

**LAKESWOOD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MINUTES
DECEMBER 14, 2006**

The Lakewood Township Committee held a Meeting on Thursday, December 14, 2006 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	Meir Lichtenstein
Deputy Mayor.....	Raymond Coles
Committee Members	Senator Robert Singer
	Menashe Miller
	Charles Cunliffe
Municipal Manager.....	Frank Edwards
Municipal Attorney	Steven Secare
Municipal Clerk	Bernadette Standowski

CLOSED SESSION

**Motion by Deputy Mayor Coles, second by Mr. Cunliffe.
Resolution No. 2006-477 – Adopted.**

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

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, 2006 and published in the Ocean County Observer on January 17, 2006.

ROLL CALL

OPEN SESSION

**Motion by Deputy Mayor Coles, second by Mr. Cunliffe, to open the meeting.
On Roll Call – Affirmative: Senator Singer, Mr. Miller, Mr. Cunliffe,
Deputy Mayor Coles and Mayor Lichtenstein.**

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF: 11/30/06

**Motion by Deputy Mayor Coles, second by Mr. Cunliffe, to approve the above Minutes.
On Roll Call – Affirmative: Senator Singer, Mr. Miller, Mr. Cunliffe,
Deputy Mayor Coles and Mayor Lichtenstein.**

Minutes approved.

MOTION TO APPROVE CLOSED SESSION MINUTES OF: 12/7/06

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

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

Negative: Senator Singer.

Closed Session Minutes approved.

ORDINANCES FOR DISCUSSION: None

(While awaiting the Presentation, Agenda items were taken in the following order)

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 appropriation transfers in the 2006 Municipal Budget.
Resolution No. 2006-278
2. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a reimbursement agreement with Lakewood Courtyard as a Qualified Private Community.
Resolution No. 2006-479
3. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a reimbursement agreement with Sunshine Apartments as a Qualified Private Community.
Resolution No. 2006-480
4. Resolution adopting and endorsing the Community Forestry Management Plan for 2007 Through 2012 submitted by the Lakewood Township Shade Tree Commission.
Resolution No. 2006-481
5. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a reimbursement agreement with Eighth & Madison GT, LLC as a Qualified Private Community.
Resolution No. 2006-482
6. Resolution reducing a Performance Guarantee posted by School for Children with Hidden Intelligence in connection with various Blocks and Lots.
Resolution No. 2006-483
7. Resolution authorizing the Lakewood Township Tax Collector to cancel any and all taxes, penalties, interest due on Block 548 Lot 114.109/C1000.
Resolution No. 2006-484

8. Resolution appointing a member to the Lakewood Township Housing Authority.
Resolution No. 2006-485

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

Mayor Lichtenstein commented that he read through the Shade Tree Commission Report and Forestry Management Plan for 2007 through 2012, and he likes the concept of it. He signed the documents for a grant for the Shade Tree Commission. He confirmed they are voting on the Shade Tree Management Plan in concept, and they are not actually putting any Township dollars toward yet.

Mr. Edwards answered no. The Resolution is that in order to send the Management Plan to the State, it has to show that the Governing Body has reviewed and approved it.

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

Resolution Nos. 2006-478 through 2006-485 – Adopted.

ORDINANCES FIRST READING - None

RESOLUTIONS NOT INCLUDED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

- **Deputy Mayor Coles offered a Resolution to grant the Lakewood Development Corporation conceptual approval to look into the acquisition of some properties on Fifth Street. A second to the Motion was offered by Mr. Cunliffe.**

Mayor Lichtenstein added that this was for parking garage purposes.

Deputy Mayor Coles stated that it was for municipal parking.

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

- **Senator Singer offered a Resolution that the Township Committee authorize the Township Engineer to come back and report to the Township Committee as to all the land the Township owns around Lake Manetta and Lake Carasaljo, and any of the stream areas in that vicinity, so that they can protect the integrity of the Lake and environment by providing proper buffering and protection of the wetlands. It was brought to his attention recently, when he, and Mayor Lichtenstein, met with a group of people with regard to this matter. A second to the Motion was offered by Deputy Mayor Coles.**

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

MOTION TO APPROVE BILL LIST OF: 12/12/06

Motion by Deputy Mayor Coles, second by Mr. Miller, to approve the above Bill List.

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

Negative: Senator Singer

Abstain: Mr. Cunliffe

Bill List approved.

CORRESPONDENCE - None

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC will be heard for a limit of one half-hour. Each speaker will have four (4) minutes at the podium.

Mayor Lichtenstein opened the meeting to the public.

Yehuda Shain, 1140 Forest Avenue – Advised he did not receive an answer to questions with regard to the municipal budget. Further voiced his complaints about the increased budget and taxes.

Victor _____ , 119 Shady Lane – Commented on a flooding problem on his property.

Mayor Lichtenstein advised that the Committee has discussed an Ordinance with regard to this matter and that it will be considered at a meeting in January or February.

Diane Reeves, 19 Holly Street – Complained about gang graffiti on a fence in her neighborhood.

Mayor Lichtenstein asked that she call the Mayor's Office tomorrow with the information, and he will make sure it gets forwarded on to the appropriate party for review.

Bill Hobday, Schoolhouse Lane – Commented that the green signs on the highways are fading to the point that you can not read them.

Senator Singer advised that the work is done by an outside contractor, not the State, and when they come to Lakewood, they will do the entire town; they are working from the south to north.

Mr. Hobday further commented with regard to the recall petition.

Mrs. Little, 169 Spruce Street – Commented on the issue of affordable housing.

At this time, the Presentation was held.

PRESENTATIONS: Affordable Housing - Ervin Oross

Ervin Oross offered a presentation on the affordable housing initiative, as they are moving toward breaking ground on one of the three projects. He introduced Gina Protina, from GMP Consulting, the consultant for the Community Development Department, not only for the affordable housing initiative, but also for the downtown Resource Center, in terms of their social services and housing advocacy work. They will be breaking ground on the first of the affordable housing projects, and they are breaking new ground on first time home purchases to families who are seeking homes, but are finding it very hard to find homes in Ocean County. Their affordable housing projects are being closely watched by local, state and federal officials. Lakewood has much to be proud of.

Most significant to this initiative has been the sixty-three acre gift of land. As a result, the construction of four hundred plus units of which two hundred eighty one for purchase will bring new tax paying homeowners who now will have equity in the community and financial stability which comes with the equity that is achieved in their home. The American Dream is alive in Lakewood. The initiative has also generated twenty million in contributions to the municipality.

While the majority of the money will be used to ensure the affordability of the units over the next thirty years, a small portion of those funds will be used over the next thirty years for the ongoing administrative tasks as they ensure that the people who live in the units sell the units, resell the units, or maintain them.

Mr. Oross and Ms. Protina continued with the explanation of the affordable housing initiative and process.

Mayor Lichtenstein re-opened the public session.

Eileen D'Esposito, 139D Farrington Court – Commented with regard to the recall petition.

Mike McNeill, 201 Lincoln Street – Asked the Township to take a look at the corner of Pine Street and Martin Luther King Drive, where the traffic backs up for a long time. He asked that they look at some type of traffic light in order to give them relief. And further commented on the affordable housing initiative.

With regard to the intersection of Martin Luther King Drive and Pine Street, Mr. Miller asked that the Committee instruct the engineer to look at this intersection to see if a traffic light is warranted. Also, there are a lot of pedestrians who cross that intersection. There were crosswalks there, and unfortunately they were not repainted this past year, and he requested that they now be repainted. Also, as to the street light at that intersection, he asked if they could see if it can be upgraded to a higher wattage.

Mr. Cunliffe also asked the Attorney, since Pine and MLK are both Township roads, would they still have to go to the State to get permission for a traffic light.

Mr. Secare answered yes.

Mr. Cunliffe stated that they should do that because it is impossible to get out of that intersection. Also, they will be getting a series of grants, and Birdsall Engineering is preparing plans for Section B and C which would complete Vine Street from Pine over to Cedar Bridge. So maybe they will be able to take the new road that goes by the sports complex, come down Washington, and be able to take Vine straight over to Cedarbridge Avenue.

Mr. Secare advised, as a follow up to Mr. Cunliffe's comments, you would need "traffic warrants" in order to qualify for a light. So you would have to commission the Municipal Engineer to begin the study for a traffic light.

Dan Bogish, 82 Enclave Boulevard – Commented with regard to the appointment of a Police Chief.

Mr. Edwards advised that certain procedures have to be filed through Civil Service, and they are underway.

Mr. Bogish further commented with regard to the LRRC, and the Smart Growth application.

Joe Kirsch, 64 Skyline Drive – Commented with regard to the recall petition. Further commented with regard to the affordable housing development, and the appointment of a Police Chief and Deputy Chiefs.

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

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mayor Lichtenstein commented with regard to the recall. He was not present at the Republican fundraiser, however, he will say that when he heard that story was going to break, he picked up the phone that evening, and called Senator Singer himself, who had absolutely no idea that was coming, and was very surprised and upset about it. While there are disagreements on the Committee, no one thinks the recall is a good idea, and it is not coming from any official group that any members of the Committee are affiliated with.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Deputy Mayor Coles, second by Mr. Cunliffe, and carried, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.