

MEETING MINUTES

TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN
COUNTY OF OCEAN
BUSINESS MEETING
October 15, 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

Proclamation

National Friends of Libraries Week – October 20-26, 2024

Mayor Lydia Dodd read and presented the National Friends of Libraries Week Proclamation to Jennifer Lennon, Branch Manager of the Waretown Library.

Resolution 2024-266

Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, appointing Jeremy Samuel as Sergeant of the Township of Ocean Police Department

Motion to approve Resolution 2024-266 was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Boulderstone.

Roll Call: Boulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

Mayor Dodd discussed Officer Samuel began his career with the Ocean Township Police Department in August of 2007 as a Dispatcher. He became a Special Officer Class II in September of 2009 and completed Ocean County Police Academy Special Class 26 in May of 2010. Officer Samuel was promoted to become a full-time Patrolman in March 2012. During his time as Patrolman, Officer Samuel was assigned to the Traffic Safety Bureau. He became a Basic and Advanced Crash Investigator and assisted with Ocean County's Fatal Accident Support Team. Officer Samuel was also selected as a Field Training Officer responsible for training of new officers with the department. In 2017, Officer Samuel was temporarily assigned to the Detective Bureau with an emphasis on narcotics interdiction. He was later assigned to the Ocean County Prosecutors Office Special Operations Group from October 2017 until February 2018 to assist with narcotics related investigations. In February 2018, Officer Samuel was assigned to the Detective Bureau, a position he held up until this day. Officer Samuel obtained a Bachelor of Arts from Farleigh Dickinson University in 2024. He is also an instructor with the Ocean County Police Academy specializing in report writing and active bystandership for law enforcement. Officer Samuel is married to his wife, Kelly, and has two sons, Jordan and Joshua. He enjoys coaching and being a part of his sons' sporting events and performances. He enjoys spending time with his family and watching sports. He is a huge fan of the NY Mets and is relieved this ceremony happened to be on an off-day during the playoffs.

- Sergeant Jeremy Samuel will be sworn in to the position

Officer Jeremy Samuel is sworn in by Mayor Dodd.

Resolution 2024-271

Resolution of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, authorizing the hiring of John S. Stevens, Jr. as a Full Time Patrol Officer for the Township of Ocean Police Department

Motion to approve Resolution 2024-271 was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Boulderstone.

Roll Call: Boulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

Deputy Mayor LoParo discussed Officer Stevens began his law enforcement career with the Avalon Police Department in June 2023, as a Special Law Enforcement Officer Class II. In September 2023 he was hired by the Middle Township Police Department, where he worked as a Special Class II Police Officer until June, when he was hired by this agency. Officer Stevens completed the Ocean Township Police Department Field Training on October 9, 2024. He has since been assigned to patrol duties. Officer Stevens has been an asset to our agency from the time he was hired. He is always eager to learn and always ready to work. It is with great pride we are able to hire Officer Stevens tonight as a full-time Patrolman. Patrolman Stevens will be assigned to the Patrol Division.

- Patrolman John S. Stevens. Jr. will be sworn in to the position

Officer John S. Stevens is sworn in by Deputy Mayor LoParo.

Committee Reports

Committeeman – Ken Boulderstone

Good evening.

Resolution 2024-275. The Township of Ocean will be signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Stafford Township to use their paving hot box. The Township of Ocean will work with Stafford Township's Department of Public Works on a small paving project.

Department of Public Works

- Conducted sewer main jetting in the Holiday Harbor section.
- Continued stormwater maintenance in the Holiday Harbor section.
- Commenced the New Jersey Water Apprenticeship program.
- Continued Hydrant Tagging operation as per the Water Quality Accountability Act.
- Monthly water testing has been completed and all items are in compliance.

Senior Advisory

Next Senior Advisory Meeting will take place October 21st. Fulfill of Monmouth/Ocean Mobile Food Pantry will attend at 12 noon.

The speaker at the Senior Advisory Meeting will be RWJ Barnabas Health discussing the topic of "How Much Shuteye Do You Need?" and learn about sleep apnea.

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.

Friday, October 11th – Health & Wellness Fair. The Township Committee would like to thank all who participated in the Health & Wellness Fair - Ocean County Board of Health, Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, New Jersey Natural Resources, JCP&L, Atlantic City Electric and the nonprofit organizations that came to assist in giving information.

Recreation

The Annual Halloween House Decorating Contest is on its way. You can nominate your home or your neighbors. The last day to enter is October 18th and the winners will be announced on October 30th.

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 is lunch and Bingo is held for nominal prizes.

Everyone is welcome to attend. It is a wonderful way to socialize, meet new people and just be out of the house. Calendars are on the back table and 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 congratulate Sergeant Jermei Samuels and Patrolman John Stevens on their promotions this evening, as well as the new appointment to the Detective Bureau, Domonick VanDerBrook.

Resolution 2024-268. This resolution is proclaiming the month of October as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month in the County of Ocean. Each year nearly two hundred thousand woman and two thousand men will be diagnosed with breast cancer. The Township Committee encourages all residents to get an exam for breast cancer.

Resolution 2024-270. This resolution authorizes a Shared Service Agreement with the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office for the Driving While Intoxicated Enforcement Program for the purpose of identifying and removing intoxicated drivers from the roads.

Municipal Alliance. The Municipal Alliance will be starting the food and toy collection on November 1st.

Bus Trip. Philadelphia Flower Show March 7, 2024. Taking reservations now. Please be reminded this trip sells out quickly. Leave from the Community Center at 12:00 noon and return at 8:15 pm.

Thank you.

Mayor – Lydia M. Dodd

Thank you for joining us this evening.

First, I would like to thank and acknowledge the 249th Birthday of the United States Navy which was celebrated on October 13, 2024. The Township Committee commends the United States Navy, past and present. Please take a moment to appreciate these brave people who serve us every day. Thank you and Happy Birthday.

September 2024 Construction/Zoning Report

Zoning Department. 37 Applications approved, 2 Denial Applications, 19 Violations written and 2 Violations abated.

Construction. 96 Construction Permits issued, 15 Permit updates (NSFD's/minor work/alteration/repairs), 76 Certificates of Approvals, 1 Certificate of Occupancy, 4 CCO's (Continued Certificate of Occupancy), 2 Temporary Certificates of Occupancy, 1 Certificate of Compliance, 0 Unsafe Structures and 1 Violation issued-Order to Terminate/Pay.

Project Updates

Flex Space has received a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy (TCO) and is moving to complete and obtain a full Certificate of Occupancy.

There is a new Barber Shop called Coastal Barbers opening soon in the Waretown Plaza, Unit 15.

There is a new pet groomer, "Pristine Pets", opening soon in the old coin shop location.

Ordinance 2024-24 2nd Reading, Public Hearing. The State of New Jersey Department of Community Affairs implemented on July 22, 2022, a Lead Safe Certification, which is good for two years. After two years, the property owner has to obtain a re-inspection if the tenant leaves. If the tenant doesn't leave after three years from the date of certification, the property must be inspected and a new lead-safe certification will be issued and the cycle starts over. The Public Hearing is this evening.

Thank you for coming tonight.

Chief of Police - Michal Rogalski

Chief Rogalski thanked the Township Committee for their support of the Police Department. Last November, the day before Thanksgiving, Chief Rogalski got a phone call from Patrolman Sawyer who resigned from our agency to take a job in Barnegat. Most would look at that issue as a problem. Chief Rogalski and Business Administrator Ambrosio looked at it as an opportunity to look towards the future of the agency and make the right moves. What started in last November ended up with us replacing Patrolman Sawyer with Patrolman Dellane. With retirements coming up, the Township moved forward with hiring Patrolman Farrell and SLEO II Stevens and getting them trained and ready for this moment. October marked Sergeant Kinlan's last day. The Township was able to move SLEO II Stevens to that spot, which caused no overtime and ran that shift efficiently. Sergeant Petracca is leaving November 1st and her replacement is ready and waiting. Thank you for investing in the future of the agency, believing in a plan we came up with a year ago. Today is the start of that plan. Thank you for your support.

Chief Rogalski read the September 2024 Police Report. The Police Department handled 3,999 incidents for police service, 5 abandoned 911 calls, 28 alarms activated and responded to, 17 animal complaints, 2,230 individual business/residential checks, 1 act of criminal mischief, 3 acts of domestic violence, 20 verbal disputes/harassment complaints, 6 disabled vehicles, 87 first aid calls, 19 motor vehicle accidents, 495 motor vehicle stops which issued 45 summonses, 3 juvenile complaints, 7 incidents of mental health crisis, 13 persons were arrested on various warrants, 41 suspicious persons and/or vehicles were investigated, 3 thefts from a residence and/or commercial property were investigated and 5 frauds investigations. A full list of this activity is on the Township website.

Mayor Dodd discussed the Township Committee is very proud of Chief Rogalski's leadership.

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

Robert Lange, 2 Shore Drive, discussed the lead paint ordinance, how it does not create much extra work for the Township and the fees.

Mr. Lange inquired about the drainage work on Keelson Drive and Southwind Drive.

Township Engineer Jason Worth discussed the Township has surveyed the area and that work will start with the other improvements on Letts Landing Road and Crosswind Drive. Drainage is part of it and the Township is bonded for that drainage work. The State covers the paving. The Township wants to make sure the drainage is good.

Larry Mohns, 127 Admiral Way, discussed he wrote a letter to the Township regarding the drainage problems on his property and in front of his house. The water accumulates, rushes down Tiller Drive and goes down Admiral Way and now the road has surface cracks. Mr. Mohns gave photos of the damage to Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio.

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: September 24, 2024 and October 8, 2024

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

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

Resolution 2024-267 Payment of Claims – as presented to the Township Committee for payment thereof in the amount of \$2,530,299.53

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

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-24 2nd Reading, Public Hearing

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY SUPPLEMENTING AND REPLACING IN ITS ENTIRETY ARTICLE VII OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE ENTITLED "LEAD PAINT INSPECTIONS"

Motion to open Public Comment– Ordinance 2024-24 was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Baulderstone.

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

Robert Lange, 2 Shore Drive, discussed he is concerned about the fees.

Motion to close Public Comment– Ordinance 2024-24 was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Baulderstone.

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

Motion to approve Ordinance 2024-24 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.

- 2024-268 Resolution proclaiming October 2024 as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month in the County of Ocean
- 2024-269 Resolution proclaiming and celebrating October 13, 2024 the United States Navy 249th Birthday – “Warfighting, Strength and Readiness
- 2024-270 A 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
- 2024-271 Resolution of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, authorizing the hiring of John S. Stevens, Jr. as a Full Time Patrol Officer for the Township of Ocean Police Department
- 2024-272 Resolution authorizing the release of escrow money for Block 220, Lot 9.03 in the amount of \$58.35
- 2024-273 Resolution authorizing the Township of Ocean to participate in the Sommerset County Cooperative pricing system ID#2SOCCP
- 2024-274 Resolution authorizing the hiring of Alpha Dog – Municipal Website Design and daily content management
- 2024-275 RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN,COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF STAFFORD FOR THE USE OF A TOWNSHIP OWNED PAVER
- 2024-276 Resolution authorizing Dominick J. VanDeBrook to be assigned to the Detective Bureau

Motion to approve Resolutions 2024-268 through 2024-276

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

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

Resolution 2024-277

Resolution authorizing the Clerk to advertise Request for proposal for positions for the year 2025. All sealed bids are to be returned to the Clerk's office on or before November 22, 2024 at 11:00 am.

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

Roll Call: Boulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

Motion to approve: Shakira M. Dixon and Jolee L. Costa to the New Jersey State Firemen's Association.

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

Roll Call: Boulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

Motion to approve: Social Affairs Permit for the Waretown Volunteer Fire Company #1 for a fundraiser on November 2, 2024 for the First Annual Truck Pull – "Pulling for Heroes" Project Lakewood.

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 for the use of the Community Center, Corliss Park Lake & Recreation Area, Waretown Bayfront Park & Pier, Toumey Park, and Ballfields:

Waretown Historical Society – October 7, 2024 – Movie in the Park

Annette Bonfonti – December 22, 2024

Lord of Lords Church -Skate Park – November 16, 2024 with a Rain date of November 24, 2024

2025

Abby Fernandes – February 16, 2025

Samantha Casterlin – January 25, 2025

Waretown Thunder Baseball & Softball Club – March 15, 2025 – November 30, 2025

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

Roll Call: Boulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

Next Scheduled Regular Business Meetings

November 12 2024 – 5:00 pm

December 17, 2024 – 6:00 pm

Reorganization & Regular Business Meeting – January 2, 2025 – 6:00 pm

**Meetings can be added or cancelled as deemed necessary

Adjournment

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

Roll Call: Boulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

Signed and Submitted:

Diane B. Ambrosio, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Date