

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING
November 10, 2021**

The Work Session of the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of West Cape May was called to order by Mayor Sabo at 7:00pm. The Open Public Meetings Statement was read by Mayor Sabo who then led those present in the flag salute. Mayor Sabo, Deputy Mayor Burke and Commissioner Francis answered roll call. Also in attendance: Acting Municipal Clerk Theresa Entead, Deputy Municipal Clerk Erin Seer, Solicitor Frank Corrado and Associate Justin Turner, and Engineer Raymond Roberts.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

OLD BUSINESS

Covid-19:

Mayor Sabo noted that the County's communication shows the rate of transmission was down to .74. Deputy Mayor Burke reminded everyone that with the weather getting colder that people will be indoors more and closer together and that everyone should remain vigilant about their personal health and the health of our neighbors.

Cannabis Regulations:

Mayor Sabo announced that the State held a webinar regarding Cannabis Regulations. Solicitor Corrado provided a summary of the webinar and noted that the CRC is going to promulgate a Notice of Application Acceptance which will contain additional information on the process of obtaining a license. The matter is continuing and the Borough will monitor the State's website for developments.

Emerald Avenue Resident Request

Mayor Sabo announced that Lieutenant Joseph Walker had provided the Commissioners with the police logs for the Emerald Avenue traffic review. She introduced Police Chief Dekon Fashaw to speak on the topic. Chief Fashaw advised that the information collected by the police department showed that the speed of traffic was actually below the speed limit. He asked the Commissioners to advise him if they need a further study done.

Shade Tree Borough Code Amendments

Mayor Sabo announced an Ordinance was on the agenda for introduction and invited Bill Oetinger, a member of the Shade Tree Commission, to speak further on the Amendments. Mr. Oetinger explained that the amendments to the Borough Code involved the process for emergency tree removal.

NEW BUSINESS

NJ Model Electric Vehicle Ordinance

Solicitor Corrado explained that the State has enacted a law that amends the Municipal Land Use Law, permitting accessible use of electric vehicle charging stations, and that the Department of Community Affairs has published a model Electric Vehicle Ordinance that the Borough should forward to the

Planning Board for review. The Borough will forward to the Planning Board and will wait for the Board to report back to the Commissioners.

PUBLIC PORTION

Mayor Sabo opened the meeting for public portion.

Myrtle Johnson, 201 Third Avenue, began by thanking the Borough and its employees for always acting in a kind manner and providing assistance. She went on to express her concern regarding development in her area and potential flooding. Mayor Sabo explained the development process a property owner must go through and the limited control the Borough has in that process.

When no one further expressed a desire to speak, the public portion was closed.

The Work Session concluded at 8:00pm.

REGULAR MEETING

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion of Deputy Mayor Burke, seconded by Commissioner Francis, the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved on roll call vote.

Minutes:

October 27, 2021 – Work Session and Regular Meeting

Ordinances for Introduction and Publication:

606-21 Amending sections of the West Cape May Code Governing Removal of Trees

Resolutions:

172-21 Chapter 159 – NJ State Community Forestry

173-21 Accepting Resignation of Certified Municipal Court Administrator – Bernardine Shearouse

174-21 Approving Raffle License – WCME PTO

175-21 Authorizing Bill Payment

176-21 Authorizing Execution and Adoption of the EPL/MEL Checklist for 2022

177-21 Closed Session- Owoh v. Borough of West Cape May Litigation

NON-CONSENT AGENDA

Ordinances for Second Reading and Public Hearing:

NONE

Resolutions:

NONE

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Francis announced that he attended a climate change conference held in Cape May. He emphasized to residents the importance of working together in the matter of climate change.

Deputy Mayor Burke announced that the Shade Tree Commission is scheduling its fall and spring tree planting. He also announced that the Borough will be hosting the American Red Cross for a blood drive in early to mid-January.

Mayor Sabo announced the passing of two residents: Juanita Battle who was a founding member of C.A.R.A.; and Cora Molson who was another pillar of the local community. She further announced that on November 3 she attended the closing for the sale of the Borough-owned property on Second Avenue to Richard Kauffeld, who has agreed to preserve the property as Open Space. She expressed her appreciation to Mr. Kauffeld for his commitment to the Borough to preserve the land. She thanked all who participated in the Christmas Parade Fundraisers and announced that donations are still being accepted. To conclude her announcements Mayor Sabo noted that the City of Cape May was holding a Veterans' Day Observance in the Soldiers and Sailors Park on Columbia Avenue at 11:00AM.

Deputy Mayor Burke reminded the public that the Borough offices will be closed for Veterans' Day.

PUBLIC PORTION

Mayor Sabo opened the meeting for public portion. When no one expressed a desire to speak, the Mayor closed the public portion.

Solicitor Corrado explained the Closed Session matter noting that the Commission did not expect any action to be taken in the closed session. On motion of Commissioner Francis, seconded by Deputy Mayor Burke, the meeting was moved to a closed session at 8:12 p.m.

Mayor Sabo called the meeting back to order at 8:27 p.m. and announced that no official action was taken in the Closed Session.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m., on motion of Commissioner Francis, seconded by Deputy Mayor Burke.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Seer
Deputy Municipal Clerk