

# MEETING MINUTES

**TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN  
COUNTY OF OCEAN  
BUSINESS MEETING/WORKSHOP  
August 17, 2021  
6:00 pm**

**Call to Order**

**Flag Salute**

**ROLL CALL: BAULDERSTONE Absent LOPARO X DODD X**

**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

## **Committee Reports**

Mayor – Lydia M. Dodd

Thank you for joining us this evening for our Regular Business Meeting.

Vacant Property Registration Report. For the month of July the Township received \$3,750.00. Total amount received in 2021 is \$61,750.00.

Zoning Department. 36 applications approved, 13 applications pending review, 2 denial applications in Zoning.

Code Enforcement. 29 Notices of Violation, 12 second Notices of Violation, 4 properties abated their violations. 1 Property Lien.

Ordinance 2021-15. This ordinance tonight is on for first reading. This bond ordinance is a General Bond Ordinance and lists items necessary to allow the first responders to be able to do their job efficiently. Each Department Police, Fire and First Aid need new radios. The radios that are being used will be phased out by the end of this year. This bond includes radios and other general Police Department equipment including an antenna. The antenna is necessary in the West part of the Township. It also has listed the NJ Department of Transportation (NJDOT) Grant including drainage. The Township needs to pay the cost of the work up front and when it is completed it will be submitted for reimbursement.

Veteran's Park is also listed in the ordinance. This park is budgeted for and will be paid for out of the Open Space Fund. At this time, the property is not listed in the Recreation Open Space Inventory (ROSI). This is a requirement. The Township is working on having the inventory updated. This allows the Township to remain with the opening of the park on Veteran's Day, November 11, 2021. This process of updating the ROSI is starting tonight with Resolution 2021-219. The public hearing for the ordinance will be September 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 pm.

Adopt a Bench Program. Please be reminded a resident or organization can purchase a bench for any of the parks in the Township including Veteran's Park. There have been inquiries and some of the first benches ordered will be installed at Waretown Bayfront Park and Pier by the end of next week. The forms are in Town Hall. A total of nine (9) benches have been ordered from this program.

Ordinance 2021-16. This ordinance being introduced tonight for first reading is regarding vacant property. There has been a change in the law, and this will bring the vacant property registration into compliance at this time. The public hearing will be September 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 pm.

Ordinance 2021-17. This ordinance being introduced tonight is regarding fences. Residents have brought to the Township Committee's attention items in the fence ordinance that needs change. The Township has taken into consideration, sections of the Township that cannot comply with the ordinance on the books and are making the adjustments with this ordinance. The public hearing will be September 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 pm.

Resolutions 2021-212 thru 2021-216. These resolutions are canceling taxes for Veteran's as per State law. These resolutions can only be completed after the tax rate is set. We thank our Veteran's for their service.

Thank you.

Deputy Mayor – Ben LoParo

Good evening.

Ordinance 2021-14. This ordinance is having the Public Hearing this evening. This ordinance is to have the Codebook updated on the "Sick and Disability Benefits". This will put the Township of Ocean in compliance with the State law.

There are several resolutions on the agenda this evening for purchases of equipment for different departments.

Resolutions 2021-204 and 2021-209 thru 2021-211. These resolutions are authorizing the purchase of items that the Township Committee has placed in the budget. This Township Committee has set in place a replacement program for each department. This year's purchases include a Police vehicle, Utility truck (replacing 2006 with 117,000 miles), John Deere loader and a street sweeper. These purchases will assist in allowing each department to work efficiently with a cost savings on repairs on the older equipment. All items are being purchased through State contract or a cooperative, which is an additional cost savings to the Township.

Resolutions 2021-200 thru 2021-203 and 2021-208. These resolutions are for grant money received to the Township to be placed and used in this year's budget. The grant funding is from Clean Communities, 966 Grant, Municipal Alliance, American Rescue Plan Act and a grant for Body Worn Cameras. The Township received a grant for the body worn cameras in the amount of \$48,912.00. The total cost is \$64,250.00. The additional funds came from the Police budget. Since this was an unbudgeted item that is necessary, the antenna item is now in the bond ordinance.

The Ocean Township Committee has decided to cancel the Haunted Hayride in October.

Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio discussed the Township sent out a request for skit volunteers. Not enough volunteers were received in time for the Township to present the Hayride in a professional manner. At this point, the Haunted Hayride will be cancelled this year. The Waretown Volunteer Fire Company might be looking to do a smaller event on that weekend. The Township has to see how the variant progresses.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Motion to open Public Comment** was moved by Mayor Dodd, seconded by Deputy Mayor LoParo. Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes.

John Petrosilli, Vessel Road, inquired if the bond is for Township improvements.

Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio discussed the bulk of it is going towards the radios that need to be replaced in the Fire Department, First Aid Squad and Police Department. The radio ban currently being used will no longer be in service. The second part of the bond is for the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) grant, which the Township has to do every year. When the Township replaces a road, the drainage is also replaced. NJDOT does not pay for the drainage. The Township has to pay the money up front. NJDOT pays the Township and the Township pays down the bond with the money from NJDOT.

Mr. Petrosilli discussed the gazebo at the end of Bryant Road needs to be cleaned up. There are weeds and dead trees.

Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio discussed that property is County property. The Township requested along with the Historical Society to use that portion for the gazebo.

Deputy Mayor LoParo inquired if the Township could clear the property and put stone there.

Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio discussed she will send a request to Public Works.

Shawn Denning, 92 Morey Place Road, inquired if the Township is maintaining the capability to dispatch First Aid with the upgrade.

Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio discussed the Township is not looking to change any of the service. The new radios allow the three departments to communicate with each other and Ocean County. The Police Dispatch will still dispatch First Aid.

Mr. Denning discussed the Board of Education would like the Township to help make the medical marijuana industry flourish here in town and inquired if the Township Committee thought about amending the ordinance for 2% tax to help offset the school's financial burdens.

Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio discussed the Township is still waiting for the State rules to be issued before the Township Committee can make a decision. There is no tax associated with medical

marijuana come January 1<sup>st</sup>. Medical marijuana was set up for a five-year period with no tax after that time.

Mr. Denning inquired if the Township Committee is planning on moving quickly, when the rules are issued. Some towns have initiated sunset clauses.

Township Attorney Dasti discussed all municipalities had to either prohibit it or they could not do anything for five years. It is written in the statute that there is one chance to regulate it. If it is not done by August 22, 2021, then the municipality cannot do anything for five years. The ABC/Marijuana Commission is supposed to adopt its regulations. The Township Planner is reviewing the Township Zoning Map as to where it will be allowed. When the rules and regulations are issued, the Township Planner will review them, the Governing Body will review them and I will review them. Let's see if the State of New Jersey meets its deadline of the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Denning discussed when the Township looks at the rules, the Board of Education asks that a 2% tax go to the schools. That is the official position of the School Board. The school is facing a tremendous budget shortfall. Any dollars that come from this industry should help the school. It could help offset tax increases. The school is very eager to get this going.

Mayor Dodd discussed the government works slow, mainly the State. The Township Committee is not going to commit to anything tonight.

Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio discussed the Township is waiting for specifics from the State.

Deputy Mayor LoParo discussed he is not going to sit on it and would like to move on it as soon as he can. There might be zoning changes that have to be made. That may take time.

Mayor Dodd discussed the Township's record speaks for itself. The Township does not sit on things.

Mr. Denning discussed the Ocean Township School Board is working with other schools to ban together regarding the Governor Murphy masking mandate. The school is going to be sending a letter opposing the statewide mask mandate. The Ocean Township School Board has had meetings with other districts in the County and there has been good showing. There is a rally tomorrow in Manahawkin to unmask our children.

Joseph Fabozzi, 99 Bay Parkway, discussed the title of Deputy Mayor. The Township website states that the Township Committee selects a Mayor for a one year term. The Township website states nothing about how a Deputy Mayor is selected or how it came into existence. The Executive Branch of the Federal Government consists of the President, Vice President and their cabinet. The Legislative Branch of the Federal Government consists of the House and the Senate. Mr. Fabozzi inquired why the Ocean Township Committee has two members of the Executive Branch of Local Government and one member of the Legislative Branch of Government. There should be only one Mayor and two Committeepersons in Waretown's local government.

Township Attorney Dasti discussed the three-member Township Committee is the Legislative Branch of Government. Each Township Committeeperson has one equal vote and elect the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson every year. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor have no more power than the Committee. They are all equal. The only thing the Mayor and Deputy Mayor can do by law is perform a marriage. The

Deputy Mayor sits in the chair of the Mayor, when the Mayor is not here. In other forms of government, when the Mayor is absent the Council President is the acting Mayor when the Mayor is out of town or unable to perform his or her Mayoral duties.

Mr. Fabozzi discussed 1% of recreational marijuana should be set aside for property tax rebates. The Township should do marijuana, gambling and prostitution and 1% of all that should go back to the tax payers. It was done with prostitution in Las Vegas. Masks should be your own decision.

**Motion to close Public Comment** was moved by Mayor Dodd, seconded by Deputy Mayor LoParo.  
Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

**Resolution 2021-198** Payment of Claims – as presented to the Township Committee for payment thereof in the amount of \$4,198,361.33  
Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Dodd, seconded by Deputy Mayor LoParo.  
Roll Call LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

**ORDINANCE NO. 2021-14 – Second Reading – Public Hearing**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING CHAPTER 57 OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE ENTITLED “SICK LEAVE” AND SPECIFICALLY SECTION 12 THEREOF ENTITLED “SICK AND DISABILITY BENEFITS SICK LEAVE”**

**Motion to open Public Comment for Ordinance 2021-14** was moved by Mayor Dodd, seconded by Deputy Mayor LoParo.  
Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

Shawn Denning, 92 Morey Place Road, inquired if this ordinance is paid out only upon defined retirement from the municipality or is it just in separation.

Township Attorney Dasti discussed, retirement. It is defined in the Township Personnel Policy.

**Motion to close Public Comment for Ordinance 2021-14** was moved by Mayor Dodd, seconded by Deputy Mayor LoParo.  
Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

**Motion to approve Ordinance 2021-14** was moved by Mayor Dodd, seconded by Deputy Mayor LoParo.  
Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

**ORDINANCE NO. 2021-15 – First Reading – Title Only**

BOND ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING ONE MILLION THREE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,350,000) AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF ONE MILLION TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY-TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,282,500) IN BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS OR PURPOSES AUTHORIZED TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN, IN THE COUNTY OF OCEAN, NEW JERSEY

**Motion to approve Ordinance 2021-15** was moved by Mayor Dodd, seconded by Deputy Mayor LoParo.  
Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

**ORDINANCE NO. 2021-16 – First Reading – Title Only**

An ordinance of the Township of Ocean, Count of Ocean, State of New Jersey Amending Chapter 280 of the Township Code entitled “Property Maintenance” and specifically Section 21 Thereof Entitled “Maintenance of Vacant and Abandoned Properties”

**Motion to approve Ordinance 2021-16** was moved by Mayor Dodd, seconded by Deputy Mayor LoParo.  
Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

**ORDINANCE NO. 2021-17– First Reading – Title Only**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 168 OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE ENTITLED “FENCES”.

**Motion to approve Ordinance 2021-17** was moved by Mayor Dodd, seconded by Deputy Mayor LoParo.  
Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

**Resolution 2021-199**

Resolution authorizing the Mayor and Township Clerk to Execute a Retirement and Separation Agreement between the Township of Ocean and Sergeant Hermogenes Dennis Jarin III  
Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Dodd, seconded by Deputy Mayor LoParo.  
Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: 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.

- 2021-200 Resolution authorizing the insertion of an item of revenue in the 2021 Budget in the amount of \$22,653.07 from New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection – Clean Communities Grant
- 2021-201 Resolution authorizing the insertion of an item of revenue in the 2021 Budget in the amount of \$17,621.60 from New Jersey Office of Emergency Management – 966 Grant
- 2021-202 Resolution authorizing the insertion of an item of revenue in the 2021 Budget in the amount of \$8,031.00 from Governor’s Council of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse – FY 2021 Municipal Alliance Grant
- 2021-203 Resolution authorizing the insertion of an item of revenue in the 2021 Budget in the amount of \$475,613.91 from the American Rescue Plan Act
- 2021-204 Resolution of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey authorizing the purchase of a Ford Police Interceptor 2021 through ESC Co-Op in the amount of \$34,083.32
- 2021-205 Resolution of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, authorizing release of performance guarantee for DMK Development – Waretown, LLC (Tractor Supply)
- 2021-206 Resolution of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, authorizing release of escrow money held for traffic control in the name of C.J. Heese, Inc. in the amount of \$4,624.76
- 2021-207 Resolution of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, authorizing the release of escrow money for Block 239, Lot 30.06 in the amount \$1,145.50
- 2021-208 Resolution authorizing and accepting a grant for Body Worn Cameras in the amount of \$48,912.00 for the Township of Ocean Police the total cost for the cameras is \$64,250.00
- 2021-209 Resolution authorizing the purchase of John Deere Loader through the Sourcewell Cooperative for \$163,689.24
- 2021-210 Resolution authorizing the purchasing a Department of Public Work/utility through the Sourcewell Cooperative for a 2022 Ford Super Duty F-450 with a snowplow in the amount of \$88,714.96
- 2021-211 Resolution authorizing the purchasing of an Elgin Dual 4M Broom Bear Mounted on 2022 Freightliner M2 Dual Steer Chassis in the amount of \$272,680.30
- 2021-212 Resolution of the Township of County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, Canceling Taxes and Authorizing a refund for Block 161, Lot 3 in the amount of \$4,548.55
- 2021-213 Resolution of the Township of County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, Canceling Taxes and Authorizing a refund for Block 57.10 and Lot 310 in the amount of \$3,614.26
- 2021-214 Resolution of the Township of County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, Canceling Taxes and Authorizing a refund for Block 207, Lot 3 in the amount of \$1,325.99
- 2021-215 Resolution of the Township of County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, Canceling Taxes and Authorizing a refund for Block 57.28, Lot 14 in the amount of \$3,034.28
- 2021-216 Resolution of the Township of County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, Canceling Taxes and Authorizing a refund for Block 54.04, Lot 13 in the amount of \$3,537.84

- 2021-217 Resolution authorizing disposal of surplus property of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey 2002 Mack roll off & plow, 2006 chevy impala, etc.
- 2021-218 Resolution authorizing a lien be placed on 13 Hornblower Drive for property maintenance in the amount of \$430.04
- 2021-219 Resolution authorizing the Mayor and Planning Board Chairperson to sign the updated Recreation Open Space Inventory
- 2021-220 Resolution authorizing the release of lien for 10 Point Road
- 2021-221 Resolution authorizing the hiring of Gariella Kanko as a part-time dispatcher
- 2021-222 Resolution authorizing the hiring of Jared Yackachonis as a part-time Department of Public Works Employee
- 2021-223 Resolution appointing members to the Township of Ocean Plan Endorsement Advisory Committee

**Motion to approve Resolutions 2021-200 through 2021-223:**

Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Dodd, seconded by Deputy Mayor LoParo.

Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

**Motion to Approve:** Trident Multisport Brookville Triathlon/Duathlon scheduled for August 22, 2021 and Trident Multisport Survival of the Mills Triathlon/Duathlon – Benefit Parkers Army – Sept. 26, 2021

Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Dodd, seconded by Deputy Mayor LoParo.

Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

**Motion to approve the below listed dates in 2021 for the use of the Community Center, Corliss Park Recreation and Lake Area, Toumey Park, and Ballfields:**

Grand Bay Harbor Condo Association – July 29, 2021, Sept. 23, 2021, Oct. 28, 2021, Dec. 2, 2021

Stacey Tripler – November 13, 2021

Denise Torrell – September 18, 2021

Barnegat Bay Assembly of God – September 12, 2021

Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Dodd, seconded by Deputy Mayor LoParo.

Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

Next Scheduled Meetings

September 21, 2021 – 6:00 pm - Regular Business Meeting

October 19, 2021 – 6:00 pm – Regular Business Meeting

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn was moved by Mayor Dodd, seconded by Deputy Mayor LoParo.

Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

Signed and Submitted:

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Diane B. Ambrosio, RMC  
Municipal Clerk

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Date