

**REGULAR COMMISSION MINUTES OF THE WILDWOOD
COMMISSIONERS IN THE COUNTY OF CAPE MAY, NEW JERSEY**

Wednesday, February 14, 2024
Commissioner's Meeting Room
Time: 5:00 p.m.

MEETING CALLED

Meeting called to order by the Mayor.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Fitzsimons leads in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk called the roll and the following Commissioners answered to their names:

Commissioner Fitzsimons – here, Commissioner Mikulski – here (via Zoom), Mayor Troiano – here

OTHERS ATTENDING

Jessica Stilley, DeBlasio & Associates, PC

Steven A. Morris, Solicitor

Lisa A. Brown, City Clerk

Amanda Neill, Aide to the City Clerk

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

As per N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, the City Clerk read the Open Public Meetings Act Announcement.

PRESENTATIONS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

January 24, 2024 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Fitzsimons SECOND: Mikulski

ROLL CALL: Fitzsimons– Yes, Mikulski – Yes, Troiano – Yes

ORDINANCES:

1278-24 Ordinance Authorizing execution of Financial Agreement pursuant to the Long-Term Tax Exemption Law between the City of Wildwood and Wildwoods Lions Limited Dividend Housing Corporation (**SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/ADOPTION**)

MOTION TO OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

MOTION: Troiano SECOND: Fitzsimons

ROLL CALL: Fitzsimons – Yes, Mikulski – Yes, Troiano – Yes

There being no comment, Public Hearing was closed.

MOTION: Troiano SECOND: Fitzsimons

ROLL CALL: Fitzsimons – Yes, Mikulski – Yes, Troiano – Yes

MOTION TO ADOPT

MOTION: Troiano SECOND: Mikulski

ROLL CALL: Fitzsimons – Yes, Mikulski – Yes, Troiano – Yes

The Mayor announced Ordinance No. 1278-24 has passed Second Reading

1279-24 Ordinance Amending Chapter 7 of the General Ordinances of the City of Wildwood Governing Mercantile Licenses to require Proof of Business and Rental Unit Liability Insurance (**INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING**)

MOTION: Troiano SECOND: Mikulski

ROLL CALL: Fitzsimons – Yes, Mikulski – Yes, Troiano – Yes

The Mayor announced Ordinance No. 1279-24 has passed First Reading

1280-24 Ordinance Amending Chapter 7 of the General Ordinances of the City of Wildwood Governing Special Events – Fees (**INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING**)

MOTION: Troiano SECOND: Mikulski

ROLL CALL: Fitzsimons – Yes, Mikulski – Yes, Troiano – Yes
The Mayor announced Ordinance No. 1280-24 has passed First Reading

1281-24 Calendar Year 2024 Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank (**INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING**)

MOTION: Troiano SECOND: Mikulski
ROLL CALL: Fitzsimons – Yes, Mikulski – Yes, Troiano – Yes
The Mayor announced Ordinance No. 1281-24 has passed First Reading

BID & SID BUDGETS:

73-2-24 Introducing and Approving the 2024 Wildwood Business Improvement District Budget

74-2-24 Introducing and Approving the 2024 Wildwood Boardwalk Special Improvement District Budget

(Public Hearing and Adoption for the 2024 BID and SID Budgets will be held on Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 5:00pm)

Commissioner Mikulski wishes to have a better break down of the budget before Public Hearing held on March 13th at 5:00pm. Commissioner Fitzsimons makes a suggestion to Commissioner Mikulski to reach out to Patrick Rosenello if he would like more information.

MOTION: Fitzsimons SECOND: Mikulski
ROLL CALL: Fitzsimons – Yes, Mikulski – Yes, Troiano – Yes

EARLY PUBLIC COMMENT:

Carl Schmoyer, 5201 Ocean Avenue: Mr. Schmoyer asks who dictates the fees for Special Events during summer. Mayor Troiano states it is done by Ordinance and the City of Wildwood has someone who handles Special Events and insurance. Commissioner Fitzsimons says it is a long process to have a Special Event and the City is fortunate enough to have a program called, Apply4 that does a great job at keeping everything all together and organized. Mr. Schmoyer asks as a business stand point, does the City mark up prices. Mayor Troiano explains the City is very strict with how everything is handled and maintained. Commissioner Fitzsimons states the fees that are in place fall right in line with all neighboring communities.

Elizabeth Rhuberg, 410 West Taylor Avenue: Ms. Rhuberg expresses concern with speeding that is occurring on Park Boulevard from Taylor Avenue. Mayor Troiano asks Commissioner Mikulski, who oversees Public Safety, to ask the Police Department to patrol the entire block.

RESOLUTIONS: City Clerk read the resolutions listed on the agenda. City Clerk noted Resolution “F” will be tabled and considered upon further review. Resolution “BB” was stricken from the Agenda and “DD” will be considered separately.

- 75-2-24 Authorizing Emergency Temporary Appropriations
- 76-2-24 Authorizing Emergency Temporary Capital – Landfill Closure Project, Phase 1
- 77-2-24 Authorizing Budget Appropriation Reserve Transfer
- 78-2-24 Authorizing Agreement with CASA Reporting Services for 2024 Affordable Care Act Reporting Services in the amount not to exceed \$10,000.00
- 79-2-24 Authorizing increase in 2023 contract amount with CASA Reporting Services in the amount of \$103.20
- 80-2-24 Amending contract with Trinity Code for Building, Plumbing and Electrical Services for the 2023-2026 contract year (increase of \$90,000.00 for a new total amount of \$315,000.00)
- 81-2-24 Authorizing contract with Tri-Marketing Group, LLC for 2024 Communications and Social Media Management Services in the amount not to exceed \$28,560.00
- 82-2-24 Authorizing refund of ambulance billing fee to Anna Schick due to duplicate payment (\$109.53)
- 83-2-24 Approving Amusement Game License(s)
- 84-2-24 Authorizing Tax Assessor to act as Agent for the City of Wildwood for the purpose of filing and settling Tax Appeals on behalf of the taxing district for the year 2024
- 85-2-24 Authorizing the appointment of Paid Class I Special Law Enforcement Officer Recruit, Andrew P. West, effective February 17, 2024
- 86-2-24 Rescinding Resolution No. 275-8-19 and memorializing the separation of Treasurer’s Office and Purchasing Office
- 87-2-24 Approving the execution of an agreement for Professional Services with Phoenix Advisors, LLC to serve as 2024 Continuing Disclosure Agent and Financial Advisor for a term of one-year

Deputy Mayor will have any involvement but in order to move forward Solicitor Morris states they may both vote on the Resolution and advises them to “Abstain” as voting “No” would not pass. Solicitor Morris states Doctrine of Necessity will be used. Commissioner Mikulski asks who has been selected for the position and is advised Eric M. Bernstein has been selected as it is believed he is well suited along with submitting an RFQ .

MOTION: Fitzsimons SECOND: Mikulski
ROLL CALL: Fitzsimons – Yes, Mikulski – Yes, Troiano – Yes

REPORTS:

•Engineers Report – Jessica Stilley states she has nothing to report at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

COMMUNICATIONS: Commissioner Fitzsimons explains to the public that the Board of Commissioners voted “yes” to Addendum I- covering the Back Bay Landfill. Commissioner Fitzsimons is proud of this project and her fellow Commissioners and thanked them for their support. She states that this is a gift to the community as a whole and that there is still 4 acres left over for development, which gives her great pride. She is proud of Mayor Troiano and Commissioner Mikulski and says this project will reap benefits for everyone.

Mayor Troiano states he worked on the Back Bay Project 21 years ago and the State hindered the progress of the project and is not pleased with the outcome. Mayor Troiano says he does not like anything that will cost tax payers money and maintenance and feels as though the City lost an opportunity to build the community. He applauded Commissioner Fitzsimons and Commissioner Mikulski for their efforts in getting the landfill covered. He will revisit this project in the future in hopes of being permitted to develop further in the area.

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: During regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners Meeting. Remarks will limit to five (5) minutes per person. The City Clerk will be keeper of time and advise speaker when time has expired. Each member of the public will be permitted to speak only once per meeting. Criticism of public employees will be directed to the Human Resources Department during work hours only.

Elizabeth Rhuberg, 410 West Taylor Avenue:

Ms. Rhuberg states that she did not know anyone when she moved to Wildwood and when she needed help with a problem, Mayor Troiano was available in her time of need. She goes on to explain that Mayor Troiano took her phone calls after hours and married her and her husband after hours, also. Ms. Rhuberg states that the Board of Commissioners are full time workers and are always available to help. She thanks them all and appreciates all that they do.

Al Brannen, 217 E. Bennett Ave: Mr. Brannen asks the Board if they reached out to the person he suggested for City Administrator and if there is an update. Mayor Troiano states that City Clerk, Lisa A. Brown is doing a great job as Interim Administrator and his focus at the moment is trying to get caught up on everything going on in town and making educated decisions. Commissioner Fitzsimons notes that she has inquired about the same question but states that she no longer oversees Human Resources. Mayor Troiano says he is in no rush to make a decision on filling the position at this time as City Clerk, Lisa A. Brown is doing a great job but is not opposed to move forward should another Commissioner like to make that push. Mr. Brannen asks if the City will be donating sand to North Wildwood. Mayor Troiano says no, we are not and piles of sand are on the beach to level out the area. Mr. Brannen asks if BID and SID are in charge of the trash cans, stating they are a disgrace and does not want them around grocery stores and businesses. Mayor Troiano and Commissioner Fitzsimons said that they are currently looking for appropriate locations to place them. Commissioner Fitzsimons states the trash bins are 25 years old and all need replaced, explaining they have to go through UEZ and there are different phases, it is costly, and will take time. Mr. Brannen asks if there is any progress on installing cameras in the Commissioners Meeting Room for Planning Board meetings. Commissioner Fitzsimons says no, but would love to see this happen but there would be a large internal shift. She says maybe the Board can discuss potentially bringing someone in to record meetings instead. Mayor Troiano notes that he will take this matter to the Planning Board. Mr. Brannen asked to replace the bus stop shelter near the Lions Center. Mayor Troiano said the bus should not be stopping there. The shelter was removed years ago at the request of the residents in the area due to events occurring there.

Carl Schmoyer, 5201 Ocean Avenue: Mr. Schmoyer states that many boards and equipment are near the Boardwalk. Commissioner Fitzsimons asks if this was before or after the Boardwalk construction. Mr. Schmoyer said, both. Mr. Schmoyer asked when the beach walkways will be put down. Mayor Troiano said he will make an effort to put them out earlier however so many events take place preseason which destroy the boards if they are placed too soon. Mr. Schmoyer is still concerned with camping on the beach, taking place this summer May 3rd-5th, and sanitation issues. Commissioner Fitzsimons and Mayor Troiano state that this is a small event with 250 occupants at most as a way to test the waters with the event. Commissioner Fitzsimons says that if it had been another company who was running the event she would personally not have entertained the idea and explained this is the same company who will be hosting Jeep Invasion and is confident the event will be handled well as they will want to host Jeep Invasion again. Mr. Schmoyer states the water in the pool at the Windward Motel is stagnant and a mosquito trap. Mayor Troiano said he will send notice to the owner to maintain the pool. Mr. Schmoyer asked if the Fire Department will come to fill the pool at Ocean Towers. Mayor Troiano says the Fire Department is no longer allowed to do that as it became a liability issue. They used to do it as a training exercise. He suggest Ocean Towers reach out to the Water Utility to see if they can put a meter on the hydrant to fill the pool. Tim Kane said they could do that and would pre-flush to the line to avoid rust. Mr. Schmoyer would like to make a formal proposal for an ADA compliant ramp for Bennett Avenue and the Boardwalk. Mayor Troiano states that the City applied for and received renderings for a handicapped accessible ramp. Mr. Schmoyer would like to see what this looks like and the Mayor will provide him with a photo. He also notes there will be drains and pumps. Mr. Schmoyer asks how people will get down to the beach. Mayor Troiano states this will serve as a pass through, more so for pedestrians and will need to be maintained. Mayor Troiano will give Mr. Schmoyer more information on this. Mr. Schmoyer asks about the dunes on the beach and Mayor Troiano notes that North Wildwood no longer has a beach and the dune is a cliff. Commissioner Fitzsimons tells Mr. Schmoyer that the last time they spoke there were easement issues. The Board signed papers and were moving forward but ultimately it is up to the State to contact each individual owner and now what has happened in North Wildwood, that may change and they would like it to be fair to everyone. Mr. Schmoyer thanks Rich Harron for the lighting project on Ocean Ave and for grating under the Boardwalk. Mayor Troiano states it needs to be kept clean so the concrete doesn't get buried in the sand.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business to discuss, this meeting was adjourned at 6:04 pm. Remarks as typed highlighted not verbatim as to subject matter.

MOTION: Fitzsimons SECOND: Mikulski
ROLL CALL: Fitzsimons – Yes, Mikulski – Yes, Troiano – Yes

Krista Fitzsimons, COMMISSIONER

Steven Mikulski, COMMISSIONER

Ernest Troiano, Jr., MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
Lisa A. Brown, City Clerk

DATE MINUTES APPROVED February 28, 2024