

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Oceanport, New Jersey
September 4, 2003

- REGULAR MEETING:** The Regular Meeting of the Oceanport Mayor and Council was called to order on September 4, 2003 at 8:00 P.M. with Mayor Gemma stating the meeting had been properly advertised in accordance with law.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councilpersons Kahle, Mahon, Apruzzi, Gatta, Cooper and Mayor Gemma.
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Councilman McGann.
- 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 August 21, 2003 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 Borough Clerk. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council.

CLERK'S REPORTS:

1. Raffle license application made by the Monmouth Park Charity Fund, to be held on Sept. 28, 2003, 50/50 cash raffle, on premise.

The Clerk reported that the paperwork submitted was found to be in order after which Councilman Mahon moved to approve this raffle application. It was seconded by Councilwoman Gatta and approved by Council.

COMMITTEES:

COUNCILWOMAN KAHLE: Councilwoman Kahle reported that the bathrooms located at Blackberry Bay Park will be painted beginning next week and they will be closed Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. She added that she is also looking into the possibility of having air driers installed to replace the paper towel dispensers in an attempt to keep the bathrooms open especially during soccer season during the daytime hours.

COUNCILMAN MAHON: Councilman Mahon reported as he had brought up at the last meeting that the State Government has advised us of a grant that our Library was eligible for and the work on that application has begun and we are trying to add some components including an ADA component to the application and it is one of the categories that was available so we are going to add that to the improvements and we are working with the Borough Engineer to get that portion included and the application is due in Trenton on September 10, 2003.

Councilman Mahon also reported that we are working out the details on an Interlocal Services Agreement for Emergency Management for Reverse 9-1-1 in cooperation with our local Board of Education.

Councilman Mahon moved to release the maintenance bond in the amount of \$8,412.30 upon receipt of \$100 for the final report for Block 67, Lot 3 located on Onondaga Avenue, per the recommendation of the Borough Engineer. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council.

Councilman Mahon also moved to award a contract to the low bidder for the 2003 Road Program to Earle Asphalt Company in the amount of \$112,107.50 and to return the bid bonds to the unsuccessful bidders. It was seconded by Councilwoman Gatta and approved by Council.

COUNCILMAN APRUZZI: Councilman Apruzzi reported that the Recreation Committee back in August was made aware of an available grant from the DEP for park renovations and improvements and that application has been completed and submitted on August 29th and he thanked Linda Gately and Toni Sverapa who actually did the work on that application and added that the grant is up to \$100,000 and they came as close to that limit as was possible.

Councilman Apruzzi reminded everyone that Summer's End is this Saturday, September 6th with activities beginning at 3:00 p.m. with the Mayor's trophy game, rides for the children, food available and fireworks at dusk and commented that we are expecting a very large crowd and it is one of the most successful events of this Borough. He added that there will also be an art show held in the tennis court area and some of the paintings will be for sale by local artists and some of the funds are being returned to the Borough.

COUNCILWOMAN GATTA: Councilwoman Gatta reported that on October 25, 2003 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. we will be having our Oceanport Community Day at the Old Wharf House and letters will be going out shortly to all the organizations and committees in town asking for their participation and it will be an opportunity for people to see all that is available in our town. She also pointed out that it is being held in conjunction with Make a Difference Day and she hoped everyone would come out and attend.

Councilwoman Gatta stated that Mayor Gemma tonight will be signing a proclamation proclaiming the month of September as National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery month and this is through the initiative of the Coastal Monmouth Alliance and it is to raise awareness of substance abuse and mental health disorders. She added that this proclamation provides a message of hope that individuals can and will recover.

Councilwoman Gatta reminded everyone that schools are now in session and asked everyone to drive safely.

COUNCILMAN MCGANN: Absent.

COUNCILWOMAN COOPER: Councilwoman Cooper asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-03-63** authorizing the refund of an overpayment of property taxes for Block 138, Lot 14 in the amount of \$975.00. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council.

MAYOR GEMMA: Mayor Gemma commented as Councilwoman Gatta mentioned earlier, he has signed the proclamation proclaiming September as National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery month in the Borough.

Mayor Gemma stated relative to the comments made earlier by Councilman Apruzzi regarding the grant application for continued park improvements in the Borough, he wished to offer his thanks and appreciation to Assemblyman Arnone for not only notifying us about this grant, but writing a letter of support for that application.

Mayor Gemma reported there is a vacancy on the Planning Board and he appointed Fabrizio Munoz to Alternate #1 which term expires on December 31, 2004.

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

Mr. John Sniffen, 22 Dwyane Street asked if there were any sidewalks included in the bid just awarded, to which Councilman Mahon stated that the bid came in lower than budgeted which leaves us approximately \$38,000 and we have directed the Engineer to go over to Wolfhill Avenue and take some measurements and some cost estimates to see if connecting the sidewalks in that area from Pemberton to Main Street could be achieved with the remaining funds and it will be considered at our next work shop meeting.

Mayor Gemma explained to Mr. Sniffen that we put together the capital portion of our budget at the beginning of the year and now that we have been lucky to find some extra dollars at this point in time, we must decide how best to utilize these funds and if it makes sense to go forward with the sidewalks. He also pointed out that if there are not adequate funds for this improvement, then we will not do that and will look to do something else that is affordable and can be done correctly.

Mr. Sniffen commented that his concern was not only with school started and the lack of sidewalks, but now with the bridge closing, he was concerned about the extra traffic that would be making the roads much busier.

Mayor Gemma stated that we had tried very hard to make sure that the bridge did not close prior to the track closing, but they have decided to have the track remain open for an additional three weeks or so and we are having discussions with our police to monitor the situation and see what type of impact this will have on the traffic situation.

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

Councilwoman Cooper moved to approve the vouchers on the Bill List dated September 4, 2003. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council. TOTAL CAPITAL TRUST \$18,821.70. TOTAL DOG REGISTRY \$49.20. TOTAL ESCROW TRUST ACCOUNT \$670.00. TOTAL 2002 VOUCHERS \$96,449.36. 2003 VOUCHERS PAID \$9,032,637.70. 2003 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$684,289.20. TOTAL 2003 VOUCHERS \$9,716,926.90. (SEE BILL LIST)

At 8:13 p.m. Councilwoman Gatta moved to adjourn this meeting until the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on September 18, 2003 at 8:00 P.M. It was seconded by Councilman Mahon and approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,



PATRICIA L. VARCA, BOROUGH CLERK