

**MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF
THE BOROUGH OF STONE HARBOR HELD IN THE MUNICIPAL
BUILDING, June 21, 2022**

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

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Councilmembers

Judith M. Davies-Dunhour, Mayor
Suzanne C. Stanford, Borough Clerk
Steve Morris, Solicitor
Robert Smith, Borough Administrator
James Craft, CFO

Reese Moore
Bunny Parzych
Robin Casper
Jennifer Gensemer
Frank Dallahan - Absent
Charles Krafczek

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 5, 2022.

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

The Mayor acknowledged Borough Clerk Suzanne Stanford for her 49 ½ years of service to the Borough of Stone Harbor wishing her well on her retirement.

Recreation & Tourism – Councilmember Gensemer –

Tourism Director, Jenny Olson –

Special Event Applications:

The Yacht Club Pickleball Tournament application approval has been removed since it only requires court rental reservations at the recreation center.

Seashore Home Supply – End of season outdoor furniture sale, Saturday, September 3rd and Sunday, September 4th, in the parking lot behind their store. Councilmember Gensemer supports this event however has concerns regarding private events on Borough property and would like Borough Ordinance reviewed to ensure this event is in compliance. Borough Administrator was tasked with review of concerns presented and will advise council before proceeding with approval of this event.

An overview of events for 2022 so far was provided to Council:

Color Run: This event is growing in popularity with 300 participants in 2022 compared to approximately 200 participants in 2021.

American Legion Memorial Day Celebration/Parade: Both were very well attended.

Beach Fit Expo: 2nd Beach Fit Expo – held on Saturday, June 18th included 14 independent contractors who offered free fitness classes - 200 people participated. Special Thanks to Nancy Crafts for providing the Spin bikes.

Farmers Market – began on Memorial Day weekend, every Sunday from 8am-12:30pm - 5 new vendors

Upcoming - July 4th fireworks/ Food Truck Festival during Festival of Lights / Tuesday at the Tower (July 5th Start date)

Recreation Director: Justin Ricciardi & Shannon MacPherson-

Month of June 2022: Justin thanked the following for their assistance with preparation of the Recreation facilities for the 2022 season:

Public Works, Marc DeBlasio (upgrades to 82nd St Tennis facility) and Council for appointing Shannon MacPherson, new Recreation Director.

The Stone Harbor Recreation website is up and running and offers access for registration for all camps and classes. Justin reported that the color trifold brochures were not printed in 2022 - and that the department has promoted digital advertising reducing carbon footprint. QR codes now offer a quick access link to all programs.

The basketball courts at the Pavilion are in the process of being upgraded, placing hoops/nets in the ground offering easier maintenance.

Bocce Courts have been leveled and are ready for league play.

Har TRU tennis courts: Public Works is assisting with process.

Change in registration for programs is going well; Offering weekly sign up - drop in opportunities are now available.

Youth basketball league has record numbers of participants; to date 408 participants in 2022 leagues, with Girl's basketball (155) growing in numbers.

Arts and Crafts Program: continuing to promote new and creative ways to attract participants.

Tennis- Allison Underwood - Tennis Pro: Off to a vibrant start. Allison and staff have been providing lessons daily.

Pickleball: Open play and court rentals are running smoothly, with a slow start. Nets have been restrung, two brand new vaptor machines have been purchased to provide dry courts. Justin thanked the volunteers for pickleball for their assistance with this program.

Paddle Tennis: The recreation department is looking to start youth and adult clinics and pop up clinics in 2022 with assistance from local paddle tennis enthusiasts.

Councilmember Moore asked for update on seasonal employees. There were 40 applicants in 2022 / the Rec is fully staffed with 26 employees. Morning staff includes 18 coaches.

Natural Resources- Councilmember Casper

Update on Emergency Permit – Point Access: Doug Gaffney, Coastal Engineer for the Borough of Stone Harbor reviewed the condition at Stone Harbor Point. An erosional scarp has presented a safety issue which still exists today. Information was submitted to the State DEP and the Borough has been authorized to make changes to correct the problem. Mr. Gaffney is currently in communication with Fish and Wildlife who are reviewing the area for nesting birds. Coordination is ongoing.

Feasibility Study: Mr. Gaffney explained the purpose and benefits of completing a feasibility study for the Stone Harbor beachfront. The study involves evaluation of all alternatives to improve capacity as problems arise. Individual permitting needs specificity and needs to be detailed. A Feasibility Study will determine the best plan. This study will be completed in conjunction with individual permitting process which will include modeling. The value of the feasibility study will assist with funding from the state and the permitting process.

Timeline:

List of alternatives: Middle of September 2022

Numerical modeling: Would include a presentation to show results: Late November 2022.

Prepare Report: January 2023

Mr. Gaffney noted that this is an aggressive schedule. Additional information regarding recovery of storm damage: 12 cubic yards per linear foot recovering. Sand is coming back.

Tree trimming Policy: Not Discussed. Natural Resource Committee meeting was postponed. Policy will be reviewed/discussed at a later date.

Update at Stone Harbor Point: As of June 17th - 2 pairs of Piping plovers, 20 pair of American Oyster Catcher; 372 adult Black Skimmer with 21 incubating; 43 Common Terns with 3 incubating.

Stone Harbor Museum 5th annual Risley Galla: At the Reeds, August 24th, 2022, \$150. Tickets can be purchased by calling the Reeds. There are a limited number of tickets available and auction items and sponsors are needed. More information is available on the Stone Harbor Museum website.

Councilmember Moore asked for an update on permitting for Back Bay dredging.

Permits for Dredging: Administrator Smith advised Mayor and Council that a pre-application conference was held 9-10 months ago and that the professionals are keeping a close eye on Dr. Farrell's studies to determine when permitting should be reviewed for dredging.

Public Safety – Councilmember Frank Dallahan

Fire Chief: Chief Stanford provided the following report for the month of May: 4 Building Fires, 2 Cooking Fires, 1 Vehicle Fire, 12 Medical Assists, 3 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 2 Surf Rescues, 1 Watercraft Rescue, 1 Gasoline Spill, 1 Natural Gas Leak, 4 Arcing Wires, 2 Building Collapse, 1 Medevac, 1 Public Service, 4 Cover Assignments, 3 Fire Alarms, 1 Carbon Monoxide Alarm. After recent training, all nine firefighters have completed an open water rescue class. Three of the nine firemen went on to complete an advanced trained rescue class. Chief Stanford is hopeful that an after-hours lifeguard presence will be put in place for the 2022 season. Mayor Davies-Dunhour advised that an after-hours lifeguard team will be discussed at the regular meeting.

OEM Report: Chief Stanford provided the OEM report. Jonathan Lakose attended the May 26, 2022 Municipal Coordinators meeting at the County and noted the addition to Emergency Operations Procedure (EOP) to include Cyber security. The county will assist with the update. Also noted, the Borough will now be responsible for transportation to shelters during an evacuation. Chief Stanford and Jonathan Lakose will be participating in the upcoming EMMIT drill the week of July 11th – 15th on managing disasters.
Reminder: Hurricane Season: Sign up for CODE RED, link is located on the borough website. New LED sign at the Firehouse Sign should be in place by July 22nd to assist with notifications.

Police: Chief Schutta presented the report for May which included 138 motor vehicle stops, 21 moving violations, 8 motor vehicle accidents, 4 suspicious vehicles, 11 Animal complaints, 3 OPRA requests and 1 adult arrested.

In terms of personnel Chief Schutta expects five SLEO 2 Officers to graduate the academy on June 30th and two SLEO 1 officers have completed training and are currently working.

Stone Harbor Municipal Court Update: Nothing to report

Memorial Day weekend went well with nothing noteworthy to report. Activities with groups of youths: No reports in Stone Harbor, however officers are alert to these types of issues.

Beach Patrol: Marc DeBlasio provided the following update on the Beach Patrol Building: Temporary Certificate of Occupancy (TCO) is expected Wednesday 6/22 for 1st floor and it is anticipated that the TCO for the 2nd floor will be issued within the next two weeks. The contractor is awaiting an Electrical Panel which is expected in August for final Certificate of Occupancy.

Captain Sandy Bosacco reported that his department is fully staffed, and all beaches are protected. Captain Bosacco requested after hours emergency response program, 4 lifeguards monitoring beach front from 5-7:30. Captain Bosacco urges the public only go in the ocean where lifeguards are protecting. Council discussed the reasoning for number of guards selected for this program and Captain Bosacco confirmed that 4 guards would ensure a good number to maintain safety for public and guards.

Administrator Smith advised that funding for this program would have to be requested to DLGS for emergency appropriation. Funding in the 2022 budget for lifeguard salaries would not allow compensation for the after-hours program. The CFO has confirmed that DLGS would most likely be in favor of the request since the storm damage was not anticipated and created

the need for additional safety measures to be put in place. An Emergency Appropriation Resolution will be presented in July for council approval. Administrator Smith requested authorization from council for Captain Bosacco to implement the after-hours program effective immediately. A motion will be presented at the regular meeting this evening.

Discussion

93rd Street Pump Stormwater Station Update:

Councilmember Moore reported that the Public Works Committee met last Tuesday which included Tom Thornton of Mott MacDonald. Final Construction Current estimate is \$19,134,000 which is significantly higher than previous estimate from last fall of \$11.5 million. Councilmember Moore wants to be sure that everyone is aware of the increase of this project and possible opportunities for grant opportunities to assist with cost. The Borough has already been awarded \$2.7 million from the DCA and an additional \$5.5 million may be available from the County. Estimated balance is \$10,922,000. Councilmember Moore suggested possible peer review opportunities to determine if cost savings can be obtained. Mott MacDonald expects bid of this project in July of 2022. Administrator Smith reviewed the 2.7 million dollar grant obligations and the need to expedite this project. Council reviewed concerns regarding further delay in moving forward with this project by undergoing a peer review. Administrator Smith brought attention to the new Public Works Director who is also a Public Engineer specializing in water and the ability to assist with the processes of this project. Administrator Smith clarified that Mott MacDonald is the engineer overseeing the 93rd Street Stormwater pump station project however the Borough Engineer (Marc DeBlasio) will have an opinion on the design. Both firms are working together on design. Council is in agreement that increase in cost should be reviewed however we should have confidence in the professionals. Council also reviewed fiscal responsibility regarding this project.

No Further comments.

Upon motion of
Seconded by

Councilmember Jennifer Gensemer
Councilmember Reese Moore

That the Work Session Meeting of Mayor and Council be adjourned at 5:35p.m.

Vote

6 Councilmembers AYE

APPROVED July 5th, 2022

James R. Gairis Miller, Mayor

ATTEST Ann Ottaviano, Borough Clerk