LAKEWOOD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES MARCH 27, 2008

The Lakewood Township Committee held a meeting on Thursday, March 27, 2008 in the Lakewood Municipal Building, at 6:30 PM for the Executive Session and 7:30 PM for the Public Meeting, with the following present:

Mayor	Raymond Coles
Deputy Mayor	Meir Lichtenstein
Committee Members	Senator Robert Singer
Arrived at 7:45 PM	Menashe Miller
	Charles Cunliffe
Municipal Manager	Frank Edwards
Municipal Attorney	Steve Secare
Municipal Clerk	Bernadette Standowski

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Mr. Cunliffe, second by Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein. Resolution No. 2008-113 – Adopted.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND PRAYER

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, by Resolution of the Township Committee adopted January 1, 2008 and published in the Asbury Park Press on January 8, 2008.

ROLL CALL

OPEN SESSION

Motion by Mr. Cunliffe, second by Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein, and carried, to open the meeting.

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF: 03/13/08

Motion by Mr. Cunliffe, second by Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein, and carried, to approve the above Minutes.

MOTION TO APPROVE CLOSED SESSION MINUTES: 03/13/08

Motion by Mr. Cunliffe, second by Senator Singer, and carried, to approve the above Closed Session Minutes.

PRESENTATIONS: None

ORDINANCES FOR DISCUSSION: None

Mayor Coles reviewed quality of life items from the previous meeting.

Mr. Cunliffe questioned Mr. Mignella with regard to the Vine Avenue Project, as to the actual piece of the road that is going to connect to Vermont Avenue and then go over to Chestnut Street. He asked when that would be completed.

Mr. Mignella answered that he would like to be able to speak with the Contractor and get back to the Committee with an updated schedule.

Mr. Mignella reported that he wrote to the Ocean County Engineer's Office with regard to the Fairways traffic signal. They will investigate the Township's request and respond in writing.

Mr. Mignella also reported that he wrote to the DOT with regard to the traffic signal timing at Route 9 and North Lake Drive, and they will investigate the Township's request.

As to the request for one hour parking in the downtown area, Mr. Mignella stated that although it is a good idea, it is not something that can be enforced. T & M Associates are doing a comprehensive study of the area, and will review the request.

Mr. Franklin reported that three new one-way signs have been placed on North Lake Drive; one has been relocated; one "Do Not Enter" sign has been moved; and they added two "Wrong Way" signs.

Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein asked Mr. Franklin to send him a memo in writing as to what was done in the area, so he can respond to the residents.

Mayor Coles stated he has noticed many vehicles are parked on right-of-ways, and on lawns with "For Sale" signs. Also, he has noticed many small signs along streets advertising everything from computers, to buying your house, and removing a junk car. He asked that they make an effort to get those cleaned up.

Senator Singer asked that they take a look at James Street, across from Bradco. On a periodic basis, that area gets filthy. He asked that they check who owns the property, and have it cleaned up.

Mayor Coles asked Mr. Mack and Mr. Franklin to look in it.

Also for Mr. Mack and Mr. Franklin, Mayor Coles advised he received complaints about the Biltmore and Elmhurst Avenue area, about the amount of trash and debris that is coming out of the neighborhoods and is accumulating on one or two properties. He asked that they look into where the trash is coming from, and what they can do to stop it.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC will be heard for a limit of one (1) hour. Each speaker will have four (4) minutes and shall be limited to one time at the podium.

Mayor Coles opened the meeting to the public.

Ernesto Ordenana, NJ Classics Soccer League – He is requesting a permit to use the Bartolf Complex on Brook Road for his soccer league.

Mayor Coles advised there are different leagues involved. If he is asking for permits for a youth soccer league, there will be no problem. The Township facilities are not adequate to handle the load, with the recreational programs for the youth, and for the wear and tear of an adult league. At this point in time, there would be no way to obtain permits for an adult league. They have asked the County for permission to build fields at the Brook Road complex, along the right-of-way where Kennedy Boulevard would have gone. If they get that permission to build those fields, they can revisit this request for next season. At the present time, the fields are booked, and to put the strain of an adult team playing on those fields would just destroy them, and then they would be without them for everyone. He apologized, and did not want to say no to someone who wants to have a positive recreational program for people, but for an adult league, they can not help them at this time.

Mr. Ordenana advised there are adult leagues presently utilizing the fields.

Mr. Cunliffe advised the leagues play at the County complex, not on the Township fields.

Mr. Ordenana advised that the adult leagues are playing on the fields without permits and without insurance.

Mayor Coles answered that the leagues without permits will be prosecuted; parks security will be stopping that.

Ann Richardson, 1870 Lanes Mill Road – Complained about the accidents in front of her home caused by excessive speed; this has been the fourth accident at the same location. She asked for a speed reduction to 35 mph.

Mayor Coles advised it is a County Road, but asked Chief Lawson to have Traffic & Safety check if there are any obvious traffic hazards at that location. If they need to get the County involved, they will.

Mrs. Richardson also complained about the sale of the Princeton Avenue School.

Mayor Coles advised that the Committee has nothing to do with the sale of that property; it is being offered for sale by the Board of Education. The Township Committee has no jurisdiction in this matter.

Mrs. Richardson also complained about the condition of the wooded area on Route 528, across from the new development by Clayton Block. It needs to be cleaned up.

Mayor Coles asked Mr. Mack to look into it.

Mr. Cunliffe suggested that the Attorney send a letter to the Superintendent of Schools and Attorney for the Board of Education, for informational purposes, to advise the Township exactly what was done with the school. This request was offered in the form of a Motion by Mr. Cunliffe, second by Senator Singer.

Moshe Raitzik, 166 North Crest Place – Commented with regard to the retention basins in Westgate. An unsafe condition exists without fences around the retention basins. It is his understanding that the Township owns the property.

Mayor Coles advised that the Township is doing maintenance there, but the property has not been Deeded to the Township.

Mr. Secare added that Mr. Penzer has sent him Deeds for the properties, which he is reviewing.

Senator Singer stated that it is fair to say that if there are no fences, the Township will not be taking over the property.

Mr. Secare advised they are working on a solution to the problem.

Mayor Coles advised they will sit down with the developer and work out a solution. He further stated that a fence is not the only solution to this problem. Children are curious; it will take supervision as well. He is confident they will come to a solution.

Mr. Secare stated, that with the Mayor's permission, he will meet with Mr. Penzer, Mr. Miller, Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein and the developer, as early as next week, and hopefully reach a solution.

Mr. Miller advised he spoke with the developer and Mr. Secare, and they are trying to work out a solution.

Senator Singer suggested that if they do not have a solution by the next meeting, they should ask the Inspection Department to issue a stop work order out there, and that no more permits are issued. They have created a hazardous condition. He further suggested that the owners of the development come to the meeting and explain why it is OK to have a dangerous situation on this property. It is his understanding that the Board of Adjustment did not require the fence at the time. There is a lot of controversy about this issue. It is very difficult to maintain these properties when they are fenced; it becomes a maintenance issue. These detention basins are supposed to be drainage facilities that never retain water, but they do retain water. This development has a large amount of children, all ages. It would behoove the developer, with such a large development, that he or she take some responsibility for their actions. There is a cost factor. But if they do not want to do the safe thing in this community, then they should not be permitted to build in this community. He repeated that if they do not have an answer by the next meeting, they need to take the appropriate action.

Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein asked that since Mr. Penzer was present, could they set a day and time for the meeting.

Mr. Penzer asked to be heard.

Abraham Penzer, Esq., appearing on behalf of Westgate. Wanted to state what the law is, and the effects of the law. The Township does not have the right to file a stop work order on the community, because, first of all, there is no requirement for a fence. Secondly, his client has spent millions of dollars, on playgrounds, and various items, that he did not have to do. They have done more than they had to. He further advised that in 2004, the Township took over that area. The block and lot in question, where the basins are, are where the roads are. Mr. Franklin is taking care of the garbage and the snow, as being part of the Township. He asked how do you explain the formality of doing a Deed, when the town has released the bonds four years ago. There is a letter from the Township to the Owner, stating that it is their property. All he is doing by giving the Deeds, is formalizing a relationship that was there. These basins are the Township's problem, not their problem. He can provide a copy of the letter from 2004, releasing the bonds and the maintenance, and saying that the Township is taking care of it. The basins are on the same lots. It is not fair to take a shot at the builder. Legally speaking, the builder has no obligation for a fence. If the Township wants to put up a fence, it is the Township's property and they can do it. The reason there is water on the property is because the neighbors can not control their children, and they are going to an area on the other side, almost a mile away, and they are throwing garbage there. They have pictures showing the property to be dry, over the past six months. They monitor it to see that it is dry. The only time there is trouble with it is when the children throw garbage there. They took away forty bags of garbage the other day. If nothing blocks the inlet, it works fine; it is perfectly designed. He thanked the Committee for being patient, and he would be delighted to meet, but not to be attacked, and have his client maligned, when he has spent so much money.

Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein again asked to set a day and time for the meeting.

The meeting was set for 9:00 AM on Friday morning in the Mayor's Office.

Senator Singer asked who is the owner of record of the property.

Mr. Penzer answered there are five LLC's that own the total of Westgate. This part is Forest Haven. The principals are Atlantic Realty in Woodbridge. They built Brook Hill and Beacon Hill.

Senator Singer advised Mr. Penzer that he appreciated his comments. You can build all the playgrounds, and all the synagogues, but what it one life worth. They are talking about a safety issue. Roads are not retention basins. The Township takes over roads and does snow plowing and garbage removal, and it does not mean that the Township owns the retention basins. They are concerned about a safety issue. It is not grandstanding when it comes to the safety of children. Whether the safety issue is caused by the client, or the Township, that is what the Courts are for. If someone feels there is a safety issue that endangers children in their community, he believes, as an elected official, he has the moral and political obligation to do the right thing. He is putting them on notice, that they will come to a solution on this. And if they do not come to a solution, at least by next Thursday, the residents will know that the resolution will be done by a Judge. He is

concerned that Spring is coming, and they may have some wet weather, and there is the problem with the inlet being clogged which was not the client's fault, and he does not want to have to face one of the parents if there should be an accident. He is not grandstanding, he is concerned about the children. This issue has been going on for months, and they are at the stage right now where they want to put it to bed. And in good faith, they can put it to bed. But they have to set a time line.

Mr. Cunliffe stated he is in total agreement with Senator Singer's comments. He suggested that the Engineer and Planner look at what is stated in the UDO, and if it is not clear enough, for them to clean it up. With regard to the maintenance and upkeep of retention basins, the design of the basins, they have the same problem time after time, and they need a tighter UDO.

Mr. Miller advised that the Planning Board currently mandates that every single development that has a retention basin must be fenced in. Unfortunately, this development got its approvals prior to him being on the Board, prior to them making this their protocol. The same way that they mandate that all developments have sidewalks along both sides of the street.

Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein added that aside from Westgate, they have been confronted with this issue many times. Mr. Kielt has approached the Committee informally about Developer's Agreements, and he believes it is time for the Township to get Developer's Agreements in place, and perhaps Mr. Kielt can provide the Committee with a sample.

Alice Kelsey, 295B Malvern Court East – Asked if they have a Fair Housing Officer in Lakewood and if so, where.

Mayor Coles advised that STEPS is fulfilling that role at this time. They are splitting their time between the LRRC Office on Clifton, and the STEPS office on South Clifton Avenue.

Mrs. Kelsey asked where does the Township stand on the RCA agreements.

Mayor Coles advised they are going to Court on Monday. If Judge Grasso rules in the Township's favor, the checks will be cut and they will see, not only a couple of million dollars coming for housing rehab, but enough money so that the seventy-two units probably will be on the average, forty to fifty thousand dollars apiece less, which is good news for the people who are going to live there.

Mrs. Kelsey asked what is the future for the STEPS project and the Housing Authority project; will RCA's be coming down for them also.

Mayor Coles answered that they had agreements to cover all of the units in all of the developments, but that was before the lawsuit last year. He wishes he could say he was confident that they would see all of the RCA's come through. They are working with a couple different towns to pursue the same avenue they took with Toms River to get relief through the Courts, which is always an option. If Assemblyman Roberts has his way, and eliminates RCA's this year, he is hoping that whatever funding formula he puts in place will go a little way towards relieving some of that. But there is a Resolution on tonight's

Agenda for the Affordable Housing Corporation's rental units, that they require for the HMFA financing.

Eli Zentman, 41 Kingsfield Drive – Commented with regard to the retention basin issue in Westgate.

Naftoli Hass, 85 North Crest Place – Commented with regard to the retention basin issue in Westgate.

Noreen Gill, 192 Coventry Drive – Suggested that a committee is set up to review the UDO. Commented with regard to the retention basin issue.

Bentzy Stefansky, 33 Kelmwoods Avenue – Commented with regard to the retention basin issue in Westgate.

Seeing no one else wishing to be heard, Mayor Coles closed the meeting to the public.

At this time, the professionals left the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

The items listed below are considered to be routine by the Township of Lakewood 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.

- 1. Resolution Releasing a Maintenance Bond posted by Yomah, Inc., in connection with Block 237, Lots 18 and 19, in the amount of \$1,624.00 Resolution No. 2008-114
- 2. Resolution Releasing Maintenance Bond posted by S & H Builders, Inc., in connection with Block 417, Lot 4, in the amount of \$2,364.00 Resolution No. 2008-115
- Resolution Authorizing the Township of Lakewood Tax Collector to refund tax sale redemptions Resolution No. 2008-116
- 4. Resolution Authorizing the use of Urban Enterprise Zone Funds within the Franklin St. Redevelopment Area, in the amount of \$100,000.00 Resolution No. 2008-117
- 5. Resolution Applying to the State of New Jersey, Division of Archives and Records Management, for a PARIS Grant, in the amount of \$125,479.40 Resolution No. 2008-118
- 6. Resolution authorizing the sale of a 2001 Ford Crown Victoria to the Fire Police, State of New Jersey, Ocean County Unit, Station 81, for nominal consideration Resolution No. 2008-119

- 7. Resolution Releasing a Performance Bond posted by 216 River Avenue, LLC, in connection with Block 413, Lots 3, 4, and 6, in the amount of \$16,890.00 Resolution No. 2008-120
- Resolution authorizing submission of an application to the New Jersey Enterprise Zone Authority for the Fiscal Year 2008-2009, in the amount of \$945,347.88 (UEZ – Administration Budget) Resolution No. 2008-121
- Resolution authorizing the award of a Professional Services Contract to Birdsall Engineering, in the amount of \$88,500.00 (remediation investigation/actions at the former Public Works facility) Resolution No. 2008-122
- 10. Resolution Supporting Calvary Lighthouse Community Development Center Resolution No. 2008-123
- 11. Resolution opposing the proposed increase in rates of New Jersey American Water Resolution No. 2008-124
- 12. Resolution Authorizing the execution of a Collective Bargaining Agreement with Local 469, A/W I.B.T., for January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2010 Resolution No. 2008-125
- 13. Resolution Authorizing the execution of an amended Interlocal Service Agreement between the Township of Lakewood and the County of Ocean, in the amount of \$93,715.00 (East County Line Road Reconstruction project)
 Resolution No. 2008-126
- 14. Resolution of need in support of affordable housing project proposed by Lakewood Affordable Housing Corporation (Cypress Cove, Oak Street) Resolution No. 2008-127
- 15. Resolution Authorizing the Lakewood Township Tax Collector to cancel taxes as to Block 136, Lot 6
 Resolution No. 2008-128
- 16. Resolution appointing members to the ADA Compliance Committee and Disabilities Commission Resolution No. 2008-129

Motion by Mr. Cunliffe, second by Senator Singer, to approve Resolution Nos. 1 through 16 on the Consent Agenda.

On Roll Call – Affirmative: Senator Singer, Mr. Miller, Mr. Cunliffe,

Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein and Mayor Coles.

Resolution Nos. 2008-114 through 2008-129 - Adopted.

ORDINANCE SECOND READING

• An Ordinance of the Township of Lakewood, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, authorizing the acquisition of a portion of Lot 2, Block 549.01, as shown on the Tax Map of the Township of Lakewood, pursuant to and in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:12-1, et seq (America Ave.)

Read by title only for second reading.

Mayor Coles opened the meeting to the public.

Gerry Ballwanz, Governors Road – Stated that she did not have the back-up, and asked why the Township was going to buy or sell land that the Township already owns. She sees that there was some confusion that the Township thought that they already owned the land.

Mayor Coles answered that someone made a mistake on the foreclosure.

Mr. Edwards advised this is a tax title problem from thirty-five, forty years ago. It is not anything recent.

Seeing no one else wishing to be heard, the hearing on this Ordinance was closed to the public.

The above Ordinance was offered by Mr. Cunliffe, second by Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein.

On Roll Call – Affirmative: Senator Singer, Mr. Miller, Mr. Cunliffe,

Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein and Mayor Coles.

Ordinance No. 2008-16 adopted on second reading.

• An Ordinance of the Township of Lakewood, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:21-1, et seq, granting Abatement to local property taxes to Shvarzblat Real Estate Holdings, No. 2, LLC, for facilities located at Block 536, Lot 77.01, and authorizing the Mayor and Township Clerk to execute any and all Documents necessary and proper to enter into a Tax Abatement Agreement Read by title only for second reading.

Mayor Coles opened the meeting to the public.

Mayor Coles asked that the owner of the property come forward to provide a brief description of the project, and asked about the amount of employees.

Moses Shvarzblat, 1501 North Lake Drive – Advised he is a principal in Shvarzblat Real Estate. They have more than doubled the employment from the previous location, and are looking for more employees.

Mr. Cunliffe added that it is a beautiful facility.

Seeing no one else wishing to be heard, the hearing on this Ordinance was closed to the public.

The above Ordinance was offered by Mr. Cunliffe, second by Mr. Miller.

On Roll Call – Affirmative: Senator Singer, Mr. Miller, Mr. Cunliffe, and Mayor Coles.

Negative: Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein

Ordinance No. 2008-17 adopted on second reading.

ORDINANCE FIRST READING (Second reading and Public Hearing 04/10/08)

• An Ordinance of the Township of Lakewood, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, vacating all right, title and interest of and to a portion of Towers Street in the Township of Lakewood, pursuant to and in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:67-1, et seq (Towers St.)

Read by title only for first reading.

The above Ordinance was offered by Mr. Cunliffe, second by Mr. Miller.

On Roll Call – Affirmative: Senator Singer, Mr. Miller, Mr. Cunliffe,

Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein and Mayor Coles.

Ordinance No. 2008-18 adopted on first reading. Second reading and public hearing to be held on April 10, 2008.

• An Ordinance of the Township of Lakewood, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, vacating all right, title and interest of and to a portion of South Pershing Avenue in the Township of Lakewood, pursuant to and in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:67-1, et seq (South Pershing Ave.)

Read by title only for first reading.

The above Ordinance was offered by Mr. Cunliffe, second by Mr. Miller.

On Roll Call – Affirmative: Senator Singer, Mr. Miller, Mr. Cunliffe,

Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein and Mayor Coles.

Ordinance No. 2008-19 adopted on first reading. Second reading and public hearing to be held on April 10, 2008.

 An Ordinance of the Township of Lakewood, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey amending Ordinance No. 2007-23, establishing the annual salaries for the AFSCME Local 3790, County 71, Township Employees (Senior Permit Clerk)

Read by title only for first reading.

The above Ordinance was offered by Mr. Cunliffe, second by Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein.

On Roll Call – Affirmative: Senator Singer, Mr. Miller, Mr. Cunliffe,

Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein and Mayor Coles.

Ordinance No. 2008-20 adopted on first reading. Second reading and public hearing to be held on April 10, 2008.

• An Ordinance amending the Code of the Township of Lakewood Chapter 18, Unified Development Ordinance by revising and supplementing the regulations concerning flag lots (Section 18-805.G)

Read by title only for first reading.

The above Ordinance was offered by Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein, with the understanding that it be sent to the Planning Board, and that if they have recommendations that the Township Committee wants to work with them on, they can before second reading; a second was offered by Mr. Cunliffe.

Mr. Cunliffe asked that the Engineer review the section where it talks about the road being only twenty-five feet wide; is that wide enough so that the fire trucks can get through.

Mr. Miller answered that at the Planning Board, when this comes up, they send it to the professionals. They recently found out that fire trucks do not pull up to the houses; they stay further back. The question should be sent to the professionals.

Mr. Cunliffe asked that they check into it; should the road be twenty-eight feet wide rather than twenty-five feet.

Mayor Coles asked Mr. Edwards to check into it.

On Roll Call – Affirmative: Senator Singer, Mr. Miller, Mr. Cunliffe,

Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein and Mayor Coles.

Ordinance No. 2008-21 adopted on first reading. Second reading and public hearing to be held on April 10, 2008.

CORRESPONDENCE

Per list of Correspondence Items Nos. 1 through 7, attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Motion by Mr. Cunliffe to approve items 1 through 4. As to Items 5, 6 and 7, he is not asking the Committee to disapprove the requests; he is asking that the people be contacted and ask that they resubmit their letters and provide the Committee with a list of specific activities that will occur, an agenda by time, and a list of the participants who are running the event as requested. A second to the Motion was offered by Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein. All in favor; Motion carried.

Mayor Coles advised that none of the events take place before May 1st, so it should not be a problem to get the requested information.

PARKS AND EVENTS CORRESONDENCE

Per schedule of Items 1 through 21, attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Motion by Mr. Cunliffe to approve Items 1 through 6, 11 through 15, and 17 through 21, second by Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein. All in favor; Motion carried.

As to Items 7, 8, 9, 10 and 16, Mr. Cunliffe asked that the people be requested to provide the reason they want to use the park or facility. Motion by Mr. Cunliffe that they submit a new letter with more specific information.

Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein asked that the clerks who accept these letters advise the applicants that the Township needs more information.

Mayor Coles suggested that they develop a format to be filled out that includes this type of information.

Mr. Cunliffe stated that the form is a good idea, but he would like their letter to also include that information.

Senator Singer stated he would second the Motion, but would also like them to add the requirement that they include the times of their plan of operation. All in favor; Motion carried.

MOTION TO APPROVE BILL LIST OF: 03/25/08

Motion by Mr. Cunliffe, second by Mr. Miller, to approve the above Bill List.

On Roll Call – Affirmative: Mr. Miller, Mr. Cunliffe, Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein and

Mayor Coles.

Negative: Senator Singer

Bill List approved.

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mayor Coles announced that the next Community Visioning Workshop will be held on April 14th, 2008 at the Lakewood High School Commons, 855 Somerset Avenue, Lakewood, NJ, at 6:00 PM. The topic is the redevelopment of the Industrial Parks. The Township will take comments on issues related to the development of New Hampshire Avenue as a multi-model area, including but not limited to the Cedarbridge Corporate Office Park and Stadium Support Zone. Other topics include the north gateway redevelopment area, the proposed Cross-Prospect Streets mixed-used area, and the Hagaman Brownfield site. Comments on the Industrial Parks will also be addressed. If you can not attend, the Township will accept written comments until April 28th, 2008.

Mr. Edwards reminded everyone that next week's meeting will commence at 4:00 PM. It has been advertised in the newspaper, and it is on the website, and now has been publicly announced.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Cunliffe, second by Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein, and carried, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.