

MEETING MINUTES

TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN COUNTY OF OCEAN BUSINESS MEETING

April 9, 2020

7:00 pm

Call to Order

ROLL CALL: LOPARO X DODD X BAULDERSTONE X

Flag Salute

STATEMENT: Pursuant to the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act, adequate notice of this meeting was properly provided by sending a copy of the Notice of Meeting to two newspapers, The Asbury Park Press and the Press of Atlantic City. The Notice was posted at the office of the Township Clerk

Mayor Baulderstone asked meeting participants to remain standing for a moment of silence to honor the memory of Tony Fonseca who died on March 24, 2020. Tony was Mayor and Committeeman from 1998-2007 and was instrumental in major changes through the Township including the building of Greenbriar Oceanaire and obtaining the Garden State Parkway Exit 69 Interchange.

Township Attorney Chris Dasti discussed this meeting's participants are attending remotely. These are unique times in history. New Jersey legislation has passed amendments to the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act that allows a meeting like this to take place. A public meeting can be held virtually or electronically, provided the public has notice of the meeting and the public has an opportunity to see the meeting live. This meeting is being livestreamed on Zoom. There are a number of members of the public watching this meeting. The public is given the opportunity to provide comments on the agenda. A notice was sent to the public stating the public can submit questions or comments on agenda items to the Township Clerk. That has taken place. Other Townships are having meetings exactly like this. This virtual meeting is in full compliance with the law.

Committee Reports

Mayor – Ken Baulderstone

Mayor Baulderstone discussed he would like to recognize the efforts of the Office of Emergency Management under the leadership of Chief Rogalski for the actions they are taking to protect the residents of the Township. They have been diligent in ensuring the safety of First Responders by obtaining the scarce materials needed to protect the Police and volunteers of the First Aid Squad and the Fire Company when they respond to calls. The First Responders have made operational changes to minimize the impact of members becoming infected with Covid-19. I want to thank all the First Responders for their bravery in continuing to serve the residents in these very dangerous times. May God protect them and those who support them.

A month ago the Township introduced changes in how the Township provides essential services. I want to thank all Township employees for their dedication and work during this difficult time. The Township Committee appreciates the services being provided by the Department of Public Works, Utility Department employees, Town Hall employees, Court staff, Police Department, Police Dispatchers and Police support staff. I would also like to thank all others that have provided essential services to the

residents of the Township, Health Care Workers, Grocery Store Workers, Mail Carriers, Truck Drivers, Trash Collectors and all other essential workers. If I have not mentioned someone that I should have, I apologize and thank you for your work. I also want to thank all residents that have followed the stay-at-home and social distancing guidelines.

Resolution 2020-139 authorizes the temporary prohibition of rentals of homes to non-residents within the Township of Ocean until the State of Emergency is lifted. Municipalities have a legitimate concern about an influx of new visitors. On April 5th the State of NJ State Police Office of Emergency Management issued Administrative Order 2020-08 and permitted counties and municipalities to impose additional restrictions on transient guests or seasonal tenants.

Resolution 2020-142 proclaims the week of April 19–25, 2020 as National Library week. This will be presented to the Waretown Library once they are open again.

Resolution 2020-145 authorizes emergency work for the rehabilitation of the Route 532 Water Treatment Plant in the amount of \$229,010.00.

Resolution 2020-146. The Wine Festival has been postponed from May 2nd & 3rd to September 12th & 13th this year.

Resolution 2020-147 authorizes T&M Associates to prepare the bid specifications for the bulkhead and restoration of the small dock at Bryant Road Park. This will continue to keep the work on the park moving forward.

Department of Public Works

All parks and equipment are closed during the quarantine. Leaf and brush pick up is continuing as listed on the Township Calendar. The leaf bin has remained opened for only leaves. Please empty bags and take them home to dispose.

The Community Center floors have been scrubbed and waxed. The Senior room is being painted at this time. The grant funding for the replacement of the heating and air conditioning has been approved by the State. The Township is waiting for a start date from the company approved to do the work.

Bryant Road Property. The work has been completed regarding the removal of illegal in-water structures at the site. Tonight the Township Committee will be approving the next item of preparing the bid specs for the bulkhead or gabion baskets and replacement of the small dock.

Special Events

Founder's Day, May 25th. The Township Committee will make a final decision to postpone or cancel this event over the next three weeks.

Deputy Mayor – Lydia M. Dodd

Ordinance 2020-2 and Resolution 2020-129. The 2020 Budget has been posted on the Township's website and the Budget Summary has been published in the Asbury Park Press. Tonight there will be a public hearing on the CAP ordinance and the 2020 Budget.

The CAP Bank is a budgeting tool allowed by the State of New Jersey. The CAP ordinance allows the governing body to “bank” the permission it was given to spend a certain amount of money in one year, but which was not actually spent, for use in subsequent years. This funding can be used for emergencies.

The budget represents a remarkable job of balancing the needs of sustaining a professional municipal operation versus the financial realities of our taxpayers. It is a delicate balance between the two, but I firmly believe we have struck that balance with the budget.

The Township Committee along with the Township Finance Officer and Business Administrator have been working diligently to have the 2020 Budget complete. This year even with the Township working hard to keep costs down, there will be an increase of less than two cents (.0188997).

	<u>Avg. House Assmt.</u>	<u>Avg. Increase based upon \$.0188997</u>
Township Houses	\$270,100	\$ 51.31
Greenbriar Houses	\$323,600	\$ 61.47

Resolution 2020-140 authorizes the renaming of Waretown Memorial Park and Recreation Area to be Corliss Park Lake and Recreation Area. This park property was donated to the Township by Ruth and LeRoy Corliss. The renaming and dedication will be scheduled to take place on June 27th, God willing, at the Independence Day Celebration.

Ordinance 2020-3, First Reading, Title Only, amends the Vacant Property section of the Property Maintenance Code to include, if a property does not properly register and pay the fees for a vacant property, a municipal lien will be placed on the property. This will ensure that the Township is paid the proper fees. This will also show for a person purchasing the property during a title search.

Committeeman – Ben LoParo

Resolution 2020-141. The Township of Ocean would have presented the Proclamation to Chief Rogalski and the Telecommunicators this evening. As you are aware, we are not in the meeting room. This Proclamation is to celebrate the dedicated men and women who serve as public safety telecommunicators. These people provide a vital link between the public and other aspects of emergency services in our community. These heroic individuals, often in anonymity, help save countless lives by responding to emergency calls, dispatching emergency professionals and equipment and providing moral support to citizen in distress. This Township Committee wants to acknowledge and thank our Police Dispatchers for their continued outstanding service to this community. Again, we thank you.

Police Department

The Ocean Township Police Department has adapted to the current crisis. Things are moving along smoothly. The Ocean Township Police Department, PBA and St. Mary’s Toy Run have been sponsoring a Pizza Event each Friday for families financially affected during this quarantine in Waretown.

Everyone should know that this event is being fully funded by the kind residents of the Township of Ocean along with generous donations from Spencer's Marina, The Brunch Spot and The Ocean Township PTA. Thank you again to Villaggio Pizza, Il Casereccio Family Pizzeria and Tavola Calda for agreeing to fulfill this huge order again. If anyone would like to contribute to this cause, donations are appreciated. Please contact the Police Department or Chief Rogalski and we will gladly accept your donations.

Thank you Chief Rogalski and all of your staff for leading the way with this great event. A family will receive one pizza and one 2-liter bottle of soda on Friday, 5pm–7pm or until supplies run out, no questions asked.

Municipal Alliance & Recreation

All of these events are on hold until further notice.

Chief of Police - Michal Rogalski

Chief Rogalski read the March 2020 Police Report. The Police Department handled 4,551 calls for police service, 1 abandoned 9-1-1 call, 28 alarms were activated and responded to, 26 animal complaints were handled, 2,486 individual business and residential checks, 4 criminal mischief acts were investigated, 3 domestic violence incidents, 6 verbal disputes/harassments, 8 disabled vehicles were assisted, 1 drunk driver, 5 drug arrests, 53 first aid calls, 69 general complaints, 12 motor vehicle accidents, 203 motor vehicle stops of which 49 summons were issued, 3 juvenile complaints, 8 psychiatric evaluations (PESS), 9 persons were arrested on various warrants, 48 suspicious persons and/or vehicles, 3 residential and commercial thefts and 1 theft from a motor vehicle was investigated. A full list of this activity is listed on the website.

Chief Rogalski discussed how the pandemic is affecting the Police Department. Accidents have decreased by 35%. Residents are staying home. There is less traffic on the road. Officers have conducted 33% more business checks. Patrols for compliance checks have increased by 2,550%. The Police Department went from 10 extra patrols to 265 individual incidents for the month. Well-being checks were increased by 75%. That is in correlation with what is going on in society. Everyone wants to know if their loved ones are fine. Domestic violence calls have decreased by 25%. Fire arms applications have increased by 27%. First Aid calls have decreased by 24%. Motor Vehicle stops have decreased by 58% due to less traffic. Verbal disputes have decreased by 54%.

The Office of Emergency Management continues to work with the Police Department, First Aid Squad, Fire Company, Township of Ocean Committee, the School and Officials from the County and State Health Departments and School Districts to address this ever-changing situation. The total cases in Waretown, which the Ocean County Health Department has notified about, is 14. There were two new ones today. Statewide cases are 51,027. There were 3,748 new cases today. Of that, 7,363 New Jersey residents were hospitalized, 1,523 are in intensive care and 1,551 are on ventilators. The good news is New Jersey discharged 471 patients today.

The Pizza Giveaway will be from 5pm-7pm this Friday, no questions asked, until supplies last. Last week 100 pizzas were donated. The week before that 70 pizzas were donated. This week 100 pizzas will be donated.

The Ocean Township Police Department will be driving the Easter Bunny around on Saturday along with the Waretown First Aid Squad and the Waretown Volunteer Fire Company. The Township Committee allowed the use of a pickup truck from the Department of Public Works. This allows the Township to bring a little bit of joy to the residents in this time of crisis. The Easter Bunny visits will follow along the lines of the Santa visits, except it will be completed in one day. Please visit the Ocean Township Police Facebook for live updates of where the Easter Bunny will be.

The Office of Emergency Management sends out daily briefs via Nixle and the Ocean Township Police Department Facebook page.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio discussed the Township advertised that meeting participants were to submit their comments before 3:00 pm today.

Motion to Open Public Comment was moved by Deputy Mayor Dodd, seconded by Committeeman LoParo.

Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes, Baulderstone: Yes

Township Attorney Dasti discussed the purpose of Public Comment is to ask questions regarding Township business. The Township is not going to entertain derogatory comments about individuals or groups of individuals. Mr. Fabozzi submitted questions regarding Township ordinances and affordable housing. Those questions are appropriate and may be read into the record and answered by the Township Committee or Township Attorney.

Joe Fabozzi, 99 Bay Parkway submitted a question on April 9, 2020 at 2:37pm. Mr. Fabozzi inquired why didn't the Township Committee zone C-1 for tiny affordable houses for disabled veterans in order to comply with the Mount Laurel mandate. Mr. Fabozzi inquired why residents cannot have more than one shed to store supplies. The local government cannot supply residents with toilet paper and other supplies needed right now but the Township Committee has the gall to tell residents they cannot have a second or bigger shed to store supplies or a greenhouse to grow vegetables when there is a food shortage or a carport to house solar panels to keep snow and sun off vehicles. Mr. Fabozzi inquired if the Township Committee will propose an ordinance making it illegal to slaughter and discard all animals.

Township Attorney Dasti discussed the Township resolved its affordable housing litigation a year or two ago. That is a very involved process that includes input from Planners, Affordable Housing Agents and Affordable Housing Entities. The Affordable Housing plan has been approved by the State agencies and is in place for the next 4-5 years.

The Township Committee reviews various ordinances every year, zoning ordinances, land use ordinances, ordinances about noise. Updating ordinances is an ongoing issue over time. Mr. Fabozzi's question inquiring why he is allowed only one shed and his other questions, the answer is because that is the law within the Township. That is what the ordinances require to date. It is not proper to comment what an ordinance could say or the prospective future of revising an ordinance, if that is not what is in front of the Township Committee right now.

Mayor Baulderstone discussed it is unfortunate the Township Committee cannot go forward with the public comment as planned, due to the abuse that was seen on the Zoom screen and earlier emails to the Township. At this point, the Public Comment portion of the meeting should close.

Motion to Close Public Comment was moved by Deputy Mayor Dodd, seconded by Committeeman LoParo.

Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes, Baulderstone: Yes

Resolution 2020-138 Payment of Claims – as presented to the Township Committee for payment up until March 30, 2020 thereof in the corrected amount of \$175,908.68
Motion to approve was moved by Deputy Mayor Dodd, seconded by Committeeman LoParo.
Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes, Baulderstone: Yes

Ordinance 2020-2 – 2nd Reading – Public Hearing

CALENDAR YEAR 2020 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

Motion to Open Public Comment: was moved by Deputy Mayor Dodd, seconded by Committeeman LoParo.

Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes, Baulderstone: Yes

Township Clerk Ambrosio did not receive any public comments prior to the 3:00 pm deadline of today.

Motion to Close Public Comment was moved by Committeeman LoParo, seconded by Deputy Mayor Dodd.

Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes, Baulderstone: Yes

Motion to Approve Ordinance 2020-2 was moved by Committeeman LoParo, seconded by Deputy Mayor Dodd.

Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes, Baulderstone: Yes

Resolution 2020-129

Authorizing the Municipal Budget of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey for fiscal year 2020. The Budget Summary was published on March 19, 2020 in the Asbury Park Press Newspaper. The Public Hearing on the Budget Resolution will be held April 9, 2020 at the Municipal Building Meeting Room, 50 Railroad Avenue, Waretown NJ 08758 at 7:00 pm for final passage

Motion to Open Public Comment was moved by Committeeman LoParo, seconded by Deputy Mayor Dodd.

Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes, Baulderstone: Yes

Township Clerk Ambrosio did not receive any public comments prior to the 3:00 pm deadline of today.

Motion to Close Public Comment was moved by Committeeman LoParo, seconded by Deputy Mayor Dodd.

Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes, Baulderstone: Yes

Motion to approve Resolution 2020-129 was moved by Committeeman LoParo, seconded by Deputy Mayor Dodd.

Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes, Baulderstone: Yes

Ordinance 2020-3 – 1st Reading – Title Only

An Ordinance of the Township Committee of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey Amending Chapter 280 of the Township Code entitled “Property Maintenance” to include failure to pay vacant property registration fee a lien will be placed on the property.

Motion to approve Ordinance 2020-3 was moved by Deputy Mayor Dodd, seconded by Committeeman LoParo.

Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes, Baulderstone: Yes

Ordinance 2020-4 – 1st Reading – Title Only

An Ordinance of the Township Committee of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean State of New Jersey Amending and supplementing Chapter 284 of the Township Code entitled “Records, Public” and specifically Section 3 Thereof entitled “Fees for Copies”

Motion to approve Ordinance 2020-4 was moved by Committeeman LoParo, seconded by Deputy Mayor Dodd.

Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes, Baulderstone: Yes

Resolution 2020-139

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TEMPORARILY PROHIBITING RENTALS OF HOMES TO NON-RESIDENTS WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN

Township Attorney Dasti discussed this resolution will limit all rentals to non-residents at this time. Not just online rentals. This is in accordance with Governor Murphy’s Executive Order as well as an Administrative Order from the State Police Office of Emergency Management.

Motion to approve Resolution 2020-139 was moved by Deputy Mayor Dodd, seconded by Committeeman LoParo.

Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes, Baulderstone: Yes

Resolution 2020-140

Resolution of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, authorizing the renaming of Ocean Memorial Park and Recreation Area to Corliss Park Lake and Recreation Area

Motion to approve Resolution 2020-140 was moved by Deputy Mayor Dodd, seconded by Committeeman LoParo.

Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes, Baulderstone: Yes

Consent Agenda

The below listed items are considered to be routine by the Township Committee of the Township of Ocean and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no formal discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, this item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered separately.

2020-141 Resolution Proclaiming National Public Safety Telecommunications the week of April 12-18, 2020

- 2020-142 Resolution Proclaiming National Library Week April 19 – 25, 2020
2020-143 Resolution Proclaiming the week of April 19-25, 2020 as National Volunteer Week
2020-144 Resolution proclaiming Friday, April 24, 2020 as Arbor Day in the Township of Ocean
2020-145 Resolution of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey authorizing the award and execution of a contract for the Route 532 Water Treatment Plant rehabilitation project to TKT Construction Co., Inc.
2020-146 Resolution authorizing the new dates for the Wine Festival brought to the Township by Allen consulting Wine Tasting for September 12 & 13, 2020
2020-147 Resolution authorizing T&M Associates for professional services for the Bulkhead and Dock Restoration – End of Bryant Road in the amount of \$38,500.00

Motion to approve Resolutions 2020-141 through 2020-147

Motion to approve was moved by Committeeman LoParo, seconded by Deputy Mayor Dodd.
Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes, Baulderstone: Yes

Committeeman LoParo discussed the School Board is having a budget meeting on April 27, 2020 at 6:15pm. It will be on Zoom. The School Board President has indicated if the Township Committee has any questions, the School Board will be happy to answer them.

Next Scheduled Meetings

May 14, 2020 – Business Meeting - 7:00 pm
May 12, 2020 – Redevelopment Meeting – 7:00 pm

Adjournment:

Motion to approve was moved by Committeeman LoParo, seconded by Deputy Mayor Dodd.
Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes, Baulderstone: Yes

Signed and Submitted:

Diane B. Ambrosio, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Date