## ***CITY COUNCIL'S MESSAGE*** *June 17, 2021*

On June 8, City Council held its first "in-person" meeting since the start of the pandemic – and the members of Council were very happy to see people gathered inside Council Chambers once again!

At the start of the June 8 meeting, Mayor Desiderio stated that a fair amount of beach erosion has occurred at Townsend Inlet Waterfront Park in the far southern-end of Sea Isle City. Because of that erosion, a portion of the inlet beach is currently closed to the public. The Mayor also stated that the City will coordinate with the Department of Environmental Protection and the Army Corps of Engineers to determine the cause of the erosion and any possible solutions.

Following the Mayor's comments, Ordinance 1671 was introduced with first reading on June 8. Ordinance 1671 was written to update the existing recreation ordinance and allow for new summer recreation programs. Ordinance 1671 will have second reading and possible adoption during the June 22 City Council meeting.

Following second reading, Ordinance 1670 was adopted on June 8. This ordinance was written to authorize the use of surplus funds to purchase the 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 litigation.

There were four (4) free-standing resolutions on the June 8 agenda that were voted on separately from the resolutions on the June 8 Consent Agenda. Each of these four resolutions, all of which pertained to liquor licensing, was approved…

- Resolution 120 authorized the issuance of an ABC license to Landis Thirty Nine Inc.; Pogo, Inc.; Braca Enterprises, Inc.; Diamonds Liquor, Inc.; Lobster Loft; 42nd Place Liquor LLC; and MRG Liquors, LLC.

- Resolution 121 requested the State to issue a Conflict of Interest ABC License for Freda Sea Isle Inn, Inc., trading as Kix's Lounge & Package goods.

- Resolution 122 authorized the issuance of an ABC License to the Yacht Club of Sea Isle city.

- Resolution 123 authorized the issuance of an ABC license to the Commodore Club.

Each of the resolutions on the June 8 Consent Agenda was approved, including…

- Resolution 125, which authorized the submittal of a Grant Application and Execution of the Grant Agreement for a 2022 New Jersey Department of Transportation Municipal Aid Road Program Application, for the reconstruction of Central Avenue from JFK Boulevard to 36th Street.

- Resolution 126, which authorized a labor contract between the City of Sea Isle City and the Communications Workers of America AFL-CIO Local 1036 (Clerical Employees) for the term of January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2022, with the option of extending through December 31, 2023.

- Resolution 127, which authorized a labor contract between the City of Sea Isle City and its Confidential Employees as well as the City's System Analyst for the term of January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2022, with the option of extending through December 31, 2023.

- Resolution 128, which authorized a contract with Jon Heisman, of Black Bear Lacrosse, for Summer Lacrosse Camp, per the City's Division of Recreation, with the City receiving 10% of total registration fees.

- Resolution 129, which authorized a contract with FM Schiavone in the amount of $18,065 for two separate projects at City Hall (to make repairs to the parking garage ceiling and to patch and clean concrete).

During the "New Business" portion of the June 8 meeting, City Council discussed at length the transfer of an alcohol beverage license from Bennet Enterprises, Inc. (formerly held at LaCosta Lounge located at 4000 Landis Avenue) to 42nd Place Liquor LLC (the "Ludlum" establishment on the site of the former LaCosta Lounge).

Following that discussion, numerous members of the audience stepped to the microphone during the "Citizen Comment" portion of the meeting to express their support of the license transfer and to ask for a swift change to the existing proximity ordinance that currently prevents the Council's approval of the license transfer.

Following the Citizen Comments on June 8, a motion was made by Councilman Edwardi to introduce a new ordinance (1672, by title and explanation) that would allow for a license to be returned to its previous location in the event it is not attached to a licensed premises at the time of transfer. That motion was approved by all other Council members, with the exception of Council President Kehner, who recused himself from the vote at the request of the attorney representing 42nd Place Liquor LLC. Second Reading and Public Hearing for Ordinance 1672 is scheduled to take place during the June 22 City Council meeting.

The next City Council meeting will take place at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, June 22, inside Council Chambers, located on the third floor of City Hall. –We hope to see you there!

Best Regards from the Members of City Council,

Council President Bill Kehner (wkehner@seaislecitynj.us)
Frank Edwardi (fedwardijr@seaislecitynj.us)
J.B. Feeley (jbfeeley@seaislecitynj.us)
Jack Gibson (jgibson@seaislecitynj.us)
Mary Tighe (mtighe@seaislecitynj.us)

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