

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Oceanport, New Jersey
August 16, 2001

- REGULAR MEETING:** The Regular Meeting of the Oceanport Mayor and Council was called to order on August 16, 2001 at 8:00 P.M.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councilpersons Apruzzi, Gatta, Lyons*, McGann, Silkworth and Mayor Gemma.
- Councilman Lyons arrived at 8:05 p.m.
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Councilman Wolfe.
- 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 July 19, 2001 had been made available to the members of the Governing Body, Councilwoman Silkworth moved to waive the reading of same and approve the minutes as presented by the Borough Clerk. It was seconded by Councilwoman Gatta and unanimously approved by Council.

CLERK'S REPORTS:

1. Police report for the month of JULY, 2001 and a copy will be posted on the Bulletin Board.

COMMITTEES:

COUNCILMAN APRUZZI: Councilman Apruzzi asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-01-60** authorizing the fireworks for the Summer's End Festival, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman McGann and approved by Council.

Councilman Apruzzi announced that the donations for fireworks fund have been coming in and the Bulletin that just was sent out contains the fireworks envelope for the donations, so we are doing well and urged anyone who has yet to donate, to please do so since we need to have seed money for next year as well.

Councilman Apruzzi commented that the Police Report for July shows that the Dispatchers received 1,230 calls that month of which 888 calls were responded to by our Officers, who had a very busy month during July.

Councilman Apruzzi reported that the next project being undertaken by Recreation will be the fields at Blackberry Bay Park and the first renovation will be the area from the Basketball Courts to the River and Tom Crochet and his Department will be assisting with the aeration of the soil, top soil, seeding, etc. and the field will be out of commission until at least the following spring.

Councilman Apruzzi congratulated resident Dora Cook on her 100th Birthday today.

COUNCILWOMAN GATTA: Councilwoman Gatta also extended her best wishes to Dora Cook on her 100th birthday and commented that she and several members of the Governing Body will be visiting Mrs. Cook at Saturday at her home, where her family and neighbors will be giving a party in her honor.

Councilwoman Gatta announced that the First Aid Squad has begun their fund drive and sent out approximately 1900 letters to residents and so far have received 36% response and she urged everyone who has not yet donated, to please do so and to be as generous as possible.

COUNCILMAN LYONS: Councilman Lyons commented with regard to the problem with the siren not in operation due to the recent lightning strike, the Mayor had sent a memo to the Fire, First Aid, Police and Emergency Management Coordinator for their written comments and to date, we have received the concurrence for the need to replace the siren from everyone but the Emergency Management Coordinator. Councilman Lyons questioned the Clerk if anything has been received since Monday night's work shop meeting, when this was discussed and Mrs. Varca advised that a second notice was placed in Mr. Slattery's mail box on Tuesday, but no response had been received. Councilman Lyons urged that nothing go forward with this matter until such time as we receive input from Mr. Slattery on this siren.

Mayor Gemma added that he has asked the Borough Clerk to prepare an article for the next Bulletin informing our residents of the situation with the Borough not having the siren at the present time and to make sure they are aware they will have to rely on other means to find out about school closings, etc. until a decision can be made about the replacement of this equipment.

Councilman Lyons commented that last April he received a memo from the Mayor on the subject of the Library, which he had mentioned at a previous Council meeting asking for some input that we might be able to be ready to conduct a public hearing on that subject of our Library services in the Borough, as he had requested. As the Council is aware, he has completed that task and delivered as copy of his report to each of the members and would ask that everyone review his report and hopefully be ready to discuss this situation and move on to conducting the public meeting he had originally requested, as soon as possible on this subject.

Mayor Gemma advised that the Council will review and discuss this proposal prior to setting a meeting date and Councilman Lyons asked that when the meeting is scheduled that representatives of the Monmouth Library Association and the Monmouth County Library be invited. Mayor Gemma suggested that Councilman Lyons prepare a list of the names of who he would like to attend and we will notify them when a meeting has been scheduled.

Mayor Gemma also suggested that Councilman Lyons forward copies of his report to the representatives, to which Councilman Lyons advised that he has already done that and Mayor Gemma advised that if the Council reviews his proposal and makes changes, he may have to supply revised copies of same.

Councilman Lyons reminded everyone that the Port-au-Peck Chemical Hose Fire Company fund drive is now in progress and urged everyone to give generously since they are protecting our lives.

COUNCILMAN WOLFE: ABSENT.

COUNCILMAN MCGANN: Councilman McGann asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-01-61** authorizing participation in the municipal auction being held in Tinton Falls on November 3, 2001, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilwoman Silkworth and approved by Council.

Councilman McGann then asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-01-62** requesting the Division of Local Government Services to approve an item of revenue into the 2001 municipal budget, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilwoman Gatta and approved by Council.

Councilman McGann reported that the Borough's street sweeper is up and running again and during the last two weeks, Tom Crochet and his Public Works Department were able to sweep the entire town. He also extended his appreciation to Tom and his men on sprucing up the town prior to Haskell Day.

Councilman McGann noted that recently the Sewer Authority had a contractor performing extensive work on Port-au-Peck Avenue and he and representatives of the Authority met last week and went over the project and created a punch list of the items that still need to be addressed, and this list has now been put in writing and he will provide copies to the Council for their review and comments.

COUNCILWOMAN SILKWORTH: Councilwoman Silkworth moved to hire an Appraiser through the Tax Assessor's Office at a cost of \$750 for the purpose of reviewing the improvements to the Monmouth Corporate Center building. It was seconded by Councilman McGann and approved by Council.

MAYOR GEMMA: Mayor Gemma stated he had a proclamation proclaiming September as National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery month and stated a copy of the proclamation would be posted in the Borough Hall during September.

Mayor Gemma stated in regard to Councilman McGann's comments about the work done by the Sewer Authority on Port-au-Peck Avenue, he has scheduled a meeting on August 30th with representatives of the water company, sewer authority and our Borough Engineer to discuss the problems encountered during this work with the extremely old water mains that currently exist in that area and we are looking to ask the water company to replace these mains, since we are planning to repave that roadway, most likely in the Spring of 2002 and we certainly don't want to expend these grant funds if the water mains are going to continually break and cause problems.

Mayor Gemma then opened the meeting to the public for any comments or questions they might wish to make, but seeing none, closed the public portion of the meeting.

Ed Ryan, Willow Court stated he wanted to commend the assistance the First Aid Squad receives from our Police Department and commented that he is a member of the NJ First Aid and throughout the State, only 1 out of 25 towns receive aid from their Police Departments and we just wanted everyone to realize how lucky we are in Oceanport.

Mr. Ryan also urged the Council to move as quickly as possible in getting the siren back in operation and feels this equipment is very necessary in our Borough.

Mayor Gemma explained that we need to get all of the necessary input that has been requested before we can begin to move forward, but we are making progress.

Stu Briskey, 46 Werah Place concurred with Mr. Ryan's remarks about the need for the siren to be replaced and stated for the record, that he hoped this equipment would be replaced in the near future.

Mr. Briskey commented that a few meetings back he had raised the issue of the volunteers being charged for the delivery of compost and asked if the Council had reviewed this matter, to which Mayor Gemma explained that this was discussed by the Council and the Council felt that the \$10 charge for the delivery of compost was to help defray the cost of the Public Works Department time and use of equipment and the Council felt that this was a very reasonable fee.

Mr. Briskey expanded on his reasons why he felt this was unfair and Mayor Gemma also again advised the Council's reasons for their decision on this matter.

Councilman Lyons suggested that the Council think about reviewing the ordinance again and perhaps making what fees are exempt for the volunteers clearer so we do not have to involve the Borough Attorney when a new fee is introduced, to which Mayor Gemma stated was a good idea.

Jim Slattery, Emergency Management Coordinator stated he concurred with the comments made with regard to the need for the siren replacement, which is an audible alarm used to alert the community of an emergency situation, school closing, etc. and in our Borough Directory, we have listed what the sirens are for and what our residents should be doing, whether it be checking the weather situation, flooding, etc. and advised that if the Governing Body needs this in writing, he will be happy to do so, to which Councilman Lyons stated he would appreciate receiving something from Mr. Slattery.

Mr. Slattery addressed Councilman Lyons with regard to a draft ordinance he had forwarded to him a while back which is something that the State is mandating being put in place and asked if this is going to be introduced, to which Councilman Lyons stated the Council had briefly discussed this matter and felt that Mr. Slattery should come to a work shop meeting to discuss this matter in detail.

Mayor Gemma asked the Clerk to schedule Mr. Slattery for a work shop meeting in September in order to discuss the proposed ordinance.

Kerin Slattery, 10 Elliott Place stated as Captain of the Port-au-Peck Fire Company he only wanted to echo the comments made tonight with regard to the need for the siren to be replaced.

Steve Briskey, Chief of the Oceanport Fire Department stated that he has been working with the Fire Department, First Aid Squad, Police Chief with regard to the need for the siren replacement and stated if the Mayor and Council would just keep him informed in writing as things progress, he would be able to keep everyone informed.

Mayor Gemma stated that the insurance company has hired an adjuster to come down and review the siren and it was agreed that it would be a good idea to have representatives from Fire, First Aid, Police, Emergency Management and Council Liaisons from Buildings & Grounds, Fire, Fire Aid and Police in attendance, in order to have everyone's concerns, questions, etc. responded to by the experts. Mayor Gemma asked the Clerk to send a memo once the date for the adjuster to come down is set up in order to notify all the departments.

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 August 16, 2001. It was seconded by Councilwoman Gatta and unanimously approved by Council. 2000 VOUCHERS PAID \$114.00. TOTAL 2000 VOUCHERS \$114.00. 2001 VOUCHERS PAID \$166,899.42. 2001 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$848,335.69. TOTAL 2001 VOUCHERS \$1,015,235.11. TOTAL FIREWORKS TRUST \$303.25. TOTAL RECREATION TRUST \$1,909.75. TOTAL DOG REGISTRY \$335.00. TOTAL TRUST \$11,211.00. TOTAL CAPITAL \$10,065.25. (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 September 6, 2001 at 8:00 P.M. It was seconded by Councilwoman Gatta and unanimously approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,



PATRICIA L. VARCA
BOROUGH CLERK