

**MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL
OF THE BOROUGH OF STONE HARBOR HELD IN THE
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
February 20, 2024**

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

ROLL CALL

Judith M. Davies-Dunhour, Mayor
Emily Dillon, Borough Clerk
Anthony Bocchi, Solicitor
Manny Parada, Borough Administrator

PRESENT

Councilmembers
Frank Dallahan-Via Zoom
Victor Foschini
Bunny Parzych
Robin Casper
Jennifer Gensemer
Tim Carney

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, 2024.

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

Salute the Flag

Reports of Standing Committees:

Public Safety Committee– Councilmember Dallahan

Fire Department

Chief Stanford provides a report for January 2024, the full report is on file in the Clerk's office. Councilmember Dallahan announces the Fourth of July fireworks will take place at the 81st Street field and the information will be on the borough's website and social media.

Police Department

Chief Schutta provides a report for January 2024 the full report is on file in the Clerk's office. Chief Schutta provides an update on his department's current personnel and states he anticipates being fully staffed by June.

Beach Patrol

Mr. Bosacco states he is currently preparing the 2024 forms for his summer seasonal staff and requests the resolution designating the protected bathing beaches be passed at an upcoming meeting with no changes from the previous year.

Office of Emergency Management

Mr. Vaul presents his year end 2023 report as well as the report for the month of January 2024, the full report is on file in the Clerk's office. Mr. Vaul states Jonathan Lakose has been appointed as Deputy of the Office of Emergency Management and his main duties will be public information officer.

Recreation and Tourism- Councilmember Foschini

Recreation – Shannon MacPherson, Recreation Director

Ms. Macpherson states that the bid process for the summer contracts has come to a close and there is a resolution on the agenda tonight to award the contracts. Ms. MacPherson reports on the Mayor's Wellness Challenge and encourages all employees to participate. Ms. Macpherson states the Mayor's Wellness Challenge will end in an employee chili cookoff and details the prizes that will be awarded. Ms. Macpherson mentions the Recreation Department is hosting a lunch and learn with Cape Regional and will be taking place the first Tuesday of each month up until the summer season. Ms. Macpherson mentions the Harbor Hop is on March 31st at 9AM including a 5K run and 1K walk and willing participants to contact her or visit the website to register. Ms. Macpherson thanks the Department of Public Works for removing the playground equipment at 82nd and 96th Streets as the equipment was past the point of repair. Councilmember Gensemer requests the information regarding the removed playgrounds be shared on social media.

Tourism Director – Jenny Olson

Ms. Olson provides an update on the changes to the Special Event Application that will be approved by resolution in the Regular Meeting. Ms. Olson mentions the Special Event Application for the Shiver is on the Regular Agenda for approval with a date of Saturday March 16th and a rain date of Sunday March 17th and lists the details of the event. Ms. Olson discusses the resolution for the Farmers Market fees and states the fees are the same as last year. Ms. Olsen also comments on the discussions regarding relocating the Farmers Market to the 94th Street lot and states she feels there a lot of variables to consider and configure before this change occurs. Ms. Olson lists her concerns for relocating the market including: 94th Street lot being a free parking lot and will take away parking for employees in the business district; 94th Street is a residential area and the borough may need notify residents of this change; there are no bathrooms or running water and limited access to electrical sources. Ms. Olson also states the current vendors are not in favor or moving and this relocation will also affect traffic in the surrounding areas. Council discusses in length the pros and cons of relocating the Farmer’s Market. Public Works Director Mr. Parada states there are sufficient electrical sources at 94th Street, as well as fire hydrants for water connections and his staff can maintain the event without a dumpster being on site. Council is in agreement to amend the resolution on the Regular Agenda to relocate the Farmer’s Market.

Natural Resource Committee – Councilmember Carney

Mr. Carney details the discussions of the last Natural Resources meeting including the topics of: dune vegetation, proposed tree removal ordinance, the Stockton beach and lagoon surveys and the statistics of the beach fill project. Mr. Carney notes the beach fill reported on by Stockton resulted in the borough gaining 183,000 cubic yards of sand in six months. Mr. Carney mentions the proposed tree removal provided by the state has been modified to meet the needs of Stone Harbor and is planned to be introduced on the March 5th meeting. Mr. Carney states there is a line item in the proposed budget to address the needs of the bird sanctuary. Mr. Carney states the committee discussed a proposed NJDEP regulation entitled “Access restriction to tidal waters and shorelines to protect endangered species” and explains this does not apply or affect Stone Harbor as there is already a beach management plan in place.

Discussion

- Budget Presentation- CFO, Jim Craft

Mr. Craft provides a brief explanation of the budget and states the budget timeline is intended to be introduced on March 19th with a full presentation at the April 2nd meeting and potential public hearing and adoption on April 2nd. Mr. Craft notes there is an increase in surplus and .01% tax increase.

- Parking Dates and Fees

Councilmember Gensemer states after discussions within the A&F committee it has been decided to make no changes for 2024 to the parking dates or fees.

Motion to adjourn.

Motion: Parzych

Second: Gensemer

Dallahan: Yes

Foschini: Yes

Parzych: Yes

Casper: Yes

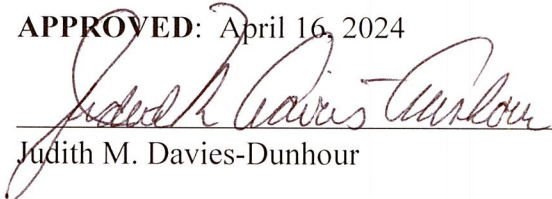
Gensemer: Yes

Carney: Yes

The Work Session Meeting of Mayor and Council adjourned at 5:45PM.

Council takes a five minute recess before beginning the regular meeting.

APPROVED: April 16, 2024

 _____, Mayor
Judith M. Davies-Dunhour

Work Session, February 20, 2024

Emily Dillon
Emily Dillon

_____, Borough Clerk

