

**LAKWOOD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
MARCH 10, 2005**

The Lakewood Township Committee held a Meeting on Thursday, March 10, 2005 in the Lakewood Municipal Building, at 6:30 P.M. for the Executive Session and 7:30 P.M. for the Conference Meeting, with the following present:

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

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Mr. Miller, second by Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein.
Resolution No. 2005-150 – 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 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: 1/13/05, 1/20/05, 2/3/05

Motion by Mr. Coles, second by Mr. Miller, and carried, to approve the above Minutes.
Minutes approved.

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF 2/10/05

Motion by Mr. Coles, second by Mr. Miller, and carried, to approve the above Minutes.
Mayor Cunliffe abstained.
Minutes approved.

MOTION TO APPROVE CLOSED SESSION MINUTES OF: 3/3/05

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

Closed Session Minutes approved.

Mayor Cunliffe announced that due to the season opening of the BlueClaws Stadium, the April 7th Township Committee Meeting may be changed to the afternoon of April 7th, or the date may be changed to April 6th at its regular time. Once a decision is made, the proper announcements and newspapers advertisements will be made.

Mayor Cunliffe also announced that in Closed Session this evening, they listened to a presentation with regard to Cedarbridge Development Corporation, and specifically, the residential component of the project, which is South of Pine Street. The idea for this project is to provide seed money for Cedarbridge Development to go further with its Corporate Park.

The Committee will enter into a Contract or Agreement to permit the use of Somerset Development as the Developer for the senior land south of Pine Street and because of that, Somerset Development will immediately make payment to Cedarbridge Development which will pay for monies they have already invested in infrastructure, etc., and the balance of that sale will go into Cedarbridge Development as seed money for the development of the Corporate Park.

Mr. Secare clarified that it is technically an assignment of the Contract which is consistent with the provisions of the Option Agreement.

PRESENTATIONS:

New Jersey American Water Company

A presentation was given with regard to the expansion of sewer and water services in certain areas of the town, billing procedures, and to address the needs of this growing Township.

Bernard Gindoff

Mr. Coles thanked Mr. Gindoff and the Transportation Board for all their work on the petition to bring rail service to the Ocean-Monmouth area.

Mr. Gindoff gave a presentation with regard to their efforts to bring rail service to Ocean and Monmouth Counties.

Carey Tajfel - Hilton Update & Project Description

Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein left the meeting due to a conflict of interest on this matter.

Mr. Tajfel gave a presentation with regard to their Hilton Garden Hotel project. They are seeking restaurant tenants for the hotel site, and showed diagrams of their proposals. He

requested consideration to be designated as an Urban Enterprise Zone in order to make it more attractive to the tenants they are seeking. They feel this project will be viable to the Township and the Industrial Park in that having a hotel of this caliber will attract people and corporations to Lakewood. He offered a summary of information with regard to expected annual revenue as well as a number of employees. They also requested consideration for tax abatement.

Mr. Coles advised there was really no way for them to guarantee UEZ status there. The town could reapply to the State at the end of the year.

Senator Singer advised you could apply “site specific” to the State, and just say you wanted to include this site because this project will be coming to Lakewood based on this approval, and you may have a shot. If you throw other sites into it, you will be just wasting your time; they will shoot you down again.

Motion by Mr. Coles, second by Senator Singer, to send a letter to the UEZ to request the State to include this project site within the Urban Enterprise Zone boundaries.

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

ORDINANCES FOR DISCUSSION:

Mayor Cunliffe advised that STEPS is interested in building affordable housing in Lakewood. He met with them, along with Mr. Coles, wherein they announced they are partnering with Homes For All. He would like to have the Committee look at the Oak Street area, in the same area where there is affordable housing presently planned, and identify five to eight acres to do the same type of arrangement they have done with other people, to allow them to provide much needed affordable housing. STEPS plan to build somewhere between twenty-five and thirty single-family detached affordable homes for purchase by moderate income families.

Motion by Senator Singer, second by Mr. Coles, to request the Engineer to identify some specific sites in the Oak Street area for the Committee’s review.

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

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 Cunliffe opened the meeting to the public.

David Drukaroff, 1433 Laurelwood Avenue – Commented on an e-mail he received with regard to nominations for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Mike McNeil, 201 Lincoln Street – Thanked their Committee for their consideration with regard to STEPS.

Diane Sherman, 239D Huntington Drive – Offered personal comments.

Jim Cossaro, 28 Autumn Tide Drive – Commented with regard to the Urban Enterprise Zone.

Bernard Williams, 500 Clifton Avenue – Commented with regard to housing issues.

Sam Christopher, 514 Central Avenue – Commented with regard to the water company presentation and the hotel presentation.

Glen Bradford, 615 Sterling Avenue – Thanked the Committee for their consideration with regard to STEPS.

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

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

An Ordinance of the Township of Lakewood, in the County of Ocean, New Jersey, providing for the construction of a new Public Works Facility and related expenses in and for the Township of Lakewood and appropriating \$12,000,000 therefore, and providing for the issuance of \$11,400,000 in bonds or notes of the Township of Lakewood to finance the same.

Read by title only for first reading.

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

Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein stated this Ordinance is for the new Public Works facility, and he agrees with the rest of the Committee. Last week it was tabled, but he now believes that if they are going to go ahead with the project, it is time to get moving on it, because if they miss the deadline, they could not build it until the following year, and they will have a problem with the way the cost of construction is going up. They have had some discussions, and he would like to suggest that they ask Mr. Franklin to have an open public meeting with regard to this project.

Mr. Coles advised this public hearing is presently being scheduled.

Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein continued that he knows there were some questions as to why Lakewood needs a new Public Works facility. He thinks it would be a good idea to have an open session for people to be able to raise their concerns and ask their questions.

Mr. Coles stated they are looking at either March 22nd or March 23rd, whenever he can get the Auditorium scheduled, and it will be properly advertised.

Senator Singer stated that he wanted it clearly understood that the vote tonight is no guarantee that it will be on for second reading, that he doing so based on the fact they

will be having an open forum allowing the public to hear and see and comment back to the Committee prior to the final vote. Tonight is only allowing the first vote; it is not a final vote. He wants input from the public. This is a large amount of money. It has gone up considerably through the process, and he thinks the public has to understand the consequence of the action. In perspective, this is more money than they spent on the ballfield.

Mr. Coles advised he will be present at the hearing.

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

Ordinance No. 2005-32 adopted on first reading. Second reading and public hearing to be held on March 31, 2005.

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: Garden State Philharmonic Symphony, Deborah Hospital Foundation/Seaside Chapter and Caffarelli Family Study Research Foundation.
Resolution No. 2005-151
2. Resolution opposing the reassignment of Lakewood UEZ's Department of Labor Employment Services Representative from the "Job Link" program to the Toms River "One Stop" Center.
Resolution No. 2005-152
3. Resolution authorizing submission of application to the New Jersey Urban Enterprise Zone Authority of Enterprise Zone Assistance Funds for the Year 2005. (Marketing and Public Relations)
Resolution No. 2005-153
4. Resolution authorizing submission of an application to the New Jersey Enterprise Zone Authority for the Fiscal Year 2005-2006. (Admin Budget)
Resolution No. 2005-154
5. Resolution authorizing Change Order No. 2, to Watt Electric, Inc. for site lighting and press boxes in connection with the Kettle Creek Recreation Project, not to exceed the sum of \$78,800.
Resolution No. 2005-155

6. Resolution authorizing Change Order to Interstate Contracting & Excavating, LLC, for drainage improvements in connection with the Kettle Creek Recreation Project, not to exceed the sum of \$10,250.00.
Resolution No. 2005-156
7. Resolution authorizing the cancellation of old outstanding checks appearing on the records of the Municipal Court and closing of Fleet Bank General Account No. 2.
Resolution No. 2005-157
8. Resolution authorizing the refund of tax overpayments.
Resolution No. 2005-158
9. Resolution authorizing emergency temporary appropriations for the period between the beginning of the current fiscal year and the date of the adoption of the 2005 Budget.
Resolution No. 2005-159

Motion by Mr. Coles, second by Mr. Miller, to approve Resolutions 1 through 9 on the Consent Agenda.

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

Resolution Nos. 2005-151 through 2005 159 – Adopted.

RESOLUTIONS NOT INCLUDED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA - None

MOTION TO APPROVE BILL LIST OF: March 8, 2005

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

Bill List approved.

PARKS AND EVENTS CORRESPONDENCE

Per Schedule of four (4) items attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Motion by Mr. Coles, second by Mr. Miller, and carried, to approve the above Parks and Events requests.

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

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Miller confirmed they will be honoring the memory of H. George Buckwald at the March 31st meeting, and asked that adequate notice be provided to the public.

Senator Singer stated they are looking at the State Budget. There are some eight increases in various taxes, including an increase in cable bills. Also, school aid and municipal aid is frozen, which is really an increase for Lakewood. Also, they are going to balance the Budget with the cut on the Homestead Rebate to seniors and eliminating it to all non-seniors. He thinks the Committee should pass a Resolution objecting to the cut in the rebate to seniors, and elimination of the rebate to non-seniors. It is unfair, and discriminatory. They are also talking about a large tax increase on gas to pay for the Transportation Trust Fund. He thinks they should take a strong stand to protect the rights of the seniors, and to protect the rights of the non-senior population.

Mr. Coles stated he would like to support Senator Singer on this matter, but he would like to see some ideas from his side as to how they should balance the Budget. It is time they start living within their means. A four billion dollar deficit does not get solved by helping things get better. If they get some discussion on both sides, he may support him on that. He personally likes the Homestead Rebate, but if it means getting a balanced Budget back, and getting the State's finances back in order, he thinks he can forego it.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Deputy Mayor Lichtenstein, second by Mr. Coles, and carried, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 P.M.