

**CITY OF SEA ISLE CITY, NEW JERSEY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2016 - 10:00 A.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 3RD FLOOR
CITY HALL – 233 JFK BLVD.**

ATTENDANCE: Mr. Divney, Mr. Edwardi, Mr. Kehner, Ms. Tighe and Mr. Gibson. Also attending was Administrator Mr. Savastano and Solicitor Mr. Baldini.

Mr. Gibson called the meeting to order and asked everyone to rise for the flag salute and prayer. He then announced the meeting had been advertised in accordance with P. L. 1975, Chapter 231.

Mr. Gibson then asked for a motion to adopt the minutes of the 2/9/2016 Regular Meeting and 2/9/2016 closed session for content only and the Budget Workshop of 2/11/2016. Motion moved by Ms. Tighe and seconded by Mr. Kehner. All ayes followed.

REPORTS-Mayor and Administrator: Jim Bennett, Tourism Commission Chair used a power point presentation to outline the marketing plans for the 2016 season.

Mr. Savastano reported that the beach fill project is currently delayed as the dredge has been moved to a safe harbor due to the weather.

Mr. Gibson asked the status of the Landis Avenue Streetscape project and Mr. Savastano said it should be completed by mid-April.

REPORTS-Council: Ms. Tighe thanked everyone involved in the successful Polar Bear Plunge Weekend.

ORDINANCE-Introduction and First Reading:

Mr. Gibson asked for a motion to take up Ordinance 1586 for introduction and first reading. Motion moved by Mr. Edwardi and seconded by Mr. Kehner. All ayes followed. The Clerk read the Ordinance by title: **1586 - Calendar Year 2016 Ordinance to Exceed The Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank.**

Mr. Gibson then asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1586 on first reading and publish according to law. Motion moved by Mr. Edwardi and seconded by Ms. Tighe. All ayes followed. Mr. Gibson announced second reading and public hearing will be 3/29/2016 at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Gibson asked for a motion to take up Ordinance 1587 for introduction and first reading. Motion moved by Ms. Tighe and seconded by Mr. Divney. All ayes followed. The Clerk read the Ordinance by title: **1587 – An Ordinance of the City of Sea Isle City, New Jersey Providing for Ingress and Egress Easements to the Springfield Inn, Inc., Block 43.01, Lots 12,13 and 14, 12 43rd Street to Portions of Certain Public Property and Setting Conditions Therefore.**

Mr. Gibson then asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1587 on first reading and publish according to law. Motion moved by Mr. Divney and seconded by Mr. Kehner.

Mr. Gibson asked for a motion to take up Ordinance 1588 for introduction and first reading. Motion moved by Mr. Edwardi and seconded by Mr. Divney. All ayes followed. The Clerk read the Ordinance by title: **1588 – 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 \$4,200,000 Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of \$3,990,000 Bonds or Notes of the City to Finance Part of the Cost Thereof.**

Mr. Gibson then asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1588 on first reading and publish according to law. Motion moved by Mr. Edwardi and seconded by Mr. Kehner. All ayes followed.

Mr. Gibson asked for a motion to take up Ordinance 1589 for introduction and first reading. Motion moved by Mr. Kehner and seconded by Mr. Divney. All ayes followed. The Clerk read the Ordinance by title: **1589 – A Bond Ordinance Providing for Various Improvements of the Water/Sewer Utility in and by the City of Sea Isle City, in the County of Cape May, New Jersey, Appropriating \$3,800,000 Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of \$3,800,000 Bonds or Notes of the City to Finance Part of the Cost Therof.**

Mr. Gibson then asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1589 on first reading and publish according to law. Motion moved by Mr. Edwardi and seconded Mr. Kehner. All ayes followed.

Mr. Gibson announced second reading and public hearing for Ordinances 1587, 1588 and 1589 will be March 15, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

RESOLUTION #031 – Introduction of the 2015 Local Municipal Budget. The clerk read the resolution announcing the amount to be raised by taxation is \$16,936,675.69, the budget will be advertised on 3/9/2016 and the second reading and public hearing will be 3/29/2016 at 10:00 a.m

Mr. Savastano said there was one change from the budget that the Mayor presented, on sheet 9 there is a grant for "Drive Sober Get Pulled Over" that was realized in 2015 in the amount of \$4165.92. He also explained that a new State mandated "User Friendly Budget" has been distributed and will be on the website along with the State budget document.

Mr. Edwardi confirmed that once the Council introduces the budget, it becomes the Council's to make changes and Mr. Savastano said yes.

Mr. Gibson next asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #031 introducing the 2016 budget. Motion moved by Mr. Edwardi and seconded by Ms. Tighe. All ayes followed.

CITIZEN COMMENT~ Resolutions on Consent Agenda: There was no public comment on the resolutions.

RESOLUTION – Consent Agenda:

032 - Authorizing the Approval of Vouchers

033 - Authorizing Tax Overpayment Refunds

034 - Authorizing Change Order No. 1 for the Maintenance & Repair of City Streets

Mr. Gibson next asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda, Resolutions #032 to #034. Motion moved by Mr. Edwardi and seconded by Ms. Tighe. All ayes followed.

PENDING BUSINESS: Mr. Edwardi asked the Council if it would allow a local builder, Rich Mashura to make a power point presentation at the next meeting regarding Floor Area Ratio (FAR). Mr. Gibson said yes, but that he would also like to discuss other issues relating to FAR such as parking, bump-outs and covered porches. Mr. Gibson also asked to review when "As Built Surveys" are required. There was much discussion regarding the Solicitor preparing several ordinances for introduction at the next meeting, but in conclusion all agreed that the solicitor will come prepared with the current ordinances for discussion regarding changes and then direction can be given regarding an Ordinance for the next meeting.

Mr. Gibson then asked the Council if it would like to have an additional budget workshop and all agreed that discussions can continue at the March 15, 2016 meeting rather than a separate workshop.

Mr. Kehner reiterated a citizens request to have the Police close streets during flood events and Mr. Savastano said he will discuss it with the Chief.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Divney thanked the Administration for providing all of the information requested at the budget workshop. He went on to say that he feels a 7% increase could be off-set by utilizing the Water and Sewer surplus to reduce debt or for one time expenditures. Ms. Tighe said she knows that it is not a best practice to use surplus in the utility budget to offset the general budget, but she does want to look at ways to reduce if possible. She added that after reviewing the budget, she can find nothing that has gone up significantly. Mr. Edwardi agreed, adding that the infrastructure is old and have a surplus of funds is a positive and Mr. Kehner agreed as he recently read an article in the AC Press that another municipality has such an old infrastructure and concerned because there is no surplus. Mr. Divney said that Bonds are used for infrastructure, not surplus.

CITIZEN COMMENT:

Ann Organ-209 39th St: Asked if the bond ordinances introduced today will create new debt and was told yes, but other older debt comes off the books. She then had questions regarding the hiring of conflict hearing officer and special counsel at the last meeting. Mr. Baldini explained the conflict hearing officer is in the event there is a conflict and the special counsel is because he (Baldini) has a conflict and cannot represent the City.

John Evans-237 79th St: Asked for an explanation of Ordinance 1586 and Mrs. Doll explained that it is an annual Ordinance that allows the City to "bank" unused CAP funds in the event it is needed. He next asked about Ordinance 1587 and asked if it is the same easement that currently exists and Ms. Tighe said yes, but wider. Regarding the Council's plan to re-visit FAR, he said there were many meetings and workshops that the developers and realtors could have participated in and urged the Council not to react to their demands.

Brian Emery-on behalf of Mike Monichetti: Thanked the City for all of the efforts for the Autism Walk/Run as it was a huge success.

Ann Organ-209 39th St: Asked if the Springfield Inn had an existing easement and Mr. Baldini said it may not as many of the promenade businesses never formalized easements.

Vicky Miller – 11 & 13 84th St: Asked if the promenade extension was included in Bond Ordinance 1588 and Ms. Tighe said no and she reiterated her objection to the project. She also suggested that if the Council changes its vote on FAR, it diminishes the integrity of government. Mr. Edwardi disagreed stating it was the Council's job to review and makes changes if necessary.

Rich Mashura – 1495 Stagecoach Rd., Seaville: Regarding FAR he suggested that it is not about building big it's about building smart. He said he looks forward to the discussion at the next meeting.

Mr. Gibson asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion moved by Mr. Divney and seconded by Ms. Tighe All ayes followed and the meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.