

January 17, 2012
Regular Session #2
Mayor and Council
Town of Ocean City

Mayor 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

Mayor/Interim City Manager Rick Meehan, Council President Jim Hall, Council Secretary Lloyd Martin, Council Members Margaret Pillas, Mary Knight, Doug Cymek, Brent Ashley and Joe Hall, City Solicitor Guy Ayres, City Clerk Kelly Allmond, Fire Chief Chris Larmore, Emergency Medical Services Director Chuck Barton, Private Events Coordinator Lisa Mitchell, Members of the Press and Interested Parties.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PRAYER & PLEDGE

American Legion Chaplain Warren Disbrow led the prayer, and the forum led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The following minutes were approved as presented:

- A. Work Session - dated December 13, 2011
- B. Regular Session #23 – dated December 19, 2011

ITEMS PRESENTED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

A. Presentation of the Firefighter of the Year Award

Assistant Volunteer Fire Chief Bo Duke presented the Firefighter of the Year award to OC Firefighter Jeff Aperance

B. Presentation of the Paramedic of the Year Award

Emergency Medical Service Captain Chuck Barton presented the Paramedic of the Year Award to Firefighter/EMT-P Kim Tull

C. Introduction of New Fire Department Officer

Fire Chief Chris Larmore announced the promotion of Bo Duke to Fire Chief and Will Savage to 3rd Assistant Fire Chief of the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Department.

PRIVATE EVENT PERMIT REQUESTS

Dew Tour – August 16 – August 19, 2012

Presented by: Lisa Mitchell, Private Events Coordinator and Aileen Koprowski Sokol and Chris Prybylo, of Alli Sports **Council Member Knight moved to approve the 2012 Dew Tour Event; seconded by Council Member Cymek. The vote was unanimous.**

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Discussion of Approval Process for Scooter Rentals

Mayor Meehan said that, in response to last week's Work Session discussion regarding the regulation of scooter rental businesses, he tasked Director Houston and the Planning and Zoning Commission to standardize the operations of such businesses (i.e. business locations, practice areas and inspections). Director Houston asked the Council for direction on whether such operations are approved as a special exception (heard by the Board of Zoning & Appeals) or, by Conditional Use (heard by the Planning and Zoning Commission). **Council Member Pillas moved to proceed with a public hearing for conditional use; seconded by Council Secretary Martin. The vote was unanimous.** Director Houston advised that the earliest possible date for a Public Hearing is late February.

Council Member Pillas moved to schedule, in the next Work Session, the reading of an ordinance establishing a 90-day moratorium on new scooter rental businesses; seconded by Council Member Knight. The vote was 5-2 with Council Member Joe Hall and Council Member Brent Ashley opposed.

ITEMS REFERRED TO AND PRESENTATIONS FROM THE CITY SOLICITOR

City Solicitor Ayres presented the following items for approval:

- A. First Reading – **Ordinance 2012-1** to Amend Chapter 6 Entitled Animals (to allow horseback riding on the beach). **Council Member Ashley moved to approve the First Reading of Ordinance 2012-1; seconded by Council Member Joe Hall. The vote was 4-3 with Council Members Knight, Martin and Cymek opposed.**
- B. First Reading – **Ordinance 2012-2** to Amend Chapter 30 Entitled Environment (to place volume restrictions on noise emanating from public ways). Mayor Meehan noted that this is the first step towards defined regulations, and pointed out that the 50-foot rule will be enforced. Council Member Margaret Pillas and OCPD Captain Kevin Kirstein suggested changing it to the 30-foot rule. **Council Member Pillas moved to approve the First Reading of Ordinance 2012-2; seconded by Council Member Knight. The vote was unanimous.**
- C. First Reading – **Ordinance 2012-3** to Amend Chapter 110 Entitled Zoning (to include design guidelines in the site plan approval process). Mayor/Interim City Manager Rick Meehan clarified that the purpose of this ordinance is to limit extreme designs in local neighborhoods as builders will be called to present their site plans to the Planning and Zoning Commission. **Council Member Mary Knight moved to approve the First Reading of Ordinance 2012-3; seconded by Council Member Joe Hall. The vote was 4-3 with Council Members Pillas, Ashley and Cymek opposed.**

- D. Resolution to Authorize the Disposition of Personal Property (to sell vehicles and miscellaneous items on GovDeals.com) **Council Secretary Martin moved to ratify Resolution 2012-1 as amended; seconded by Council Member Joe Hall. The vote was unanimous.**

ITEMS REFERRED TO AND PRESENTATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

Mayor/Interim City Manager Rick Meehan presented the following items for approval:

- A. **Bid Award Recommendation for Robin Drive Shoreline Protection Project**
Council Secretary Martin moved to award the Robin Drive Shoreline Protection project to Walter-Higgins Contracting for the amount of \$315,000.00 (Staff Estimate: \$328,040.00); seconded by Council Member Knight. The vote was unanimous.
- B. **Solicit Bids for (1) replacement Carpeting for Eagle's Landing Clubhouse; (2) mowing contract for Parks & Recreation; (3) Coastal Highway Median Renovations from 74th to 87th Street. Council Member Mary Knight moved to approve; seconded by Council Member Ashley. The vote was unanimous. Council Member Joe Hall asked for list of properties that need to be mowed.**
- C. **Council Secretary Lloyd Martin moved to approve the sole source purchase the minibroom from Tennant Mini Broom in the amount of \$55,912.13 (Budget Allocation = \$60,000.00) and approve the sale of the old mini broom on govdeals.com; seconded by Council Member Joe Hall. The vote was unanimous.**
- D. **Council Secretary Martin moved to approve the transfer of taxi medallion #157 from Paul's Taxi to Hytham Zienelabin Elhag; seconded by Council Member Joe Hall. The vote was unanimous.**

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Herb Pawlukewicz asserted that unemployment benefits are detrimental to the financial welfare of the Town. Mayor said that the State of Maryland requires payment of unemployment benefits despite reform efforts proposed to the General Assembly. Also, he said the Town should give employees flat raises rather than C.O.L.A. raises.

Peter Gjikuria offered his own experience and insight on regulating scooter rental shops and pledged.

Joe Groves said he agrees with Council Member Pillas opposition to the design guidelines.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

Council Member Margaret Pillas passed along a recommendation for TAB, to hold a regional amateur golf tour at Eagles Landing. Also, she said that she has received numerous inquiries about this year's budget and offered that the Town's operating expense have been reduced as much as possible.

Council Member Joe Hall asked Staff to present the public with an explanation how tax assessments and revenues affect the tax rate. Mayor Meehan said he will work with Finance Director Martha Bennett.

Council President Jim Hall thanked Public Works for a great job renovating the 65th Street water tower.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Secretary Martin moved to adjourn at 7:22 PM; seconded by Council Member Pillas. The vote was unanimous.