

**MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF
THE BOROUGH OF STONE HARBOR HELD IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

April 18, 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
Marcus Karavan, Solicitor
Megan Brown, Deputy Clerk

PRESENT

Councilmembers
Frank Dallahan
Victor 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 Press and the Cape May County Herald on January 4, 2023.

FOR THE RECORD, THIS WORK SESSION WAS HELD VIA VIDEO/TELEPHONE
CONFERENCE IN A ZOOM FORMAT AS WELL AS IN PERSON

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Commendation: Michael Thomas AKA "Santa"

Mayor Davies-Dunhour reviewed Mr. Thomas's history with Stone Harbor and his participation as "Santa Clause" in the Borough's annual Christmas Parade and the annual Santa's vacation in July. Mr. Thomas has made many memories with children for many years. Mr. Thomas will be moving to Ohio to spend time with his granddaughter. "Mike the Mailman" was presented with a commendation for his dedication and participation as Santa Claus for many years.

Presentation - Water Supply & Distribution System Bond Ordinance (I-Bank Project) Manny Parada: A more detailed presentation of the IBank Application process was presented for the public. There is a Bond Ordinance on the agenda for this evening to approve \$7.5 million dollars for water infrastructure improvements within the Borough of Stone Harbor. The loans offered within this program result in a blended which is half of the market rate. As part of the American relief programs there is money set aside for principal forgiveness within this program. In addition, the borough qualifies as a NANO community. This IBank opportunity is very helpful to communities that have a low bond rating and can offer a lower interest rate. However, that is not really a plus since interest rates are very low at this time. There is a lot of paperwork and fees involved in the IBank application process.

The need for this project overall is the replacement of lead service lines within the borough. The State of New Jersey has mandated that all lead water services must be replaced by 2031. In addition, the County will be repaving Third Avenue from 80th Street to 99th Street. Once this roadway is repaved there will be a moratorium on this roadway.

Originally the borough was looking at the removal of the 111th and 114th Street outfall pipe along the beachfront. This prompted the borough to apply for a CAFRA permit to assist with that project.

The cost include the following: Third Avenue 80th to 99th Street, 89th Street, from Third to Sunset, beach block of 105th and the full length of 111th, 113th, 114th (East of the bird sanctuary), 115th, 116th, 110 & 111th on First Avenue, 119th & 120th Street full length, beach block of 121st Street, Second Avenue from 111th to 116th to tie in the new mains.

The sewer installation on Third Avenue, slip lining of sewer main on Third Avenue, trench restoration is separate from the application.

Mr. Parada assured the public that the borough does not have a lead or copper problem. Water quality is routinely tested and does not present any threat to the health and safety of the community.

Reports of Standing Committees:

PUBLIC SAFETY - Councilmember Dallahan

Fire Department Report – Chief Stanford Presented the March 2023 Report

26 calls total; 25 EMS calls; 1 building fire, 1 trash fire, 1 vehicle fire; 8 EMS assists; 1 watercraft rescue; 4 natural gas leaks; 1 cover assignment; 1 smoke scare; 6 fire alarms; 2 carbon monoxide alarms.

Chief Stanford reported that the Fire Department has eliminated the fire siren for fire calls after many years of complaints. If it is found that this effects the firefighters response it will be reviewed. The siren will be tested once at the beginning of the month.

Councilmember Dallahan requested additional information about the purchase of the new fire truck. In 1990 the fire department had 6 firetrucks. All trucks reached the same age at the same time. The fire department was tasked with establishing a replacement plan to avoid trucks coming to age at the same time. The fire department reduced the size of the fleet from 6 vehicles to 3 vehicles. Currently there are two engines (one is a squad) and a ladder truck. IN 1992 the borough adopted a fire department replacement vehicle plan allowing for replacement of vehicles every 15 years which is based on a NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) standard. Chief Stanford has confirmed that the purchase of a new fire truck is currently taking 38 months to deliver therefore making the existing fire truck 17 years old before being replaced. He further explained the options available for replacing ambulances which will replace the chassis.

Chief Standard stated that prices increase for the purchase of a new fire truck every quarter.

Police Department Report – Chief Tom Schutta Presented the March 2023 Report

43 motor vehicle stops, 2 motorists assisted, 2 motor vehicle accidents; 6 suspicious vehicles; 6 animal complaints; 2 OPRA requests were responded to; 26 open doors and or windows; 1 adult arrested.

Update on personnel: struggling with recruitment of Class II officers which has resulted in an increase in the number of Class I officers. There are expected to be 6 Class I officers for the 2023 season. At the moment there are 3 Class II officers.

Stone Harbor Municipal Court is still being held virtually and there are no issues to report.

Cape Regional Physicians – Parking – 336 96th Street- A request to review parking in front of the doctor's office which would allow elderly patients easier access to this office. Available parking for patients that are elderly, or ambulatory is difficult. Mayor Davies-Dunhour explained a situation she encountered. She asked if the council would be interested in accommodating this request by blocking off four parking spaces in front of the office specifically for patients from 8am to 4:30pm. Additional handicap parking would not be an option since it does not discourage others from parking in that location. Councilmember Dallahan feels this would be a good option. Councilmember Parzych agrees, however, wants to ensure that it is not used for employees. Chief Schutta is not sure how this would be enforced, however will review ideas with the Public Safety Committee. May request an Ordinance change which will assist with enforcement. Councilmember Gensemer asked if there would be some sort of enumeration for the use of those parking spaces. The Council can review the

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requirement of charging a fee for the request for the use of parking spaces. Public Safety will review and advise.

Lifeguard Captain – Captain Sandy Bosacco: Starting early May there will be a few guards working preparing for the upcoming season. Beginning April 29th beach tags will be sold at the Beach tag office on the weekend until Saturday May 20th then the office will be open everyday for the season.

Update on Personnel: Healthy number of beach tag applications. There are a limited number of Lifeguard applications that have been received. Tryouts are scheduled for Memorial Day weekend.

Credit Card payments for the purchase of beach tags: The ability to purchase beach tags with a credit card is in the process of being implemented.

Office of Emergency Management – Frank Vaul, OEM Director: Consistent with prior month it has been a quiet March. There was one event between March 10th and March 13th where flooding occurred in low lying areas. There was no need for any action for emergency response during this occurrence.

Recreations and Tourism – Councilmember Victor Foschini

Councilmember Victor Foschini recognized Shannon MacPherson for her efforts as the recreation Director, He noted that she has worked above the borough's expectations. It was noted that Shannon applied for a recreation grant and succeeded in obtaining a grant for \$78,0000. Congratulations were offered to Shannon for her accomplishment. Mayor and Council commented her work ethic and commitment to fitness and wellness. Shannon thanked everyone for their support.

Recreation – Shannon MacPherson, Rec Director

Harbor Hop: There were 225 participants to this event. She thanked Public Works and the police Department for their assistance.

Summer Programming for 2023: May 1st registration opens to Stone Harbor residents for the Sports clinics. May 15th registration will open to all others. The Rec & Tourism Committee has agreed to keeping the remainder summer season fees the same as the previous year.

Mayor's Employees Wellness Update: Currently in week three of the employee challenge. There have been a lot of great reports, pictures, dog walking, coworkers walk etc. Congratulations to the week one winner - Jenny Olson, and week two winner Sue Brown. On April 19th there will be a employee farmers market from 9am to 3pm and Shannon encourages to stop down.

Special Event Applications:

Hay Day Softball Tournament: Benefitting the Star finder Foundation: This is an Annual Event held at the Recreation softball field on July 22, 2023; 9am to 5pm

Cystic Fibrosis: Paddle for the Cure – August 27, 2023 7am to 12pm; starting at the marina; 5k and 10k option. There will be safety boats in the water, and they will also be hiring open water lifeguards to ensure safety.

Stone Harbor Triathlon: July 9th, 2023 @ 7am

7 Mile Theater Camp: June 6 – July 23 Held at the Recreation field – the play performance will be held at the PAC center in Middle Township.

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Tourism – Jenny Olson, Tourism Director

2023 Special Event Applications:

Pre-Order Plant Sale – Garden Club of Stone Harbor: Friday & Saturday; May 12 & 13, 2023

Pick up of pre-ordered plants will be held at the Public Works Facility.

Yacht Club of Stone Harbor Flag Raising Event- Memorial Day weekend - 4:30pm – 6:30pm Chairs are being placed on a portion of Sunset Drive for approximately 200 people. The Police are requiring barricades be placed and no alcohol leave the area. The Mayor questioned the requirements within the Special Event application for non-profit organizations. Jenny advised that the Yacht club is a non-profit and it was confirmed that this event is open to the public.

Annual Stone Harbor Chamber of Commerce Turtle Trot – 5k and 2 Mile Fun Run:

Sunday, May 28th – 8am start. Benefits the Chamber of Commerce and the Terrapin Conservation Program at the Wetlands Institute.

Rescheduled Beach Sweep: Saturday, April 22, 2023 @ 9am at the 95th Street beach entrance. Participants can sign up the day of right on site.

81st Street Marina – Open Space Grant:

Councilmember Foschini: Presented his concerns regarding a \$1.8 million Open Space Grant that was awarded in 2021. Councilmember Foschini advised council that the Rec & Tourism committee has reviewed the grant funding extensively and the committee agrees that allowing the grant funding to lapse could result the borough's standing for future grant opportunities and should be evaluated and considered. Improvements slated for the marina with grant funding could provide additional CRS points. The Rec and Tourism Committee wants to move forward with improvements which include a review of the bulkhead. The recreation committee feels that the original plan submitted is possible and may be able to be scaled down and still secure the funding awarded.

The council discussed the total cost estimate of \$5.9 million dollars when originally planned. Marc DeBlasio noted that the Open Space Board will not pro-rate the funding awarded based on the total cost. He feels that review of value engineering could scale down the cost without jeopardizing funding awarded. Councilmember Parzych confirmed that funding will not assist with bulkhead improvements or the raising of the parking lot. Mr. DeBlasio indicated that FEMA funding may be available to assist with flood mitigation initiatives. Also, there was consideration of selling the L-shaped lot at the marina which would assist with the cost of improvements. Councilmember Parzych asked if the council would consider selling the useless lot to improve the marina and CRS rating.

Mr. DeBlasio confirmed that the council should ask for an extension and show progress with moving forward on this project. An extension could be awarded for one year.

The council reviewed the condition of the bulkhead at the marina location. Mr. DeBlasio noted that there was an inspection completed some time ago, however he is unaware of the results of that report. If the bulkhead is structurally sound, there could be cost savings to the borough in the amount of \$1.4 million dollars since it would not have to be replaced. The bulkhead would be required to be raised to the 8-foot standard within borough ordinance. Mr. DeBlasio reviewed the improvements to the marina area that would assist with flood mitigation. The Rec and Tourism committee will review the details within this grant application and bring it forward for discussion at the May 2nd Council meeting. Mr. DeBlasio noted that the county needs to be notified on which direction the borough is headed on this project.

Natural Resource Committee – Councilmember Robin Casper

Councilmember Casper presented the following updates: General Permit #2 is under review by the NJDEP. This permit will allow for ordinary beach maintenance activities as well as two pilot projects starting in the fall which include beach scraping between 80th & 83rd Streets and wind-blown harvesting between 122nd and 123rd Streets and a study in dune line mapping.

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The individual permit was submitted to the NJDEP. The Permit application to the Army Corp will be next. Repairing and raising the elevation of the 127th Street groin will require buy in and funding from the State. The Emergency Repair to access road at Stone Harbor Point is underway and moving quickly. The dredge Texas is now in place and pumping sand from Townsends Inlet to the northern beaches in Avalon.

The survey at Stone Harbor Point: DeBlasio & Associates has completed a pre-beach fill survey. This will assist the borough with the determining sediment transport of sand.

Bird Sanctuary Update:

Box Turtle population studies have been ongoing for several years. This study includes placing transmitters on turtles to best monitor. Councilmember Casper advised the public not to move or handle the turtles.

Grey Tree Frog population studies in the freshwater marsh also continue. The purpose is to monitor activity before and after the phragmites removal. The Stone Harbor Point Stewards program is underway for 2023. There will be a crew of 6 with 1 team leader. Shifts will begin Friday, May 27th, 2023.

As of April 17th, there are 1-2 pairs of Piping Plovers and 13-15 pairs of American Oyster Catchers at Stone Harbor Point including 2 Piping Plover nests. The rescheduled Beach Sweep has been rescheduled to this coming Saturday, April 22nd. Everyone is encouraged to register.

In celebration of Earth Day Manny and Councilmember will be visiting Stone Harbor Elementary School this coming Friday and presenting two separate presentations.

Councilmember Moore asked about extended beach replenishment authorized in Avalon. Manny explained the add-ons offered by the Army Corp. and noted that the final design for Stone Harbor has not yet been determined.

Councilmember Moore noted that communication is important as the beach replenishment project moves forward.

Amendment to the Master Plan – Insertion of the Municipal Public Access Plan: Mayor Davies-Dunhour explained the need for the amendment to the Master Plan to include the Municipal Public Access Plan. The Planning Board will be holding a special meeting on Monday, April 25, 2023, to approve a resolution authorizing the change to the Master Plan. If approved, there will need to be a Resolution authorized by council accepting the change by the presented by the Planning Board and accepting the change to the Master Plan. Once both Resolutions are approved they will be submitted to the NJDEP as required within the General Permit 2 application process.

Moratorium on Offshore Wind Activity due to Whale and Dolphin Mortality: Mayor Davies-Dunhour explained that a request was made from a Coastal Advocacy Group asking east coast Mayors to lobby to the house and the senate to place a moratorium on the wind Activity specific to whale and dolphin activity. Mayor Davies-Dunhour relayed the e-mail request and read the letter that she is being requested to sign. Council supports the request and agrees to authorize the Mayor to sign the letter. A motion to authorize the mayor to sign will be presented in the regular meeting.

Discussion:

Jenkintown High School – Senior Trip: Request for Use of 95th Street Beach, June 13, 2023- The Borough Clerks office received a request to use the 95th Street beach for a senior trip. The request is to allow use of the beach without the use of beach tags. The council is in agreement to allow this request. A motion within the regular meeting will be presented for authorization for this request.

No Further Discussion.

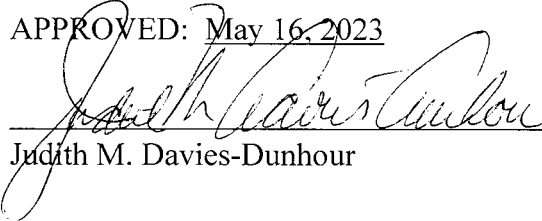
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Upon Motion by: Councilmember Frank Dallahan
Seconded by: Councilmember Bunny Parzych

That the Work Session Meeting of Mayor and Council be adjourned at 6:30p.m.

Vote 6 Councilmembers AYE

APPROVED: May 16, 2023

 _____, Mayor
Judith M. Davies-Dunhour

ATTEST  _____, Borough Clerk
Kim Stevenson