

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Oceanport, New Jersey
July 16, 1998

- REGULAR MEETING:** The Regular Meeting of the Oceanport Mayor and Council was called to order on July 16, 1998 at 8:00 P.M.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councilpersons Apruzzi, Filippone, Miller, Wolfe, McGann and Mayor Gemma.
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Councilwoman Silkworth.
- OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Borough Clerk, Patricia L. Varca and Borough Attorney, Francis A. Margalotti.
- INVOCATION:** The invocation was given by Borough Chaplain Berry.
- 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 June 18, 1998 had been made available to the members of the Governing Body, Councilman Apruzzi moved to waive the reading of same and approve the minutes as presented by the Borough Clerk. It was seconded by Councilman McGann and unanimously approved by Council.

CLERK'S REPORTS:

1. Police report for the month of JUNE, 1998 and a copy will be posted on the bulletin board.

COMMITTEES:

COUNCILMAN APRUZZI: Councilman Apruzzi reported that the Recreation Committee met last week to discuss the upcoming Summer's End Festival in September and advised that the contract for the fireworks was given to Serpico and we are looking forward to a great display, which they promised.

Councilman Apruzzi advised that the new playground equipment at the Community Center is installed and thanked Tom Crochet and the men in Public Works for a great job in getting everything together and asked the Press to please put something in about the new kiddy playground. He also stated that there will be a formal ribbon cutting ceremony in the near future.

Councilman Apruzzi reported that the Capital Improvement Committee held their first meeting and Kristi Penta was elected as Chairperson of the Committee, with Rusty Kleigberg as Vice President and Ed Herr will be the Secretary. He commented that there is much work to do and they will be having their first official meeting on July 27, 1998.

COUNCILWOMAN FILIPPONE: Councilwoman Filippone asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-98-50** regarding the sale of Oceanport In Retrospect books and setting up a trust account for the Historical Society, after which she moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council.

Councilwoman Filippone offered her thanks to Richard Bingham, President of the Historical Society and she commented that this Committee has really taken off with many interested people becoming involved and recently, Jim Slattery gave a wonderful presentation of the 1992 storm. She also commented that anyone interested in being a member of the Historical Society should attend a meeting and everyone is welcome.

Councilwoman Filippone reported that she is in receipt of a letter of resignation from Judy Baxter from the Board of Health due to other commitments and she thanked Judy for all her years of service and dedication to the Board of Health and asked that a letter of appreciation be sent to her.

Councilwoman Filippone then moved to appoint Ed Anderson to fill this vacancy on the Board of Health, which term expires on December 31, 2001. It was seconded by Councilman Miller and approved by Council.

Councilwoman Filippone expressed her thanks to the Mayor, Councilman McGann, Walter Joyce and Jim Slattery for setting up the FEMA meetings held recently, where we have been told that if certain things are done, the residents in the Borough will be able to receive a reduction in their flood insurance rates and she is sure Councilman McGann will give a complete report.

Councilwoman Filippone gave the Oceanport First Aid Squad's Captain's Report for the month of June, reporting that there were 54 emergency calls; 6 motor vehicle; 9 mutual aids, for a total of 67 calls and 241 man/woman hours. She also advised that 8 calls were to Monmouth Park and the Squad also participated in the Lions Club Fair for a total of 300 hours for the fair alone for a total of 759 hours for the month.

Councilwoman Filippone also advised that the Squad is presently in the midst of conducting their annual fund drive and so far only 36% of the residents have responded and she urged anyone who has yet to send in their donation, to please do so and reminded everyone that these volunteers are there for all the residents, seven days a week and twenty-four hours a day.

Councilwoman Filippone thanked Sonny Barney who repaired the generator for the Squad recently and charged nothing for his labor.

Councilwoman Filippone also advised that the First Aid Squad is receiving many, many thank you notes, not only from the residents in Oceanport, but from surrounding communities as well, since they respond to mutual aid calls on a regular basis.

Councilwoman Filippone wished Patrolman Frank VanBrunt a speedy recovery from knee surgery and offered her congratulations to former Mayor Tom Cavanagh and his wife on the recent birth of their first granddaughter.

COUNCILMAN MILLER: Councilman Miller moved to award a bid to Criterion Coating Systems, Inc., Aston, Pa., for a new floor in the Port-au-Peck Chemical Hose Fire Company at the low bid of \$12,200. It was seconded by Councilman Wolfe and approved by Council.

Councilman Miller moved to award a bid for the reconstruction of the tennis courts at the Community Center to the low bidder, Fiore Paving Co., Oceanport, in the amount of \$29,882 and to return the bid bonds to the unsuccessful bidders. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council.

Councilman Miller moved to appoint Patrolman Steven Briskey as a permanent employee in the Oceanport Police Department, following his six month probationary period. It was seconded by Councilwoman Filippone and approved by Council.

Councilman Miller then moved to award a bid for Police Computers to the low bidder, Gold Type Business Machines, Lyndhurst, NJ in the amount of \$32,881.06 and to return the bid bonds to the unsuccessful bidders. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council.

Councilman Miller reported that the Lions Club has donated \$3,000 to help with the new playground equipment recently installed at the Community Center.

Councilman Miller advised that Patrolman Chenoweth has recently completed a course on Basic Crime Scene Examination and Patrolman Tagerty who completed a Basic Course For Juvenile Officers.

Councilman Miller informed everyone that the recent water samples taken off Oceanport show the turbidity level, which is how far down you can see in the river, to be not so good and the river has a color similar to ice tea. He continued that this is caused by an algae bloom and additional nutrients and phosphates, which come from over fertilized lawns and the run off following rain. He also commented that the fecal coliform averaged 225 which is a good sign.

Councilman Miller advised that the property at Old Wharf Park is terrible due to the number of geese who congregate at that location and he stated that they are lifting the regulation keeping dogs out of the park and would appreciate anyone with larger type dogs, to walk them in that park in an attempt to scare away the geese.

R-98-51

COUNCILMAN WOLFE: Councilman Wolfe asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-98-51** amending the 1998 Capital Budget program, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council.

R-98-52

Councilman Wolfe asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-98-52** authorizing the Tax Collector to return tax overpayments to property owners, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council.

R-98-53

Councilman Wolfe then asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-98-53** authorizing the sale of a 1956 International Emergency Management vehicle for scrap, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Miller and approved by Council.

Councilman Wolfe thanked Fire Chief, John Schneider for setting up a number of drills for the Fire Department at the Monmouth Park Race Track in order to have the firemen familiar with the various buildings located at that site as well as a program where they flushed all of the hydrants, which was something that has not been done in quite some time.

Councilman Wolfe also extended his thanks and appreciation to Tom Crochet and his Department for their efforts and hard work in putting together the new playground equipment at the Community Center.

COUNCILMAN MCGANN: Councilman McGann called for an introduction of a bond ordinance regarding the acquisition of the property located on Horseneck Point and asked the Clerk to read the proposed ordinance by title only, as follows: **BOND ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$151,250. AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$143,650. BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH FOR VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS OR PURPOSES AUTHORIZED TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY.**

Councilman McGann moved to approve this bond ordinance on first reading. It was seconded by Councilman Wolfe.

The Clerk called the roll:

AYES: Councilpersons Apruzzi, Filippone, Miller, Wolfe and McGann.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilwoman Silkworth.
ABSTAIN: None.

Councilman McGann then moved to hold the public hearing on this bond ordinance at the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on August 20, 1998 and to advertise same in accordance with law. It was seconded by Councilman Wolfe.

The Clerk called the roll:

AYES: Councilpersons Apruzzi, Filippone, Miller, Wolfe and McGann.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilwoman Silkworth.
ABSTAIN: None.

Councilman McGann brought up the meeting he recently attended with the State of NJ and also with the FEMA Representative, Bob Reynolds, he received some interesting statistics. He continued that in this Borough there are 608 flood insurance policies which generates \$306,000 worth of annual premiums and insure face value of \$96 million dollars worth of property; over the last twenty years the Federal Government has paid out \$6,500,000 in claims in this Borough. Councilman McGann stated in looking at these types of statistics, FEMA comes up with rating systems based upon these types of things, particularly in regard to repetitive claims and there are 45 properties with more than one claim in the Borough.

Councilman McGann stated we are looking at raising the first finished floor elevation by ordinance from 9' to 11-1/2', which will give us a little better rating with the Federal Government; the other matter is applying for grants to raise homes to that elevation, which will also help us in the rating system, as well as eliminating some of the repeat claims and that will help our rating, which will reduce our flood insurance rates. He commented that presently we are a Class 10 town in this rating system and if we can get to a Class 9, everyone gets a 5% rebate on their flood insurance and if we get to a Class 8 we get a 10% reduction, so it is a very good deal when you look at the total cost of flood insurance in this town and would be a total savings of \$326,000 annually. He also advised that

we are also looking at areas where we can eliminate some of our continuing flooding problems at certain intersections where we have infiltration on Northeast storms up our outfall pipes and storm drains and inlets into our streets. He stated that presently there is no grant money for that, but we are still going to research this issue further in order to try and better the situation.

Councilman McGann pointed out that the grants for elevating homes is a 75% grant with a 25% pay back by the homeowner and there is not a lot of money around for these types of project and he has not seen an application and we are only looking at approximately \$500,000 available for the entire State, but we need to see what the qualifications are for these types of projects.

COUNCILWOMAN SILKWORTH: ABSENT.

MAYOR GEMMA: Mayor Gemma offered his congratulations to former Mayor, now Judge Tom Cavanagh on becoming a grandpa.

R-98-54 Mayor Gemma then advised that he had been asked by Senator Bennett to adopt a resolution to remove any funds from the PNC Bank with regard to the refusal by the PNC Bank to include "Garden State" in the Arts Center name and he asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-98-54** removing the PNC Bank from the list of approved Borough depositories, after which Councilman Miller moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilwoman Filippone and approved by Council.

R-98-55 Mayor Gemma then asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-98-55** endorsing the Battleship of New Jersey project, after which Councilman Wolfe moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council.

Mayor Gemma reported that he was in receipt of a fax from the Borough Engineer which contained a report stating that he has contacted and/or left messages at each of the homes on Tecumseh Avenue and the residents he spoke with directly are pleased with project. He then asked if anyone in the public was here tonight to speak about this street and no one replied.

Mayor Gemma then opened the meeting to the public for any comments or questions anyone might have.

PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Mr. Ed Anderson, 155 So. Pemberton Ave., stated he wanted to express the thanks of the Oceanport seniors for all they support they get from the Borough, which allows them to take trips to various locations and he announced that the new Travel Coordinator for the Senior Citizens Committee is Irene McNish and he thanked John Briscione for his many years in that position.

Mr. Anderson also invited anyone interested to attend the Senior Social Hour held on Tuesday mornings where they play cards, have refreshments, etc. for only \$.50 and also on Friday evenings and commented that you don't have to be a senior to attend and they are held at the Old Wharf House.

Mr. Anderson then asked if it would be possible for the Public Works Department to make a curb cut from the parking lot to the senior center, since the curb is quite high and it is difficult for some of the members, to which Councilman Wolfe stated he would ask Tom Crochet to schedule this

work and will have Tom contact Mr. Anderson so he can advise where best to make the cut in the curb.

Mr. Doug Johnson, 38 Oneida Ave. has heard and recently read an article which stated that the race track is going to be selling off their excess property and asked what the process is and how do people get involved with the process of voicing how they feel about this matter.

Mayor Gemma advised that this process began two years ago when the County purchased the Wolfhill Farm property and at that time both the Borough Council and the Planning Board recognized there was a possibility of the track selling larger portions of their property. He continued that it is the view of the Borough, his Office and the Council that the excess property remain in its present condition, but again, we must realize that this property can be sold. He has spoken with State and County Officials, appeared before the Monmouth County Conservation Foundation, has spoken directly with the track representatives, all in an effort to allow the land to remain, but again, we must recognize the fact that this is not our property.

Mayor Gemma stated we are still awaiting to hear from the track when then come before the Planning Board with their concept of what should be built on this land, but until they do there is nothing that can be done presently. He advised Mr. Johnson to contact the Planning Board secretary prior to the next Planning Board meeting to find out if the track is scheduled to come before them and he also assured everyone that once the track comes in with a concrete plan, he will conduct a public hearing inviting all interested parties to attend and voice their opinions.

Mayor Gemma advised Mr. Johnson that there would be a sign on the Community Events sign at Borough Hall and an article in the Bulletin, if time allowed.

Mrs. Barbara Darby, 14 Fairfield Ave. stated she has been calling Borough Hall for the Code Enforcement Officer, Ron Kirk, to address an overgrown lot on the side and rear of her property and nothing has been done, to which Councilman Miller advised that summonses were sent out to the two property owners regarding their failure to comply with the letter Mr. Kirk had sent them.

Mrs. Darby felt that this has taken much too long and felt that something else should be set up to handle this type of situation, since from May 30 to July 16 is way too long and she has concerns about ticks and mosquitoes in all of the overgrowth that exists on the property. Mrs. Darby questioned when this situation can be expected to be taken care of and resolved.

Mr. Margalotti, Borough Attorney advised Mrs. Darby that no one on the dais can answer that question because the property owners now have to go to Municipal Court and that is for the Judge to decide, although he felt that perhaps it might prompt the owners to have the lots cleaned up prior to showing up in Court, but no one tonight can answer that question. Mr. Margalotti suggested that Mrs. Darby show up for the Court date to see what the Judge has to say, but advised her to contact the Court Administrator, Deanne Sole, to make sure the case has not been postponed.

Mayor Gemma assured Mrs. Darby that he would be in contact with Mr. Kirk to find out what took place with this matter.

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 Voucher Register dated July 16, 1998. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council, with the exception of Councilman Apruzzi who abstained from voting on the vouchers due Lucent Technology and Councilman McGann who abstained from voting on vouchers due Atlantic Coast Communications. TOTAL 1998 VOUCHERS \$173,193.92. TOTAL 1998 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$96,913.20. TOTAL 1998 OPERATING FUND \$270,107.22. TOTAL WATER WATCH TRUST ACCOUNT \$75.94. TOTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST ACCOUNT \$1,000.00. TOTAL RECREATION TRUST ACCOUNT \$45.08. TOTAL DOG REGISTRY ACCOUNT \$102.60. TOTAL TRUST ACCOUNT \$1,116.30. TOTAL GENERAL LEDGER-TAX OVERPAYMENT \$689.21. TOTAL GENERAL LEDGER-LIEN REDEMPTION \$20,131.09. TOTAL GENERAL LEDGER-OCEANPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION \$434,785.37. TOTAL GENERAL LEDGER-MARRIAGE LICENSES \$325.00. TOTAL GENERAL LEDGER-LOCAL EXPENSE PAYMENT \$14,540.00. TOTAL GENERAL LEDGER-STATE TRAINING FEES \$1,112.89. (SEE VOUCHER REGISTER).

At 9:05 P.M. Councilman McGann moved to adjourn this meeting until the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on August 20, 1998 at 8:00 P.M. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,



PATRICIA L. VARCA
BOROUGH CLERK