

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING
August 26, 2015**

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 Kaithern, Deputy Mayor Peter Burke and Commissioner Carol Sabo answered roll call. Also in attendance: Clerk Elaine Wallace, Deputy Clerk Dianne Rutherford, and Solicitor Frank Corrado.

WORK SESSION

COMMUNITY BUSINESS TASK FORCE REPORT: Task Force members Ellie McDevitt, Dave Schultz and Dick Rigby appeared before the board to go over their report. Doug Carnes and Lynn Bowlby were not present. The members explained the report was broken down into six parts and contains short term, inexpensive recommendations as well as long term more intensive ones. One of the biggest recommendations was establishing a “village type” district. A big impact on that would be the development of the intersection of Sunset and Broadway, and the task force would like to see it done in a way that encourages walk-ability rather than from a traffic engineering view which would be to get people through as quickly as possible. By and large, the task force members were most interested in ways to connect the business districts visually and the increase walk-ability throughout to help create a vibrant business district. Ellie McDevitt asserted the members were looking to preserve the “quirky” aspect of West Cape May while at the same time creating a natural extension of what is happening in Cape May. Some simple suggestions were to have consistent styles of bike racks, planters, and awning, among other things, throughout the business districts. Commissioner Sabo asked how they would suggest proposing their ideas to the people who actually own the properties being discussed. The task force suggested finding funding to subsidize the cost of some of the ideas. Possibly hire a part-time grant writer. The members were optimistic that if small things were done, it would build momentum and business owners will be more eager to continue with improvements. Deputy Mayor Burke expressed concerns over the recommendation of reducing parking requirements for businesses. He felt there would be strong resident opposition to any changes of that nature and wouldn’t want to see it considered without public input. Other ideas were to have remote parking and offer trolley service similar to what Cape May does, or to have shared parking or to think of other creative ways of using existing parking. Another topic of discussion was sign regulations. The task force recommended giving incentives for people who use preferred signs – specifically set types and materials – to help get cooperation from the business owners to conform to the sign ordinance. Mayor Kaithern sees this, combined with the bike initiative that is going on island-wide as well as our master plan reexamination, as a great opportunity to make some good changes.

OLD BUSINESS

NFIP Community Rating System: Nothing new to report at this time.

Notifying Realtors and Arborists about Ordinance 494-15 Tree Preservation: Mayor Kaithern finally received a list of NJ registered Arborists. Deputy Mayor Burke will refer the list to the Shade Tree Commission and see what direction they want to go.

Police Contract: Nothing new to report at this time.

Request for Designated Handicapped Parking at 314 Fow Avenue: The Board again discussed the request. The Clerk explained the owner had previously requested her driveway be marked out to keep people from parking so close she couldn't get in and out of the driveway. However, the lines were marked at the existing driveway, not as she proposes to improve it, and it compounded her problem. She requested a handicapped parking space to help improve her situation. The Borough engineer seemed to indicate having handicapped parking in the driveway was more appropriate than on the street. Carol Sabo agreed with this view, stating it would be different if the owner didn't have a driveway. The Board was in favor of waiting until the property owner installed her new driveway to see if this resolved her problem before they would consider granting a reserved parking space. Deputy Mayor Burke will speak to the property owner.

NEW BUSINESS:

Prohibition against Alcohol on Public Property: The Borough currently prohibits alcohol in our parks and other public property. Mayor Kaithern has had some requests for events that would include alcohol. Also, the regulations would preclude wineries or breweries from having booths at the Farmers Market. Carol Sabo reminded the Board the Shade Tree Commission is opposed to allowing alcohol in Wilbraham Park. Solicitor Corrado advised the board an ordinance can be drafted to prohibit alcohol with the exception of specific events in the Backyard Park or in connection with the Farmers Market or however the Board feels is appropriate. Mr. Corrado will draft a sample for board review.

Water Supply Contract with Cape May City: Mayor Kaithern received a letter from Cape May Administrator MacLeod saying they have the quantity of water necessary and will prepare the water allocation permit application. Solicitor Corrado asked to add a resolution to the consent agenda authorizing the Borough's cooperation in submitting the NJDEP water allocation permit application and the necessary amendment to the inter-local services agreement.

The work session was adjourned and the regular meeting convened at 9:02 PM.

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

Minutes: August 12, 2015 Work Session and Regular Meeting
August 12, 2015 Closed Session

Ordinances for Introduction and Publication: None

Resolutions:

- 121-15 Release of Unexpended Escrow Fees South Jersey Gas
- 122-15 Amended Resolution Appointing Louis M. Belasco as Tax Assessor
- 123-15 Refund of Wilbraham Park Use and Clean Up Fees – History Committee
- 124-15 Release of Performance Guarantee for Block 34, Lots 6 & 7 – Doc1, LLC
- 125-15 Bill Payment
- 126-15 Authorizing Borough to Cooperate with Cape May in Obtaining Water Allocation Permit

NON-CONSENT AGENDA:

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING: None

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS: No reports.

PUBLIC PORTION: No comments.

When no one else wished to speak, the meeting was adjourned at 9:04 PM on motion of Commissioner Sabo, seconded by Deputy Mayor Burke.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine L. Wallace, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk