CITY COUNCIL'S MESSAGE *March 23, 2023*

At the start of the February 14 City Council meeting, Mayor Desiderio presented Sea Isle's proposed 2023 Municipal Budget to Council – and, during his annual State of the City speech, he delivered the good news that there will be a 0% tax increase in 2023 and a 0% increase in this year's water-sewer bills.

Also on February 14, City Council introduced Ordinance 1692, which was written to increase the fees for the Division of Recreation's Summer Youth Basketball League. Ordinance 1692 will have second reading (and possible adoption) during the March 14 Council meeting.

Each of the resolutions on the February 14 Consent Agenda was approved, including...

- Resolution 021, which authorized the award of a contract in the amount of $267,867 to H4 Enterprises for site preparation and surcharge for Sea Isle City's future Community Center.

- Resolution 022, which authorized the approval of a 50/50 on-premises raffle application for the Sea Isle City Women's Civic Club.

- Resolution 024, which authorized the renewal of a shared-services agreement with the Cape May County Municipal Utilities Authority for the review and submission of Sea Isle City's 2022 Annual Recycling Tonnage Report.

- Resolution 026, which authorized a shared-services agreement between Sea Isle City and the City of Ocean City, NJ, for Electrical Inspection Services.

- Resolution 028, which appointed Animal Control of South Jersey to be Sea Isle's certified Animal Control Officer, for the amount of $9,600.

- Resolution 029, which authorized a state contract in the amount of $45,117 for the purchase of twenty-five beach access mats (aka "Mobi Mats"), from Deschamps Mat Systems.

- Resolution 130, which authorized a Purchase Order in the amount of $69,817 for a Chevrolet Tahoe for the Sea Isle City Police Department, from Gentilini Chevrolet (this Purchase Order replaces a previous order that subsequently has been voided).

- Resolution 031, which authorized the purchase of Billboard Advertisements in the amount of $20,105 from Outfront Media for the Sea Isle City Tourism Commission.

- Resolution 033, which authorized a change order in the amount of $30,000 for Final Design and Construction Documents for Sea Isle City's future Community Center. This change order became necessary because new regulations for ADA requirements were recently instituted, and adjustments had to be made to the Community Center's blueprints.

- Resolution 034, which authorized the award of a public bid contract in the amount of $20,250 to Luna Soul & Bowls for the sale of Acai Bowls on the beach (for the 2023 & 2024 summer seasons).

Following the February 14 Council meeting, City Council hosted a Budget Workshop on Thursday, February 16, during which Council thoroughly reviewed Sea Isle City's proposed 2023 Municipal Budget with representatives from the City's Administration.

Also during the Budget Workshop, a discussion took place regarding the possibility of the City hiring a private contractor to perform maintenance on Sea Isle's dune paths prior to the summer season (in the event that the City has staffing issues while performing the work in-house). That discussion followed a related conversation that took place during the "Citizen Comments" portion of the February 14 City Council meeting.

The next City Council meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 28, at 10:00 AM inside Council Chambers – and we hope to see you there!

Best regards from the members of City Council,

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