

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 14, 2016**

The Work Session of the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of West Cape May was called to order by Mayor Kaithern at 7:00 PM. The Open Public Meetings Statement was read by Mayor Kaithern who then led those present in the flag salute. Mayor Pamela Kaithern, Deputy Mayor Peter Burke, and Commissioner Carol Sabo answered roll call. Also in attendance: Municipal Clerk Suzanne Stocker, Deputy Clerk Theresa Entead, Solicitor Frank Corrado and Engineer Ray Roberts. Tax Assessor Lou Belasco arrived at 8:00pm.

WORK SESSION

OLD BUSINESS:

NFIP Community Rating System:

Nothing new to report.

Naming Street in Honor of Mayor Jack Vasser:

Waiting for dates to schedule street dedication.

Property Maintenance Regulations/Borough Code Amendments:

The Governing Body reviewed the proposed amendments and discussed proposed language relative to grasses and weeds. Solicitor Corrado suggested adopting a general nuisance ordinance to use for enforcement of lawns which have become overgrown and are subject to potential issues with critters. Solicitor Corrado asked the Clerk to coordinate a meeting with himself, the Code Enforcement Officer and Deputy Code Enforcement Officer.

Estate of Smith – Betty Robbins Memorial – Donation of a Bandstand:

Engineer Ray Roberts indicated that the Borough will be requesting Requests for Proposals for the bandstand within the next few weeks.

Shade Trees – Shade Tree Commission – Code Enforcement:

Waiting for Arborist information and proposals from the Finance Department.

Review of Properties with Municipal Liens:

Nothing new to report.

Liquor Licenses:

The Governing Body discussed possible revisions to the Plenary Retail Consumption License relative to its upcoming sale. Items of discussion included the possible extension of the times and lowering the minimum bid. It was decided to keep the times the same and lower the minimum bid to \$475,000. The Clerk's office will prepare the appropriate documents for approval at the next meeting to begin the bidding process.

NEW BUSINESS:

Underage Drinking on Private Property:

Cape Assist provided the Borough with information on underage drinking on private property as well as rowdy houses. West Cape May is one of four municipalities in Cape May County which does not have an Ordinance in place relative to either of these topics. Chief Marino previously indicated that records do not show any issues with underage drinking on private properties within the Borough. Commissioner Sabo does not think an Ordinance would deter the behavior if it was a problem. Solicitor Corrado indicated that if the Governing Body was to move forward with an Ordinance, it could be created with language as the Borough seems appropriate. The Governing Body decided not to move forward with introducing such an Ordinance.

COAH/Expert Witness:

Solicitor Corrado discussed the need to consider the contract for an expert witness for the COAH lawsuit, at the suggestion of COAH Counsel, Jeffrey Surenian, Esquire. Solicitor Corrado believes that costs will be kept relatively low, considering they will be split between all municipalities in Atlantic and Cape May Counties who participate in this contract for the expert witness. The Commissioners decided to place a Resolution on the next agenda authorizing the contract for the expert witness.

Loitering:

Sample Loitering Ordinance was provided to Solicitor Corrado by Prosecutor Martin. Solicitor Corrado believes that Prosecutor Martin is suggesting the Borough adopt a Loitering Ordinance to allow for plea bargain negotiations for individuals who are summonsed with criminal offenses. Solicitor Corrado will follow up with Prosecutor Martin to confirm the needs for this Ordinance.

HPC – Certified Local Government Designation:

At the request of the HPC, the Governing Body reviewed the requirements on obtaining the Certified Local Government designation which would provide for more grant opportunities for the Borough. The Governing Body decided to move forward with the application process. The HPC, together with the Clerk's Office, will gather all documents needed to submit application.

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

The Work Session portion of the meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm and the Regular Meeting convened at 8:35pm.

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

Minutes: August 24, 2016 Work Session and Regular Meeting

Ordinances for Introduction and Publication: None

Resolutions:

- 134-16 Release of Unexpended Escrow Fees – Howard F. Neilson
- 135-16 Refund of Tomato Festival Fee – Cannoli World
- 136-16 Refund of Tomato Festival Fee – Cannoli Girls
- 137-16 Refund of Tomato Festival Fee – Daisy Smith
- 138-16 Refund of Tomato and Lima Bean Festival Fee – Cynthia S. Olivier
- 139-16 Bill Payment
- 140-16 Closed Session (Contract Negotiations)

NON-CONSENT AGENDA

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING: None

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Sabo gave a reminder about the celebration for the new fire truck being on October 15th from 12pm-3pm. Commissioner Sabo also mentioned that September 10th was Suicide Prevention Day. Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-8255

Deputy Mayor Burke indicated that the rehab of the water/sewer building is almost completed and mentioned that it was a nice job done.

Mayor Kaithern had nothing to report.

PUBLIC PORTION - No Comments

When no one wished to speak, the meeting was recessed into closed session at 8:40pm and reconvened at 8:56pm on motion of Deputy Mayor Burke, seconded by Commissioner Sabo.

The regular portion was reconvened at 8:56pm on motion of Deputy Mayor Burke, seconded by Commissioner Sabo.

Mayor Kaithern indicated that, as a result of the Closed Session discussion, the Borough will be moving forward with the tax map amendments. Approvals will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58pm on motion of Commissioner Sabo, seconded by Deputy Mayor Burke.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne M. Stocker, RMC
Municipal Clerk