

MEETING MINUTES

**TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN
COUNTY OF OCEAN
BUSINESS MEETING/WORKSHOP
November 9, 2021
6:00 pm**

Call to Order

Flag Salute

ROLL CALL: BAULDERSTONE X 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.

There are a few Proclamations on tonight’s agenda. Please join the Township Committee in celebrating Veteran’s Day on November 11, 2021 and to proclaim and remind everyone to take some time to appreciate these brave people who serve and have served to protect our great country.

Please join the Township Committee in celebrating the United States Marine Corps 246th Birthday on November 10, 2021. Marine forces continue to be highlighted around the world in both the fight against terrorism and in humanitarian relief.

Veteran’s Park. The Township Committee is disappointed to change the date of the park opening. The contractor has just informed the Township that all items for the park will not arrive in time and are now due in late December. Once all items are complete and the sod is placed in the Spring, a new date for the Grand Opening of the park will be announce.

Vacant Property Registration Report. Zero Vacant Property fees have been received for the month of October. The total amount received in 2021 is \$61,750.00.

Zoning Department. 24 applications were approved, 3 applications pending review and 9 denial applications.

Code Enforcement. 22 Notices of Violation, 7 Second Notices of Violation, 4 properties abated their violations and zero Property Liens.

Construction. 28 Permits issued, 10 Permit updates, 7 Certificates of Approval issued, 2 Certificates of Occupancy, 2 Notices of Violation-work without permits and 1 notice of violation-penalty for violating the provisions of the code.

Resolution 2021-264. Tonight, I am happy to report, along with the Township Committee, the 2020 Audit is complete. There are no comments or recommendations that need to be corrected. This is a great team accomplishment from all departments.

Ordinance 2021-20. The Township needs to authorize additional pieces of property to be included in the Redevelopment area for the Southern Ocean Landfill Redevelopment Plan. This will be sent to the Planning Board for review and comment. The Public Hearing will be December 21st.

Resolutions 2021-272 thru 2021-274. These resolutions are authorizing the refund for construction permits canceled by the homeowners. All refunds must be completed by resolution.

Tradewinds Development. All four buildings have a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy. All buildings are being rented. On Wednesday, November 10th striping on Route 9 will take place, weather permitting. The commercial buildings with the apartments are continuing work at this time.

Thank you and have a Happy, Safe and Healthy Thanksgiving.

Deputy Mayor – Ben LoParo

Good evening. Thank you for coming.

Resolutions 2021-275 thru 2021-277. These resolutions are regarding Police Dispatch. The Township is moving a Part-Time Training Dispatcher to a Full-Time Dispatch position for Gabriella Kanko. Congratulations and welcome to the team.

The Township is accepting the resignation of Dispatcher Gohr. The Township has applications on file that will be reviewed. If none of the applications meet the qualifications, the Township will again advertise for a Full-Time Dispatcher.

Due to the rising of minimum wage and the employee shortage, filling the position with qualified applicants can be challenging. Employees are taking positions in larger towns with larger salaries.

Municipal Alliance

Resolution 2021-271 is appointing Mitch Bernstein to the Municipal Alliance Committee.

Thanksgiving Holiday Food Drive. Greenbriar Oceanaire Men's Club will provide 60 meals. The Greenbriar Women's Club will be supporting the event as well this year. Greenbriar Oceanaire is also collecting food for the needy. To date, they have picked up 41 bags of food.

Waretown schools collected food during Red Ribbon week. Waretown Elementary School collections were brought to St. Stephens Food Pantry. Frederick A. Priff School collections will be sorted and given to the families receiving the complete meals.

Holiday Toy Drive will begin this Friday at Breakers Kitchen & Tap, from 5pm-9pm, rain or shine. They will be donating toys underneath the awning.

The Ocean Township Police Department will be holding another toy "Stuff The Truck" event on November 20th in Greenbriar.

The Township Tree Lighting will be December 3rd. There are six (6) locations around town where you can donate toys, Town Hall Clerk's Office, Waretown Library, Breakers Kitchen & Tap, Tractor Supply, Buy Rite Liquor Store, and LoParo Chiropractic. Gift cards, checks and donations are accepted items for Middle School and High School children in need. Gift cards can be brought to Town Hall and dropped off at the Clerk's office.

November is Men's Health Awareness Month. It started in 2003. Traditionally men do not shave for the month of November to remind everyone to get their prostate checked. It also brings awareness to testicular cancer, mental health and suicide issues. That is why some of the Police are donating and growing mustaches and beards to spread awareness. Deputy Mayor LoParo discussed he has done it since 2003. It is very personal for him as he had a family member with prostate cancer.

Thank you.

Chief of Police, Michal Rogalski discussed the donations from the Police Department for November are going to a fund for Detective Corporal Philip Sickinger from the Ocean County Sheriff's Department, who is battling ALS. The Police Departments also holds a "Double Down December" and those funds go towards the Toy Drive.

Committeeman – Ken Baulderstone

Good evening. I would like to congratulate Mayor Dodd on her reelection.

Mayor Dodd thanked the Committee.

Resolution 2021-269. Last month a Department of Public Works employee, Brian Hanson, retired as a Heavy Equipment Operator. This resolution is hiring Jared Yackachonis as a Laborer in the Department of Public Works. We would like to welcome Jared to the Township DPW team.

Resolution 2021-270. This resolution is authorizing a Change Order for the Birdsall Water Tower Rehabilitation Project. The change order is for reimbursement to the property owner of 97 Main Street for damages caused by the contractor. This item will be deducted from the total contract.

Resolution 2021-278. The Township of Ocean applied for a grant with the Ocean County Office of Senior Services. The Township had requested a bus to replace the one that is no longer working. The Township did not receive approval for a new bus but was awarded \$32,500 to provide social recreation, education, and physical activity/fitness services.

The Township Committee and staff continue to look for grant funding for any and all items that can be used within the Township of Ocean.

Birdsall Water Tower Project. The State of New Jersey Department of Labor has issued a stop workorder on the project. The Township professionals have issued letters to the company owner and the bond company. The Township is working with the bond company at this time to arrive at an acceptable resolution for the completion of the project.

Department of Public Works

Leaf pickup has started throughout the Township. All sections will be picked up. The Township calendar lists the sections on each week that DPW will be picking up he leaves.

Residents that miss their pickup can choose to bring leaves to the dumpster at Town Hall next to the Skate Park. Since having the dumpster at Town Hall with video surveillance, it is being used properly and only leaves are being collected.

If you need brush picked up, please call or e-mail Town Hall to be placed on the list for pick up.

A person can purchase a bench for Veterans Memorial Park and the Township Dog Park as well as all other parks in town. Flyers are located in the back of the meeting room.

Special Events

Halloween House Decorating Contest. 1st Place \$150.00-46 Illinois Avenue. 2nd Place \$100.00-18 Dock Avenue. 3rd Place \$75.00-69 Barnegat Beach Drive. Thank you to everyone who voted for the homes and decorated their homes. This format will be used for the Holiday House Decorating Contest this year. Homes need to register to be listed for voting. Everyone will be able to vote.

This year the Township of Ocean and the Waretown Volunteer Fire Company will be hosting the Holiday Light Spectacular Drive Thru Light Show at Corliss Park Lake and Recreation Area. The dates for this event are December 10 & 11 and December 16, 17 and 18. Admission is \$10.00 per vehicle. Thank you to all the businesses and residents who have donated funds to make this a successful event. This will be the first year and the Township is looking forward to making this an annual event.

The Township of Ocean Community Tree Lighting will take place December 3rd at 6:00 pm.

This will be followed by the Holiday Children's Party - Sundaes with Santa and the Grinch. This event is open to children up to age 11 or up to 5th Grade. The cost is \$9.00 per person and pre-registration is required as this event does sell out.

Senior Advisory Programs & Speakers

November 15th, 10:30am, Senior Advisory Committee Meeting. The speaker is Horizon BCBSNJ regarding Stress Management.

Bingo and Pizza sponsored by Complete Care at the Havens is held on the 2nd Wednesday of every month. There are 55 registered this month.

Bingo and Pizza sponsored by Barnegat Nursing Home will be held on November 18th.

Recreation

Two (2) trips have been scheduled for 2022. May 6, 2022 – Phillies vs Mets. Registration forms will be coming out shortly. June 30, 2022 – Tropicana in Atlantic City – Bette Midler and Barry Manilow Impersonators. The cost is \$105.00 per person. 15 seats are sold. Information is on the Township website and Township e-mail or contact Jeanne Broadbent in Recreation.

Thank you and Happy Thanksgiving.

Chief of Police – Michal Rogalski

Chief Rogalski read the October 2021 Police Report. The Police Department handled 4,317 incidents for police service, 5 abandoned 9-1-1 calls, 28 alarms were activated and responded to, 19 animal complaints, 2,756 business and/or residential checks, 4 criminal mischief acts, 1 disorderly complaint, 8 domestic violence incidents, 14 verbal disputes and/or harassment complaints, 15 disabled vehicles, 2 drunk driving arrests, 3 drug arrests, 93 first aid calls, 53 general complaints, 23 motor vehicle accidents, 224 motor vehicle stops of which 36 summons were issued, 3 juvenile complaints, 9 psychiatric evaluations, 11 persons were arrested on various warrants, 1 shoplifting incident, 99 suspicious persons and/or vehicles, 7 residential/commercial thefts. A full list of this activity is listed on the website

On November 19th at 10:00 am, Ocean Township Police Department personnel will be distributing an excess of 60 holiday meals throughout the Township. This is made possible by the generous donations of the Greenbriar Oceanaire Men's Club and the Forked River Rotary. The Men's Club is donating 48 turkeys and some additional side dishes. The Police Department was able to secure 25 turkeys from the Forked River Rotary. The Frederick A. Priff School will be donating a lot of the fixings that go along with the turkeys. The remaining meals will be dropped off at the Waretown United Methodist Church. Pastor Dawn has a lot of walk-ins. The Police Department will have about 5-6 turkeys on hand for anyone who was missed. Distribution of turkeys will also be made at Christmas time.

Administrator – Diane Ambrosio – Best Practices

Since 2010 all local governments in the State of New Jersey are required to complete and publicly discuss the Best Practice Inventory in order to receive 100% of the State aid. A copy of the Best Practices Inventory has been provided to the Township Committee for their review.

The results of that inventory or questionnaire will be the determination of whether or not the Township receives 100% of the State aid. Since 2010 the Township has been successful in answering the worksheets regarding Best Practices in order to obtain 100% of State aid. The Township Committee is pleased to report that once again, the Township of Ocean has accomplished that goal of answering enough questions affirmatively to receive 100% of the State aid. The worksheets this year consisted of 27 scored questions and 43 unscored questions. Some are new questions that are broken down into several categories. The questions change from year to year.

The items discussed in this year's Best Practices Worksheet refer to general management, finance, audit, purchasing, budget preparation, personnel, affordable housing, stormwater management and shared services. A sample of the questions is whether the Township maintains an updated website that includes postings of meeting dates, meeting minutes, Requests for Proposals (RFP's), adopted budgets and audits. This Township works on keeping the website up to date with all meeting schedules within the Township and all documentation required. The State requires a minimum of three years to be posted. At this time, the minutes and agendas are posted from 2008 to current. The budget and audits are on the website from 2012 to current.

There were many questions that were not scored on shared services. As many are aware, the Township of Ocean enters into shared services in the Construction and Zoning office as well as the Certified Financial Officer. This has been very beneficial to the Township.

The Township is required to update its personnel manual and there are two resolutions that need to accompany it, a resolution adopting Personnel Policies and Procedures and a resolution to affirm the Township of Ocean Civil Right Policy with respect to all officials, appointees, employees, perspective employees, volunteers, independent contractors, and members of the public that come into contact with municipal employees, officials and volunteers.

Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio discussed she would like to add these two resolutions to the consent agenda this evening to put the Township into compliance.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Motion to open Public Comment was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Baulderstone.

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

No comment from the public.

Motion close Public Comment was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Baulderstone.

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

Resolution 2021-264 Payment of Claims – as presented to the Township Committee for payment thereof in the amount of \$3,855,707.75

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

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

Resolution 2021-265

Authorizing the acceptance of the 2020 Audit and that the governing body have personally reviewed, as a minimum, the Annual Report of Audit and specifically the sections of the Annual Audit entitled “Comments and Recommendations”.

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

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

Ordinance 2021-20 – First Reading – Title Only

An ordinance of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey adopting of Addendum to the Southern Ocean Landfill Redevelopment Plan pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 et. Seq.

Motion to approve Ordinance 2021-20 was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Baulderstone.

Roll Call: Baulderstone: Yes, 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.

- 2021-266 Resolution Proclaiming November 11th as Veteran's Day to honor all U.S. Veterans
- 2021-267 Resolution Proclaiming November 10th celebrating the Marine Corps 246th Birthday
- 2021-268 Resolution authorizing a tax refund to Block 57.28, Lot 14 in the amount of \$1,559.09 as the are homeowner is totally disabled veteran
- 2021-269 Resolution appointing Jared Yackachonis as a full-time laborer for the Department of Public Works at the starting salary of \$38,203.00 as per Construction and General Laborers Union 172 Contract
- 2021-270 Resolution of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, authorizing change order No. 1 Bragaton Construction Inc for the Birdsall Water Tower Rehabilitation Project contract decrease of \$1,092.90
- 2021-271 Resolution appointing Mitch Bernstein to the Municipal Alliance for the year 2021
- 2021-272 Resolution authorizing a refund of a canceled construction permit for 85 Michigan Avenue in the amount of \$128.00
- 2021-273 Resolution authorizing a refund of a canceled construction permit for 181 Royal Oaks Drive in the amount of \$481.00
- 2021-274 Resolution authorizing a refund of a canceled construction permit for 100 Englewood Avenue in the amount of \$346.00
- 2021-275 Resolution appointing Gabriella N. Kanko as a full-time Police Dispatcher starting on November 10, 2021, at the starting salary of \$34,460.00 as per Teamsters Local Union No. 676
- 2021-276 Resolution accepting the resignation Brittany Gohr, Full-Time Police Dispatcher effective November 30, 2021
- 2021-277 Resolution authorizing the Township Clerk to advertise for the position of Police Dispatcher
- 2021-278 Resolution of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, authorizing acceptance of a grant award through the Ocean County Office of Senior Services
- 2021-279 Resolution of the Township of Ocean of Ocean, State of New Jersey authorizing the execution of Schedule "C" agreement with County of Ocean for 2022
- 2021-280 Resolution proclaiming the month of November 2021 as Men's Health Awareness Month. and encourage all citizens to pursue preventative health practices and early detection
- 2021-281 A RESOLUTION TO AFFIRM THE TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN CIVIL RIGHTS POLICY WITH RESPECT TO ALL OFFICIALS, APPOINTEES, EMPLOYEES, PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYEES, VOLUNTERS, INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS, AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT COME INTO CONTACT WITH MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES, OFFICIALS AND VOLUNTEERS
- 2021-282 RESOLUTION ADOPTING PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Motion to approve Resolutions 2021-266 through 2021-282:

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

Resolution 2021-283

Resolution authorizing the Township Committee to hold Executive Session for the matters of:
Contracts

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

Motion to approve: New Jersey Firemen's Association member Matthew A. Herrick as a member of the Waretown Volunteer Fire Company

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

Motion to approve: application for open air junk yard or salvage yard for Jones Road, Block 6, Lot 10 & 11

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

Motion to approve the below listed dates in 2021 & 2022 for the use of the Community Center, Corliss Park Recreation and Lake, Toumey Park, and Ballfield:

2021

December 19th – Annette Bonfonti
October 24, 2021 – Felicia Sciolino
Wednesday – Fiber Art Class with Katie - 6:30 pm
Wednesday – Knitting and sewing with Katie – 7:30 pm
Fridays – Shelly Creations – Art Classes for Older Adults – Fridays

2022

Wednesday – Fiber Art Class with Katie - 6:30 pm
Wednesday – Knitting and sewing with Katie – 7:30 pm
Fridays – Shelly Creations – Art Classes for Older Adults – Fridays
Senior Chair Exercise with Eileen – Mon-Wed-Friday
Tuesday & Thursday Afternoon Senior Maj Jong
Wednesday Afternoon Cards
Senior Maj Jong Evenings
Jazzercise
Zumba and Exercise Classes with Theresa
Easel on Down – Art Classes for Older Adults
Older Adult Pizza N Bingo – Pizza 3rd Thursday and 2nd Wed – 1st Thursday
Crafting Classes Youth – Wednesday
Democratic Club of Waretown – 3rd Tuesday Monthly
Township of Ocean Regular Republican Club – Last Tuesday monthly
Senior Advisory Committee Meetings - - Monthly
Holly Auxiliary Thrift Shop – SOMC Foundation – 4th Monday Monthly

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

Deputy Mayor LoParo discussed the Children's Holiday "Sundaes with the Snowman" Party. There will be no scooping of ice cream this year. Premade sundaes will be distributed due to COVID19 precautions. The volunteers will be giving out sprinkles and whip cream.

Deputy Mayor LoParo discussed the Holiday Light Spectacular Show costs. The Township should track the man hours, for assembly and breakdown, in order to contain the costs. For example man hours to breakdown on a Sunday would cost double.

Deputy Mayor LoParo discussed concerns regarding leaf collection. Last year, leaves were collected for three extra weekends.

Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio discussed the leaves have a tendency to fall later. Public Works tries to have leaves picked up before Christmas and before the first snow. Last year there were no events and Public Works still picked up leaves on weekends. The Township is not taking Public Works employees off leaf collection to work on events. The Township has never done that. The Township has only one leaf vacuum.

Deputy Mayor LoParo inquired about splitting the admission fees collected with the Waretown Volunteer Fire Company.

Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio discussed the anticipation is 50/50. This is a brand new event. There were meetings regarding this event. The Township Committee was informed of the meetings. The meeting minutes were distributed to the Township Committee. This is the only event the Township has had this year. There should be no other funding taken out of the Special Events fund. The Township has collected many, many donations to purchase items to make the event a success. There will be no Sunday overtime.

Next Scheduled Meetings

December 21, 2021 – 6:00 pm – Regular Business Meeting
January 4, 2021 – 6:00 pm – Reorganization Meeting & Business Meeting

Adjournment

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

Signed and Submitted:

Diane B. Ambrosio, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Date