

**CITY OF SEA ISLE CITY, NEW JERSEY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2011 – 10:00 AM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

ATTENDANCE: Mr. Divney, Mr. Edwardi, Mr. Kehner, Mr. McHale and Ms. Tighe. Also attending was Mayor Desiderio, Administrator Mr. Savastano and Solicitor Mr. Baldini.

Council President Tighe called the meeting to order and asked everyone to rise for the flag salute and prayer. She then announced that the meeting had been advertised in accordance with P. L. 1975, Chapter 231.

Ms. Tighe then asked for a motion to adopt the minutes of the 3-15-11 Regular Meeting. Motion moved Mr. Edwardi and seconded by Mr. Kehner. All ayes followed.

REPORTS-Mayor and Administrator: Mayor Desiderio reported that the County engineer has indicated he will fix the light at JFK & Central and will look into a shield for the light facing east as requested at the last meeting. He next reported that the SOS group will be moving into the front part of the old Historical Museum building as the museum will be moving into the new Library.

The Mayor next requested the City re-visit the noise free zones and asked Mr. Divney to work with Mr. Baldini and Chief D'Intino to look at several areas, but specifically 43rd Place.

Mayor Desiderio then announced that Excursion Park is on schedule for completion by Memorial Day, the T.I. Bridge work will also be completed by Memorial Day and on a recent trip to Florida, all of the Sea Isle residents he ran into complimented the e-newsletter. In conclusion, he announced that on Thursday, he will have a conference call with South Jersey Economic Development and the Department of Energy regarding a possible \$100,000 grant for the landfill.

Mr. Savastano reported that the boat ramp project is moving ahead, however, there are 2 change orders forthcoming. The first is necessary as it involves the large hole under the ramp that will require jetty rock to fill and the second is a desire to replace the floating boat docks that are in deteriorating condition. Mr. Divney asked for the estimated cost and Mr. Savastano indicated about \$8000 for the docks and +/- \$40,000 for the jetty rock. Ms. Tighe expressed concern that the docks were not part of the initial contract and suggested that the award was \$200,000 and the budgeted amount was \$250,000 and that the docks only be done if under the budgeted amount and all agreed.

Mr. Savastano next provided an explanation of resolution #051, the purchase of 12 additional parking kiosks. He also provided the locations and agreed to a request from Mr. Kehner to have a presentation and demonstration at a future council meeting.

REPORTS-Council: Mr. McHale asked the Mayor what the potential \$100,000 grant will be used for and he explained all for clean up as the stabilization has been completed.

Mr. Edwardi and Mr. McHale reported that the Memorial Program Ad-Hoc committee has agreed to a Memorial Paver Program through the Historical Museum to be placed at the new Library where the existing pavers will be moved to. Mr. Edwardi explained that the Historical Museum will buy and have the pavers inscribed and will keep the proceeds from the sale. Ms. Tighe expressed her discomfort with a "profit" and she envisioned only charging for the total costs. Mr. McHale responded that the Historical Museum has been doing it for some time and uses the proceeds to operate the volunteer museum. Mr. Kehner added that the group has 501C3 non-profit status so purchased pavers can also be a write-off. In conclusion, all council members agreed with the proposal.

Mr. Kehner announced that at a recent Cape May County League of Municipalities meeting, the MUA announced that Sea Isle will be receiving a rebate in the amount of \$41,514.67 for recycling efforts. He also announced that Homestead Rebate notices have been sent out from the Tax Collector and advised that this year it is a credit to the tax bill, not a check as in the past and reminded everyone about the City-Wide yard sale on May 7, and Community Day on May 21.

Ms. Tighe advised that the Ocean City and Sea Isle City Police Departments will hold a multi-agency active shooter drill at the Ocean City High School on April 14 from 12:00 – 7:00 pm. She also reminded everyone about the Easter Egg Hunt on April 13 at 4:30 p.m.

CITIZEN COMMENT ~ Resolutions on Consent Agenda. There was no public comment on the resolutions.

RESOLUTION – Consent Agenda:

045 – Authorizing the Approval of Vouchers

046- Authorizing Change Order No. 1 for the Proposed Utility and Roadway Reconstruction of 63rd Street, Central to Landis

- 047 – Authorizing Approval of a Raffle Application for the Knights of Columbus
- 048 – Authorizing the Issuance of a License to Conduct Amusement Games {Boardwalk Casino}
- 049 – Authorizing Tax Overpayment Refunds
- 050 – Authorizing Award of Ice Cream Concession
- 051 – Authorizing Award of Contract for the Purchase of Kiosks
- 052 – Recognizing 1st Bank of Sea Isle

Ms. Tighe then asked for a motion to adopt the resolutions on the consent agenda #045 - #052. Motion moved by Mr. Edwardi and seconded Mr. McHale. All ayes followed.

PENDING BUSINESS: Ms. Tighe announced that she and Mr. Kehner will be meeting with the Chair of the Zoning and Planning Boards, Mr. Savastano, Mr. Byrne and Engineer Mr. Previti to discuss zoning issues and possible changes to the zoning ordinances. The meeting is scheduled for today at 2:00 p.m. and that the goal is to set an agenda for items to be discussed at a future public workshop.

Mr. McHale indicated he received a call from Veteran Joe Griffies questioning when the Veteran sign will be installed on JFK and the Mayor said the County has indicated it will definitely be done before Memorial Day.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. McHale asked about the storm drainage work on LaRosa Way by public works and Mr. Savastano responded that it was a County job and provided an update on the work being done.

Ms. Tighe stated she would like to discuss something with Mr. McHale and asked that the other council members not participate in the conversation. She then questioned Mr. McHale about a recent political mailing that said special interests set the council agenda. She explained that as the council president, the statement was of concern as she is responsible for setting the agenda and would like to know what the special interest is.

Mr. McHale responded that he did not feel a council meeting is the place to discuss politics and Ms. Tighe agreed, however, added that the statements attack the integrity of the council and she feels that brings it into the chambers. Mr. McHale stated that the attack is not about the Council it's about the Mayor and that he listens to the people and that's what the majority are saying. Ms. Tighe asked for an example and Mr. McHale responded with the dedication of "Braca Plaza" saying that something like that should have been discussed at a Council meeting, but a sign just shows up. He went on to suggest a Citizen's Advisory Committee be established so that everyone has a voice.

Ms. Tighe indicated Revitalization serves that purpose; however Mr. McHale responded it was mostly members of the commercial community not residents. Ms. Tighe went on to state she took exception to words such as "bought off" or "under the influence" and Mr. McHale reiterated he did not believe a council meeting is the place or the forum as that is what debates are for. Ms. Tighe agreed, however, added that she will not have the opportunity to debate as she is not a candidate and as the council president she is concerned with the implications against the governing body because Mr. McHale is a part of it and votes with it on the majority of the projects. Mr. McHale again stated that it was about the Mayor and not the Council.

CITIZEN COMMENT:

Margaret Lennon-18 – 87th St: Expressed concern with the liability of the SOS group using a City building and questioned if that was the best use of the facility or should it be sold. Mr. Baldini responded that no decision has been made on the building and the permission to use it is until a decision is made. He also provided an explanation on the requirements of the Joint Insurance Fund regarding use of public facilities.

Lynn Shirk-209 54th St: Complained that the AC Press continues to leave papers at vacant homes.

George Marinari-222 55th St: Stated he like the dialogue between Ms. Tighe and Mr. McHale and agreed that decisions are made without public knowledge. He then asked about the status of the rest stop on the parkway and Mayor Desiderio responded that Sunoco is taking over and may put a small convenience store there. He added that the County is asking the State to turn over the building so that it can be operated locally. Mr. Kehner suggested Mr. Marinari have AARP send a letter of support to the State.

Dave Helfrich-21 36th St: Asked for the status of the demolition of 3800 Sounds and 204 Sounds. Mr. Baldini responded that he is meeting with Mr. Byrne and will have a plan in place within 30 days. He next asked about the Clemente Gazebo and Mr. Baldini explained that the City engineer has confirmed that the structure has not been brought into compliance and that he will contact the owner's attorney allowing for further reduction in height or the city will demolish.

Chris Donahue-225 56th St: Complimented the Tourism Commission billboard in Philadelphia "Summer is Closer Than You Think".

Leonard C. Desiderio-6400 Landis: As VP of 1st Bank of Sea Isle City, he thanked the Council for Resolution #052.

Ms. Tighe asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion moved by Mr. Edwardi and seconded by Mr. McHale. All ayes followed and the meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.