

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 26, 2014**

The Work Session of the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of West Cape May was called to order by Mayor Kaithern at 4:30 PM. The Open Public Meetings Statement was read by the Mayor 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: Borough Clerk Elaine Wallace, Deputy Clerk Dianne Rutherford, and Solicitor Frank Corrado.

PRESENTATION OF CHRISTMAS PARADE DONATION - CUB SCOUT PACK 73

Tony Genaro and members of Cub Scout Pack 73 appeared before the Board to present a \$1,000 check for the Christmas Parade. The funds were raised through the Glow Run as well as funds normally received for the community clean up that the Troop wished to donate back to the Borough for the parade. Mayor Kaithern thanked them for the donation and the effort they put forth to raise funds for the Parade.

WORK SESSION

OLD BUSINESS:

NFIP Community Rating System: Nothing new to report

Land Conveyance – Estate of Elizabeth Allison Smith: Nothing new to report

Consideration of Tree Regulations: The Board reviewed the draft prepared by Solicitor Corrado, which is based on Cape May City's ordinance. Mr. Corrado did not find any cases in NJ that suggest these types of ordinances have been challenged or that they are unconstitutional. He also spoke to Cape May's solicitor who said they had not been challenged in court. Mr. Corrado explained the first 9 sections of the ordinance pertain to trees on public property. Section 10 deals with trees on private property and would require property owners to get a permit from the Shade Tree Commission any time they want to remove a tree from their property. Deputy Mayor Burke did not believe the STC wishes to control all trees, only significant trees. They would also like a provision for replacement of a tree when it needs to be removed. The board was also not in favor of creating preservation easements on private property. At the Board's direction, Mr. Corrado will revise the draft to pertain to only specific trees or tree species that will be outlined in an inventory to be prepared by the Shade Tree Commission. Mr. Corrado may seek guidance on specifications for the criteria for replacement.

NEW BUSINESS:

December 9, 2014 Special School Election: The Board discussed the upcoming special school election which asks the voters in West Cape May, Cape May and Lower Township whether to allow Cape May City to withdraw from the school district. The sample ballot provided by the school district stated the increase to West

Cape May taxpayers would be an increase of \$692,000, which equates to an increase of approximately \$550 for a \$400,000 home. The Borough was concerned over potentially low voter turnout and the significant impact of the results on the taxpayers of West Cape May. The board agreed to add a resolution to the Consent Agenda urging people to vote on December 9, 2014 and advising them of the significant impact on resident's tax bills if Cape May were allowed to withdraw from the district.

Requested Change in Wilbraham Park Schedule 2015: The VFW has requested a change in date from July 8 to July 1, 2014. The board was in favor of allowing the change if the Shade Tree Commission has no objections.

Mayor Kaithern reviewed the consent agenda items. The work session concluded at 5:13 PM and a recess was taken. The meeting was reconvened on motion of Commissioner Sabo, seconded by Deputy Mayor Burke at 5:27 PM and the regular portion began. The Board reviewed and revised the draft resolution regarding the special school election. The resolution was added to the Consent Agenda as Resolution 161-14. Also, the bill list was corrected to change a payment for The Borgata to Carol Sabo because she paid for her room directly and must be reimbursed.

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

Minutes: November 12, 2014 Work Session and Regular Meeting

Ordinances for Introduction and Publication:

490-14 An Ordinance Repealing Ordinance 368-06 Establishing a Residential Handicapped Parking Space in Front of 121 Pearl Street
Second reading and public hearing December 17, 2014 at 7:00 PM

Resolutions:

159-14 Bill Payment

160-14 Authorizing the Participation of the Borough of West Cape May in the South Jersey Power Co-Operative Contract with Woodruff Energy to Furnish and Deliver Natural Gas

161-14 Resolution Regarding the Special School Election Scheduled for December 9, 2014

NON-CONSENT AGENDA:

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING: None

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:

Commissioner Sabo wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Deputy Mayor Burke announced Public Works with some volunteers from the Shade Tree Commission finished the lighting and decoration of Wilbraham Park. There will be a tree lighting ceremony on Saturday, November 29th at 5:30. There will be music and singing, and cookies and hot chocolate will be served. Lastly, he reported new garage doors have been installed at the public works building.

Mayor Kaithern announced the Historic Preservation Commission is preparing a notice to taxpayers in the historic district advising them of their responsibilities under the Borough's HPC ordinance. Mrs. Kaithern also suggested they send a general letter to realtors in the area so they can advise their clients when the homes they are purchasing are in the historic district. Lastly, she announced the parade lineup should be completed this weekend and mailed early next week.

PUBLIC PORTION: No one from the public wished to speak.

When no one wished to speak, the meeting was adjourned at 5:38 PM on motion of Commissioner Sabo, seconded by Mayor Kaithern.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine L. Wallace
Borough Clerk