

**LAKWOOD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
JUNE 2, 2005**

The Lakewood Township Committee held a Meeting on Thursday, June 2, 2005 in the Lakewood Municipal Building, at 6:30 P.M. for the Executive Session and 7:30 P.M. for the Public Meeting, with the following present:

Mayor.....	Charles Cunliffe
Deputy Mayor.....	Meir Lichtenstein
Committee Members.....	Menashe Miller
	Senator Robert Singer
	Raymond Coles
Municipal Manager.....	Frank Edwards
Municipal Attorney.....	Steven Secare
Municipal Clerk.....	Bernadette Standowski

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Mr. Coles, second by Mr. Miller.
Resolution No. 2005-226 – 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 2, 2005 and published in the Ocean County’s Observer on January 7, 2005.

ROLL CALL

Motion by Mr. Coles, second by Mr. Miller, and carried, to open the meeting.

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF: 4/14/05

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

MOTION TO APPROVE CLOSED SESSION MINUTES: 5/19/05

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

PUBLIC HEARING ON 2005 BUDGET AMENDMENT

Mr. Edwards advised that the Township held a Budget hearing on May 19th. There was an amendment adopted and that amendment has been advertised for tonight's meeting. The next step is to have a public hearing limited solely to comments on the budget amendment. The meeting was opened to the public for comments on the budget amendment only.

Vinnie Daniels, Clairemont Court – Spoke in favor of the budget amendment with regard to the quality of life task force. Feels that it is long overdue, and probably is something that should have happened years ago. Urged the Committee to approve the amendment.

Bill Hobday, 30 Schoolhouse Lane – Asked if these are adequate measures, and are there enough people to do the clean up and inspections that are necessary, and the added police protection that is necessary with regard to the quality of life task force.

Mayor Cunliffe advised he would hope that they have added enough staff in order to accomplish what is intended for the quality of life task force. They are putting their trust in the professionals that they came up with the right amount of people to do the job.

James Waters, 1275 Old County Line Road – Asked what the total amount is in the budget for the people to be hired under this amendment.

Mayor Cunliffe advised it was \$343,803.00, which includes funding necessary for the downtown clean-up.

Mr. Waters stated that he thought that the Committee could be a little more imaginative and creative, to hire the police, and another person in the Inspection Department, but he thinks that regarding the clean-up, some jobs could be created for young people in this town and put them to work at an established wage.

Mayor Cunliffe advised that for next year's budget, they have talked about that type of program, having Lakewood's own Summer Youth Program, where they advertise it on the web and in the school system, to see if people would be interested in the job.

Mr. Coles suggested that Mr. Waters contact Mr. Matta because there is also presently a Summer Job Program for the youth in town. They work as counselors and help with the summer recreation program.

Jim Corsaro, 28 Autumn Tide Drive – Commented on the individuals to be hired under this amendment. He asked how long will it take before these people are actually out there doing the job.

Mayor Cunliffe advised he thought it would be easy to find people for the Inspection Department. Mr. Mack is actively working on that. Mr. Franklin is actively working on hiring additional laborers for Public Works. The Police Department is going to be a little bit of a problem, because they will not be able to enter the academy until August, and they won't graduate until December or January, so the money that is in the budget will be used for overtime.

Mr. Corsaro asked if the inspectors to be hired will have the proper qualifications and capabilities to determine which homes are illegal as far as how many residents are living there, and how will it work to prevent this from happening.

Mayor Cunliffe stated they can only enforce federal and state law, and the local ordinances. They can not enforce beyond that. They have a set of guidelines within their department. The new inspectors will be concentrating on the local ordinances.

Mr. Edwards advised that all the regulations exist in the current ordinances and state law. Anyone who is hired from Civil Service is automatically qualified to cite under those provisions.

Angie Felton, 1477 Read Place – Asked if the inspectors would be checking all over Lakewood to see that grass is mowed.

Mayor Cunliffe answered yes.

Mrs. Felton offered a list of properties that are in need of maintenance.

Judith Pizzarelli, 100 Woehr Avenue – Commented on the quality of life task force.

Bernard Williams – Commented on the quality of life task force.

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

ADOPTION OF 2005 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

The Township Clerk read the Resolution for the Adoption of the 2005 Municipal Budget, as amended, into the record.

Motion by Mr. Coles, second by Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein.

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

Negative: Senator Singer

Mr. Edwards advised that since the Budget has been adopted, the Resolution listed on the Agenda, under Resolution Not Included on the Consent Agenda, is not needed and therefore does not have to be voted on.

Mr. Coles offered a Motion, and a second to the Motion was offered by Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein, to approve a contract to hire a new Public Safety Director – Alfred Peters.

On Roll Call – Affirmative: Senator Singer, Mr. Miller, Mr. Coles,
Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein.

Abstain: Mayor Cunliffe

Mr. Coles welcomed Mr. Peters, and advised that the official swearing-in ceremony will be held on June 16th.

Mayor Cunliffe advised he received a letter regarding Operation Kilowatt, which is endorsed by the BPU, the state Chamber of Commerce, the NJ Energy Council, and the NJ Retail Merchants. They are asking the Township at all of its public facilities and buildings between the hours of 2:00 PM and 4:00 P.M. on Thursday, June 16th, to do whatever they can to save power.

Motion by Mr. Coles, second by Mr. Miller, and carried, to request the Department Chairman to get the word out to do this.

Mayor Cunliffe also advised that Mike Matta will be retiring as Director of the Community School in September. The Board of Education has announced a new position entitled Director of Community Programs and Fine Arts. Mayor Cunliffe advised that for next year's budget, the Committee needs to talk about a Recreation Director position. He asked for a Motion to request Mr. Secare to work with Mr. Inzelbuch, the Board of Education Attorney, to prepare a firm agreement for the use of school facilities, baseball parks, and playgrounds at the schools, so that the Recreation Department will have full access. The Board of Education committed to that verbally, but they want to replace the existing Ordinance that creates the Community School with a new agreement between the school system and the Township.

A Motion was offered by Mr. Coles, second by Mr. Miller.

Senator Singer asked why are they changing the current system.

Mayor Cunliffe advised that the job that Mike Matta was doing, he was actually doing the job of three people. He feels that with the manpower that they have at the school system, they did not find an individual person to do that one job. So they created a position so that someone else who doing another position is actually going to take over a portion of the Community School. So the Township does not have a Recreation Department that ceases to be, the Committee thought it would be a good idea to have a Recreation Director, and this recommendation comes from the Community School Board. They voted at their last meeting to go in that direction, and so advised the Committee.

Senator Singer stated that the Township splits Mr. Matta's salary.

Mayor Cunliffe answered that is correct. This is not going to happen until October, so they have to work this out for the next budget year.

Mr. Edwards advised they have to create, by Ordinance, a Recreation Department. He believes that is a Civil Service title, and it would have to be advertised.

Mayor Cunliffe stated they talked about making it part of the Public Works Department, not a new department.

Mr. Edwards advised that there is a title under Civil Service, so anyone hired for that position must meet those qualifications.

Mayor Cunliffe advised that Mr. Matta will forward to the Committee the recommendations for the minimum requirements for the job. He agreed that the individual would need to meet Civil Service requirements.

As to the Motion:

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

Mayor Cunliffe further advised as to the affordable housing land for the STEPS organization, the Committee discussed it in detail this evening, and they will move past having an Ordinance for discussion, and will be requesting the Attorney to prepare the Ordinance for first reading, to transfer the eleven acres requested by STEPS for an affordable housing program. He will be meeting with the Engineering Department tomorrow and directing them to prepare the metes and bounds for those tracts of lands and to forward them to Mr. Secare's office to prepare the Ordinances for the next public meeting.

PRESENTATIONS: None

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 Cunliffe reviewed quality of life issues from the last meeting.

Mr. Lines will follow up with the County to get the proper pavement markings and traffic signs on the new portion of East Kennedy Boulevard.

With regard to certain addresses being investigated for drug dealing and gang related activities in the Woodlake Manor area, Capt. Lawson advised they are working with the County Prosecutor's Office, and have several investigations going.

With regard to abandoned properties and excess refuse in Pine Acres, Ms. Rodriguez advised that violation notices have been sent out, and if the properties are not taken care of, summonses will be issued.

With regard to the new Noise Ordinance that was recently adopted, the Township Clerk will provide copies to the Police Department.

With regard to the removal of trees in the utility right-of-ways, Mr. Lines advised that the tree stumps were trimmed down on Sixth Street. The utility company will advise the Township where there will be any extensive tree removal in the future.

With regard to the clean-up of Shorrock Street area, Mr. Franklin advised that the County took care of the clean-up immediately.

With regard to the garbage pick-up at rental properties in the Hearthstone development, Mr. Franklin advised his department cleaned up the area. As soon as they cleaned up the area, the tenants put out more garbage. They were issued summonses, and have to appear in Court.

As to the rental properties in the Hearthstone area, Ms. Rodriguez advised that summonses have been issued to the landlords, and they were forced to comply with the regulations as to how many tenants were allowed to occupy the house. They have received additional complaints that the tenants were back, so they have to investigate again.

With regard to the traffic safety issues on Fourth Street, and Second Street, Mr. Lines advised he looked at both of the intersections, and it appears it would work if they take two spaces off of each side of the intersection, to provide a left turn lane, in each direction, at Fourth Street, as well as Second Street, and it may help alleviate the back-up of traffic. He sent a letter to the Township Committee, with a copy to Traffic & Safety, for their remarks.

With regard to the rail crossings, Mr. Lines advised he checked the ADA standards, and the gaps in the rail are a little wider than ADA permits. As far as redoing them, they would have to have the railroad fix them, and redo the entire crossing. He will pursue that issue with the railroad representatives.

Mayor Cunliffe opened the meeting to the public on quality of life issues.

Glen Bradford, 615 Sterling Avenue – Thanked the Committee for fixing the street light in his area.

Andrew Howard, 37 Ronald Road – Thanked the Committee for the replacement of the stop sign on Colleton Street. Also requested that copies of summonses are sent to the realtors so that the new homeowners and/or tenants are aware of the problems. Also requested that the radar sign be placed on Ronald Road to control speeding.

Mayor Cunliffe requested Mr. Lines to look into what type of traffic calming device would work for the areas, and requested the Police Department to place the radar sign on Ronald Road.

Mr. Howard also thanked the Police Department for taking care of the problem of illegal fireworks on Ronald Road.

Bill Hobday – Thanked the Committee with regard to the installation of the new traffic signal on Massachusetts Avenue, but complained about the amount of time that it takes the turning arrows to activate.

Mayor Cunliffe requested Mr. Lines to have the County Traffic Engineer look into it.

Joseph Goldberg, 409 Hope Chapel Road – Advised of the bad road conditions on a stretch of Fourteenth Street, between Curtis Lane and Hope Chapel Road. The road is very bumpy due to construction in the area.

Mayor Cunliffe asked Mr. Lines to check the road condition to see if resurfacing is necessary.

Vince LoBello, 4 Mulberry Lane – Stated quality of life in the town has diminished because there is nothing being done about the traffic. With regard to the traffic on Fourth Street and Clifton Avenue, in the area of his business, it took seven rotations of the traffic light from Lexington Avenue to Clifton Avenue for him to get through with his wrecker back to his shop. He does not see anything being done to control the traffic in this town. Emergency vehicles can not get through to get to the scene of an accident. They are in dire need of parking, and enforcement against double and triple parking in town.

Mayor Cunliffe explained they are looking at different ways to curtail the traffic problems in the downtown area, including the construction of a parking garage. They will speak to the Police Department with regard to enforcement against illegal parking.

Barbara Banksgrove, 1220 Medina Road – Complained about loud inappropriate music coming from Woodlake Manor which adjoins her property. Also complained about property maintenance in the area. Also complained about illegal parking in front of fire hydrants. Also asked about the passage of an “Animal House Ordinance”.

Mayor Cunliffe asked her to submit the addresses of the subject properties to the Inspection Department.

As to the passage of an “Animal House Ordinance”, Mr. Secare explained that type of Ordinance is only applicable to shore community towns.

Mayor Cunliffe advised that the new Noise Ordinance can be enforced in the area. He also requested Mr. Secare to look into the matter of holding landlords responsible for the actions of their tenants.

Barbara Eisenberg, Morris Avenue – Thanked Mr. Franklin for cleaning up the properties on Morris Avenue, unfortunately it took two and a half weeks. She does not think that was appropriate. She asked if a Landlord-Tenant tax incentive is available in this town.

Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein advised there are some municipalities that have Ordinances that permit some type of landlord/rental tax, but that is not available in Lakewood.

Mrs. Eisenberg also asked how much is the summons that was issued to the house across the street from her.

Mr. Secare advised that it is up to the Court to impose the fine.

Mrs. Eisenberg continued her complaints with regard to the amount of people living in the home across the street from her property, and the condition of the property.

Christine _____, Medina Road – Asked who is supposed to clean up the berm area between Medina Road and Park Place South, and also the litter along New Hampshire Avenue.

Mayor Cunliffe asked Mr. Franklin to take a look at the area.

Angie Felton – Advised that she will be privately providing addresses of properties in need of clean-up.

Sam Christopher, Central Avenue – Complained about people parking on lawns along Central Avenue, and on Second Street near Madison Avenue. This is a violation because they are parking within the front yard setback.

Mayor Cunliffe asked Mr. Christopher to provide the specific addresses to Capt. Lawson.

Israel Gelman, 1 Lucerne Drive – Commented with regard to the need for sidewalks in the area of East County Line Road between Brook Hill Estates and Twin Oaks Drive. Thanked the Committee for their consideration.

Mayor Cunliffe commented with regard to the need for lawns to be mowed on Laguna Lane.

Ms. Rodriguez advised that a summons was issued to one of the addresses on Laguna Lane.

As to the issues at the Castle property, Ms. Rodriguez advised the area was cleaned up.

Mr. Edwards advised that the property has been designated an unsafe property and has been posted. The owner was served with a demolition notice.

Mr. Miller commented with regard to the need to inform the public when roads and streets are closed in town, due to construction, tree removals, etc. This information should be posted on the Township website.

A Motion was offered by Senator Singer, second by Mr. Coles, and carried, that the Township Attorney be requested to draft an Ordinance with regard to convicted pedophiles living within the community. The Ordinance should outline that they are not permitted to live within 2500 feet from a school, playground, etc.

Judy Pizzarelli, 100 Woehr Avenue – Urged everyone to come out and vote this year. Commented with regard to illegal parking and delivery trucks blocking traffic on Clifton Avenue, from Second Street to Fifth Street. Also commented with regard to speeding on Clifton Avenue, in the area of Clifton Avenue School; suggested that bicyclists be required to wear a reflective device; complained about ice cream trucks playing music too loud; and the need for the removal of trees along Clifton Avenue that are interfering with the high tension wires.

Mr. Miller advised that reflector belts and car seats are available through the County. They can be picked up and distributed.

Mike McNeil, 201 Lincoln Street – Advised they have been distributing reflector belts and safety seats and invited anyone to join their committee.

At this time, the professionals were dismissed from the meeting.

The public session continued with regard to general issues.

Yehuda Shain, 1140 Forest Avenue – Advised he filed a formal complaint with the BPU with regard to street lighting in Lakewood. Also commented with regard to the Airport.

Noreen Gill, 192 Coventry Drive – Commented with regard to the Unified Development Ordinance.

Mike McNeil, 201 Lincoln Street – Commented with regard to the STEPS organization.

Vince LoBello, 4 Mulberry Lane – Commented with regard to the Airport.

Gerry Ballwanz, Governors Road – Commented with regard to the Unified Development Ordinance.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The below listed items 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 authorizing Bingo and Raffle Applications: Lakewood Elks Lodge, Kiwanis Club of Leisure Village.
Resolution No. 2005-227
2. Professional Services Resolution awarding contract to Atlantic Engineering Laboratories for independently tested materials associated with the new Public Works Complex, sum not to exceed \$25,000.00.
Resolution No. 2005-228
3. Resolution accepting bid as the result of a private land sale on Block 39, Lot 5.
Resolution No. 2005-229
4. Professional Services Resolution awarding contract to Birdsall Engineering for engineering services for the installation of sidewalks on the east side of Miller Road from Hope Chapel North to Central Avenue, sum not to exceed \$42,200.00.
Resolution No. 2005-230
5. Professional Services Resolution awarding contract to Birdsall Engineering for engineering services for the installation of sidewalks on East County Line Road from Twin Oaks Drive to Lucerne Drive, sum not to exceed \$21,700.00.
Resolution No. 2005-231

6. Resolution declaring June 2005 as Celebrate New Jersey Month.
Resolution No. 2005-232
7. Resolution authorizing the execution of a Change Order No. 2 in connection with a project known as Improvements to Clifton Avenue and Pedestrian Safety Improvements, sum not to exceed \$8,775.91.
Resolution No. 2005-233
8. Resolution establishing traffic regulations in connection with the grand opening ceremony to be conducted at Hatzolah EMS Building at Heathwood Avenue and West County Line Road.
Resolution No. 2005-234

Motion by Mr. Coles, second by Mr. Miller, to approve Resolutions 1 through 8 on the Consent Agenda.

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

Resolution Nos. 2005-227 through 2005-234 – Adopted.

RESOLUTION NOT INCLUDED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

1. Resolution authorizing the emergency temporary appropriations for the period between the beginning of the current fiscal year and the date of the adoption of the 2005 Budget.

As the Municipal Budget as adopted, it was not required to act on this Resolution.

ORDINANCES SECOND READING

An Ordinance of the Township of Lakewood, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, Amending and Supplementing Chapter XI of the Code of the Township of Lakewood Entitled Traffic (Heathwood Avenue – No Stopping/No Standing)

Read by title only for second reading.

Mayor Cunliffe opened the meeting to the public. Seeing no one wishing to be heard, the hearing on this Ordinance was closed to the public.

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

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

Ordinance No. 2005-57 adopted on second reading.

An Ordinance of the Township of Lakewood, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, vacating all right, title and interest of and to the public in streets or portion of streets, indicated in section two of this Ordinance in the Township of Lakewood, pursuant to and in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:67-1 et. seq. (LAUREL AVE.)

Read by title only for second reading.

Mayor Cunliffe opened the meeting to the public. Seeing no one wishing to be heard, the hearing on this Ordinance was closed to the public.

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

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

Abstain: Senator Singer

Ordinance No. 2005-58 adopted on second reading.

ORDINANCES FIRST READING (2nd Reading and Public Hearing 6/30/05)

An Ordinance of the Township of Lakewood, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, authorizing the sale of Block 27, Lot 49.02 in the Township of Lakewood (Buckwald Place, Tea Berry Court)

Read by title only for first reading.

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

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

Ordinance No. 2005-60 adopted on first reading. Second reading and public hearing to be held on June 30, 2005.

An Ordinance of the Township of Lakewood, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, vacating all right, title and interest of and to the public in streets or portions of streets, indicated in section two of this ordinance in the Township of Lakewood, pursuant to and in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:67-1 et seq. (Morgan St., Harriman St., Vanderbilt St., American Ave., Chile Ave., Hughes Ave., Biddle St., Girard Ave., Havemeyer Ave., Depew Ave.)

Read by title only for first reading.

The above Ordinance was offered by Senator Singer, second by Mr. Miller.

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

Ordinance No. 2005-61 adopted on first reading. Second reading and public hearing to be held on June 30, 2005.

CORRESPONDENCE – PARKS AND EVENTS

Per Schedule of eleven (11) items, attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein, second by Mr. Coles, to approve the above Parks and Events requests.

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

MOTION TO APPROVE BILL LIST OF: 5/31/05

Motion by Mr. Coles, second by Senator Singer, to approve the above Bill List.

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

Negative: Mr. Miller

Bill List approved.

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Thanked Mr. Michel for the beautiful job that he did on the Memorial Day Parade and festivities. He further asked that anyone interested in serving on the Veterans Committee, or any other Committee, should contact either the Managers Office or the Clerks Office.

Mayor Cunliffe also commended everyone involved with the Memorial Day Parade and festivities. They did a wonderful job.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein, second by Mr. Coles, and carried, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 P.M.