

**FEBRUARY 11, 2025
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Cape May Point was called to order by Mayor vanHeeswyk at 6:00 PM. Mayor vanHeeswyk read the Open Public Meetings Statement and then led those present in the flag salute. Commissioner Geiger, Mayor vanHeeswyk, and Commissioner Yunghans answered roll call. Also in attendance: Administrator Ed Grant, Clerk Elaine Wallace, and Solicitor John Amenhauser. This meeting was held electronically via ZOOM under local operation guidance from the NJDCA pursuant to P.L. 2020, c.11.

COMMISSIONERS' DISCUSSION/REPORTS:

2025 Budget Discussion with CFO Eleanor Cifaloglio:

CFO Cifaloglio and the commissioners went through the budget worksheets, discussing each department and its proposed appropriations and revenues for 2025. As proposed, the budget called for a 1.75 cent increase. Some changes may still be made and the final figures may be different when introduced. The commissioners thanked Ms. Cifaloglio for her work on the budget.

Commissioner Geiger reported January was a quiet month for police activity in Cape May Point. There were 51 calls for service and 2 suspicious vehicle calls. Ms. Geiger reported she met with Police Chief Fashaw and learned a lot about the operations and hopes to work on improving 2-way communication. She has also announced Cape May has begun working in the next police contract. Cape May has an advisory committee, MTRAC, and she was advised the contract will be far more detailed than in the past. Ms. Geiger believes the Borough should also appoint an advisory committee to help with cost accounting, analysis, data trends, etc., in an effort to even the playing field and provide support and ideas for the Borough. Solicitor Amenhauser advised an advisory committee can be created by resolution. Mayor vanHeeswyk was not comfortable with that approach, stating the Borough Administrator has done similar negotiations for the Borough and the County and can handle it. Ms. Geiger agreed Mr. Grant should be part of the committee and be part of the negotiations, but having additional people available to analyze the City's services and allocation concepts would be helpful in preparing for those negotiations. Commissioner Yunghans agreed that more eyes helping look at the proposal wouldn't be bad. Mr. Grant said he was open to whatever the commissioners wanted to do. Ms. Geiger will compile a list of candidates and once she provides them to Solicitor Amenhauser, he will draft a resolution for consideration of the Commission. Ms. Geiger also reported on her meeting with the Volunteer Fire Company. The VFC is self-funding, they own their building, and maintain everything on their own. They even built their new addition themselves. The new firetruck is expected in the 4th quarter. The organization fundraises and uses interest from a bequest to fund their services. She stated the Cape May Point Volunteer Fire Company is the Borough's best option for fire services. She wanted to report so the public knows what they do, how they support the community, and

enable to community to support them in turn. Lastly, she reported the beach services are waiting on the budget to be finalized.

Mayor vanHeeswyk had no report.

Commissioner Yunghans reported the new electronics system for the water utility system has been completed. The project was fully funded by an ARPA grant from the County. Also, the Lake Lily sprinkler system is finally working. The issue was the new smart meter installed by Atlantic City Electric 11 months ago was bad and needed to be replaced. Lastly, she was sad to announce that Bill Battersby of the Public Works Department has resigned. He will be sorely missed.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Commissioner Grant reported a lot of time spend on the budget. There may still be changes prior to introduction. The next Veterans Memorial committee meeting has been scheduled. Member Ed Barnhart will be meeting with Public Works to discuss how the project could be done in phases.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

January 28, 2025

January 28, 2025 Closed Session

Motion: vanHeeswyk, Yunghans

Roll call: all in favor

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION/PUBLICATION:

RESOLUTIONS:

32-25 Reappointing Thomas Keywood as Judge of the Cape May Point Municipal Court

Motion: Geiger, vanHeeswyk

Roll call: all in favor

33-25 Authorizing Special Event Permit for Good Day for a Run, LLC

Motion: vanHeeswyk, Yunghans

Roll call: all in favor

34-25 Approval of Bill List

Motion: vanHeeswyk, Geiger

Roll call: all in favor

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING:

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

Environmental Commission

Mary Lynn MacKenzie – Member – 3-year term expiring 1/31/2028

Paula Massanari – Member – 3-year term expiring 1/31/2028

Emelia Oleson – Member – 3-year term expiring 1/31/2028

Tom Reilly – Member – 3-year unexpired term expiring 1/31/2026

Rich Johnson – Alt. #1 – 2-year term expiring 1/31/2027

Planning Board

Mary Lynn MacKenzie – Class II – 3-year term expiring 1/31/2028

Motion: Yunghans, Geiger

Roll call: all in favor

PUBLIC PORTION:

Hope Luken asked Commissioner Geiger what areas of expertise she is looking for from property owners who would be willing to serve on an advisory committee for the police contract. Ms. Geiger is looking for anyone with accounting or service agreement backgrounds. Ms. Luken also asked for the tax increase, either in percentage or cents. Administrator Grant said the budget was still in draft form, so the increase isn't yet set.

Sandy Allison asked the reasoning behind decreasing the Environmental Commission budget. Commissioner Yunghans explained only \$2,640 was spent last year, so she questioned the need to budget \$7,500 and asked if there was a spending plan for that amount, but she received none. The proposed budget amount is still more than was spent in 2024. Ms. Allison thanked Commissioner Geiger for her report on the volunteer fire company's activities.

When no one else wished to speak, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm on motion of Mayor vanHeeswyk, seconded by Commissioner Geiger.

Respectfully submitted,

Accepted:

Elaine L. Wallace, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk

Commissioner Geiger

Mayor vanHeeswyk

Commissioner Yunghans