

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Oceanport, New Jersey
June 7, 2001

- REGULAR MEETING:** The Regular Meeting of the Oceanport Mayor and Council was called to order on June 7, 2001 at 8:00 P.M.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councilpersons Apruzzi, Gatta, Lyons, Wolfe, McGann, Silkworth and Mayor Gemma.
- OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Deputy Borough Clerk, Kimberly A. Jungfer 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 May 7, 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.

Mayor Gemma announced that present were representatives from the County concerning the proposed improvement at Monmouth Boulevard and Myrtle Avenue. The Mayor turned the meeting over to those representatives.

Ted Giannechini, County Engineer introduced himself, Kevin Nugent, Project Manager, Rob Villac, Traffic Engineer and Paul Clare an engineer from consultants Najarian Associates.

Kevin Nugent gave an overview of the plans. He explained that not only was the traffic signal needed but also this was an intersection that experiences frequent flooding. He stated that in conjunction with the Borough Engineer, Thomas Rospos, a plan was created.

Mr. Nugent explained the design of the traffic intersection in relation to traffic patterns and turn lanes that have been created. He further stated that the controls for the signals would be placed on the property at the Municipal Building. He hoped the plans would be approved by the end of the month with work to begin after the racetrack season.

Mayor Gemma asked if Mr. Nugent could give an indication of how much of the road will be raised and the signage that is proposed to which Mr. Nugent indicated Mr. Villac would address these matters.

Mr. Villac stated that the intersection would be raised between one and one half to two feet and described the water flow. He indicated that the Borough owned portion of Monmouth Boulevard should also be improved because this plan tries to redirect some of the water flow.

Mayor Gemma asked how this compared to the adjacent homeowners properties and Mr. Villac stated the road would be above the existing grades but should have minimal effect with the exception of the corner properties, which will experience some runoff, but there will be lawn inlets placed on these effect properties.

Councilman McGann asked about the curbing on the Borough owned portion of Monmouth Boulevard and was told there would be a roll curb placed there, which should help drainage.

Councilman McGann asked that the present elevation versus the finished elevation be checked and reported back to the Council prior to construction.

Councilman McGann asked what was being proposed with regard to lawn restoration and was told it would be restored with good topsoil and seed.

Mr. Villac, the traffic engineer, explained exacting how the signal would work, the left turn lanes on Myrtle Avenue and the right turn lane from Monmouth Boulevard onto Myrtle. The signage will be standard intersection signs. He stated that the operation of the signal should greatly reduce backups with no major cueing.

Councilman McGann stated that there were some residents from Gooseneck Point in the audience who have some concerns because when pulling onto Myrtle Avenue in the morning and peak hours in the evening they have difficulty making the left hand turn and there should be consideration to allow for sufficient gaps to allow for the turn.

Mr. Villac stated that there would be gaps simply by stopping the northbound Myrtle traffic and even with the right from Monmouth onto Myrtle there should still be sufficient gaps.

Councilman McGann asked that if in fact it turns out that a gap for turns does not happen as planned can the matter be revisited and Mr. Villac said yes.

Mayor Gemma asked what mechanical ways that the right turn could be mitigated and was told additional signals or have a stop sign and a discussion ensued regarding the various options with signals and signs.

Councilman Lyons asked about the location of the firehouse and cueing along Myrtle and was told this should not happen.

Councilman McGann stated he really had his doubts regarding the right hand turn lane from Monmouth Boulevard onto Myrtle Avenue.

Mr. Rospos spoke about the local portion of Monmouth Boulevard, stating the Borough would be contributing up to \$50,000. to this portion of the improvements, to alleviate the flooding problem there. He stated he would like to have seen it designed at a higher grade but the proposed elevation should help. He had a question about the proposed lawn inlets as to what elevation they were relative to the grade elevation at the low point there and was given the figures by the County representative and the water flow was discussed.

Mr. Rospos presented a series of technical questions regarding the reconstruction of the intersection, which were answered in full by the County representatives.

Councilman McGann asked if the affected residents knew about the lawn drains and was told that they have spoken with the Feiters but they had not spoken with the other property owners. Councilman McGann asked that the County contact the other property owner who will be getting a lawn inlet prior to construction.

Councilman Apruzzi also expressed concern with the free right turn from Monmouth Boulevard onto Myrtle, and feels it should be addressed upfront.

Mr. Villac stated the reasons why the intersection was designed as it is presently and why the County feels there will be gaps is based upon traffic studies they conducted and also the stoppage of traffic northbound on Myrtle Avenue, but added that if this plan does not work it can be revisited.

Councilwoman Gatta stated this was also her concern from traveling on Gooseneck Point Road and also the school buses trying to make a left onto Myrtle from Gooseneck Point Road is a concern. She asked how long the process would take if the right turn was revisited after installation and was told this is usually done within the first year. She stated that defies her logic in that this may be done backwards.

Mr. Villac stated that regardless, the signal would be an improvement over what is there now and also the concern of cueing traffic on Monmouth Boulevard attributed to the present design. Councilwoman Gatta asked how long the light would be on Monmouth Boulevard and was told that would depend on how the County would elect to operate the signal and would vary throughout the day.

Councilman Lyons asked if it was a real possibility that a signal could be added to the intersection for right hand turns from Monmouth Boulevard north onto Myrtle Avenue and was told by the County that due to the traffic flow it might not be feasible.

Councilman Wolfe asked if the lanes would be restricted to no turn on red and was told no, they would be allowed to turn on red. He stated he liked the configuration at Seven Bridges and Rumson Roads with the red arrow and asked why it was done there and not considered at this intersection and the County didn't have the data on the other intersection, but added that the heavy traffic making a right off of Monmouth Boulevard led to the proposed design to eliminate major cueing on that road.

Councilman McGann did not want to belabor the point, but he felt that even when the northbound traffic was stopped on Myrtle Avenue there would still be a continuous flow from the right turn and also limited visibility coming over the bridge, which adds to the situation. He stated another concern was possible cueing problems making the left onto Gooseneck from the bridge with no signage or signal on top of the bridge. The County suggested signage on the Little Silver approach to the bridge indicating the intersection ahead.

Councilwoman Silkworth stated she has in the last couple of years had reason to use Gooseneck Point Road on a regular basis and while computer models and plans show things, until you have been at that intersection trying to make the turn you don't realize how difficult it is. She also expressed safety concerns with the school buses trying to make the left turn off of Gooseneck Point Road.

Councilwoman Silkworth felt that once the northbound traffic on Myrtle Avenue is stopped there will be a steady flow of traffic off of Monmouth Boulevard and would prevail upon the County to do what ever can be done to alleviate to problem. She too had concern about the traffic coming over the with traffic backing up, and there should be something to alert people that there could be a car sitting on the other side of the bridge.

Chief Bebout was concerned about the right turn lane since he has witness problems at other intersections with this type of yield signage. He also expressed concern with a right on red on Monmouth Boulevard going southbound onto Myrtle Avenue because of sight problems with the bridge and a fence on the corner property. He would prefer no right on red at that spot.

Public:

Robert Kelly, 76 Gooseneck Point Road, expressed grave concern with the right turn with only a yield from Monmouth Boulevard onto Myrtle Avenue sighting examples, though he thought the traffic light was a very good idea and needed for safety reasons. He also felt that a warning signal should be placed on the top of the bridge letting motorists know of the upcoming traffic signal.

Mayor Gemma asked Mr. Kelly was design change he was looking for and was told by Mr. Kelly that he felt the true right turn should remain and no right turn on red.

The County's felt this would cause major back ups on Monmouth Boulevard but they offered to reevaluate the right turn and come back with some other proposals.

Michael Lyttle, Gooseneck Point Road, concurred with all the issues Mr. Kelly spoke of in addition to one other point. He questioned if something could be done by adjusting the traffic light further up Monmouth Boulevard that could help alleviate the cueing at the intersection in question. The County said they would look into this.

Anthony Terra, 36 Gooseneck Point Road, agreed with comments made this evening that even though the traffic northbound on Myrtle would be stopped for a period, the right turn off Monmouth Boulevard would be a lot faster as presently designed.

Linda Kelly, Gooseneck Point Road, stated she understood the concern about cueing on Monmouth Boulevard, but putting in this right turn lane would create another safety hazard.

Barbara Reagor, 482 Adrian Avenue asked if would be possible to close off the turnoff onto Adrian to prevent cars trying to avoid the light speeding off the bridge down Adrian causing a dangerous situation.

The Mayor suggested some options for this rather then closing the road entirely and the County stated that this is a local road and making the triangle larger might be a solution.

Frank Montalvo, 230 Monmouth Boulevard, expressed concern that if the street is raised his property would flood beyond what already occurs. The County representative explained the drainage of the road and the lawn inlets in great detail and stated he would meet with the Montalvo's to further discuss this matter.

Gary LaBruno, Adrian Avenue, echoed Mrs. Reagor's concerns about traffic coming onto Adrian stating it is at times now difficult to get out of his driveway and can only see it getting worse.

Councilman Appruzzi asked the County representative at the peak hours of traffic where the most traffic coming from Monmouth Boulevard turning right onto Myrtle or northbound traffic on Myrtle and was told Monmouth Boulevard.

Mayor Gemma thanked the representative from the County for coming this evening and though there are some concerns, the Borough wants the light and looked forward to them coming back but asked that before they come back a set of plans revised plans be made available so that everyone will have a chance to look at them.

The Mayor and Council took a five-minute recession.

CLERK'S REPORTS:

The Deputy Clerk advised that Anthony Palmieri t/a paramount Cab has applied for a taxi license. She indicated that the fees have been paid and all the paperwork is in order. Councilwoman Silkworth moved that the license be approved. Councilwoman Gatta seconded the motion which unanimously approved by Council.

The Deputy Clerk read a resolution renewing the liquor license of BOWI, Inc. t/a Olde Wharf Inne, License #133833-008-007 for a period of July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002. Councilman Apruzzi moved that the resolution be accepted. Councilman Wolfe seconded the motion and was unanimously approved by Council.

The Deputy Clerk read a resolution renewing the liquor license of Oceanport Spirits, License #1338-44-005-002 for a period of July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002. Councilman Wolfe moved that the resolution be accepted. Councilman McGann seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by Council.

COMMITTEES:

COUNCILMAN APRUZZI: Councilman Apruzzi mentioned that the Recreation Committee and Councilwoman Gatta had the first annual Woman's Day last Saturday. He thanked the Recreation Committee and the sub-committee that worked to bring a very successful day to our Borough.

COUNCILWOMAN GATTA: Councilwoman Gatta reported that Woman's Day was very successful with over 60 women participating. She mentioned that Theresa Daniels, the legislative coordinator for the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division on Woman, brought greetings from the Governor and the State of New Jersey.

Councilwoman Gatta indicated that the committee is working on an action plan that will be submitted to the Mayor and Council with another day being planned for next year. She stated that the success was due to the hard work of the committee but also the generosity the sponsors who provided everything so that the day was free of charge.

Councilwoman Gatta stated that she had put a Water Rescue Team Response Plan in each Council member's mailbox submitted by Kerin Slattery and ask them to read it and Kerin has volunteered to come in if there are any questions. She further stated that the Fire, First Aid and

Emergency Management are looking for some type of official action on this plan and again asked all members to please review it.

Mayor Gemma asked if the Police Department had a chance to review this Plan and if they hadn't he suggested that a copy be submitted to them for review.

COUNCILMAN LYONS: Councilman Lyons stated it had come to his attention that the telecommunications system that supports internet access for Borough Hall has become inadequate for our needs and stated solutions are being pursued and will keep the Council advised.

Councilman Lyons reported he received a letter from Comcast announcing channel changes that effective Comcast Digital Plus and Comcast Digital Classic and will be advertised in the newspaper and TV guide.

COUNCILMAN WOLFE: Councilman Wolfe asked the Deputy Clerk to read resolution **R-01-48** authorizing a tax refund for overpayment after which he moved to approved same. It was seconded by Councilwoman Silkworth and unanimously approved by Council.

Councilman Wolfe asked the Deputy Clerk to read resolution **R-01-49** canceling bond ordinances #560, #569 and #584 after which he moved to approve it. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and unanimously approved by Council.

Councilman Wolfe commented that it was nice to have representatives from the County here for the input from the Borough before a final determination is made regarding the intersection.

COUNCILMAN MCGANN: Councilman McGann reported that we recently put out bids for Solid Waster Services for two proposals, an 18-month contract and a three and one half year contract. There were two bidders, Republic Services of New Jersey D/B/A trading as Marpal Company for a 3 and one half year contract totaling \$1,159, 945 and Waste Management of New Jersey for a 3 and one half year bid in the amount of \$1,349,369.04. Councilman McGann made a motion to award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder, Republic Services of New Jersey D/B/A Marpal Company for a term commencing on July 1, 2001 terminating on 12/31/2004 and the bid bonds be returned to the unsuccessful bidder, Waste Management of New Jersey. Councilwoman Silkworth seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by Council.

Councilman McGann called for the second reading and public hearing of a capital improvement fund ordinance for park improvements and he asked the Deputy Clerk to read the Affidavit of Publication and the proposed ordinance by title only, as follows: **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING \$20,000 FOR PARK IMPROVEMENTS AT EVERGREEN PARK FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND.**

Councilman McGann explained the ordinance would provide \$20,00.00 for new park equipment

Mayor Gemma opened the meeting to the public for any comments on this subject only.

As no one from the public wished to be heard Councilman McGann moved to close the public hearing. It was seconded by Councilwoman Silkworth and unanimously approved by Council.

Councilman McGann moved to adopt the capital improvement ordinance on second and final reading and to advertise same in accordance with law. It was seconded by Councilman Wolfe.

The Deputy Clerk called the roll:

AYES: Councilpersons Apruzzi, Gatta, Lyons, Wolfe, McGann and Silkworth
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

Councilman McGann called for the introduction of an ordinance allocating fund from the Capital Improvement Fund for the balance of road improvements and asked that the Deputy Clerk read the proposed ordinance by title only as follows: **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING \$20,000 FOR THE BALANCE OF THE ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FROM THE COAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND.**

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

The Deputy Clerk called the roll:

AYES: Councilpersons Apruzzi, Gatta, Lyons, Wolfe, McGann and Silkworth
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

Councilman McGann moved to hold the public hearing on this matter at the Council meeting scheduled to be held on June 21, 2001 and to advertise same in accordance with law. It was seconded by Councilman Wolfe.

The Deputy Clerk called the roll:

AYES: Councilpersons Apruzzi, Gatta, Lyons, Wolfe, McGann and Silkworth
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

Councilman McGann stated that in reference to the efforts to improve the flood insurance rating, the Borough has over the last two years received flood elevations from all but 13 households out of 150 households. A letter was sent to these 13 property owners and to date have 4 responses have been received.

Councilman McGann indicated he had written to Congressman Rush Holt seeking funds to alleviate some of our higher flooding areas such as Cayuga Avenue and Gooseneck Point Road. He has received a call from Congressman Holt's office and was informed that the Borough is in the mix for funding and should have an answer in September or October of this year.

COUNCILWOMAN SILKWORTH: Councilwoman Silkworth reported that she had received a letter from the Governor's office as might other members of Council dealing with the new Senior Gold prescription program for middle income seniors. She indicated there was a brochure and pamphlet and maybe something should be put in the bulletin.

Councilwoman Gatta added that she would be bringing this information to the next meeting of the Senior Citizens group.

MAYOR GEMMA: Mayor Gemma asked for a motion to appoint Jeff Bottger to fill a vacancy expiring December 31, 2002 to the Recreation Committee.

Councilman Apruzzi moved that Jeff Bottger be appoint to the Recreation Committee to fill a vacancy expiring December 31, 2002. Councilman Lyons seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Council.

Mayor Gemma reported that the Lyons Club Fair was a success despite the weather and Sergeant Cioffi went above and beyond the call of duty helping them out with road signs and the like and the Lions would like to come to a meeting and make a donation to the PBA.

Mayor Gemma commented that the Memorial Day Ceremonies went well and thanked Councilman Lyons for all his hard work.

Mayor Gemma reported that the Atlanticville had been purchased by GM News.

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

Stuart Briskey, 46 Werah Place, commented on Councilman Lyons report regarding Internet service and advised that Comcast may provide such service at no cost. Councilman Lyons thanked Mr. Briskey but stated it entailed more than simply Internet access because of the security measures needed especially by the Police Department.

Mr. Briskey thanked the Borough for the drainage on Manitto Place and asked about an item on the Bill List to Fiore Paving and Councilman Wolfe stated it was for worked performed but there is still work to be done and money for that is outstanding.

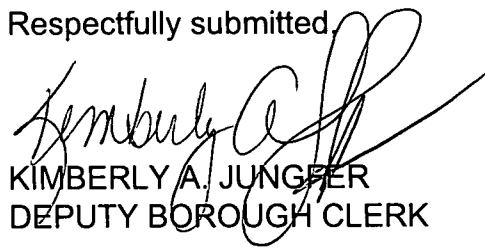
Colonel Berry thanked the Borough for paving Hiawatha Avenue.

Mayor Gemma seeing no other comments from the public, closed the public portion of the meeting.

Councilman Wolfe moved to approve the vouchers on the Bill List dated June 7, 2001. It was seconded by Councilman Apruzzi and unanimously approved by Council. 2001 VOUCHERS PAID \$154,103.74. 2001 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$324,414.35. TOTAL 2001 VOUCHERS \$478,518.09. TOTAL DOG REGISTRY ACCOUNT \$340.00. TOTAL TRUST ACCOUNT \$764.50. TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNT \$316,645.79. (SEE BILL LIST)

At 9:35 p.m. Councilwoman Silkworth moved to adjourn this meeting until the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on June 21, 2001 at 8:00 P.M. It was seconded by Councilman Lyons and unanimously approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kimberly A. Junger", written over the typed name and title.

KIMBERLY A. JUNGER
DEPUTY BOROUGH CLERK