

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 22, 2020**

Zoom Meeting – Web Conference

https://zoom.us

Meeting ID: 716-311-504

Password: 430935

meeting not recorded due to technical issues

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: Municipal Clerk Suzanne Schumann, Solicitor Gillin-Schwartz, Engineer Ray Roberts, Auditor Leon Costello and Chief Financial Officer Frank Donato.

WORK SESSION

OLD BUSINESS

LOSAP:

No update at this time.

Burgin Lane (Turning Road Over to Borough):

Engineer Roberts stated that he is waiting on additional information from the developer.

Low Income Residents:

Commissioner Francis stated that Stockton, California is offering their low income residents additional funding during the COVID-19 pandemic and indicated that this was funded by the surplus in their budget.

COVID-19 - Coronavirus Discussion:

Mayor Sabo reviewed the current numbers for Cape May County and stated testing is now available for non-symptomatic individuals at Cape Urgent Care. Mayor Sabo stated that the State is still under many active Executive Orders. Commissioner Francis indicated that he believes that the Governor is being reasonable with his Executive Orders.

Deputy Mayor Burke mentioned correspondence received, also published in the Cape May Star and Wave, by a local business owner seeking relief for tax payments. Chief Financial Officer Frank Donato stated that the Borough can lower the interest charges, but it is too late to do so and provide adequate notice for the May 1st due date of property taxes. It was suggested that Mayor Sabo compose a letter to State Officials in support of an Executive Order to formally extend the grace period for interest in property tax payments. The Commissioners verbally approved this action and Solicitor Gillin-Schwartz stated that a formal Resolution can be approved at the next Board of Commissioners meeting to memorialize the action.

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

PUBLIC PORTION

NONE

The Work Session concluded at 7:27pm.

REGULAR MEETING

2020 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

66-20 Read by Title Only and Open Public Hearing on 2020 Municipal Budget

On motion by Deputy Mayor Burke, seconded by Commissioner Francis, Resolution 66-20 was approved.

The motion was carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Public Comment on Municipal Budget:

Auditor Costello indicated that the budget is the same as introduced and has been approved by the State after review.

Chief Financial Officer Frank Donato indicated that this will be a \$2.8M operating budget with a 1.2 cent increase. Mr. Donato indicated that the Borough "hit a homerun" last year when the bonds sold and stated that the debt service will be used to payback bonds from capital improvements.

Mayor Sabo stated that she hopes the budget will keep the future solid with essential services and infrastructure.

Tom Myers, 304 Second Avenue, asked if the increase was set in granite once approved. Mr. Myers expressed potential concerns if the current economic times continue with the pandemic. Mr. Myers asked if there was a way to adjust the budget in the event of a shortfall.

Mayor Sabo indicated that she shared the concerns of Mr. Myers and stated that the increase is minimal and is estimated at a \$60 per year increase based on a \$500,000 property.

Deputy Mayor Burke stated that some of the budget includes upgrades to public building which is essential at this time.

Auditor Costello stated that any shortfalls during the 2020 year will be affected in the 2021 budget and expects that the State will be able to assist with shortfalls, although he does not expect many shortfalls in West Cape May.

There was no further public comment.

67-20 Adopt 2020 Municipal Budget

On motion by Commissioner Francis, seconded by Deputy Mayor Burke, Resolution 67-20 was approved. The motion was carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Mayor Sabo thanked everyone involved with the budget preparation.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Proclamation – Loyalty Day, May 1, 2020

Minutes:

April 8, 2020 Work Session and Regular Meeting

Ordinances for Introduction and Publication:

580-20 An Ordinance Amending Section 27 of the Borough Code Regarding Building Eaves and Gutters and Downspouts

Resolutions:

68-20 Appointing Members to the Local Board of Health

69-20 Amending Resolution 65-20 – Temporarily Prohibiting Acceptance of Transient Guests or Seasonal Tenants by Hotels, Motels, Guest Houses or Private Residences in the Borough of West Cape May

70-20 Bill Payment

NON-CONSENT AGENDA

Ordinances for Second Reading and Public Hearing:

NONE

Resolutions:

NONE

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Francis thanked the community for continuing social distancing and taking the pandemic seriously.

Deputy Mayor Burke stated that he has been checking on older residents, mentioned the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, April 24th Arbor Day and the extra work done by Public Works from the recent storm.

Mayor Sabo offered thanks and gratitude for everyone pitching in to keep employees and families safe, exceptional work being done by all. Mayor Sabo stated that this is a new, temporary way of doing business and is an adjustment for the entire community.

PUBLIC PORTION

NONE

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm on motion of Commissioner Francis, seconded by Deputy Mayor Burke.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne M. Schumann, RMC
Municipal Clerk