

REGULAR MEETING

Oceanport, New Jersey
September 19, 1996

- REGULAR MEETING:** The regular meeting of the Oceanport Mayor and Council was called to order at 8:00 P.M. on September 19, 1996.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councilpersons McGee, Filippone, Miller, Taylor, Wolfe, Silkworth and Mayor Cavanagh.
- OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Borough Clerk, Patricia L. Varca and Borough Attorney, Francis A. Margalotti.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Cavanagh led the audience and members of the Council in the flag salute.

As copies of the minutes from the regular meeting held on September 5, 1996 had been made available for review by 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 Councilwoman Silkworth and unanimously approved by Council.

CLERK'S REPORTS: NO REPORTS.

COMMITTEES:

COUNCILMAN MCGEE: Councilman McGee reported that the Historical Society met on September 11, 1996 and they had a representative from the Monmouth County Historical Commission who gave them some excellent ideas on how to display the material and set up a catalog of what we presently have stored and we will pursue these ideas at future meetings.

Councilman McGee advised he had recently met with Assemblyman Corodemus with regard to the funding related to pump out facilities for the two marinas located in the Borough to try and assist with the approval process so they can have these types of facilities operational by spring.

Councilman McGee also met with our insurance agent, Ron Gillaspie, reviewing our policies and made some adjustments and they will continue to review the policies regularly to keep the values current.

COUNCILWOMAN FILIPPONE: Councilwoman Filippone expressed her sympathy on the recent death of Mayor Sorrentino and commented that he was a fine man and he will be missed by everyone, especially the residents of West Long Branch.

Councilwoman Filippone then reported on the First Aid Squad Captain's Report for the month of August, 1996 stating there were 348 hours; 42 calls, made up of 32 emergencies, 4 motor vehicles, 3 fires, 6 transportations and there were also 15 mutual aid calls, which kept them extremely busy during that month. She also commented that the Squad has been asked to be on standby for surrounding towns more frequently, which places more demands on our volunteers and she commended them for the excellent job they do.

Councilwoman Filippone also advised that the Squad has a fund raiser selling a beautiful afghan which depicts several buildings located in the Borough and the cost is \$50 and they are available from anyone in the First Aid Squad and she urged anyone who is able, to purchase one of these to help the Squad. She also reported that the Squad has prepared a "wish list" of items that they need, which range from \$20 to \$1,250 and include radios, stretchers, air hoses, etc. and if anyone is interested in helping out, they can contact anyone in the Squad or speak to her directly.

COUNCILMAN MILLER: Councilman Miller reported that the Summer's End Festival finally came about after two weekends, the first having the day time activities but due to the rain, we had to re-schedule the fireworks for this weekend, which worked out very well and the fireworks were fabulous and some of the best we have had. He also advised that in the present fireworks fund we have \$2,399.11 and need between \$5,200-\$5,300 and the Recreation Committee will be including envelopes in the next Bulletin for donations for next year, since the fireworks are paid for through donations and not tax dollars.

Councilman Miller advised that the Summer Action Camp was very successful this past year with 180 children signed up and nine new staff members hired.

Councilman Miller reported under Water Watch, he has been in contact with Jamie Herzog who is in charge of the permits for the hook up at Monmouth Park and she will be contacting him with a date when a walk through tour can be done and he will advise the Council and other interested Committee members of the date and he is trying to have this done on a Saturday, which will be more convenient for everyone.

Councilman Miller commented that the walking track project has been postponed for the time being due to the amount of the bids and he explained that we had \$25,000 and the bids ranged from \$31,000 to 39,000 and even if we were to cut back on the size of the track, it would cost us \$25,000 for approximately one half mile, which the Recreation Committee has voted not to do because of the amount of money involved. He also commented that there is a possibility of the County purchasing the Wolfhill Farm, which the Mayor and Councilwoman Silkworth have been involved with and perhaps if this comes to pass, a walking track might possibly be installed at that location, which would allow for a larger track than we could ever have at the Blackberry location.

COUNCILMAN TAYLOR: Councilman Taylor reported he attended a Recycling Work Shop meeting sponsored by the County on September 10 and the household waste facility will be opening the second week in October and will be opened weekly Tuesdays through Saturdays, 8 AM to 3 PM but it is by appointment only and he should have further information in the near future.

Councilman Taylor expressed his thanks and appreciation to Tom Crochet, Foreman of Public Works and his crew for the excellent job they are doing in keeping the recycling center clean and he has just received an inspection report from the County Health Department commending the Borough on how well kept the center is and he again, thanked all of the employees in that Department.

COUNCILMAN WOLFE: Councilman Wolfe reported that this past winter we had the blizzard on January 7 and 8, 1996 which was declared a national disaster by the President and FEMA Representatives came out and held several meetings which he attended on behalf of the Borough and filled out the appropriate forms for reimbursement for the storm expenses, which we applied for in the amount of \$19,399. He continued he spoke with Harry Conover who is the County Emergency Management Director this past week and he advised that Oceanport has been approved for that amount with 75% coming from the Federal Government and 25% coming from the State, but the

State's share is questionable, but we are assured of receiving at least \$14,549, which should be received about mid November of this year.

Councilman Wolfe asked the Clerk to read resolution R-96-51 granting a veteran's tax deduction for Block 113, Lot 5, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Miller and unanimously approved by Council.

COUNCILWOMAN SILKWORTH: Councilwoman Silkworth commented on the monthly report received from Tom Crochet of the Public Works Department; which continues to be a very comprehensive report and really shows the amount of effort that our employees are expending in our Borough.

Councilwoman Silkworth also stated that the fireworks were great at Summer's End Festival.

MAYOR CAVANAGH: Mayor Cavanagh read a proclamation, which was requested by our Fire Marshal, Jim Slattery, proclaiming the week of October 6-12, 1996 as "Fire Prevention Week".

Mayor Cavanagh noted with sadness the passing of Mayor Sorrentino, who in addition to being a friend, happens to be his wife's second cousin, so we were associated on several different levels, but he was a very sincere gentleman who believed that service came before politics and his son read a letter at the funeral services which said that "his father had political adversaries, but he never had political enemies"; which was a very apropos comment and he will miss Clint as well as the residents of West Long Branch because he had served them very well.

Mayor Cavanagh then opened the meeting to the public for any comments or questions they might have.

PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Mrs. Betty Hulick, Nicholson Pl., Oceanport stated that Governor Whitman is continually stating that there has been a 15% tax reduction but she has not experienced this and commented that since the Governor was elected, her property taxes in the Borough have increased by 25%. She also added that when they first moved to Oceanport, only 5% of their gross income went to property taxes, while at the present time 25% of their income goes to property taxes and she is concerned that she will have to move out of the Borough and wanted to know where this tax saving is and who is receiving same.

Mayor Cavanagh explained that the 15% reduction is in the income tax and is received by people within a certain income level and stated that she would have to look at the particular charts to see what the amount of income is, but he felt it is probably quite low and those are the people who are receiving some tax relief on their income tax.

Mayor Cavanagh also commented that as long as the cost of educating our children comes from property taxes, they are always going to go up because even if you subtracted the County and Borough amounts from the property taxes, the amount to the schools will remain quite high.

Mrs. Hulick suggested that perhaps a committee should be formed to review the Constitution of the State of New Jersey to see if something can be found and brought to the Governor's attention, since the system is not working well and it is becoming too costly for many people to remain in the Borough.

Mayor Cavanagh thanked Mrs. Hulick for coming out tonight to attend the meeting, since there are not a lot of people in the audience, to which Mrs. Hulick stated that is a sign that this Governing Body is doing an excellent job in running the Borough.

Mayor Cavanagh stated that this is a very unique community and if the residents were upset about something they would come out to the meetings. He also commented that on Tuesday evening we had the School Referendum and it is now a matter of public record so he felt he could now comment on it, since the Council did not want to make any public statements about which way to vote, but it did show that the election was marked by a great deal of thinking about this issue without controversy and we had 23.4% of the residents come out and vote and the referendum passed by, 1996 three to one, so the people in the Community felt this was a worthwhile addition to our school system.

Councilwoman Filippone commented that one of our outstanding citizens has been Betty Hulick who was one of the originators of the Borough's Recycling Program about 25 years ago and she was one of the forerunners in recycling.

Mayor Cavanagh pointed out that if we were not recycling, our dumping fees would be so high that you could figure in another \$100 on your property taxes just to pay the cost of the materials that we now recycle.

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

Councilman Wolfe moved to approve the bills as listed on the Voucher Register dated September 19, 1996. It was seconded by Councilman Taylor and unanimously approved by Council. TOTAL 1996 VOUCHERS \$57,249.83. TOTAL 1996 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$47,895.21. TOTAL 1996 OPERATING FUND \$105,145.04. TOTAL RECREATION TRUST FUND \$61.20. TOTAL GENERAL LEDGER-GARDEN STATE ELECTRICAL INSPECTION \$429.00. (SEE VOUCHER REGISTER)

At 8:28 P.M. Councilwoman Filippone moved to adjourn the meeting until the next regular meeting. It was seconded by Councilman Miller and unanimously approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,



PATRICIA L. VARCA
BOROUGH CLERK