

**CITY OF SEA ISLE CITY, NEW JERSEY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2013 – 9:00 AM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
SEA ISLE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL**

ATTENDANCE: Mr. Divney, Mr. Edwardi, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Kehner and Ms. Tighe. Also attending was Administrator Mr. Savastano and Solicitor Mr. Baldini. **ABSENT:** Mr. Edwardi – 9:00 am.

Council President Tighe called the meeting to order and announced that the meeting had been advertised in accordance with P. L. 1975, Chapter 231.

RESOLUTION NO. 137 – A Resolution Authorizing a Closed Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing Pending Litigation {Retirees vs. SIC – Docket No. CPM-C48-10 – Cape May County Superior Court}

The clerk read the resolution by title and Ms. Tighe asked for a motion to adopt the resolution and go into closed session. Motion moved by Mr. Kehner and seconded by Mr. Divney. All ayes followed and the meeting adjourned into closed session at 9:04 a.m.

At **10:00 a.m.** Council President Tighe called the meeting to order and asked everyone to rise for the flag salute and prayer. 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 8-13-13 Regular Meeting. Motion moved by Mr. Divney and seconded by Mr. Gibson. All ayes followed. Ms. Tighe then asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the 8/13/13 closed session for content only. Motion moved by Mr. Divney and seconded by Mr. Kehner. All ayes followed except Mr. Gibson abstained due to absence.

REPORTS-Mayor and Administrator: There were no Administration reports.

REPORTS-Council: Mr. Divney asked if the new FEMA flood maps were received and Mr. Savastano said that the Mayor is at a meeting at the County to receive the preliminary new maps. Ms. Tighe asked that an update be given at the next meeting. Mr. Savastano said in addition to a report, there may be some recommended changes to the Ordinances based on the new maps.

Mr. Edwardi arrived at 10:09 a.m.

ORDINANCES-Second Reading and Public Hearing: Ms. Tighe asked for a motion to take up ordinance 1551 for second reading and public hearing. Motion moved by Mr. Gibson and seconded by Mr. Kehner. All ayes followed. The clerk read the Ordinance by title: **1551 – An Ordinance to Amend Schedule A and Schedule B of the Revised General Ordinance of the City of Sea Isle City to Reflect Amendments to the Fees Associated with Sewer and Water Usage and Connection.** Mr. Baldini suggested the Council may change some of the numbers and if it is discussed before the public hearing, and the rates are less than what was introduced he is confident it would not be a major change and require re-advertisement. Mr. Savastano then gave a brief overview of the introduced ordinance that would increase base rates by \$60.00 and excess rates from \$1.50 to \$2.00 @ 1,000 gallons over 30,000. In addition the Ordinance addresses activation fees.

Mr. Divney reiterated his suggestion to increase the rates by 12%, continue discussions with the MUA, re-visit the I/I program and its benefits, determine an appropriate level of surplus and look at the amount of debt service as it is currently at a peak. He went on to say that if there is a shortfall in 2014, the ordinance could be amended again. Mr. Gibson agreed.

Ms. Tighe disagreed suggesting that the proposed ordinance provides for more stability and that she does not want to review and increase year-after-year. She added that surplus is good and that there is no such thing as too much as there are always emergencies, funds can be used to pay down debt, etc. She then suggested reducing the increase to \$50.00 @ quarter. Mr. Kehner and Mr. Edwardi agreed; adding that the discussions should continue with the MUA.

Mr. Baldini then provided an overview of the changes suggested by Ms. Tighe. Schedule A will change from \$920 to \$892 and Schedule B will change from \$340 to \$328.

Public Hearing:

Lynn Shirk-209 54th St: Asked if the reduced amount will still provide surplus and Ms. Tighe said yes. She then suggested the City tighten its belt and stop spending and be satisfied with all of the improvements that have been done. Ms. Tighe explained that Water & Sewer surplus can only be spent on water & sewer projects.

Seymour Burchman-5600 Pleasure Ave: As a SICTA board member he explained that the position of the group is that the excess charges are too low and do not encourage conservation.

Ann Organ-209 39th St: Asked what the current surplus was and was told about \$645,000 at the beginning of 2013. She then asked if it was strictly for Water and Sewer and Ms. Tighe said yes. She then asked questions about debt service and agreed with SICTA that the excess charges are too low.

John Fee-220 43rd St: Agreed with Mr. Divney's recommendation to increase the rates to cover the deficit for 2013 and continue to try to make changes in the future

Seymour Birchman-5600 Pleasure Ave: Suggested the W&S and General Fund allocation should be lowered as Sea Isle is higher than neighboring communities. Discussion followed with Mr. Edwardi and Ms. Tighe regarding the judgment on the amount of allocation and appropriate surplus.

Mike Davis-361 46th Pl: Agreed that an increase in excess charges would encourage conservation and asked if Ordinances can be adopted to require conservation toilets/urinals. Ms. Tighe said that there are zoning requirements on new construction and renovations.

Steve Hansbury-5712 Central Ave: Asked if the mixed use zoning discussed at recent workshop would create more volume and Ms. Tighe said yes, but it also depends on the type of commercial property.

Larry Evans-10 43rd St: Agreed with increasing excess fees as a motivation for conservation.

Linda Cinelli-345 46th Pl: Agreed with a smaller increase.

Dave Helfrich-21 36th St: Suggest equal rates across the board.

Lou Korber-121 90th St: Said that he understood that the infrastructure was neglected for many years but feels the increase is too high.

Dan Tumolo-7407 Pleasure Ave: Suggested paying based on the amount of gallons used.

Discussion continued among Council regarding the need to educate regarding conservation, the amount of surplus and the necessary increase amount.

Mr. Divney then made a motion to amend the ordinance to reduce the amount of the increase to 12%. Mr. Gibson seconded the motion. **Vote:** Mr. Divney & Mr. Gibson – aye. Mr. Edwardi, Mr. Kehner and Ms. Tighe – no. Motion failed 2-3.

Ms. Tighe then made a motion to amend and reduce the increased amount to 19% from a \$60 per quarter increase to a \$50 increase. Schedule A from \$920 to \$892 and Schedule B \$340 to \$328. Mr. Edwardi seconded the motion. **Vote:** Mr. Edwardi, Mr. Kehner and Ms. Tighe – aye. Mr. Divney and Mr. Gibson – No. Motion carried 3-2.

CITIZEN COMMENT ~ Resolutions on Consent Agenda

Ann Organ-209 39th St: Asked for an explanation of #138 and Mr. Edwardi gave her a copy of the resolution. She also asked about #140 and was advised it was refunding taxes that were paid twice.

RESOLUTION – Consent Agenda:

138 – Authorizing the Approval of Vouchers

139 – Authorizing the Execution of a Deed of Dedication and Perpetual Storm Damage Reduction Easement Required for the Great Egg Harbor Inlet to Townsends Inlet, New Jersey Project

140 – Authorizing Various Refunds of Overpayments (Taxes)

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

PENDING BUSINESS: Mr. Divney asked the status of the % of glass issue on commercial properties. Ms. Tighe responded that due to conflicting schedules, she has not met with Mr. Savastano but will do so before the next meeting and provide an explanation.

Mr. Baldini asked the status of Ordinance No. 1550. Mr. Divney responded that the Planning Board reviewed the ordinance after introduction and found it consistent with the master plan, but questions the % of glass issue. Ms. Tighe said that the plan was to amend Ordinance 1550 with the % of glass, re-advertise and have second reading and adopt together. Mr. Baldini suggested withdrawing the ordinance and create a new ordinance to include all the issues. Ms. Tighe then asked for a motion to withdraw Ordinance No. 1550. Motion moved by Mr. Edwardi and seconded by Mr. Kehner. All ayes followed.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business.

CITIZEN COMMENT:

John Fee-220 43rd St: Asked what the next step was after the zoning workshop of 8/21/13. Ms. Tighe said there would be another workshop, yet unscheduled but will put an announcement in the newsletter.

Dan Tumolo-7407 Pleasure Ave: Suggested the right turn off of JFK onto Park Road needs to be better delineated. Ms. Tighe said that the County is aware of the issue and is going to address it with striping.

Seymour Burchman-5600 Pleasure Ave: Stated that the request for a moratorium does not mean existing applications or approved permits; it would only be for future development. He also supported re-examination of the Master Plan.

Ann Organ-209 39th St: Said that a recent article in the Herald exposed a heroin problem in Cape May County adding that there are also marijuana problems.

Alan Fisher-122 55th St: Complained that regulation signs are missing from the promenade; that some restaurant planters block the sidewalk egress and there is no enforcement for parking the wrong way. He also expressed concern that jeeps with no doors are dangerous.

Dave Helfrich-21 36th St: Asked who enforces ordinance violations as he called code enforcement five times last week and the call was just returned today. Ms. Tighe asked what the issue was and he said real estate signs should be 5 feet from the adjacent property line.

Steve Hansbury-5712 Central Ave: Asked if the TI Bridge will be closed in the winter and Mrs. Savastano said yes, but he will get an update from the County.

Linda Cinelli-345 46th Pl: Complained about someone painting the curb in front of their property at 46th & Central, East side.

Bob McKeefry-114 46th St: As a recent retiree he expressed concern with resolution #137 stating there were rumors that his benefits are going to be affected. Mr. Baldini explained that #137 deals with individual separation agreements and that Mr. McKeefry should set up a meeting with the Administration to discuss his benefits.

Ms. Tighe asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion moved by Mr. Kehner and seconded by Mr. Divney. All ayes followed and the meeting adjourned at 11:53 am.