

May 2, 2011
Regular Session #9
Mayor and Council
Town of Ocean City

Council Member Richard W. Meehan
Council President James S. Hall
Council Secretary Lloyd Martin

Council Member Margaret Pillas
Council Member Mary Knight
Council Member Doug Cymek
Council Member Joe Hall
Council Member Brent Ashley

ATTENDANCE

City Manager Dennis Dare, City Solicitor Guy Ayres, City Clerk Kathleen Mathias, Finance Administrator Martha Lucey, Zoning Administrator Blaine Smith, Private Events Coordinator Lisa Mitchell, Members of the Press and Interested Parties.

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Jim Hall called this Regular Session to order at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 301 Baltimore Avenue, Ocean City, Maryland 21842.

PRAYER & PLEDGE

Terry Davis of Ocean City Baptist Church led the prayer and Mayor Meehan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

REPORT FROM CITY MANAGER ON UPCOMING WORK SESSION

City Manager Dare reported that the following items are scheduled for discussion in the next work session:

- (1.) Maryland State Highway Administration – Spring Meeting - presented by: Donnie Drewer, District Engineer
- (2.) Discussion of Scoot Coupes - presented by: Reese Cropper
- (3.) Request Approval of Engineering Services Proposal for Electrical Upgrades Design at the Wastewater Treatment Plant - presented by: Hal Adkins, Public Works Director

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Work Session – dated April 12, 2011 – approved
- B. Regular Session #8 – dated April 18, 2011 – approved

PRIVATE EVENT PERMIT REQUESTS

- A. Showell Elementary School First Grade Boardwalk Walk – Tuesday, May 24, 2011
Presented by: Lisa Mitchell, Private Events Coordinator and Alvson Brabitz **Council Member Ashley moved to approve; seconded by Council Member Knight. The vote was unanimous.**

- B. 21st Annual Maryland State Bar Association Sun Run – June 11, 2011, June 5, 2012 and June 14, 2013 Presented by: Lisa Mitchell, Private Events Coordinator **Council Member Knight moved to approve; seconded by Council Member Cymek. The vote was unanimous.**

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Invitation to the 25th Annual AARP Chapter 1917 Health Fair – Wednesday, May 11, 2011 - presented by: Melvin Friedman, Chair. Mr. Friedman asked the Council to consider participating in the Fair with a booth featuring Ocean City health and safety issues. Council Member Pillas suggested featuring the MedTran Service. **Council Member Cymek moved to consider participating; seconded by Council Member Ashley. The vote was unanimous.**
- B. Report from Ocean City Surfrider Foundation - presented by: Terry Steimer
Mr. Steimer said that 75% of all trash in the ocean is land-based, and, 100,000 sea birds are killed yearly due to ingesting, or getting entangled in, plastics. He advised that, to date, the “Please Leave Only Your Footprints” logo is printed on 350 beach trash receptacles, municipal trash trucks, and street signs at every beach access. In addition, the Convention Center, Sign Boat and Comcast radio spots and a banner hung over Baltimore Avenue at 11th Street will display their message. He hopes the Council will permit L.E.D. signs at all entrances to Ocean City and the Park & Ride. Lastly, he advised that 10 smoking areas will be established on the beach, and, he plans to give away 40 T-Shirts saying, “Thank you for Smoking Here” to any beach patron he finds making an effort to keep cigarette butts off the beach.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Conditional Use Request - Pursuant to provisions of Article II, Section 5, Conditional Uses, a request has been filed for a single parasail boat to operate from the boat basin at the head of the east end of the lagoon leading to Assawoman Bay. The site of the request is described as Resubdivision Lot 2 and Revised Lot 1, Section 2 of the Caine Harbor Mile Plat, further described as located on the west side of Coastal Highway and south side of Ocean City Square, and known locally as 11703 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, Maryland. **Council Member Knight moved to reject the Finding of Fact thus deny the conditional use and instead, adopt the following finding of facts: (1) the operation is more than three hundred feet from open waters (2) the commercial operation will have to pass through a residential zone (3) it may interfere with residential water activity (4) currently, there is congestion at the intersecting channel (5) this would cause noise and be a nuisance to neighboring property owners; seconded by Council Member Pillas. The vote was 6-1 with Council Member Joe Hall opposed.**

ITEMS REFERRED TO AND PRESENTATIONS FROM THE CITY SOLICITOR

- A. Second Reading – Ordinance 2011-12 Authorizing Additional Paid Parking Spaces (1st Street and the Bay). **Council Member Knight moved to ratify Ordinance 2011-12; seconded by Council Secretary Martin. The vote was unanimous.**
- B. Second Reading – Ordinance 2011-13 to Amend Chapter 110, Entitled Zoning (grants Planning Commission site plan approval for certain uses). **Council Secretary Martin moved to ratify Ordinance 2011-13; seconded by Council Member Knight. The vote was unanimous.**
- C. Second Reading – Ordinance 2011-14 Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Personal Property (sale of 4 four trolleys to Annapolis). **Council Member Knight moved to ratify Ordinance 2011-14; seconded by Council Secretary Martin. The vote was unanimous.**

- D. First Reading – Ordinance 2011-15 Chapter 102 Entitled Vehicles for Hire (requires drivers to notify police of affiliation changes, and, medallion holders to have contact numbers) with the addition of the words “and a licensed taxi driver.” **Council Member Cymek moved to approve the First Reading of Ordinance 2011-15 as amended; seconded by Council Member Ashley. The vote was unanimous.**

ITEMS REFERRED TO AND PRESENTATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Dare presented a Staff recommendation to award George & Lynch, in the amount of \$344,357.24 for the 2011 Street Paving Contract. **Council Member Knight moved to approve; seconded by Council Secretary Martin. The vote was 6-0 with Council Member Pillas out of the room.**

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Taxi Medallion Owner Larry Bode advised that the ‘Taxi Cab Association’ rejected the Council’s idea to add a \$1.00 surcharge (in lieu of raising the maximum fare). He asked the Council to reconsider increasing the maximum fare to thirty cents per one-tenth of a mile. **Council Member Ashley moved to proceed with a resolution to change the maximum allowed fare from \$.22 per one-tenth of a mile to \$.24 per one-tenth of a mile; seconded by Council Member Joe Hall. The vote was 4-3 with Council Members Martin, Knight and Pillas opposed.**

John Adkins asked the Council to consider the cost difference between hiring the five police officers under the defined benefit plan and hiring the five police officers under the proposed defined contribution plan. Council President Hall advised that he will have staff research and answer his question. He also spoke about the costs of diesel fuel, propane, gasoline and liquefied natural gas.

Bob Melvin commended Town employees for providing excellent service. Also, he advised that Walmart will be donating \$1,000.00 to the MedTran Service.

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Council Member Ashley asked Mr. Dare to look into posting a box for comment cards.

Council Member Knight will request the State’s permission to install a web cam on the Route 50 Bridge at the next State Highway Meeting.

Mayor Meehan thanked all Arbor Day participants, especially the 2nd Graders. He reminded the forum that Springfest starts this Thursday, Relay for Life is Friday, and the Grand Opening of the Jolly Roger’s zip line. He also mentioned that he, former Mayor “Fish” Powell, Jeanne Powell and Senator Mathias attended Governor Schaefer’s funeral.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Secretary Martin moved to adjourn at 7:25 p.m.; seconded by Council Member Knight. The vote was unanimous.