CITY COUNCIL'S MESSAGE: *February 25, 2021*

Due to COVID-19, the February 23 City Council meeting was held remotely; however, members of the public were able to participate in the meeting telephonically.

At the start of the February 23 meeting, Mayor Desiderio commended the City's Administration (including CFO Paula Doll) for thoroughly reviewing and developing Sea Isle City's proposed 2021 Local Municipal Budget, which was presented to City Council two weeks earlier. The Mayor also explained that the proposed Budget, which was formally introduced on February 23, has a very slight tax rate increase (less than a quarter-penny), which translates to about $17 more per average household in Sea Isle City.

During the "Council Reports" portion of the February 23 meeting, Councilperson Tighe thanked the Mayor and the Administration for working with City Council to reduce the proposed tax increase from a half-penny to less than a quarter-penny, which she was hoping to see happen following the presentation of the proposed Budget on February 9 and City Council's Budget Workshop on February 11.

Also on February 23, Ordinance 1663 was introduced with First Reading. Ordinance 1663 is a routine ordinance written in conjunction with our Municipal Budget that serves as a mechanism to allow the City to roll over unused CAP money for potential use in future years. This ordinance will have Second Reading and possible adoption during the March 23 City Council meeting.

Also, Resolution 029, which introduced Sea Isle City's 2021 Local Municipal Budget, was approved by City Council on February 23. It is anticipated that the proposed 2021 Budget will be adopted on March 23 following Second Reading and Public Hearing. To further clarify this process, it takes upwards of one month to adopt a proposed Municipal Budget because the City must first send the Budget to Trenton for approval by the State of New Jersey before it can be adopted on the municipal level.

Each of the Resolutions on the February 23 Consent Agenda was approved including…

- Resolution 032, which authorized a person-to-person transfer of a liquor license from the Springfield Inn to GMH Restaurant Enterprises III, LLC. GMH is the company that plans to build "The Point of Sea Isle City" on the site of the former Springfield Inn.

- Resolution 033, which authorized a Shared Services Agreement between Sea Isle City and Cape May County to provide EMT Services to assist the County at COVID-19 Vaccination Sites.

- Resolution 034, which authorized a contract with Kane Communications in the amount of $61,934 to install lighting on Sea Isle's new Fishing Pier and Kayak Launch at Dealy Field.

- Resolution 037, which authorized a contract with Amano McGann in the amount of $9,461 for maintenance of the City's Parking Kiosks.

- Resolution 039, which authorized a contract with WPVI in the amount of $8,000 for Internet Marketing, as part of the Sea Isle City Tourism Commission's and the City Tourism Office's 2021 marketing plan.

- Resolutions 040 thru 042, which designated a 2005 Chevy, a Tiger Cat lawn mower, and two Meyer snow plows) as surplus equipment and authorized their sale online.

- Resolution 043, which authorized a Closed Session Meeting that allowed City Council to discuss pending litigation.

The next City Council meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 9, at 10:00 a.m. Due to the pandemic, the March 9 meeting will be held remotely; however members of the public will be able to participate in the meeting via telephone – and the public can also email questions and comments to the City Clerk's Office prior to the meeting (sromano@seaislecitynj.us). More information about the March 9 meeting will be forthcoming.

Best Regards from the Members of City Council,

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