



**-Revised-
February 12, 2008
WORK SESSION
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
TOWN OF OCEAN CITY
(Revised on 2/28/08)**

In attendance: Mayor Rick Meehan, Council President Joe Mitrecic, Council Secretary Nancy Howard, Council Members Jim Hall, Jay Hancock, Mary Knight, Lloyd Martin and Margaret Pillas, City Manager Dennis Dare, City Solicitor Guy Ayres, Assistant to City Manager Kathy Mathias, Finance Administrator Martha Bennett, Emergency Services Director Joe Theobald, Public Works Director Hal Adkins, Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician IV Michael Maykrantz, Ocean City Volunteer Fire Chief Chris Larmore, Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company President Jay Jester, Emergency Medical Services Captain Chuck Barton, Planning and Community Development Director Jesse Houston, Public Works Construction Superintendent Dean Dashiell, Public Works Solid Waste Superintendent Woodrow Shockley, Deputy City Clerk Kelly Allmond, Members of the Press and Interested Parties. Present for a portion of the meeting was City Clerk Carol Jacobs, Ocean City Police Department Captain Kevin Kirstein and Information Technology Director Nancy Bloxom.

Council President Joe Mitrecic called this work session to order at 12:00 p.m.; then, **Council Member Jim Hall moved to convene into closed session to discuss employee, legal and contractual matters; seconded by Council Member Lloyd Martin. The vote was unanimous.**

The Open Session reconvened at 1:06 p.m..

1. Council President Joe Mitrecic reported on the closed session held before this open session. Topics of discussion were: to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, removal or resignation of appointees, employees or officials over whom it has jurisdiction, or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; to discuss a matter directly related to a negotiation strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal if public discussion or disclosure adversely impacts the public body's ability to competitively bid or make proposals, and to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice. Council President Mitrecic reported that the following persons were present: Mayor Rick Meehan, Council President Joe Mitrecic, Council Secretary Nancy Howard, Council Members Jim Hall, Jay Hancock, Mary Knight, Lloyd Martin and Margaret Pillas, City Manager Dennis Dare, City Solicitor Guy Ayres, Assistant to City Manager Kathy Mathias.
2. In accordance with the Town's Employee Recognition Program, Public Works Solid Waste Superintendent Woodrow Shockley introduced Public Works Solid Waste Employees Brian Scarborough and Richard Hummel.

3. Bid openings:

A. Auctioneer Services

*Amended
on 2/28/08

| *Bidders |
|---|
| Pete Richardson Auction Sales, Inc., Willards, MD |
| Global Force Auction Group, LLC, Frederick, MD |
| Baltimore Auction Company (Irv Sass), Glyndon, MD |
| Express Auction Services, Inc., Baltimore, MD |
| Marshall Auction-Marketing Co., Inc., Salisbury, MD |
| BSC America, Bel Air, MD |

Council Member Jim Hall moved to acknowledge the bids for auctioneer services; seconded by Council Member Lloyd Martin. The vote was unanimous.

B. 2008 Milling and Paving*

(Staff Estimate = \$685,900; *Bid Bond Required)

| Bidders | Bid |
|--------------------|--------------|
| American Paving | \$596,852.48 |
| George & Lynch | \$699,385.76 |
| Jerry's Paving | \$638,610.00 |
| Daisy Construction | \$655,722.70 |

Council Member Lloyd Martin moved to acknowledge the apparent low bid from American Paving; seconded by Council Member Jim Hall. The vote was unanimous.

4. Ocean City Volunteer Fire (OCVFC) Chief Chris Larmore and OCVFC President Jay Jester addressed the Council to: provide an update on the progress of the Volunteer Fire Company; and, to reaffirm their commitment as combined (paid and volunteer) fire service, and to discuss the future of the OCVFC.

Mayor Meehan said the Mayor and City Council support the idea of hiring a paid Fire Chief. He recommended a strategic planning meeting between the Mayor, Council and the OCVFC in Emmitsburg, Maryland (the site of the Maryland State Fireman's Association Training Facility). Chief Larmore agreed to this meeting.

Council Secretary Nancy Howard moved to make immediate arrangements for a strategic planning meeting between the Mayor and City Council and the OCVFC, and set a deadline of December 31, 2008 for the hiring of a full-time paid Fire Chief; seconded by Council Member

*Amended
on 2/28/08

Mary Knight. *OCVFC President Jester advised against imposing a deadline for hiring the Fire Chief, as it may take longer to find the right candidate. Mayor Meehan concurred that a deadline should not be set.

FIRE SERVICE DISCUSSION CONTINUED...

Council Member Margaret Pillas made a recommendation to amend Council Secretary Howard's motion and appoint Chief Larmore as acting Fire Chief. Council Secretary Howard did not amend her motion.

***Amended** *Council President Joe Mitrecic restated the motion as: **Council Secretary Nancy Howard moved on 2/28/08 to make immediate arrangements for a strategic planning meeting with a contingency from the City and a contingency from the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company to discuss the future of the Fire Service for the Town of Ocean City. The vote was unanimous**

Chief Larmore concurred with the need to hire a full-time Fire Chief. He offered to serve as interim Chief, on a volunteer basis, if the Council grants him administrative and operational authority over the entire Fire Service.

Chief Larmore asserted that the Fire/Rescue Service needs "one Fire Chief". He advised that, in 2007, administrative decisions for the Fire Service were made without his knowledge causing dissention. This, he said, is affecting the morale and safety of his Members.

Council Member Knight said she must consult with the City Solicitor and all affected parties before making her decision.

Council Member Martin said he must have a thorough understanding of the employment process for a *volunteer* Fire Chief before making his decision.

Emergency Services Director Joe Theobald acknowledged that Chief Larmore should have operational authority on the fire ground. He said he is concerned about giving the Chief administrative authority over the Fire/EMS Division at this time (due to the approaching Summer Season). In addition, he emphasized that there was never a discussion on changing the Town into an all-paid Fire Service.

Firefighter/Paramedic Michael Maykrantz, President of the Career Fire Fighter Paramedics Association of Ocean City, IAFF Local 4269, recommended a renewal and continuation of the (recently-expired) Memorandum of Understanding until a full-time Fire Chief is hired. Furthermore, he said he is confident in Chief Larmore's abilities; but, as the Union President, he is concerned about the Volunteer Fire Chief having complete authority over the City's career Fire/EMS employees.

Council Member Margaret Pillas moved to appoint Chief Larmore as interim Fire Chief of the Fire/EMS Services for the Town of Ocean City; seconded by Council Member Jim Hall. The vote was 3-3-0 with Council Members Mitrecic, Howard and Knight opposed and with Council Member Martin abstained.

5. License Inspector Rich Mason recommended an annual business license fee for sexually oriented businesses of \$250, plus, \$100 per employee. **Council Member Jim Hall moved to accept Inspector Mason's recommendation for sexually oriented business license fees; seconded by Council Member Margaret Pillas. The vote was unanimous.**

6. Planning and Community Development Director Jesse Houston asked the Mayor and Council to support a request to include the Coastal Bays watershed in Senate Bill 213 and House Bill 369. **Council Member Mary Knight moved to support efforts to include the Coastal Bays watershed in the 2010 Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund and to send a letter to all sponsors to that effect. It was also suggested that the Mayor testify at the hearing; seconded by Council Secretary Nancy Howard. The vote was unanimous.**
7. City Solicitor Guy Ayres presented a proposed noise ordinance to amend Chapter 30, entitled *Environment*, regarding maximum noise levels; responsibilities of the property owner; procedure upon determination of excessive noise level, and notification to owners and tenants of noise level standards. **Council Member Jim Hall moved to proceed with the First Reading of this ordinance in the next Regular Session; seconded by Council Member Jay Hancock. The vote was unanimous.**
8. Information Technology Director Nancy Bloxom presented a revised Computer Policy Manual for review. Council Secretary Nancy Howard suggested the inclusion of cell phones in this policy. **Council Secretary Nancy Howard moved to approve the Revised Computer Policy as presented; seconded by Council Member Jim Hall. The vote was unanimous.**
9. Buddy Jenkins addressed the Council about House Bill #1151 regarding Worcester County – Property Tax Credit – Historically Operated Amusement Park. He asked the Council to support the inclusion of Jolly Rogers Amusement Park in this bill. **Council Secretary Nancy Howard moved to ask the Mayor to send a letter to Delegates Mathias and Conway and the Worcester County’s Board of Commissioners requesting that this legislation include historically operated ”Amusement Parks” (versus “Amusement Park” which, as written, excludes Jolly Rogers); seconded by Council Member Mary Knight. The vote was unanimous.**

Council Secretary Nancy Howard asked Mayor to send a letter requesting that St. Paul’s By the Sea be placed on the National Registry of Historic Landmarks.

Council Member Lloyd Martin moved to adjourn at 4:52 p.m.; seconded by Council Member Mary Knight. The vote was unanimous.