

## **City Council Approves Moving Forward with Initial Plans for Convention Center Expansion, February 24 2009**

Ocean City, MD – (February 24, 2009) The Ocean City Mayor and Council voted to move forward with plans to expand the Roland E. Powell Convention Center and to support a one-half percent reduction in the food tax to fund the bond debt to pay for the town's portion of the project.

City Engineer Terry McGean and Gary McGuigan, of the Maryland Stadium Authority, presented three options for future improvements to the convention center. The Maryland Stadium Authority has voted unanimously to contribute 50 percent in State funding for any new space presented in two of the options, with up to \$4.1 million pledged.

The Ocean City Council selected the staff-recommended option that will enclose and expand the existing back deck of the convention center to create a new bay-view hall with 20,000 sq. ft. of space. This option also enables the conversion of a portion of the existing ballroom into a fixed-seat auditorium while maintaining 20,000 sq. ft. of second floor ballroom space in a single room.