

August 15, 2013
Margate, New Jersey

THE PRESS AND THE DOWNBEACH CURRENT WERE NOTIFIED OF THESE MEETINGS AND A COPY OF SAME WAS POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD AND MUNICIPAL WEBSITE

The Margate City Board of Commissioners held a work meeting on the above date at 4:00 pm. The meeting began with a flag salute and roll call: Mr. Becker, Mr. Blumberg, and Ms. Taube were present. The following department heads were present: Mr. Abbott, Mr. Deane, Mr. Ricciotti, Mr. Walberg, Ms. McLaughlin, Ms. Larkin, Ms. Freed, Mr. Galantino, and Mr. Verna. Mr. Abbott began the meeting with a discussion of 4 proposed Resolutions with the wording for referendum question and interpretive statement to be placed on the November ballot.

- Ms. Taube favored Alternate #4 because of the wording “to enter into a Cooperative Agreement “ (line 2) in the interpretive statement
- Mr. Becker agreed with Ms. Taube & does not favor putting a dollar amount in the statement; if the voters reject the referendum then the issue does not go forward
- Mr. Blumberg wanted voters to get the most information possible without speculation; too many unanswered questions at this time to decide which question to adopt special election may be better to avoid pressure; wait to choose until after the Special Meeting tonight when the invited agencies will answer questions; expressed his concerns on outflow pipes cost, easements, legal fees, extra costs associated with the actual agreement, annual maintenance costs, refill costs, likelihood of state replenishment in the event of emergency before scheduled refill; experts say that dunes only provide “20 minutes extra protection” in the event of Category 1 or 2 storms; favors the language in Alternate #2 last 2 sentences (“Expenditure of funds... Margate Fishing Pier.”)
- Mr. Abbott explained that County Clerk and County Counsel will receive copy of adopted Resolution tomorrow which is the deadline for submission of referendum questions

Reports:

Mr. Walberg: updated projects; met with Mr. Deane to decide streets for Road Program & expressed concerns about the beach blocks needing repairs

Chief Tabasso: driver crashed into door at Fire Station #1 – no injuries but there was damage to door

Mr. Ricciotti: 7-day work schedule until Labor Day

Ms. McLaughlin: requested approval for purchase of health insurance claims experience (\$2,000)-yes

Mr. Deane: PBA contract in final draft and expected to ratify at next meeting; continuing discussions with engineer on retrofitting and repairs to all city buildings – Lifeguard HQ remain as is & Washington Avenue building must be brought to code before discussing usage – Mr. Walberg to review schematic of 1st floor of old City Hall prior to giving estimate

Mr. Hiltner: water & sewer shut-off notices next week (approximately 30 delinquents)

Mr. Galantino: new program for low/moderate income individuals to purchase home in flood-prone areas (up to \$50,000)

Chief Wolfson: Thrill Show scheduled for August 24th @ noon

Ms. Taube: lack of communication between commissioners regarding activities; robo call for Special Meeting made too late

Mr. Blumberg: kudos to lifeguards for accomplishments in racing season & to Margate Hurricanes for their win last night; dunes too costly give Margate the money to build cheaper

Mr. Becker: referendum does not commit city to anything just gives direction to the commissioners & costs will become clear with further questioning

Public Participation all on the Dunes:

Ann Pancoast: “community vote” & final contract amount before asking voters to decide

Vaughan Reale: 6 months into this & still not all questions answered; fully vet the contract and completely understand it in its entirety before obligating city; understand the current ordinance regarding this matter (“due diligence”); costs will be higher than anticipated (talk to other municipalities); setting up divisiveness within the city

John Sewell: not behaving fiscally responsible by signing an open-ended contract; master jetty at the end of Longport is the “real solution”; DEP will never supply finalized costs

Sharon Simon: voters need all information to understand the matter; how much protection will the dunes actually provide the city; read emails from Ms. Taube regarding the dunes

Public Participation continued:

Ed Berger: city should commit to bay protection especially since Sandy was a flooding event and the bay properties were severely impacted; how much real protection would the dunes offer for the entire city; favors a master jetty/groin

Dan Gottlieb represents group “Margate Citizens for Beach Preservation”: requested use of multi-purpose room for series of educational and informational meetings on the dunes (Mr. Becker: submit dates to clear the room); adoption of the question too pressured; refuted The Press of AC editorial in today’s issue; questioned costs

Steve Altman: dunes only protect few (beach block home owners) not the entire city & this becomes “immoral” considering beach block parking is prohibited

Steve Davidson: more specifics needed before entering into a contract

Annette Schultz: opposed to dunes & doesn’t understand how they will really help in a storm

Steve Woerner: should not be fearful of the referendum questions since it doesn’t obligate city

Carol Orman: lives near dunes at Senior Citizen Building and they didn’t help during Sandy; mosquitoes, trash collect between dunes and bulkhead; beaches now bigger because of Ventnor replenishment

Carol Rose: all residents should share the benefits since creation of dunes is a tax-borne issue; dunes only protect part of the island & the bay homes suffered more damage than the southside

On motion by Ms. Taube this portion was closed with a vote of three ayes.

On motion by Mr. Blumberg the meeting was adjourned with a vote of three ayes.

Board of Commissioners of the City of Margate City, New Jersey

Attest:

Thomas D. Hiltner, City Clerk

*See following pages for all 4 alternate resolutions as discussed setting forth the referendum question and interpretive statement.