

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING
JULY 12, 2017**

The Work Session of the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of West Cape May was called to order by Mayor Kaithern at 7:00pm. The Open Public Meetings Statement was read by Mayor Kaithern who then led those present in the flag salute. Mayor Pamela Kaithern, Deputy Mayor Burke and Commissioner Carol Sabo answered roll call. Also in attendance: Municipal Clerk Suzanne Stocker, Solicitor Chris Gillin-Schwartz and Engineer Ray Roberts.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

WORK SESSION - OLD BUSINESS:

NFIP Community Rating System:

All but one certified mail receipts have been returned. Four property owners still have not contacted the Construction Office relative to their compliance status.

Verizon Wireless Proposal:

Nothing new to report.

Review of Properties with Municipal Liens:

Both the Borough's Environmental Commission and Shade Tree Commission have funding available for purchase. Shade Tree Commission has approved their portion of the funding and Mayor Kaithern is waiting to hear back from the Environmental Commission on their portion of the funding.

Donation of Property to the Borough of West Cape May - Block 2, Lot 5:

Resolution at next meeting to authorize deed preparation, incorporating recording fees and conservation restriction. Solicitor to prepare Resolution and forward to Clerk.

Review of Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance:

Development Permit language is sufficient for Borough Commissioners. Ordinance will be introduced at next meeting.

Construction Office – Contractor's License:

Nothing new to report.

Broadway Resurfacing Improvements:

County is waiting for responses from property owners relative to temporary construction easements. County will revise plans to remove those properties from the sidewalk portion of the project. Engineer Roberts explained bid process for including additional work which could be done if these property owners decide to respond later. Item can be removed from agenda.

Prohibiting the Release of Helium-Filled Balloons within the Borough of West Cape May:

A Resolution will be on the next agenda which will support the prohibiting of helium-filled balloons within the Borough of West Cape May.

Prohibiting the Release of Doves/Like Birds for Special Events/Celebrations:

A Resolution will be on the next agenda which will support the prohibiting of doves and like birds within the Borough of West Cape May.

WORK SESSION - NEW BUSINESS:

Request for Easement – 296 S. Broadway:

Mayor Kaithern gave overview of request from property owner. Engineer Roberts indicated that the two options would be to ask owner to remove 60 year old garage or grant the easement. Mayor Kaithern asked if assessor could be involved for land value. Engineer Roberts indicated that it would not be good practice to move forward in that direction. Solicitor Gillin-Schwartz indicated that easement would include conditions and restrictions for future use. Mayor Kaithern asked if property owner could be held responsible for preparation of easement and recording fees. Solicitor Gillin-Schwartz mentioned indemnification for liability of area which includes the fence to be included in the easement as well. Clerk Stocker will reach out to property owner and Solicitor Gillin-Schwartz will be preparing the easement.

Grey Skies/Downward Facing Lights:

Commissioner Sabo followed up on a request from a Planning/Zoning Board Member for consideration of a dark sky ordinance relative to downward facing directional lighting to avoid sky pollution. Engineer Roberts indicated that these lighting fixtures would avoid lights shining onto neighbor's property, windows, etc. and also helps with glare, but are mostly used in large, commercial parking lots. Neighboring properties would still see lighting, but not as intense as other lighting options. Mayor Kaithern asked Engineer Roberts, Deputy Mayor Burke and Commissioner Sabo to review materials which the Planning Zoning Board provided.

Preserving Vegetation:

Solicitor Gillin-Schwartz spoke of a recent meeting in Cape May Point in which he found out that they require 60% vegetation. Mayor Kaithern indicated that this is something to look into and ties into her recent conversations with a DEP representative, relative to inspections and enforcement of new construction and preserving vegetation. Mayor Kaithern asked Clerk Stocker to distribute a copy of Cape May Point's Vegetation Ordinance for everyone to review and further consider.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Ed Creenan, 635 Fourth Avenue, asked about the release of paper lanterns. Commissioner Sabo did not see a problem with the paper being released, unless there was a potential for hazard.

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING: Mayor Kaithern reviewed the Consent Agenda and Non-Consent agenda items.

CONSENT AGENDA: On motion of Deputy Mayor Burke, seconded by Commissioner Sabo, the following Consent Agenda was unanimously approved on roll call vote.

Minutes:

June 28, 2017 – Work Session/Regular Meeting

Ordinances for Introduction and Publication:

524-17 – Amending Salary Ordinance

Resolutions:

- 105-17 - Authorize Special Event Permit – Cape May New Jersey State Film Festival
- 106-17 - Accepting the Corrective Action Plan
- 107-17 - Bill Payment

NON-CONSENT AGENDA

Ordinances for Second Reading and Public Hearing:

NONE

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Sabo spoke about her communication with NJDOT representative for island-wide bike path project. Commissioner Sabo plans on meeting with the Borough Engineer to discuss the plans for the project and the possible coordination with Lower Township to join in on the project.

Deputy Mayor Burke mentioned the Red Cross Blood Drive being held July 13th from 12pm-5pm and expects this event to be very successful.

Mayor Kaithern mentioned the good attendance at Farmer's Market thus far. Mayor Kaithern also mentioned that Christmas Parade fundraisers are quickly approaching.

PUBLIC PORTION

Ed Creenan, 635 Fourth Avenue - Spoke on behalf of the Environmental Commission's concerns regarding safety issues. Mr. Creenan referred to the Borough as a "Donation Location Destination" and expressed concern of safety at the intersection of Fourth Avenue/Bayshore/Stevens Street. Mr. Creenan indicated that the road is narrow and is concerned with the safety and sharing of road between vehicles, golfcarts, pedestrians, bikes and construction equipment, delivery vehicles and trash trucks. It is believed that this could be a liability for the Borough.

Mayor Kaithern spoke of concerns brought to the attention of the Borough at the last meeting by residents of West Drive. The County Engineer will be performing a traffic study in the near future to assess the concerns of the residents in the area. The Borough is in the process of drafting communication to commercial properties in the area relative to concerns. Mayor Kaithern will be following up with the Police Chief relative to status of increased enforcement. Deputy Mayor Burke mentioned previous request to County for all roads in Borough to be 25mph speeds, request was denied several years ago.

When no one further wished to speak, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21pm on motion of Commissioner Sabo, seconded by Deputy Mayor Burke.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne M. Stocker, RMC
Municipal Clerk