

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF STONE HARBOR HELD IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, March 22, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Davies-Dunhour at 4:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Judith M. Davies-Dunhour, Mayor
Kim Stevenson, Borough Clerk
Steve Morris, Solicitor
Marc DeBlasio, Borough Engineer

PRESENT

Councilmembers
Frank Dallahan
Vincent Foschini
Bunny Parzych
Robin Casper
Jennifer Gensemer
Reese Moore

Mayor Davies-Dunhour announced that the meeting was now open. Adequate notice of the meeting was provided by posting a copy of the time and place on the Municipal Clerk's bulletin board and mailing a copy of same to the Atlantic City Press and the Cape May County Herald on March 16, 2023.

FOR THE RECORD, THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIA VIDEO/TELEPHONE CONFERENCE IN A ZOOM FORMAT

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Presentation: Stone Harbor Flood Mitigation Pilot Study: Manny Parada

Details of the Flood Mitigation Pilot Study were presented to Mayor and Council and members of the community.

This pilot project involves the use of three different types of manual valves that will be installed at street ends from 93rd to 95th Street. The details of each valve were presented. Documented flood events will be recorded and reviewed to determine the best option to assist with reducing flood waters that infiltrate through the outfall/storm drains.

The valves will be closed manually by the Public Works Department during high tide/flood events. Once the study is complete the Borough can then review the best option for valve type and consider adding additional street ends.

The cost estimate for this project is \$350,000 plus \$18,500 in design costs. This cost will be incorporated into an existing road project – a change order for that cost will be presented for council approval.

A video of this presentation will be posted and available for viewing on the Borough website.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC ON MEMORIALS, RESOLUTIONS, PETITIONS & COMPLAINTS

Cathleen Dallahan – 378 95th Street: Asked if the valves will be accessible and a possible safety concern. The valves will be enclosed within a chamber and locked.

Ken Barbusio – 366 93rd Street: Questioned elevation of pipes and valves once project is complete. Currently there are catch basins and a pipe that leads to the bay. The only thing being added is the valve. Mr. Barbusio asked if there would be additional concerns added at the end of 92nd Street since it does not dead-end to the bay. Mr. Parada explained that there have been upgrades to stormwater infrastructure in that area prior to this project and this project will assist with flooding concerns at 92nd as well.

Mr. Barbusio further asked about the definition of success for this pilot project. Mr. Parada said we do not know – ultimately will depend on the rain/storm event and the amount of money the community is willing to invest. Mr. Barbusio feels that after mitigation the street should be drivable. Mr. Parada stated that it depends on the rain/storm event.

Mr. Barbusio asked how the borough will predict the rain/storm event that would benefit from the tide valves. Again, the specific weather event would have to be reviewed to best determine.

Kevin Fischer - 338 93rd Street: If the pilot study is successful would the need for the 93rd Street pump station be eliminated? Mr. Parada answered indicating that more than likely it would. He explained that any rainwater that would be trapped within the street once the tide valves are closed may require the use of much smaller pump stations underground to assist in that type of flooding. Mr. Fisher also asked about the location of the tide valve at 93rd Street. It was noted that 93rd Street is being considered for road raising which will assist with the current condition but also any flooding concerns from rainfall.

Tom Kelly - 332 93rd Street: Next door neighbor to the 93rd Street pump station. Asked if the 93rd Street pump station project has been abandoned. Councilmember Moore answered by stating that once the tide valve project has been implemented and reviewed a better determination on that pump station can be made. When the time comes public discussion on that pump station will be completed, however it is not being considered right now. Mr. Kelly advised that damage from Hurricane Sandy was minimal and questioned the purpose of the tide valve pilot project.

Jerry Grimmer - 93rd Street: Asked about raising 93rd street and the effects. Marc DeBlasio advised that the raising of the roadway will be approximately a foot and a half. The Curb, sidewalk and driveway aprons will be raised as well – no property will be back pitched.

Patty Stump – 371 95th Street: When do you anticipate the project starting? How long will it take? Will Sunset Drive be closed? Could be a couple weeks before the start and should be completed fairly quickly. The street ends will be closed as the project moves forward. How long is the pilot project being reviewed. Mr. Parada advised it depends on how many floods are experienced – however it is not anticipated to be longer than one year.

Martin Lucas – 345 93rd Street: Had concerns with raising of the streets. It was clarified that the raising of the street was only being considered from Sunset to the bulkhead on 93rd Street.

Justine Herzog, 10215 Sunrise Drive: Originally objected to the 93rd Street pump station and felt that there was not a lot of transparency on that project. Ms. Herzog is a member of the Flood Mitigation Committee and commended the council on cancelling the 93rd Street Pump Station project. She indicated that it is exciting to work with the members of the committee to work with the committee and come together with thought and attention to details. Ms. Herzog is a refinery engineer and has a history of project management. These valves are going to stop the bay from entering the streets.

Councilmember Moore added that there are a total of six engineers working on this project and appreciates everyone who is involved.

Susan Barrett: Thanked the council and professionals for their creative thinking on this project. Is there a plan to extend the bulkhead heights at 93rd, 94th & 95th Street. (to 8 feet) Councilmember Moore indicated that there is a plan to raise the bulkheads at these locations.

Nick Sanfratello, 349 92nd Street: Appreciate all the good information and context. Does this work help with rising flood insurance rates? Mr. Parada noted that this project will assist with CRS points which can assist with lowering insurance rates. Mr. Sanfratello noted that there is a lot of uncertainty on the tide valves options and if there are any other options that were explored. Mr. Parada indicated that the valves chosen are the best three. The most common valve used for barrier islands is one of three chosen. Mr. DeBlasio indicated a tide flex valve is the most commonly used. Mr. Sanfratello asked why the Borough is spending any money without a determination of success. The borough needs to determine an acceptable amount of water/flooding to determine what works best for each situation, that will best determine success. The reality is this project will stop the bay water from coming in.

Mr. DeBlasio stated that the success of this project, with a clean seal on all the pipes, also is contingent on the bulkheads being constructed at a higher elevation.

Maryanne Landmesser, 9314 Sunset: When is construction beginning? Will it include raising of the roads? Work should begin within the next couple of weeks and only include the installation of the valves and raising the roadway from Sunset to the bulkhead. New curbs and sidewalk are also included.

Joe Richards: Asked about parking spots on 93rd Street. Those parking spaces will not be affected. This project will assist with issues encountered on this street end with water infiltrating through the bulkhead.

Susan Barrett: Clarification on the Knifegate valve – stainless steel version will be used.

Councilmember Foschini asked if there were duckbills on the dual pipes at 93rd Street. Mr. Parada stated there are duckbills, however he has very little success with the use of duckbills, susceptible to debris. He also asked what type of success West Wildwood was having with a cut valve. Mr. DeBlasio is unaware of the success of this type of valve.

Councilmember Parzych asked about the salt water effects on the valves. Mr. Parada reviewed the type of pressure on the valves and there are no types that would be resilient to salt water.

Mr. DeBlasio will review the concerns presented by council and advise.

Mayor Davies-Dunhour thanked everyone for attending.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

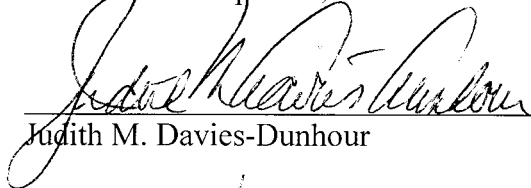
Motion made by Councilmember Frank Dallahan

Seconded by Councilmember Victor Foschini

VOTE 6 Councilmembers AYE

That the Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council be adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

APPROVED: April 18, 2023

 _____, Mayor
Judith M. Davies-Dunhour

ATTEST:  _____, Borough Clerk
Kim Stevenson