



**May 13, 2008
WORK SESSION
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
TOWN OF OCEAN CITY**

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 Solicitor Guy Ayres, City Manager Dennis Dare, Assistant to City Manager Kathy Mathias, Finance Administrator Martha Bennett-Lucey, Planning and Community Development Director Jesse Houston, Ocean City Police Chief Bernadette DiPino, Public Works Wastewater Superintendent Charlie Felin, Emergency Medical Services Captain Chuck Barton, Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician IV Kathleen Hartley, City Clerk Carol Jacobs, Deputy City Clerk Kelly Allmond, Members of the Press and Interested Parties.

Council President Joe Mitrecic called this work session to order at 12:04 p.m.; then, **Council Member Mary Knight moved to convene into closed session to discuss legal, personnel and real estate matters; seconded by Council Member Jim Hall. The vote was unanimous.**

The Open Session reconvened at 1:10 p.m. .

1. Council President Joe Mitrecic reported on the closed session held prior to 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 consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto; to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice; to consult with Staff, consultants or other individuals about pending or potential litigations; and, to comply with a specific constitutional, statutory or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter. Persons present were: Mayor Rick Meehan, Council President Joe Mitrecic, Council Members Jim Hall, Jay Hancock, Mary Knight, Lloyd Martin and Margaret Pillas, City Solicitor Guy Ayres, City Manager Dennis Dare, Assistant to City Manager Kathy Mathias, Mary Adeline Bradford, Gertrude Apple, Mary Dean, Barbara Schmitt and Jamie Albright.

The Open Session reconvened at 1:10 p.m.

Council Member Mary Knight moved to appoint Mary Adeline Bradford, Gertrude Apple, Mary Dean, Barbara Schmitt and Jamie Albright to the Board of Elections; seconded by Council Member Jim Hall. The vote was unanimous.

2. In accordance with the Town's Employee Recognition Program, Emergency Medical Services Captain Chuck Barton introduced Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician IV Kathleen Hartley and Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician IV Michael Maykrantz (was introduced later in the meeting).

3. Emergency Medical Services Captain Chuck Barton, assisted by Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician IV Kathleen Hartley, demonstrated the Zoll Auto Pulse - equipment that mechanically delivers chest compressions to patients in cardiac arrest.
4. Public Works Wastewater Superintendent Charlie Felin requested approval to sole source purchase one chemical induction unit from **Kershner Environmental Technologies**, for the amount of \$15,789.00. **Council Member Jim Hall moved to approve; seconded by Council Secretary Nancy Howard. The vote was unanimous.**
5. Maryland Coastal Bays Program Director Dave Wilson asked the Mayor and Council to recruit a member to serve on the Coastal Fisheries Advisory Committee. The Mayor said he and the Council will consider who to recruit for this committee.
6. City Clerk Carol Jacobs proposed a minor revision Chapter 30, Article IV authorizing Planning and Zoning and the Building Official to handle Lot Maintenance (inspecting and notifying parcel owners of excessive growth of tall weeds and grass), thus removing the City Clerks Office of this responsibility. She stated that the Chief Building Official Mike Richardson and Planning and Community Development Director Jesse Houston support this amendment. **Council Secretary Nancy Howard moved to ask the City Solicitor to prepare this amendment for First Reading; seconded by Council Member Lloyd Martin. The vote was unanimous.**

Secondly, City Clerk Carol Jacobs made a recommendation to raise the base rate of the first cut to one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150); and, for subsequent cuts, the base rate will increase by twenty-five dollars (\$150 for First Cut; \$175 for Second Cut, \$200 for Third Cut). **Council Secretary Nancy Howard moved to approve the rate increase; seconded by Council Member Mary Knight. The vote was unanimous.**

7. City Clerk Carol Jacobs requested an amendment to § 13.6 of the General and Public Safety Pension Plan (see Attachment A). **Council Member Jim Hall moved to approve; seconded by Council Secretary Nancy Howard. The vote was unanimous.**
8. City Solicitor Guy Ayres presented General Order 500 A-3, entitled *Specialty Unit Assignment and Specialized Training Selection*. **Council Member Lloyd Martin moved to approve; seconded by Council Member Mary Knight. The vote was unanimous.** The Mayor concurred with the vote.

Secondly, he presented General Order 500 H-1, entitled *Implementation of the Harassment Free Workplace Policy*. **Council Member Lloyd Martin moved to approve; seconded by Council Member Margaret Pillas. The vote was unanimous.** The Mayor concurred with the vote.

9. [The review and approval of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company was withdrawn from the agenda.]

Council Member Jim Hall moved to adjourn at 1:45 p.m.; seconded by Council Member Mary Knight. The vote was unanimous.



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor & City Council
Dennis W. Dare, City Manager

From: Carol L. Jacobs, City Clerk

Date: May 8, 2008

Subject: Agenda Item – Amendment to General and Public Safety Pension Plan

During the May 15, 2007 Work Session, the Human Resources Director presented a request to renew CareFirst Blue Cross Blue Shield Medical/Prescription Drug/Vision Renewal based on analysis prepared by Bolton Partners, Inc. Included were changes to retiree health benefits. The Council unanimously approved the recommendations.

Not included in the Executive Summary prepared by Bolton Partners, Inc., but part of the negotiations was a new provision that allows *retirees who meet the eligibility requirements of retiree health care on their date of retirement to drop the Town's plan and enroll in a spouse's plan. As long as the retiree remains covered under a group plan, the Town's plan will be available if they lose coverage under the spouse's plan. If two spouses work for the Town and one retires, they will be eligible under the active employee's contract and will not have to enroll in the retiree health plan and pay the higher rates. The retiree will only be eligible to drop coverage and re-enroll one time and must provide proof of continuous coverage under a group health plan (HIPAA certificate).* CareFirst agreed that there would be no increase in rates for this change.

This language should be included in both pension documents under Article 13 MISCELLANEOUS § 13.6, second paragraph, which describes eligibility for employer's health and hospitalization benefits for retired employees.

Please consider approval of the above provision and direct the City Solicitor to prepare an amending ordinance.