

**CITY OF SEA ISLE CITY, NEW JERSEY  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2014 – 6:00 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
SEA ISLE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**ATTENDANCE:** Mr. Divney, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Kehner and Ms. Tighe. Also attending was Mayor Desiderio, Administrator Mr. Savastano and Solicitor Mr. Baldini, CFO Ms. Doll and Auditor Mr. Costello, RMA. **ABSENT:** Mr. Edwardi

Council President Tighe called the meeting to order and asked everyone to rise for the flag salute. She then announced the meeting had been advertised in accordance with P. L. 1975, Chapter 231.

Ms. Tighe then asked for a motion to adopt the minutes of the 2-25-14 Regular Meeting and 2-25-14 Budget Workshop. Motion moved by Mr. Divney and seconded by Mr. Kehner. All ayes followed.

**REPORTS-Mayor and Administrator:** Mayor Desiderio responded to Mrs. Shirk's question at the last meeting regarding putting the electric lines underground along Sea Isle blvd as part of the County project . He said he spoke with the County engineer and learned that it would increase the cost by 5 or 6 times.

The Mayor then announced that the City recently received an upgraded bond rating to AA from Standard and Poors. He thanked everyone for maintaining strong financial policies as well as a well-funded surplus balance that adds to the AA rating which is the best rating the City has ever had.

Mr. Savastano reported that the Central Avenue project continues to be on schedule.

**REPORTS-Council:** There were no reports from Council.

Ms. Tighe next announced that the Mayor will be leaving for a Freeholder meeting and he has asked that the public hearing on the budget be moved up on the agenda so that he may be present. She added that Ordinance No. 1560 will also be moved up as it must be adopted prior to the budget adoption.

**ORDINANCES SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING:** Ms. Tighe asked for a motion to take up ordinance 1560 for second reading and public hearing. Motion moved by Mr. Kehner and seconded by Mr. Divney. All ayes followed. The clerk read the ordinance by title: **1560 – Calendar Year 2014 Ordinance to Exceed The Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank.** Ms. Doll explained that the ordinance does not appropriate any money, it provides the ability to exceed that CAP if necessary, however, the current budget is not close to the CAP.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** There was no public comment on Ordinance No. 1560.

Ms. Tighe then asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1560 on second reading. Motion moved by Mr. Kehner and seconded by Mr. Divney. All ayes followed.

**RESOLUTIONS – Second Reading and Public Hearing of the 2014 Local Municipal Budget.** The clerk read Resolution 18A as introduced on 2-11-2014 and advertised on 2-19-2014.

**PUBLIC HEARING – As Introduced (Resolution #018A) on 2-11-2014 and advertised 2-19-2014:** There was no public comment on Resolution #018A.

Mr. Divney indicated that he initially thought the amount of surplus should be reduced but after discussions, most agree it should not, but there should be a concern for the future of how will the \$2 million fund balance continue to be replenished. He went on to suggest adding funds for an independent study regarding the recently released CMC Consolidation of Dispatch Study. Ms. Tighe agreed with the need for an independent study and asked if there were funds in the operating budget to handle it.

Mr. Savastano said he met with the Chief and after examining the SIC portions, found there were several inconsistencies and reached out to the authors and are in the process of getting amendments and that the City is in favor of participating. Mr. Divney suggest being a participant in the "barrier island group" and Mr. Savastano said that there is a grouping that does make sense, but not the one identified in the report. After much discussion all agreed that public safety is the number one priority.

Mr. Gibson said he thinks it is an excellent budget but feels the anticipated revenues are too conservative and suggested beach tag revenues could be raised by \$100k, cell tower fees by \$30k and UCC construction fees by \$50k for a total of \$180,000.00. Mr. Costello explained that it would not be a financially sound move because the items mentioned would reduce the ability to make fund balance if the anticipated revenues were not realized. He suggested the better solution is to reduce expenditures. Ms. Tighe agreed suggesting its all about people and reducing staffing levels which has been done over the course of the last 7 years.

Mr. Kehner suggested not doing anything to reduce fund balance as the City just received the higher bond rating partly due to the level of surplus. He added that he would be opposed to centralized dispatch. Mr. Divney indicated he was not supporting it, he is concerned the City did not participate. He added that he could not support Mr. Gibson's suggestions.

Ms. Tighe then asked for a motion to adopt Resolution No. 18A – the 2014 Local Municipal Budget. Motion moved by Mr. Kehner and seconded by Mr. Divney. All ayes followed.

**ORDINANCES-Introduction and First Reading:** Ms. Tighe asked for a motion to introduce Ordinance 1564 on first reading. Motion moved by Mr. Gibson and seconded by Mr. Divney. All ayes followed. The Clerk read the ordinance by title: **1564 – An Ordinance to Amend Various Sections and Schedules in Chapters 7 Entitled “Traffic” and Chapter 8 Entitled “Off Street Traffic Regulations” of the Revised General Ordinances of the City of Sea Isle City to Reflect the Necessary Changes to Allow for Consistency and Traffic Flow.** Mr. Baldini provided an overview of the amendments.

Ms. Tighe then asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1564 on first reading and publish according to law. Motion moved by Mr. Divney and seconded by Mr. Gibson. All ayes followed. Ms. Tighe announced second reading and public hearing will be 4-8-14.

Ms. Tighe asked for a motion to introduce Ordinance 1565 on first reading. Motion moved by Mr. Divney and seconded by Mr. Kehner. All ayes followed. The clerk read the Ordinance by title: **1565 – A Bond Ordinance Providing for Various Capital Improvements In And By The City of Sea Isle City, In The County of Cape May, New Jersey, Appropriating \$3,000,000 Therefor And Authorizing The Issuance of \$2,850,000 Bonds Or Notes Of The City To Finance Part Of The Cost Therof.** Mr. Savastano outlined the projects included in the ordinance and that are in the 2014 capital plan.

Ms. Tighe then asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance 1565 on first reading and publish according to law. Motion moved by Mr. Kehner and seconded by Mr. Gibson. All ayes followed and Ms. Tighe announced second reading and public hearing will be 4/8/14 at 10:00 am.

Ms. Tighe asked for a motion to introduce Ordinance 1566 on first reading. Motion moved by Mr. Kehner and seconded by Mr. Gibson. All ayes followed. The clerk read the Ordinance by title: **1566 – A Bond Ordinance Providing for Improvements To The Water/Sewer Utility In and By the City of Sea Isle City, In The County of Cape May, New Jersey, Appropriating \$2,900,000 Therefor And Authorizing The Issuance of \$2,900,000 Bonds Or Notes Of City To Finance Part Of The Cost Therof.** Mr. Savastano gave an overview of the water/sewer utility projects included in the ordinance.

Ms. Tighe then asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance 1566 on first reading and publish according to law. Motion moved by Mr. Divney and seconded by Mr. Gibson. All ayes followed and Ms. Tighe announced second reading and public hearing will be 4/8/14 at 10:00 am.

**CITIZEN COMMENT-Resolutions on Consent Agenda:** There was no citizen comment on the resolutions.

**RESOLUTION – Consent Agenda:**

**037** – Authorizing the Approval of Vouchers

**038** – Authorizing Use of Tennis Fee Trust Funds

**039** – Authorizing Award of Contract for Construction of 47<sup>th</sup> Place Bulkhead at Rio Delle Ponte, North and South Sides (*Marine Maintenance and Construction* \$275,387.20)

**040** – Declaration of Surplus Property and Authorization of On-Line Auction (1999 Ford Taurus SE and a Utility Trailer)

**041** – Authorizing Shared Services Agreement Between the City of Sea Isle, Borough of Avalon and Borough of Stone Harbor for Utilization of the Comcast Local Access Channel (97)

**042** – Authorizing Local Unit Budget Examination

Mr. Gibson indicated a concern with #039 as the resolution identifies certain conditions of the lowest responsible bidder and asked Mr. Savastano if he was comfortable awarding and he said he was as he had several conversations with City Engineer, Mr. Previti and he did his due diligence prior to recommending the award.

Ms. Tighe then asked for a motion to adopt resolutions on the consent agenda. Motion moved by Mr. Gibson and seconded by Mr. Kehner. All ayes followed.

**PENDING BUSINESS** ~ Mr. Gibson suggested the City look enthusiastically at the County Centralized Dispatch as the report indicated we did not participate and only had a response from one officer. Mr. Divney agreed adding that the issue should be resolved before a new dispatch system is installed in the new City Hall.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Mr. Kehner indicated resident Edward Hunter has proposed to him a use for the Funland area; pickle ball.

Ms. Tighe announced the local access channel has moved from Channel 2 to Channel 97.

**CITIZEN COMMENT:**

**Dan Tumolo-7407 Pleasure Ave:** Expressed concern that county-wide dispatch could negatively impact quick responses and that “regionalizing” could be based on ratable regarding costs. He concluded that he is supportive of all of the changes and improvements as he is getting value for his tax dollars.

**Tom McCarthy-125 78<sup>th</sup> St:** Said he was speaking for Ed Hunter and promoting creating a “pickle ball area” at the Funland location. He then explained it is a form of handball and would only require painted lines. Mr. Tumolo added that it was also known as pimple ball and started in Philadelphia.

Chief D’Intino announced that due to Landis Avenue construction, the St. Patrick’s Day Parade will go 93<sup>rd</sup> North on Landis Avenue, East on 71<sup>st</sup> Street to North on Pleasure Avenue and back up to Landis on 65<sup>th</sup> and onto 63<sup>rd</sup>.

Ms. Tighe asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion moved by Mr. Gibson and seconded by Mr. Divney. All ayes followed and the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.