the over hanging branches beginning at Pocano and working up to Monmouth Boulevard, but they have not been able to do Comanche Drive and this program has been temporarily halted as they get ready for the upcoming leaf season, but hopefully, if it is a mild winter, the trimming will continue.

COUNCILMAN LYONS: Councilman Lyons commented that the residents will have noticed that the Borough's siren is again working and he stated that is thanks to Fire Chief, Steve Briskey and although he realized that some people may not be pleased about this, it is important for the continued safety of this community.

Councilman Lyons stated that earlier today he happened to be home and heard the siren go off regarding a serious car accident, which took place on Oceanport Avenue across from Monmouth Park. He continued that when he arrived, the emergency services were already on the scene responding to the needs of the injured and directing traffic, etc. He wanted to point out that it was amazing to watch how well all the varied services, Fire, First Aid, Fire Police and Police worked together, as a team, working cooperatively to assist wherever need. Councilman Lyons assured everyone that this is not how it works in all towns and we are extremely lucky to have the type of people we have in our emergency services.

Councilman Lyons reminded everyone that at the Council meeting scheduled for October 18, there will be a public hearing on the future of the Oceanport Library and he urged everyone who is interested in this subject to attend the meeting.

COUNCILMAN WOLFE: Councilman Wolfe moved to accept the land donated by Mary and Louis Deller, known as Block 66, Lot 14 located on Onondaga Avenue, subject to the continuation of the title search to make sure there are no additional liens. It was seconded by Councilwoman Silkworth and unanimously approved by Council.

Councilman Wolfe stated that Councilwoman Silkworth will comment on this, but he just wanted to express his thanks and appreciation to Ro Terra who has been our Bulletin Editor for the

past ten years or so and she did this as a volunteer, when her husband Tony Terra was a member of the Council.

COUNCILMAN MCGANN: Councilman McGann reported Public Works has begun installing snow fence around town and the last section that will be done is Blackberry Bay Park due to the recreation programs that are still going on at that location.

Councilman McGann asked with leaf season approaching, that all residents rake their leaves to the curb, free of debris, which only slows down the process and can damage our equipment.

Councilman McGann also extended his thanks and appreciation to Ro Terra for her volunteer efforts over the years working with the Bulletin.

COUNCILWOMAN SILKWORTH: Councilwoman Silkworth reported she has received from our architectural firm a copy of the roof replacement documents and it is a lengthy report and she will review it over the weekend and see where we are going to be able to make some repairs with the money available to us for this purpose.

Councilwoman Silkworth stated that both Councilmen Wolfe and McGann have already commented on Ro Terra's resignation, but she wanted to point out that over the last ten years, Ro has put out over 60 newsletters and they have grown and changed dramatically over the past ten years. She advised that there will be a notice in the next Bulletin asking for interested people who might want to take over this position to contact us and we will hopefully be streamlining the process a bit and making improvements in the future. She thanked Ro Terra for all her years as the Editor of our newsletter and appreciated all her time and effort in this regard.

MAYOR GEMMA: Mayor Gemma announced that our Tax Collector recently held the annual Tax Sale and all properties were sold and the Borough collected \$7,664.

Mayor Gemma also advised that all departments have received a memo from our CFO, Lesley Connolly, advising that no more spending, other than normal expenditures, will be allowed after October 15 in order to contain spending and anything out of the ordinary must be approved either by herself or the Borough Clerk.

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

PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Clarence Brocklebank, 40 Sagamore Avenue thanked Councilman Lyons for getting the siren up and running and stated that the firemen were very appreciative of his efforts.

Stu Briskey, Werah Place asked who was paying for the Patrolman to direct traffic at the intersection of Monmouth Blvd. and Myrtle Ave., since there are funds available, to which Mayor Gemma stated Chief Bebout is aware of the funding available and will be submitting the necessary paperwork.

Jim Gallo, 45 Bradley Ave. wanted to thank Tom Crochet and the Public Works for their assistance pouring a concrete pad at the fire house to place their dumpster on.

Mr. Gallo also asked if the Council would consider putting some type of USA signs under our Welcome to Oceanport signs at the entrances, to which Mayor Gemma stated we will think of a way to do that, since it is a good idea.

John Pflieger, 48 Riverside Avenue stated that there is a major traffic problem at the intersection of East Main Street and Oceanport Avenue and commented that one day he came home from school at lunch time and had to wait 30 minutes before he was able to get to his home. He stated the people disregard the traffic lights and there is a lot of confusion at that intersection.

Mayor Gemma responded that it is due to the roadblock put up by the Fort and hoped that John would be at the meeting to make these concerns known to the Fort Representatives.

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

Councilman Wolfe moved to approve the vouchers on the Bill List dated October 4, 2001. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and unanimously approved by Council. 2001 VOUCHERS PAID \$86,066.14. 2001 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$527,486.92. TOTAL 2001 VOUCHERS \$613,553.06 (SEE BILL LIST)

At 8:25 p.m. Councilwoman Silkworth moved to adjourn this meeting until the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on October 18, 2001 at 8:00 P.M. It was seconded by Councilwoman Gatta and unanimously approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,



PATRICIA L. VARCA
BOROUGH CLERK