

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

Wednesday, April 28, 2021  
Commissioner's Meeting Room  
Time: 5:00 p.m.

**MEETING CALLED**

Meeting called to order by the Mayor.

*NOTE: This meeting was conducted under the restrictions of the COVID-19 virus, as dictated by the Governor's Office. Members of the public were also invited to participate by utilizing the internet application ZOOM as well as "Go to Meeting". There were 6 members of the public were present via Zoom.*

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**ROLL CALL**

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

Fitzsimons – here, Mikulski – here, Byron - here

**OTHERS ATTENDING**

Louis DeLollis, Solicitor (via Zoom)  
Carl Groon, Municipal Administrator  
Steve O'Connor, Administrative Assistant  
Michael Welding, Auditor  
Susan Plaza, Acting CFO  
Christopher H. Wood, City Clerk  
Lisa Brown, Aide to the City Clerk

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

April 14, 2021 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Fitzsimons           SECOND: Mikulski

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

**ORDINANCES:**

**1198-21**       Repealing and Restating Chapter 3, Section 23 entitled "Smoking Prohibited in certain public facilities (**INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING**)

MOTION: Byron           SECOND: Mikulski

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

The Mayor announced Ordinance No. 1198-21 has passed First Reading.

**1199-21**       Repealing and Restating Chapter 7 to change existing fees for Special Event Permits and establish new fees for the use of City Property and Special Events (**INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING**)

MOTION: Byron           SECOND: Mikulski

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

The Mayor announced Ordinance 1199-21 has passed First Reading.

**MUNICIPAL BUDGET:**

174-4-21       Public Hearing and Adoption of the 2021 Wildwood Municipal Budget

Mayor Byron turned the meeting over to Mike Welding, Auditor, who presented a slide show of the 2021 Municipal Budget. Upon conclusion of the slide show, Mayor Byron said spending is down, ratables are up for the first time in 10 years, and the City is maintaining a healthy surplus. He said all of this points to a strong financial future of the City of Wildwood. Commissioner Fitzsimons said they are setting a lot of positive groundwork to reach their goal and provide a nice turnaround for future budgets. She thanked Susan Plaza and her department for stepping up, as well as Mr. Groon, Administrator, who worked closely with all the department heads and was a big reason they City gained control of its budget.

Commissioner Mikulski said he's very excited to achieve the lowest increase in taxes the City has had in years, and thanked every department for their efforts. He said each department looked at their budgets and that the Board held everyone accountable, including but not limited to the engineers, the legal department and all outside departments. Mayor Byron added, on top of all this, there are many improvements going on throughout the municipality. They are working on a 5-year plan to rehabilitate the boardwalk. They will begin repairs on the boardwalk in the fall with \$4 million the City received in funding. It is progress. Even though it's a little inconvenient right now, it will provide for a bright future.

**MOTION TO OPEN PUBLIC HEARING**

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

There being no comment, the Public Hearing was closed.

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

**MOTION TO ADOPT THE 2021 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

MOTION: Fitzsimons           SECOND: Mikulski  
ROLL CALL: Fitzsimons – Yes, Mikulski – Yes, Byron – Yes  
The Mayor announced the 2021 Municipal Budget has been adopted.

**EARLY PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**RESOLUTIONS:** City Clerk read the resolutions listed on the agenda.

- 175-4-21       Anticipating miscellaneous revenues in the 2021 budget using the three-year average of realized revenues
- 176-4-21       Authorizing return of escrow balance deposits (various)
- 177-4-21       Authorizing Police Chief to apply for grant to participate in the 2021 Click It or Ticket Program
- 178-4-21       Authorizing Police Chief to execute an application for participation in the Cops in Shops 2021 Summer Shore Initiative Program
- 179-4-21       Requesting Planning Board review investigative report re: Designating Pacific Avenue as an area in need of redevelopment
- 180-4-21       Authorizing refund of 2021 Mercantile License to Sean Lee, 2701 Pacific Avenue, due to property being sold (\$410.00)
- 181-4-21       Authorizing activation of various traffic signals on April 30, 2021 due to public safety considerations
- 182-4-21       Rescinding Resolution 240-6-20, Fiber Optic Cables
- 183-4-21       Authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$3,782,345.12 dated April 28, 2021
- 184-4-21       Authorizing filing of all reports and other data contained in this agenda

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

**REPORTS:**

•Engineers Report – John Hess, CME: Police Department ADA Improvements are ongoing. The contractors are currently working on this project. The Byrne Community Project will start once the equipment is received.

Jim Oris, Remington & Vernick: Report on file in the Engineer' office. Mr. Oris thanked all residents who have been inconvenienced during the road construction on Ocean Avenue, and that RVE is doing their best to minimize any additional inconvenience. Commissioner Mikulski asked when they will begin construction on the street near Ocean Towers, north of Leaming Avenue? Mr. Oris said the Change Order was approved and it's slated to begin in the Fall, 2021.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

**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 Deputy 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.

Derek Kephart, 3104 Ocean Ave: Mr. Kephart is pleased to hear of the fiscal health of the City of Wildwood. His sentiment on the topic of marijuana dispensaries is to opt out. He said last summer was the worst summer ever and saw marijuana everywhere. He asked if there was a budget or plan with the police department to assist in these new laws. He also stated he lives by the dog beach and was wondering where the City was in regards to beach tags. He believes implementing beach tags will assist in keeping trash at a minimum and taxes low. Mayor Byron spoke relative to the enforcement issue. He said he has had many conversations with the Solicitor and with so many unknowns, it makes things difficult. From the Police standpoint, they will be enforcing to the max. The Board is working on creating an ordinance to opt out by the next meeting. Commissioner Mikulski said it is very difficult out there. The Chief of Police is currently working on a game plan with regard to marijuana. He said the Ordinance the Board just introduced tonight, prohibiting smoking in certain areas, will help. They are trying to be proactive.

Al Brannen, 217 E. Bennett Avenue: Mr. Brannen asked if the City is going to opt out. Mayor Byron said yes, and planned to have things ready by the next meeting. Mr. Brannen asked if this would be similar to what the other municipalities are adopting. Mayor Byron said this one would be tighter. Commissioner Fitzsimons said the Solicitor did a great job and found a few things in the language that could be a potential loophole. She said he's being very thorough and taking the extra time to make sure everything is right. Mr. Brannen also requested information on the car show proposed to happen on Pacific Avenue.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business to discuss, this meeting was adjourned at 5:31 pm. Remarks as typed highlighted not verbatim as to subject matter.

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

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Krista Fitzsimons, COMMISSIONER

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Steve Mikulski, COMMISSIONER

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Peter Byron, MAYOR

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Christopher H. Wood, City Clerk

DATE MINUTES APPROVED: May 12, 2021