CITY COUNCIL'S MESSAGE *June 3, 2021*

Due to COVID-19, the May 25 City Council meeting was held remotely; however, members of the public were able to participate in the meeting telephonically.

At the start of the May 25 meeting, Mayor Desiderio explained that the City has been struggling to establish healthy trees along JFK Boulevard, because the wide-open, wind-swept corridor makes it especially difficult for many species of trees to grow in this environment. Therefore, a decision was made to remove the dying trees along the boulevard before the start of the summer season and temporarily replace them with live palm trees, which were planted during the week prior to Memorial Day Weekend. While everyone enjoys the palm trees this summer, the City's Administration will work on new plans to replace them in the fall.

Also on May 25, City Council discussed Resolution 111, which involved a place-to-place transfer of a plenary liquor license (No. 0509-33-009-004), which was held in "pocket" status from 42nd Place Liquor to the premises at 4000 Landis Avenue (the site of the former LaCosta Lounge). After a lengthy discussion on May 25, City Council decided to postpone voting on Resolution 111 and to hold a special meeting to focus on that resolution on Friday, May 28, thus allowing City Council time to examine the private Engineer's Report, which was submitted on May 24 by the applicant. (Note: the members of City Council opted to hold that meeting on May 28 rather than waiting until the next regularly scheduled Council meeting on June 8 to allow the applicant to use the license during Memorial Day Weekend, if approved). At the end of the meeting on May 28, which lasted approximately two-and-a-half hours, City Council voted against approving the transfer with a vote of 3-1. (Note: Council President Kehner recused himself from the vote, at the request of the applicant's attorney).

There were two Ordinances listed on the May 25 Meeting Agenda…

- Ordinance 1670, which was introduced with first reading on May 25, was written to authorize the use of capital surplus for the purchase of empty parcels at 229 and 233 81st Street, thus allowing the City to take title of the aforementioned lots, convert them to environmental properties, and end current litigation. Ordinance 1670 will have second reading and possible adoption on June 8.
- Ordinance 1668, which was written to allow the addition of speed humps and a 15-mph speed limit along 42nd Place, had second reading and was adopted on May 25.

Each of the resolutions on the May 25 Consent Agenda was approved, including…

- Resolution 113, which amended the existing municipal budget and allowed the City to accept $6000 in grant funding for a "Click It or Ticket" vehicle safety program.

- Resolution 114, which authorized contracts for summer recreation programs with private vendors who will hold their events on public property and, in exchange, will pay a portion of their earnings to the City.
- Resolution 115, which authorized a contract in the amount of $9,742 with The Rodgers Group, to help maintain the Sea Isle City Police Department's accreditation status with the State.
- Resolution 116, which authorized a contract for $5,001 with Beach Brew LLC, of Sewell NJ, for a beverage concession pursuant to the results of a public bid for the sale of coffee and iced coffee on the beach.
- Resolution 117, which expressed City Council's support for the reopening of the State's Motor Vehicle Offices in Cape May County.

During the "Pending Business" portion of the May 25 meeting, Councilperson Tighe inquired about the annual installation of the City's plastic beach mats/carpets (often referred to as "Mobi Mats"); to which City Business Administrator George Savastano explained that the Department of Public Works was currently working on that project and would complete installation as soon as possible.

The next City Council meeting will take place at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, June 8, inside Council Chambers on the third floor of City Hall. The June 8 meeting will be the first in-person meeting City Council has held since the start of the pandemic – and we look forward to seeing everyone again!

In closing, City Council would like to thank all of the residents and visitors who attended this year's Memorial Day Ceremony on May 31 at Veterans Park, where our community gathered to honor the men and women who gave their lives for our country.

Best Regards from the Members of City Council,

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