

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Oceanport, New Jersey
June 19, 2003

- REGULAR MEETING:** The Regular Meeting of the Oceanport Mayor and Council was called to order on June 19, 2003 at 8:00 P.M. with Council President Gatta stating the meeting had been properly advertised in accordance with law.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councilpersons Mahon, Apruzzi, Gatta, McGann and Cooper.
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Councilwoman Kahle 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:** Council President Gatta led the audience and members of the Council in the flag salute.

As copies of the minutes from the regular meeting held on June 5, 2003 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 Mahon and approved by Council.

CLERK'S REPORTS:

1. Police report for the month of MAY, 2003 and a copy will be posted on the bulletin board.
2. Application to amend a raffle license made by the Monmouth Park Charity Fund to be held on July 24th rather than the previously approved date of July 23rd.

The Clerk advised that the amended application had been received and the fees had been paid, after which Councilman McGann moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council.

3. Application for raffle license made by the Lupus Foundation of American, Inc. – NJ Chapter to be held on July 20, 2003, various prizes.

The Clerk again advised that the application was found to be in order and the appropriate fees had been paid, after which Councilman McGann moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council.

4. Resolutions renewing liquor licenses for the 2003/04 licensing period as follows:

R-03-47

The Clerk read resolution **R-03-47** approving the liquor license of BOWI, Inc. t/a Old Wharf Inne, License #1338-33-008-007, after which Councilman McGann moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council.

The Clerk then read resolution **R-03-48** approving the liquor license of Oceanport Spirits, Inc., License #1338-44-005-002, after which Councilman McGann moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council.

COMMITTEES:

COUNCILWOMAN KAHLE: Absent.

COUNCILMAN MAHON: Councilman Mahon reported the Oceanport Water Watch Committee is in full swing doing their monthly testing of the river and they are scheduled to go out again on July 5th and will be putting their results together regarding the water quality in the Borough.

Councilman Mahon advised that in an attempt to rid some standing water problems throughout the Borough, the Monmouth County Mosquito Commission is becoming involved with working with us and within the last several weeks, we have had some other residents to respond to some of our request and look at standing water and have gotten three to four additional requests and one of them is on Driveway and several on Pemberton. He continued that if anyone else has any issues in this regard, they should let us know and we will attempt to have them resolved either through engineering or with the assistance of the Mosquito Commission, who are predicting a heavy mosquito season.

Councilman Mahon stated under the Cable and Technology Committee, the group that makes of our emergency services component of this Committee will be meeting on June 26th doing a Monmouth Park impact assessment review and that will be our second meeting on this issue and putting together what the elements are that the sale of Monmouth Park Race Track will mean to the Borough and its emergency services. He continued that they will also be discussing doing a new survey for 2003 to give us an assessment of where we are at the present time with our communications situation as we begin to plan out the next step in our improvements of our radio system for the emergency services.

COUNCILMAN APRUZZI: Councilman Apruzzi commented that for the month of May the Police Dispatchers received 1,215 calls of which our officers responded to 783 calls and averages well over 1,000 call per month and shows how busy our Police Department is on a monthly basis. He also offered congratulations to Dispatchers Shaffery and Mazzarella for the completed of the Class I Special Law Enforcement basic course; Det. Sgt. Baldanza for completing the Internal Affairs Policy and Procedures course and the Intermediate Access course; Sgt. Cioffi and Det. Sgt. Baldanza for completion of the Risk Management for Law Enforcement Course.

Councilman Apruzzi warned residents that there have been a couple of break-ins in the Borough which was reported in the newspapers and he urged everyone to be aware of our home security and make sure lights are left on and doors are locked and be aware of who is in your neighborhood and if you have any doubts, contact the police.

Councilman Apruzzi reported under Recreation, he had announced at the workshop meeting that we had hired a Summer Camp Director but due to personal situations is unable to take on this position, but we now have hired Miles Merlin and he will be taking over this position for the upcoming season.

Councilman Apruzzi announced that the last tot lot park has been completed at Evergreen Park and it looks great and now all of the parks in town have new tot lots parks. He also advised that we are continuing to work with Tom Rospos, our Borough Engineer, on the plans for Blackberry Bay

Park which was recently reviewed by Council and there will be another review coming up in a couple of weeks, with hopes of going to bid on July 1st if all goes well.

Councilman Apruzzi stated under the Shade Tree Committee, he announced at the last meeting that we had an anonymous donor to donate trees to the Borough and after speaking with them have permission to tell everyone that it is Mr. & Mrs. Barr who live on Osprey Lane in Oceanport and these trees will be planted throughout the Borough and he has also received volunteers from Mike Tober, who is a landscaper and Bob Brummer to assist us with the planting of these trees. He also commented that he has received several calls from individuals who want to donate other trees in memory of their families and we are working with them to get those trees into the Borough as well.

Councilman Apruzzi thanked all the participants in the September 11th dedication of our monument on June 8th and our emergency services were well represented and families who were directly involved with September 11th were present and he again offered his thanks to Joe Uris and Ted Siden for making this happen.

Councilman Apruzzi wished everyone a happy and safe 4th of July.

R-03-49

COUNCILMAN McGANN: Councilman McGann read resolution **R-03-49** authorizing the submission of a grant application for Burnt Mill Circle under the DOT Grant Program, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Mahon and approved by Council.

R-03-50

Councilman McGann read resolution **R-03-50** authorizing the submission of a grant application for Port-au-Peck Avenue from Pocahontas to Shrewsbury Avenues under the DOT Grant Program, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilwoman Copper and approved by Council.

R-03-51

Councilman McGann read resolution **R-03-51** authorizing the submission of a grant application for Horseneck Point Road under the DOT Grant Program, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilwoman Copper and approved by Council.

R-03-52

Councilman McGann then asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-03-52** formally renewing the agreement with the Coastal Alliance for 2004, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and approved by Council.

Councilman McGann called for the introduction of an amendment to the zoning ordinance with regard to the Village Center Zone and asked the Clerk to read the proposed ordinance by title only, as follows: **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED THE "BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT ZONING ORDINANCE" PASSED AND APPROVED ON JULY 3, 1969.**

Councilman McGann moved to approved this ordinance on first reading. It was seconded by Councilman Mahon.

The Clerk called the roll:

AYES: Councilpersons Mahon, Apruzzi, McGann and Cooper.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilwoman Kahle.
ABSTAIN: None.

Councilman McGann moved to hold the public hearing on this ordinance at the regular meeting scheduled to be held on July 17, 2003 and to advertise same in accordance with law. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi.

The Clerk called the roll:

AYES: Councilpersons Mahon, Apruzzi, McGann and Cooper.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilwoman Kahle.
ABSTAIN: None.

Councilman McGann called for the introduction of an ordinance amending the fee ordinance with regard to the cost for returned checks and asked the Clerk to read the proposed ordinance by title only, as follows: **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED THE "BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT FEES ORDINANCE" PASSED AND APPROVED ON DECEMBER 16, 1999.**

Councilman McGann moved to approved this ordinance on first reading. It was seconded by Councilwoman Cooper.

The Clerk called the roll:

AYES: Councilpersons Mahon, Apruzzi, McGann and Cooper.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilwoman Kahle.
ABSTAIN: None.

Councilman McGann moved to hold the public hearing on this ordinance at the regular meeting scheduled to be held on July 17, 2003 and to advertise same in accordance with law. It was seconded by Councilman Mahon.

The Clerk called the roll:

AYES: Councilpersons Mahon, Apruzzi, McGann and Cooper.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilwoman Kahle.
ABSTAIN: None.

Councilman McGann then called for the introduction of an ordinance amending the Housing Code raising the charge for certificates of occupancy applications and asked the Clerk to read the proposed ordinance by title only, as follows: **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED THE "BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT HOUSING CODE ORDINANCE" PASSED AND APPROVED ON FEBRUARY 7, 1985.**

Councilman McGann moved to approved this ordinance on first reading. It was seconded by Councilwoman Cooper.

The Clerk called the roll:

AYES: Councilpersons Mahon, Apruzzi, McGann and Cooper.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilwoman Kahle.
ABSTAIN: None.

Councilman McGann moved to hold the public hearing on this ordinance at the regular meeting scheduled to be held on July 17, 2003 and to advertise same in accordance with law. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi.

The Clerk called the roll:

AYES: Councilpersons Mahon, Apruzzi, McGann and Cooper.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilwoman Kahle.
ABSTAIN: None.

Councilman McGann commended Tom Crochet, Superintendent of Public Works, who has recently notified our various utilities including the water, gas and sewer authority regarding the numerous utility patches and trenches that are throughout the Borough and some have begun to settle and fall into disrepair and we wanted everyone to realize that we do follow up on these matters and have then come back and make the appropriate repairs.

Councilman McGann was pleased to report that Governor McGreevey has signed an appropriation in the amount of \$400,000. for open space for the Borough of Oceanport and this is the second appropriation that we have been waiting for the Governor to sign for some time and this now paves the way for the acquisition of the property owned by Monmouth Park Race Track which we anticipate closing some time in mid summer, if all goes well.

Councilman McGann reported that the Public Works Department has concluded sweeping the streets in the entire Borough and the town will now be sectorized into four sections and we will continue to sweep our streets on a weekly basis as each section comes up on a rotating basis so residents can expect to see the sweeper in their area on a monthly basis, weather permitting.

COUNCILWOMAN COOPER: Councilwoman Cooper advised that the Chief Financial Officer will be preparing a budget run for the Council's review at the mid year point and that will be available for us by the next meeting.

MAYOR GEMMA: Absent.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT GATTA: Council President Gatta offered the following appointments to the Recreation Committee:

Peter A. Deller, Sr., to fill the un-expired term ending 12/31/05
William Johnson to fill the un-expired term ending 12/3/05
George Karpus to fill the un-expired term ending 12/31/04

Councilman Apruzzi moved to approve these appointments to the Recreation Committee. It was seconded by Councilman Mahon and approved by Council.

Council President Gatta stated First Aid met last night and she wanted to advise everyone that their fund drive will be starting very shortly and letters will be mailed to the residents and we are hoping that everyone will be generous. She continued that in early May, the Oceanport Gardens seniors held a flea market and earmarked the proceeds to go to the First Aid Squad and she was happy to report that they collected \$827.50 and turned the funds over to the Squad, who are very appreciative of the efforts of the seniors.

Council President Gatta reported that for the month of May there were 66 calls answered by the Squad which equates to 750 people hours which totals 307 calls this year and again, this is one month shy of half a year and a comment was made that several years ago the Squad had 307 for the entire year. She also reminded everyone that the Squad is conducting a cash raffle and the proceeds are earmarked for improvements to the Squad building and the raffle books are available through any of the Squad members and the drawing will be held at the annual holiday bazaar held on December 13, 2003 and she urged all residents to support this very worthy cause. Council President Gatta also commented that our Senior Club is also planning some fundraisers for the Squad in the early fall to help with the proposed building project.

Council President Gatta commented that in the latest Bulletin there is an article advising that the Drug Alliance Community Calendar will be available next year and we are starting again with a completely new data base and advised that anyone interested in having birthdays, anniversaries, etc. the order forms are in the Bulletin or you can send \$5.00 to the Borough Hall.

Council President Gatta announced that the Oceanport Ladies Auxiliary is selling a cookbook for the cost of \$10 and is available at the Clerk's Office in Borough Hall and both Patti Varca and Kim Jungfer have volunteered to collect the money for these books and she looked through it and it is a great book with recipes from some of our residents as well as great hints.

Council President Gatta publicly thanked Mike Tober and commented that at the end of April, early May she was contacted by a young parent whose daughter's class had collected money to purchase a tree to be planted at a classmate's home in memory of the classmate's mom who had recently passed away. She continued that when the tree was purchased, they realized that they were not able to plant the tree themselves and contacted Council President Gatta who mentioned it to Michael Tober, who is on our Shade Tree Committee and is a landscaper and he took care of it and the class all signed a card to the young girl when she came home from school, there was the tree and it was a very touching moment and she thanked Mike Tober very much for all his efforts.

Council President Gatta stated that 26 of our 7th and 8th Graders have completed a program with our senior citizens entitled "The Senior Memoir Program" where we have 13 seniors working with these students during a seven week period with the seniors going to school for approximately 1½ hours a week and the students worked on the seniors memoirs and compiled the book and hopefully this will be an ongoing project.

Council President Gatta advised that we will be having National Night Out in August and the date has been changed to Monday, August 4th with a rain date of Tuesday, August 5th and this is the 20th anniversary of National Night Out and it will be held at the Borough Hall grounds and she will give more updates as the plans become finalized.

Council President Gatta then opened the meeting to the public for any comments or questions they might wish to make.

Council President Gatta reported that on Tuesday, June 24th at 7:00 p.m. we will be having the next Networking Meeting at the Community Center with the hopes of developing a community day in the Fall and will bring more information to the public following that meeting.

PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Bob Kelly, Gooseneck Point Road explained that he is here tonight to talk about a gift to the children of Oceanport from the Shrewsbury Sailing and Yacht Club wherein they are giving two scholarships this year in order to encourage children to participate in the lifelong skill of learning how to sail and is funded by the past Commodores of the Club. He and the members of the Club felt that this was a way to give back to the town and this year our selection process was from essays written by the children at Wolfhill School asking them why they thought it would be fun to sail and we excluded children or any extended family of any member of the Club which took out a lot of people and the respondents totaled 200 from the 3rd and 4th grades and were all girls. He continued that the two girls have been selected and notified and he explained that their purpose in doing this was twofold, one being to encourage people who would not normally have an opportunity to get involved in sailing and secondly, to give back to the Borough and we are good neighbors and hopefully, we can continue to do this next year and maybe we can add to the number of scholarships we offer.

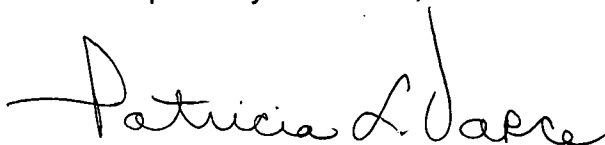
Council President Gatta thanked Mr. Kelly and thought it might be interesting after they complete the course to invite them back and hear their stories about what they experienced to which Mr. Kelly advised that he only asked these two young girls to do two things, one to have a great time this summer and at the end of the summer, to write another essay if they liked sailing.

As no one else from the public wished to be heard, Council President Gatta closed the public portion of the meeting.

Councilwoman Cooper moved to approve the vouchers on the Bill List dated June 19, 2003. It was seconded by Councilman McGann and approved by Council with the exception of Councilman Apruzzi who abstained from voting on the voucher due to himself as a reimbursement. TOTAL CAPITAL TRUST \$36,809.00. TOTAL ESCROW TRUST \$943.00. 2002 VOUCHERS PAID \$82,677.80. 2002 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$8,255.00. TOTAL 2002 VOUCHERS \$90,932.80. 2003 VOUCHERS PAID \$5,571,983.64. 2003 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$664,396.60. TOTAL 2003 VOUCHERS \$6,236,380.24. (SEE BILL LIST)

At 8:31 p.m. Councilman Apruzzi moved to adjourn this meeting until the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on July 17, 2003 at 8:00 P.M. It was seconded by Councilman McGann and approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,



PATRICIA L. VARCA
BOROUGH CLERK