

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2017
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
OC FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
LECTURE HALL, ROOM N110

ATTENDANCE: Mr. Barr, Ms. Bergman, Mr. DeVlieger, Mr. Hartzell, Mr. McClellan, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Madden. Present also was Mayor Jay A. Gillian, Business Administrator, James Mallon, CFO, Frank Donato and Manager of Capital Planning, Matthew von der Hayden

Council President Peter Madden called the meeting to order and asked everyone to rise for the flag salute and prayer. Ms. Bergman led the prayer. Mr. Madden announced that adequate notice of this meeting has been given pursuant to Public Law 1975, Chapter 231 and he asked that all cell phones be turned off or put on vibrate.

CITIZEN COMMENT

There was no public comment.

5 YEAR CAPITAL PLAN PRESENTATION (2017-2021)

Mayor Gillian welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for attending. He stated that the plan being presented tonight represents a \$13 million increase from last year's five-year plan and is confident that it is a responsible plan. Recent and ongoing projects, primarily in the past two years, have taken advantage of more than \$11 million in grants. That doesn't include more than \$6 million in FEMA reimbursements for Sandy damage. Doing the work now will allow the city to get low interest rates that may not be seen again for a long time; Frank Donato, CFO will explain the finances in more detail during the presentation. For the amount of work that will be done, the impact on an average property owner will be small over the long run. Much of the funding is front-loaded for 2017 and taxpayers may feel the greatest impact this year. Once we get through some of the major projects in the next year, the plan calls for trimming back without losing a focus on roads and drainage. Also, the Mayor reminded everyone that this is a funding plan; there are many anticipated projects listed, but nothing is etched in stone. The plan puts money in place that can be allocated as needs arise. The plan includes funding for new neighborhood drainage projects and for the routine repaving of streets and alleys. It covers beach replenishment and dredging the shallow bay waters. It also dedicates money for a renovation and addition to the public safety building that houses our police department. After studying many different options over the course of many months, the Mayor is confident that it's the most cost-effective approach. Federal flood requirements prevent us from using the first floor of the existing police station. By using the upper floors, the city can save millions on staging costs, and the city can also save big on the cost of an addition to the old building. This plan preserves a historic building while stabilizing and updating it. It does not eliminate parking from any other area of town and it does not require the purchase of any land or impact any other part of Ocean City. It does not entail any interruption of services during construction and again, it's the most responsible way to do it. Mayor Gillian hopes that everyone will listen closely to tonight's presentation and ask any questions that arise. He said, if we accomplish one thing together, he hopes that completing this important infrastructure work will be it. Mayor Gillian thanked everyone for their attention and turned the presentation over to Matt von der Hayden, Manager of Capital Planning.

Manager of Capital Planning, Matthew von der Hayden discussed in detail the 5 year Capital Plan (2017-2012) for the City of Ocean City. Overall, \$112 million was proposed and the plan represents a \$13.7 million increase over the 2016-2020 plan of \$98.5 million. The new plan spends \$5.7 more for roads and

drainage and \$9.7 million increase for public buildings which will help cover the cost of renovations and additions to the public safety building. Also, the plan is in direct response to property owners who have urged the city to complete long-neglected projects in every part of town. The plan also includes \$40.3 million for neighborhood flood-relief projects and four routine repaving of deteriorated roads and alleys. The budget includes grants, federal and state funding. More than \$11 million in grants in the past two years has been received not including the \$6 million or more in FEMA reimbursements and cost-shares from the federal and state governments on beach replenishment projects. For about \$150 million worth of infrastructure improvements over six years, the owner of an average \$500,000 property in Ocean City can expect to pay a few hundred dollars more in annual taxes by the time the projects are fully bonded in five years.

COMMENTS & QUESTIONS FROM THE GOVERNING BODY

Mr. Barr asked for clarification in regard to the alleys from 26th Street to 34th Street.

Mr. McClellan asked about going out to bid for the pump and was interested in knowing the timeline for the grant process.

Mr. Hartzell wanted to know the estimates of equipment that the city gets rid of and wanted to know if the money is then readily available. Also, he referenced pages 51, 59 and 87 of the capital plan presentation and had questions relative to items on those pages including proposed public restrooms on 5th and Asbury Avenue; parking lot usage; and the number of jet-skis being used and how often they are used.

Mr. DeVlieger said that the main concern in the 1st Ward is the roads and wanted to know if the city is addressing the locations where there are not any bulkheads. Mr. DeVlieger mentioned that the proposed restrooms at 5th street are a great idea and he suggested that the city put a snack stand in at the skate park that doesn't compete with the businesses; it would be a good addition for the community.

Ms. Bergman spoke about replacing the pumps on the streets due to major flooding and wanted to know if once they were done will there be a restriction on repaving those streets. She also inquired about grant money and wanted to know if there will more opportunities for obtaining grants in the future.

Mr. Wilson had questions about the police boat and asked that the city start looking now for grant money for the future. Also, he asked about the cost for the ladder truck and what the return would be. Another question brought up by Mr. Wilson had to do with the chairs being purchased for the Music Pier; what is the cost and how often are they being replaced.

Mr. Madden said that the capital plan involves a lot of time to prepare and he appreciates the effort. The governing body will look into all of the proposed projects and items as there is a lot to consider and discuss.

PENDING BUSINESS

Mr. Barr thanked Matt von der Hayden for all of his hard work and efforts and said that he has done a great job obtaining grants for the city. He also thanked the administration for changing the meeting time for tonight so that he could be here on time. Mr. Barr stated that the proposed capital plan is a good and aggressive plan.

Mr. McClellan thanked Matt von der Hayden and said that he has done a great job and he wished him much success moving forward.

Mr. Hartzell said that Matt von der Hayden has been an asset to the city, he is a hard worker and he appreciates all of his efforts. He wished Matt well and is happy to know that he is moving up and Mr. Hartzell is proud to say that Ocean City was a great stepping stone for Matt.

Mr. DeVlieger wished Matt much success and said that he has done an exceptional job.

Ms. Bergman thanked the administration, Frank Donato and Matt von der Hayden for the presentation this evening and wished Matt much luck in his future endeavors.

Mr. Wilson said that the capital plan addresses many of the city's needs and it is what the city needs to do to move forward.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Marty Mozzo – 3803 Westminster Avenue – Mr. Mozzo is the chair person for the Environmental Commission and Matt von der Hayden was the city liaison; Mr. Mozzo worked very closely with Matt and said that he will be greatly missed, but he understands that Matt moving on is a natural progression. Mr. Mozzo said that Matt was a pleasure to work with and Egg Harbor Township is lucky to have him.

Michael Hinchman – W. Atlantic Avenue – Mr. Hinchman commented on some items in the capital plan having to do with the cost for landscaping, the security for the dog park and the proposed cost of the police station. He also stated his opinion about the pump station and bulkheads that are protruding.

Craig Stewart – Simpson Avenue – Mr. Stewart thanked administration and council for the presentation given tonight. He wanted to know how much money is going to be put towards the projects for 26th to 34th Streets and wanted to know if it will be done this year. He also asked about the alleys from 29th to 30th Street on Haven and Simpson and asked if they were included in the plan as a priority.

Mayor Gillian commented on the remarks shared by Mr. Hinchman during the public comment portion of the meeting relative to landscaping costs, dredging and the proposed police station.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Madden asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion moved by Mr. Hartzell, seconded by Ms. Bergman. All ayes followed. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.



Melissa Bovera, City Clerk
City of Ocean City, NJ