

MEETING MINUTES

TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN
COUNTY OF OCEAN
BUSINESS MEETING
February 20, 2024
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

Police Awards

Mayor Dodd thanked the Police Department for the great job they do for the Township. The residents of our town appreciate your hard work and dedication. This Township Committee has always been strong supporters of our Police Department and dispatch employees. Thank you again, for doing a great job.

Mayor Dodd also thanked Sgt. Capaccio and asked everyone to take a moment to remember K9 Kavar. He was a great K9 officer. The Township Committee is saddened by this passing.

Mayor Dodd discussed the Township Committee would like to thank each and every Police Officer, Dispatcher, Volunteer Fire Company and Volunteer First Aid for their tireless work and dedication. It is truly appreciated by all and we wish you continued success and safety while doing your job.

Tonight, Police Chief Michael Rogalski will present the awards for the Police Department.

Chief Rogalski discussed the Life Saving Awards were presented at a Department Meeting, in a private setting. Some of the awards handed out were personal in nature and the Police Department did not want to disclose the individuals that were affected initially and saved by the Police Department. Those situations were kept private.

Tonight's awards for Civilian of the Year, Patrolman of the Year, Supervisor of the Year and the Chief's Award will be shared with the public to recognize the great efforts and work the recipients put in to be nominated and awarded. The Civilian of the Year, Patrolman of the Year and Supervisor of the Year are selected by the Officers. The Chief has no say whatsoever, unless it is a tie. Civilian employees of the Year are selected by Patrol Officers and Supervisors. Patrolman of the Year is selected by the Supervisors. Supervisor of the Year is selected by the civilian staff and the Patrolmen. The Chief's Award recipient is selected by the Chief of Police to recognize a single officer.

This Year's Civilian of the Year award is presented to Public Safety Telecommunicator, Hunter Hawk. Chief Rogalski read comments from Hunter's fellow employees: Hunter shows a high intelligence when it comes to his skills as a public safety telecommunicator. Hunter is able to filter out unnecessary information and provide accurate and timely information to officers. Hunter is a team player. Hunter always comes to work with a great attitude and is always willing to assist at community events outside of his dispatch position and puts extra effort into anything he is assigned to work on. Hunter is an excellent

employee and comes to work with a positive attitude, does an excellent job while at work and is always kind in dealing with the public. Hunter tries harder than anyone to be the best at what he does. Hunter loves the department and takes pride in his work and goes above and beyond to obtain additional information to keep our officers safe. Within the past year, Hunter has stepped up and worked harder than he ever has. Not only is Hunter a solid and reliable dispatcher, he has participated in extra details as well. Hunter has matured as a person, in his work and in his work ethic. Congratulations, Hunter.

This Year's Officer of the Year Award was presented to Patrolman Dominick Van de Brook. Chief Rogalski read comments from Dominick's fellow employees: Since joining the department, Dominick has done nothing short of striving to be the best Police Officer and to do what is best for the agency. Dominick works well with every officer and is a pleasure to have in the workplace. Dominick will go above and beyond to make sure tasks are 100% completed. Dominick continues to be the person of top level, along with his peers, he handles calls for service in a professional manner. Dominick's reports are always excellent and need little to no correction. Dominick's statistics speak for themselves, #1 in summonses, #2 in traffic stops, top in DWI arrests and #1 in overall arrests. Dominick stays active during his entire shift and generates CAD incidents near the top of the department. Dominick does a great job balancing aggressive enforcement and routine patrolling. Dominick is a consistent leader within the agency. Dominick is self-motivated, reliable and responsible. Dominick is an example for other officers to follow. Over the last year, Dominick has taken on additional responsibilities while still maintaining a hard work ethic and did not allow the additional training to get in the way of competing with Ryan for that spot.

2023 Supervisor of the Year award is presented to Sgt. Michael Matelski. Chief Rogalski read comments from Michael's fellow officers: Sgt. Matelski's has leadership skills he instills in his officers. Sgt. Matelski provides constructive criticism correctly and immediately recognizes a job well done. It is nice to work with somebody that is sincerely looking to improve the department. Sgt. Matelski is easy to converse with, quick to answer a text or email and always gets the job done. Sgt. Matelski is always helpful with any questions and always gives positive feedback. Sgt. Matelski motivates his patrol officers to push harder. Sgt. Matelski cares about his squad and the progression of each officer he is in charge of. Sgt. Matelski cares about each officer's career. Sgt. Matelski comes to work with a positive attitude and encourages all members to be proactive and better themselves within the profession. Sgt. Matelski is a great leader and allows officers to do their job without micromanaging but is there when needed. Sgt. Matelski actively engages in investigations with officers on the road and is always available when needed. Sgt. Matelski goes out of his way to make sure officers are educated in case law. Sgt. Matelski is a well-rounded leader, fair, honest and respected. Sgt. Matelski motivates officers and leads by example.

Chief Rogalski presented the 2023 Chief's Award to Patrolman Ryan North and discussed that on January 18, 2023, the Ocean County Traffic Safety Officers Association held their annual award banquet, where they recognized Patrolman North with the nomination of the 2023 Kimberly Smith-Ames Award. Patrolman North was recognized for his hard work, dedication and outstanding efforts in combating driving while intoxicated offenses in Ocean County. Ryan has been a police officer with our agency for a few years now. Ryan came to us with no prior law enforcement experience whatsoever. Patrolman North took the physical ability test and wowed everyone in the interview room. Since, then, Patrolman North leaped past where he should be as an officer. Patrolman North is doing a phenomenal job and keeps at it. Last year, with no additional training for detecting intoxicated driving, Patrolman North accounted for 35% of the total impaired driving arrests. Of those, Patrolman North had one Drug Recognition Enforcement (DRE) case and three refusals. Patrolman North's actions are outstanding and above the standard performance of duty.

Committee Reports

Committeeman – Ken Boulderstone

Good evening.

Resolution 2024-111. This resolution is hiring James Kormylo as a full-time Laborer in the Department of Public Works. James will be filling the open position. Congratulations James. We look forward to you joining our team.

The 2024 CDBG Grant application has been submitted for storm drainage improvement on Baltic Avenue.

NJDOT Grant/Municipal Aid – 2024. The Township has submitted for Letts Landing Road, Crosswind Road, and Keelson Drive. The Township has been notified that the grant award will be in the amount of \$404,340.00. This does not include the drainage work that will need to be completed. The Township will have to bond for the total amount of the project and NJDOT will reimburse the Township when the project is complete.

NJDCA Local Recreation Grant program for 2024. Resolution 2024-112 is being submitted for improvements to Toumey Park including new playground equipment and new bleachers with an estimated cost of \$100,000.00.

Fulfill of Monmouth and Ocean County will be coming on February 26th with their mobile food pantry from 12-1 pm. If you or anyone you know is struggling to put food on the table, please come and attend. Fulfill will give out food and fresh produce, which foodbanks do not always provide fresh produce.

Senior Services

Next Senior Advisory Committee is scheduled for February 26, 2024 at 10:00 am.

February 29th is a special Lunch and Learn presentation regarding Joint Knee and Hip information. Please register for an accurate lunch count.

All programs and meals at the Engle Sprague Senior Center are very well attended and attendance continues to increase every month. Please register, all are welcome.

Wellness Speaker Programs and activities are offered after every meal. Please pick up the calendar in the back of the room or on the Township website and e-mail for events at the Senior Center. There is a new speaker every week.

Ocean County Congregate Meals. Hot Meals are served every Monday and Wednesday. Tuesday there is Pizza and a wellness speaker program after the meals. Every Tuesday, Bingo is held for nominal prizes.

Everyone is welcome to attend. It is a wonderful way to socialize, meet new people and just be able to be out of the house. Calendars are on the back table and on the Township's website.

Thank you.

Deputy Mayor – Ben LoParo

Thank you for coming to the Township Committee meeting this evening.

I would like to thank everyone who volunteered at the Board of Health Animal Vaccination Clinic on February 10th. It was a pleasure assisting in this important Township event vaccinating 64 Dogs, 7 cats for a total of 71 animals. The Township licensed 35 dogs and 10 cats for a total of 45 licenses on the day of the Clinic. I would also like to thank Dr. Wurst from the Barnegat Animal Clinic for administering the vaccines.

Resolution 2024-113 & 114. This resolution is accepting the resignation of a Police Dispatcher / Telecommunicator. The Police Department has posted the job of Police Dispatcher/Telecommunicator Officer with a closing date March 8, 2024.

Municipal Alliance. The Township has received a grant award within the Municipal Alliance for \$5,307.86 for the preschool program Al's Pals - Kids Making Healthy Choices, an evidence based, comprehensive, social-emotional learning curriculum that will run September 23rd – June 24th.

Please be reminded classes for Zumba, Toning, Forever Young and Line Dancing have resumed at the Community Center. Yoga is being offered Tuesdays from 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm and now Mondays & Tuesdays, Gentile Yoga is being offered from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm. A person can pay by class and walk-ins are always welcome.

Recreation Bus Trips

The Township is now taking reservations for the Philadelphia Flower Show on March 8, 2024. There are four (4) available seats remaining. The cost is \$90 per person.

July 14, 2024 – Yankees vs. Orioles at Camden Yards. There are five (5) available seats left. The cost is \$99.00 per person.

October 23, 2024 – Sight and Sound. The Show is Daniel. The cost is \$184.00 per person.

All of these trips sell out each year. Please reserve your seat. The information is on the Township website or come to Town Hall.

Thank you.

Mayor – Lydia M. Dodd

Thank you for joining us this evening.

January 2024 - Construction/Zoning Report

Zoning Department. 37 applications approved, 6 applications pending review and 8 denial applications.

Code Enforcement. 7 Notices of Violation and 1 property abated their violation.

Ordinance 2024-2. Tonight, the Township will hold the public hearing on rescinding and deleting Code 410-178 regarding exemption for certain residential structures sustaining substantial damage. This was put on the books to assist homeowners after Superstorm Sandy. This was completed by resolution by another Township Committee and needs to be repealed to come out of the codebook.

Resolution 2024-85. This resolution is authorizing the Township to sell old and surplus items. The Township departments have equipment being sold “as is” on Govdeals.

Project Updates

Ocean Isles has received their tree cutting permit and have filed the footing and foundation permits.

Amboy Realty/Pennsylvania Avenue have received permits for tree cutting.

Thank you.

Police Chief - Michal Rogalski

Chief Rogalski discussed he would like to express his gratitude for the Township Committee’s support of the Police Department. As evident by tonight, by allowing him to present the Police Awards.

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

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

Motion to approve the meeting minutes: February 1, 2024, February 1, 2024 CDBG Meeting was moved by Committeeman Baulderstone, seconded by Mayor Dodd.

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

Resolution 2024-101 Payment of Claims as presented to the Township Committee for payment thereof in the amount of \$3,610,456.84.

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

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-2 - Second Reading – Public Hearing

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO DELETING SECTION 410-178 OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE ENTITLED ‘EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES SUSTAINING SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE’

Motion to open Public Comment for Ordinance 2024-2 was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Baulderstone.

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

No comment from the public.

Motion to close Public Comment for Ordinance 2024-2 was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Baulderstone.

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

Motion to approve Ordinance 2024- 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.

- 2024-102 Resolution authorizing disposal of surplus property of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey such as 2004 Ford F450 Mason Dump truck, 2013 Ford Police Interceptor, tripod lights, golf cart tires etc.
- 2024-103 Resolution of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey canceling taxes and authorizing a refund in the amount of \$2,661.39 for block 86, Lot 20.01 for totally disabled Veterans Exemption
- 2024-104 Resolution of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey canceling taxes and authorizing a refund in the amount of \$5,394.89 for block 57.04, Lot 122 for totally disabled Veterans Exemption
- 2024-105 Resolution authorizing a refund for overpayment for the 4th Quarter 2023 in the amount of \$92.18 for 23 Bayview Drive
- 2024-106 Resolution of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey authorizing release of a Maintenance Guarantee for Greenbriar Oceanaire Section 7B.
- 2024-107 Resolution of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey authorizing release of maintenance bond for 151A Wells Mills Road
- 2024-108 Resolution of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey authorizing release of escrow money for 100 Lighthouse Drive in the amount of \$17.50
- 2024-109 Resolution of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of new Jersey authorizing the execution of shared services agreement with the County of Ocean pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:8A-1 et. Seq., for the prosecutor’s program – traffic safety program (formally known as the Fatal Accident Support Team)

- 2024-110 Resolution authorizing Schedule C agreement with County of Ocean, road Department in the amount of \$60,000
- 2024-111 Resolution appointing James R. Kormylo as full-time Laborer/Operator Entry Department of Public Works employee starting February 22, 2024 as per Union Local 172 contract dated January 1, 2023-December 31, 2027
- 2024-112 Resolution of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey Authorizing the submission and support of the Recreation Improvement Grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
- 2024-113 Resolution accepting the resignation of full-time Telecommunicator Ryan Cassan
- 2024-114 Resolution authorizing the advertising of the position of full-time Police telecommunicator.

Motion to approve Resolutions 2024-102 through 2024-114 was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Baulderstone.

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

Motion to approve the below listed dates for the use of the Community Center, Corliss Park Lake & Recreation Area, Waretown Bayfront Park & Pier, Toumey Park, and Ballfields:

Recreation Department – Bunco Games – 3rd Monday

Recreation Department – Card Playing – Tuesday & Thursday 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm

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

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

Next Scheduled Business Meetings

March 7, 2024 – 10:00 am Regular Business Meeting

March 19, 2024 – 6:00 pm - Regular Business Meeting

April 4, 2024 10:00 am - Regular Business Meeting

April 16, 2024 – 6:00 pm - Regular Business Meeting

***Meetings can be added or cancelled as necessary*

Deputy Mayor LoParo discussed Chief Rogalski and the Police Department do an outstanding job.

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