

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 22, 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 and Solicitor Chris Gillin-Schwartz.

**WORK SESSION**

**OLD BUSINESS**

Protection of Borough Owned Property:

Nothing new to report.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Path to Progress:

Mayor Sabo spoke of the correspondence received from the State Senate's Office, asking for support to address fiscal issues. Ms. Sabo indicated that she was well versed in this topic which would take away from public employee pensions and Ms. Sabo's personal thought is to not be in support. Commissioner Francis asked if this would continue to be ongoing if support was received from the Borough. Mayor Sabo stated that the proposed request does not support public employees and believes that this request is a political endeavor and is short sighted. Ms. Sabo stated that she is not compelled to take any action of support, Deputy Mayor Burke agreed.

New Jersey Tree Licensing Law:

Solicitor Gillin-Schwartz reviewed the state regulations relative to tree care services and the difference in LTE and LTCO license types. Solicitor Gillin-Schwartz also discussed the exemptions to the regulations, which may cause enforcement questions, but would be regulated by the Zoning/Code Enforcement Office. Mayor Sabo believes that a licensed tree expert should only be needed when a tree needs to be saved and/or preserved, not for the removal. Solicitor Gillin-Schwartz suggested making a revision to the Ordinance to include the state statute language and amend the Tree Removal Application accordingly.

Bicycle Safety in West Cape May:

Mayor Sabo mentioned the tragic accident on Broadway over the weekend which involved a bicyclist and motor vehicle. Such accident has spurred discussions on speed and safety within the Borough. Mayor Sabo has reached out to the County Engineer, Robert Church, and has requested a speed study be conducted on Broadway, with a request to lower the speed limit if deemed appropriate. Although this discussion is not a direct relation to the recent accident, it is a time to review the conditions of Broadway. Mr. Church was unable to attend tonight's meeting and was asked to attend the next meeting on June 12, 2019. Mayor

Sabo stated that she lives on Broadway and often notices the speeding of vehicles along this roadway. Mayor Sabo indicated that the Cape Island Connection Bike Maps have been released this week and are available in Borough Hall and these maps provide suggested roadways for bicyclists, as well as roadways to avoid when bicycling through Cape Island. Mayor Sabo reminded everyone to slow down and be aware of surroundings.

Chief Marino stated that the accident is still under investigation and is pending the receipt of some information and documentation from New Jersey Transit. Chief Marino indicated that the victim was a visitor to the area and was traveling on a motorized bicycle and that the speed at which she was traveling is unknown. Chief Marino stated that although a reduction in the speed may not reduce injury, it will hopefully slow drivers down overall. It was mentioned that there is a lack of areas available to patrol for speed in the areas of Broadway, as well as West Perry, but it is an ongoing discussion within the police department.

Chief Marino spoke about the overall success of the four-way intersection at Park Boulevard and Leaming Avenue and requested that the trees along Park Center be trimmed backed so that there is not a visual interference of the stop sign.

Review of Ordinance 546-19:

Solicitor Gillin-Schwartz discussed the reason for the renewal of the New Jersey Natural Gas Company Franchise Agreement, which will be renewed for a fifty (50) year term. The renewal of this Agreement will be approved by Ordinance, since the Borough is a Walsh Act community.

**PUBLIC PORTION:**

NONE

The Work Session concluded at 7:36pm.

**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:

May 8, 2019 Work Session and Regular Meeting

May 8, 2019 Closed Session

Ordinances for Introduction and Publication:

564-19 An Ordinance Authorizing Renewal of the Franchise Agreement with the New Jersey Natural Gas Company

Resolutions:

- 100-19 Authorizing Endorsement of Preliminary Preferred Alternate 3 for the Local Concept Development of the Ocean Drive (CR621) Upgrades and Bridge Improvements
- 101-19 Requesting the County of Cape May Conduct a Speed Survey on Broadway – County Road 626
- 102-19 Appointment to West Cape May Volunteer Fire Company – Leon O’Connor, III
- 103-19 Annual Renewal of Liquor License – 106 Sunset, LLC
- 104-19 Bill Payment

**NON-CONSENT AGENDA**

Ordinances for Second Reading and Public Hearing:

NONE

Resolutions:

NONE

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Deputy Mayor Burke indicated that he is working with the American Red Cross to schedule a blood drive in July.

Mayor Sabo mentioned the upcoming Strawberry Festival on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Mayor Sabo also reminded everyone to slow down, pay attention and share the road with bicyclists. Law requires 3’ between a vehicle and bicycle. Mayor Sabo indicated that the Cape Island Connection Bike Maps are now available in Borough Hall and map out suggested areas for bike riding and roads that should be avoided when bike riding.

Commissioner Francis corrected a statement that was made at the previous meeting, indicating that the e-waste event collected 11.5 tons of e-waste (20 pallets). Commissioner Francis also mentioned a Water Conservation Seminar hosted by the Environmental Commission on June 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

**PUBLIC PORTION**

NONE

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41pm on motion of Commissioner Francis, seconded by Deputy Mayor Burke.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne M. Schumann, RMC  
Municipal Clerk