

The Lakewood Township Committee held a Virtual Meeting on January 13, 2022, at 5:30 PM, with the following present:

Mayor..... Raymond Coles
Deputy Mayor..... Menashe P. Miller

Committee Members..... Meir Lichtenstein
Michael D’Elia
Albert Akerman

Municipal Manager..... Patrick Donnelly
Municipal Attorney..... Steve Secare, Esq.
Municipal Clerk..... Lauren Kirkman

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, and published on the Township’s website as well as in the Star Ledger on January 5, 2022. The public was invited to participate prior to the meeting by emailing premeetingcomments@lakewoodnj.gov. The public was invited to participate during the meeting via comments@lakewoodnj.gov or by using Cisco’s Web-Ex by either phone (audio only) or computer (audio/visual). The Meeting ID#/Password was 2634-360-9695. This meeting as advertised was broadcast live and recorded through on Townhall Streams at <https://townhallstreams.com/>

ROLL CALL –Present: Mayor Coles, Deputy Mayor Miller, Committeeman Lichtenstein, Committeeman D’Elia, and Committeeman Akerman.

Absent: None

Also present: Township Attorney: Steven Secare; Attorney: Harold Hensel, Township Manager: Patrick Donnelly, and Township Clerk: Lauren Kirkman.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND PRAYER

Mayor Coles opened the regular meeting at 5:30 p.m.

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES:

REGULAR MINUTES OF DECEMBER 9; JANUARY 3, 2022.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Miller, seconded by Committeeman Lichtenstein

On Roll Call:

Affirmative: Committeeman D’Elia, Committeeman Akerman, Committeeman Lichtenstein (January 3, 2022), Deputy Mayor Miller and Mayor Coles.

Abstain: Committeeman Lichtenstein (on December 9, 2021 only)

Absent: None

Motion carried to approve minutes.

DISCUSSION:

None

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.

Mayor Coles asked for a motion to adopt the consent agenda Resolutions 2022-063 through 2022-075.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Miller
Seconded by Committeeman Akerman

On Roll Call:

Affirmative: Committeeman D'Elia, Committeeman Akerman, Committeeman Lichtenstein,
Deputy Mayor Miller and Mayor Coles.

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried to adopt consent agenda.

2022-063 Township Of Lakewood, County Of Ocean, State Of New Jersey, Reducing The Performance Guarantee (First Reduction) Posted By Rishon Associates, LLC, In Connection With ZB #3874AA (Prospect & Cross St), For Block 490, Lots 6, 9 & 41

2022-064 Releasing The Maintenance Guarantee Posted By Hope Hill Developers, LLC In Connection With SD #1644 (Hope Hill Ln), Block 11, Lots 87-89, 91-93, 95 & 96

2022-065 Approving Participation With The State Of New Jersey State Grant Program Administered By The Office Of Attorney General Law And Public Safety-Safe And Secure Communities Grant

2022-066 Authorizing The Lakewood Township Police Department To Participate In The Defense Logistics Agency, Law Enforcement Support Office, 1033 Program To Enable The Lakewood Township Police Department To Request And Acquire Excess Department Of Defense Equipment

2022-067 Designating Tower Five Equity LLC, As Successor Redeveloper Of Block 961, Lot 2.13 In The Cedarbridge Redevelopment Area And Authorizing Sale Pursuant To The Local Redevelopment And Housing Law

2022-068 Authorizing The Township To Execute Documents Relating To The Sale Of Property Designated Block 961, Lot 2.13 In The Cedarbridge Redevelopment Area

- 2022-069 Appointing Peter O'Reilly As Fund Commissioner And Lauren Kirkman as Alternate Fund Commission To Central Jersey Health Insurance Fund
- 2022-070 Regulating Purchasing Controls For Township Vendors
- 2022-071 Authorizing A Revised Spending Plan For Low Income Housing
- 2022-072 Shared Services Agreement – Truck Wash, Between The Township Of Lakewood And The Borough Of Beach Haven
- 2022-073 Shared Services Agreement With The County Of Ocean For The Move Over Grant For FY 2021/22
- 2022-074 Consolidation Of Block 1159, Lot 70 And Block 1159, Lot 71
- 2022-075 Granting Approval For Fireworks Displays To Be Held At First Energy Park

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

Clerk Kirkman read the following Ordinance by title only:

2022-005 Ordinance Of The Township Of Lakewood, County Of Ocean, State Of New Jersey, Extinguishing and Vacating the Rights of the Public of a Portion of a Paper Street Known as Audubon Avenue, In the Township of Lakewood

Mayor Coles asked for a motion to introduce ordinance 2022-005.

Motion by Committeeman Lichtenstein
Seconded by Committeeman D'Elia

On Roll Call:

Affirmative: Committeeman Akerman, Committeeman D'Elia, Committeeman Lichtenstein, Deputy Mayor Miller and Mayor Coles.

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried to introduce Ordinance 2022-005 with a public hearing on **February 17, 2022**.

Clerk Kirkman read the following Ordinance by title only:

2022-006 An Ordinance Of The Township Of Lakewood, County Of Ocean, State Of New Jersey, Authorizing the Public Sale of Block 423, Lot 156.01 in the Township of Lakewood, County of Ocean, and State of New Jersey, At Public Sale Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-1 Et Seq. And a Settlement Agreement between High Point at Lakewood Condominium Association, Inc. and the Township of Lakewood

Mayor Coles asked for a motion to introduce ordinance 2022-006.

Motion by Committeeman D'Elia
Seconded by Committeeman Lichtenstein

On Roll Call:

Affirmative: Committeeman Akerman, Committeeman D'Elia, Committeeman Lichtenstein,
Deputy Mayor Miller and Mayor Coles.

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried to introduce Ordinance 2022-006 with a public hearing on **February 17, 2022**.

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING-

Clerk Kirkman read the following Ordinance by title only:

2022-001 Ordinance Of The Township Of Lakewood, County Of Ocean, State Of New Jersey, Amending Chapter II, Of The Revised General Ordinances Of The Township Of Lakewood, 1999, Entitled "Administration" Section 2-47.8 Entitled "Compensation

Mayor Coles opened the meeting to the public.

Seeing no comments offered live, Mayor Coles read the following comments received via email.

From: Dovie Schwartz

Sent: Thursday, January 13, 2022 5:32 PM

Subject: [External] Ordinance 1 - Compensation

Hi Mayor and Committee,

I am writing regarding the proposed ordinance which will triple the salaries of the MUA Commissioners.

I have watched a number of MUA meetings, and to my knowledge, the job of an MUA Commissioner does not seem to be very intense.

Perhaps you can clue me in why you think these Commissioners (which include some current and former members of this very Committee) deserve a \$10,000 annual raise.

Thanks!

Dovie Schwartz
Capital Lane

From: Yona Silver
Subject: [External] Opposition to raises

I would like to voice strong opposition to Ordinance 1, which provides a raise in salary to members of the MUA board.

With 12 meetings a year, and 30-40 minutes each, the raise would give them more than \$2,000 an hour! This is when Planning Board and Zoning Board members get \$0.

Please scrap the ordinance. \$5,000 is more than enough.

Yona Silver

From: Shloimy Weiss
Subject: [External] Ordinance - Compensation

Hi

I am wondering about the \$10,000 annual raise for MUA Commissioners.

Can you tell me who these Commissioners are and what big work they do to deserve such a raise?

Thanks!

Shloimy Weiss
655 Princeton Avenue

From: Orders Person
Subject: [External] Ordinance - MUA compensation

Hi there

I am writing in opposition to the proposed ordinance which will triple the salaries of the MUA commissioners.

These Commissioners only attend one short meeting each month. They practically just nod their heads to a few resolutions, and not very much else.

Increasing their salary from \$5,000 to \$15,000 annually is quite insane.

I urge you to kill this ordinance.

Yosef Stein
8th Street

From: Yona Silver
Subject: Comment on Ordinance 2 and 3

I would like to oppose pay raises and insurance for Committee members and for the mayor. They should not be able to give themselves raises without the public being very aware of it.

Yona Silver

Mayor Coles noted that the salary of the MUA had not been raised for 20 years. Mayor Coles reviewed the membership of the MUA.

From: Alan Friedberg
Subject: [External] Ord 2022-01

Dear Committee Members,

I am opposed to this Ordinance. When comparing the compensation of Lakewood's MUA – established by this committee – to compensations for commissioners on MUA's in surrounding towns, I found that our MUA is already receiving a salary on the high end. Toms River members receive only 2K. Jackson pays 3.5K. And so forth.

The MUA just voted to raise our water rates by a cumulative 15.2% over the next 3 years. The rationale behind the large increase was to raise funds towards construction of two water tanks and provide a modest raise of 3 to 6 percent to the employees. (Incidentally, nothing was ever disclosed to the public stating that a portion of the new revenue would be used to offset a large hike in member's compensation.)

However, compensating our commissioners at triple their previous salary is anything but modest. It is, in my opinion unconscionable. This is especially so when a significant percentage of the MUA customers are having a difficult time paying their bills in full. As you know, the legislature allows the MUA (as a government body) to also charges an additional 18% interest per annum on a customer's unpaid balance.

It is simply wrong to vote Yes on this Ordinance. If anything, a truly "modest" raise might be considered.

Thank you.

Your respectful resident taxpayer who resides in the MUA service area.

Mayor Coles noted if anyone is having issues paying their bills there are federal and state programs to cover those costs.

Seeing no other comments offered, Mayor Coles closed the public comments.

Mayor Coles asked for a motion to adopt ordinance 2022-001.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Miller
Seconded by Committeeman Lichtenstein

On Roll Call:

Affirmative: Committeeman Akerman, Committeeman D'Elia, Committeeman Lichtenstein, Deputy Mayor Miller and Mayor Coles.

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried to adopt Ordinance 2022-001 after public hearing and second reading.

Clerk Kirkman read the following Ordinance by title only:

2022-002 An Ordinance Of The Township Of Lakewood, County Of Ocean, State Of New Jersey, Amending Chapter X, Of The Revised General Ordinances Of The Township Of Lakewood, 1999, Entitled "Personnel Policies" Section 9.3 Entitled "Retirement"

Mayor Coles opened the meeting to the public.

Seeing no comments offered live, Mayor Coles read the following emails.

From: Dovie Schwartz
Subject: [External] Ordinance 2 - Retirement

I understand that this ordinance will continue to provide tax-payer funded health insurance for retired Committee members if they retire after having served 20 years.

Quite convenient for 3 of our committee members who have reached, or will very soon reach, 20 years of service.

Does this mean that some of you are planning on retiring in the coming years?

Thanks!

Dovie Schwartz
Capital Lane

From: Shloimy Weiss
Subject: [External] Ordinance - Retirement

Free health insurance for life?

Wowsers! Is Mike D'Elia already getting ready for his upcoming retirement?

Shloimy Weiss
655 Princeton Avenue

Mayor Coles as long as he was elected he would like to continue to serve.

Mayor Coles asked for a motion to adopt ordinance 2022-002.

Motion by Committeeman Lichtenstein
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Miller

On Roll Call:

Affirmative: Committeeman Akerman, Committeeman D'Elia, Committeeman Lichtenstein,
Deputy Mayor Miller and Mayor Coles.

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried to adopt Ordinance 2022-002 after public hearing and second reading.

Clerk Kirkman read the following Ordinance by title only:

2022-003 Ordinance Of The Township Of Lakewood, County Of Ocean, State Of New Jersey, Amending And Supplementing An Ordinance Entitled "Ordinance Establishing The Annual Minimum And Maximum Salary Ranges For The Offices And Positions Of Persons Employed By The Township Of Lakewood In The County Of Ocean And State Of New Jersey And Providing For An Effective Date 20 Days After Publication After Final Adoption

Mayor Coles opened the meeting to the public.

Seeing no comments offered, Mayor Coles closed the public comments.

Mayor Coles asked for a motion to adopt ordinance 2022-003.

Motion by Committeeman Lichtenstein

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Miller

On Roll Call:

Affirmative: Committeeman Akerman, Committeeman D'Elia, Committeeman Lichtenstein, Deputy Mayor Miller and Mayor Coles.

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried to adopt Ordinance 2022-003 after public hearing and second reading.

Clerk Kirkman read the following Ordinance by title only:

2022-004 Ordinance Of The Township Of Lakewood, County Of Ocean, State Of New Jersey, Dedicating To Itself Portions Of Block 11.10, Lots 16 And 17 And Accepting From The Property Owner Of Block 11.10, Lot 15 A Portion Thereof For Right Of Way Improvements To Van Buren Avenue To Extend/Expand A De Facto Cul-De-Sac At The Terminus Of Said Street

Mayor Coles opened the meeting to the public.

Seeing no comments offered, Mayor Coles closed the public comments.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Miller

Seconded by Committeeman Lichtenstein

On Roll Call:

Affirmative: Committeeman Akerman, Committeeman D'Elia, Committeeman Lichtenstein, Deputy Mayor Miller and Mayor Coles.

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried to adopt Ordinance 2022-004 after public hearing and second reading.

CORRESPONDENCE- None

MOTION TO APPROVE BILL LIST: Dated January 12, 2022.

Mayor Coles asked for a motion to approve the bills list of January 12, 2022.

Motion by Committeeman Akerman

Second by Committeeman Lichtenstein

On Roll Call:

Affirmative: Committeeman Akerman, Committeeman D'Elia, Committeeman Lichtenstein, Deputy Mayor Miller, and Mayor Coles

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Bill List of January 12, 2022 was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public was invited to participate prior to the meeting by emailing premeetingcomments@lakewoodnj.gov. The public was invited to participate during the meeting via comments@lakewoodnj.gov or by using Cisco's Web-Ex by either phone (audio only) or computer (audio/visual).

Mayor Coles opened the meeting to the public:

From: Orders Person <ordersperson@gmx.com>

Sent: Thursday, January 13, 2022 5:43 PM

To: Twp. Committee Comments <Comments@lakewoodnj.gov>

Subject: [External] Public comment

Mayor Coles,

I disagree with your response regarding the MUA ordinance.

The ordinance clearly changes the salary from \$5,000 to \$15,000.

This is a new salary, not, simply keeping the "ordinance range" that has been on the books for the last bunch of years.

Yosef Stein

8th Street

The following comment was submitted prior to the meeting.

From: Yitzy Stern

Subject: [External] Comment on today's Committee meeting

I would like to comment on the ordinances that give raises to Township workers.

I think our township employees serve the township well and a raise is well deserved. There is only one aspect that I have trouble with.

According to the proposed ordinance, the payscale for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be higher than that of the other committee members. For years, members of the committee have asserted that the position of mayor is merely a figurehead, but he has the same responsibilities and voting power as the other members on the committee. As such, I am in strong opposition to a discrepancy in the pay scale. If the lower amount is the right amount for committeemen, than ALL committee members should get it, including the mayor and deputy mayor. If the higher amount is a proper compensation, than all committee members should receive it, not just the mayor and deputy mayor.

That being said, if the township moves to a Faulkner method of governance, which the mayor is directly voted for by the residents of Lakewood, and therefore maintains a higher level of responsibility, then a higher paycheck would be warranted.

Thank you for all that you do for Lakewood, and I request that you amend the ordinance to make all committee paychecks consistent,

Yitzy Stern

Mr. Stern objected that his comment was not read prior to the roll call. Mayor Coles noted he had replied to Mr. Stern prior to the meeting.

Seeing no further online comments, and that there were no in person comments, Mayor Coles closed the meeting to the public.

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS –

Committeeman D’Elia wished had no comments.

Committeeman Akerman had no comments.

Committeeman Lichtenstein had no comments.

Deputy Mayor Miller had no comments.

Mayor Coles had no comments.

CLOSED SESSION: Attorney Secare advised there was no need for executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Deputy Mayor Miller, second by Committeeman Lichtenstein, with all in favor to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 5:47 PM.

Lauren Kirkman, RMC, CMR

Township Clerk