

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 23, 2019**

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 Carol Sabo, Deputy Mayor Burke and Commissioner Francis answered roll call. Also in attendance: Municipal Clerk Suzanne Schumann, Engineer Ray Roberts and Solicitor Chris Gillin-Schwartz.

WORK SESSION

OLD BUSINESS:

Protection of Borough Owned Property:

Nothing new to report.

Code Blue Warming Center Designation:

Mayor Sabo indicated that Cape May Point approved a Resolution to designate the Cape May Police Department Lobby as their warming center. Mayor Sabo spoke to Mayor Lear about her concerns with the lobby not being an adequate response to the situation, as the lobby offers no place to sleep, only to sit. Mayor Sabo mentioned the possibility of the WCM Volunteer Fire Company, but would offer restraints to that designation, as there would be no staffing or funding for supplies. Deputy Mayor Burke questioned whether Cape May Point discussed the designation with Cape May prior to establishing same, Mayor Sabo responded that they did and that Cape May has also designated the same area as a short term solution which could prevent a life threatening situation. Commissioner Francis suggested placing large heaters in Wilbraham Park during "Code Blue" events, Clerk Schumann indicated that this would most likely be a liability for the Borough.

Bob Mulgrew, 123 Leaming Avenue, mentioned that in Philadelphia, homeless people are picked up and removed from the street during Code Blue events.

John Alvarez, Cape May Star and Wave, stated that there are regulations through the State which restrict Warming Centers to a dozen people at a time and separate sleeping rooms for males and females. Mr. Alvarez indicated that the police can pick up willing individuals and further indicated that there is no longer a voucher program through the County which is why Warming Centers are an important topic right now amongst municipalities.

Mayor Sabo indicated that she will continue her conversation with Mayor Lear in hopes for a county-wide solution to this situation.

Request for 4-Way Stop – Leaming Avenue and Park Boulevard:

Engineer Roberts reviewed the traffic study report and indicated that although it does not warrant a traffic signal, the results do warrant the installation of a four-way stop at this

intersection. Engineer Roberts indicated that this work could be done by the WCM Public Works Department in conjunction with the Leaming Avenue Project. Engineer Roberts suggested temporary signage and road marking until the Leaming Avenue Project is complete, then permanent markings and signage installed. The Commissioners agreed to move forward with this intersection change and asked that the Cape May Star and Wave provide informal notice to residents.

NEW BUSINESS:

Request for Street Opening Hardships – South Jersey Gas (EFV Project):

Engineer Roberts reviewed the request from South Jersey gas for various street opening permits, as part of an upcoming project to install Emergency Flow Valves. Engineer Roberts indicated that the project includes approximately 70 properties in West Cape May, some of which a hardship is requested and some of which are on County roads and will need to be applied for through the County. The Commissioners agreed to grant the hardship requests for these street opening permits. Engineer Roberts provided Solicitor Gillin-Schwartz with language to use when preparing the Resolution, which will be on the February 13, 2019 agenda for approval.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Bob Mulgrew, 123 Leaming Avenue, questioned trees being removed as part of the Leaming Avenue project. Deputy Mayor Burke indicated that there is one Elm tree being removed, which was damaged by the homeowner and the homeowner was fined for the damage. Engineer Roberts indicated that an email was sent earlier in the day to the Commissioners regarding two other trees which will most likely have root damage from the project and is being requested to be reviewed by the Shade Tree Commission. Mr. Mulgrew indicated that there is a tree on his property which is uprooting his sidewalk and could become a liability, but believes that the Shade Tree Commission has indicated to his wife that the tree cannot be removed. Solicitor Gillin-Schwartz suggested that Mr. Mulgrew submit a formal application to the Shade Tree Commission for review. Deputy Mayor Burke expressed concern with the loss of tree canopy in West Cape May and the impacts to the environmental and birding communities.

Mr. Mulgrew questioned the substantial amount of trees which were removed during the Burgin subdivision project. Deputy Mayor Burke indicated that the removal of those trees were part of the approval issued by the Planning Zoning Board. Deputy Mayor Burke indicated that the Shade Tree Commission has no control over Planning Zoning Board approvals and further indicated that the State also issued approvals for that project.

The Work Session concluded at 8:20pm.

REGULAR MEETING

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

Minutes:

January 2, 2019

Reorganization Meeting

Ordinances for Introduction and Publication:

NONE

Resolutions:

- 32-19 Appointing COAH Planner - Heyer, Gruel & Associates
- 33-19 Renewal of Campground License for 2019 – Depot Travel Park, Inc.
- 34-19 Appointment of Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator
- 35-19 Appointing Planning Zoning Board Engineer – Remington & Vernick
- 36-19 Extending the Date for Issuance or Denial to the Highest Qualified Bid for One New Plenary Retail Consumption License for the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages in the Borough of West Cape May and the Terms of Issuance
- 37-19 Bill Payment

NON-CONSENT AGENDA

Ordinances for Second Reading and Public Hearing:

- 560-19 An Ordinance Amending Section 3-15 of the Borough of West Cape May Code Regulating Peddling, Hawking and Vending

Public Comment:

Tom Douglass, 706 Broadway, suggested that the Commissioners consider waiving the fee for Veterans for the purpose of obtaining a vending permit in West Cape May. Mr. Douglass indicated that most Veterans are on a limited income and seek discounts and are mostly senior citizens as well. The Commissioners agreed to TABLE Ordinance 560-19. Mayor Sabo asked Solicitor Gillin-Schwartz to amend the Ordinance to waive fees for Veterans and Volunteer Fire Company Members for the purpose of obtaining a vending permit in West Cape May. This Ordinance will be revised and reconsidered at the next meeting.

Bob Mulgrew, 123 Leaming Avenue, questioned whether someone could park a vehicle at the corner of Park Boulevard and Leaming Avenue for vending purposes. Mayor Sabo indicated that as long as it is in a parking space, in commercial district, during the designated times and the appropriate license is obtained.

Resolutions:

NONE

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Francis mentioned the upcoming presentation on Solar, presented by the Environmental Commission, on January 25th at 7:00pm.

Deputy Mayor Burke mentioned the Blood Drive scheduled for January 24th from 12pm to 5pm at Borough Hall.

Mayor Sabo had nothing to report.

PUBLIC PORTION

When no one wished to speak, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36pm on motion of Commissioner Francis, seconded by Deputy Mayor Burke.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne M. Schumann, RMC
Municipal Clerk