

**MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS MEETING
CITY OF REHOBOTH BEACH**

January 15, 2016

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Commissioners of the City of Rehoboth Beach was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Mayor Samuel R. Cooper on Friday, January 15, 2016 on the second floor of the Rehoboth Beach Volunteer Fire Company, 219 Rehoboth Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE.

City Solicitor Glenn Mandalas gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present:	Commissioner	Paul Kuhns
	Commissioner	Toni Sharp
	Commissioner	Patrick Gossett
	Mayor	Samuel R. Cooper
	Commissioner	Stan Mills
	Commissioner	Lorraine Zellers
	Commissioner	Kathy McGuiness

Also in attendance: City Manager Sharon Lynn
City Solicitor Glenn Mandalas

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Stan Mills made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lorraine Zellers, to approve the Agenda with the deletion of the April 13, 2015 Special Workshop Meeting, May 4, 2015 Workshop Meeting and May 15, 2015 Special Workshop Meeting Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the April 6, 2014 Workshop Meeting and December 18, 2015 Regular Meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Minutes of the April 13, 2015 Special Workshop Meeting, May 4, 2015 Workshop Meeting and May 15, 2015 Special Workshop Meeting were not available for approval.

Commissioner Mills made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Zellers, to approve the April 6, 2015 Mayor and Commissioners Workshop Meeting minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Mills made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Toni Sharp, to approve the December 18, 2015 Mayor and Commissioners Regular Meeting minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

(See attached report.)

Police Chief Keith Banks presented the report of the Police Department for the month of December 2015.

REPORT OF REHOBOTH BEACH VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Mr. John Meng of the Fire Company reported that there were 37 crew calls and eight alarms for the month of December 2015. A class was held this week with regard to dog and cat CPR. Four pet masks were donated by an unknown individual to aid in administering oxygen. Since last year, fire calls have increased by 100 calls, and ambulance calls have increased by 300 calls. Volunteer training has occurred in the old city hall building.

REPORT OF THE BUILDING AND LICENSING DEPARTMENT

(See attached report.)

Chief Building Inspector Damalier Molina presented the report of the Building & Licensing Department for the month of December 2015.

REPORT OF PLANNING COMMISSION

There was no report.

OLD BUSINESS

Consider adoption of a resolution opposing seismic testing related to oil exploration in the Atlantic Ocean off the east coast of the United States.

The draft resolution was distributed to the Commissioners prior to the meeting.

This issue was brought forward at a previous meeting by concerned citizens who had knowledge of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management possibly opening the mid and south Atlantic for seismic blasting in preparation for offshore oil drilling and gas exploration. As a result, the Commissioners felt it warranted further research. Mr. Matt Heim, Communications Director for Assateague Coastal Trust had given a presentation at the December Workshop Meeting. The area of the Atlantic Ocean where there is oil represents only 3% of the entire U.S. oil reserves. Seismic blasting is very aggressive when used in gas and oil exploration and is harmful to marine mammals and causes negative impacts to the fishing industry. Once the area is mapped, then the oil and gas exploration activities proceed.

City Solicitor Mandalas read the Resolution opposing the five-year program allowing oil and natural gas exploration activities, including seismic testing along the mid and south Atlantic regions generally and off the Delaware coast specifically. (Copy attached.)

Correspondence:

1. Letter from Carol Everhart of Rehoboth Beach/Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce regarding its position in opposition to the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management plans for oil and gas development in the mid and south Atlantic regions which includes the Delaware coast.

Commissioner Kathy McGuinness made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Zellers to adopt the Resolution as read.

Mr. Walter Brittingham, 123 Henlopen Avenue, thought that the Resolution is flawed and was in opposition to seismic testing for oil and natural gas exploration activities. No should not be said to all research. Some types of seismic testing need to be examined.

Mr. Steve Curson, Rehoboth Beach Homeowners' Association, noted that approximately 600 citizens in the City support the opposition to seismic testing related to oil exploration.

(Kuhns – aye. Sharp – aye. Gossett – aye. Cooper – no. He was neither for nor against the concept, but he did not think it has enough nexus to the City for the Commissioners to take this up. Only one side of the issue was heard. The Commissioners did not investigate this issue completely. Mills – aye. Zellers – aye. McGuinness – aye.) Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation on managing stormwater runoff quality issues including contaminants getting into storm drains.

A presentation was given by Commissioner Mills regarding the health of the City's waterbodies. The City implemented the storm drain marking program approximately eight years ago with a grant from DNREC. There are 622 storm drains throughout the City. Examples were given as to what can be done to eliminate or reduce pollutants from getting into the storm drains and the waterbodies. Two examples were presented of what the City has undertaken to preserve the health of the City's waterbodies. They are the rain garden at City Hall and the Lake Gerar comprehensive restoration, maintenance and management program. Photographs were provided to educate the public as to various types of contaminants leaching into storm drains and contributing to poor water quality. It was Commissioner Mills' intent to use the 2012 Lakes Report with recommendations as a basis for addressing the stormwater runoff quality issues. He will be meeting with Chief Building Inspector Damalier Molina to address concerns and with Planning Commission Chairman David Mellen. Commissioner Mills' main focus will be to look at construction sites to see how to better contain soils and potential contaminants coming off of construction sites and also talk with builders to seek their advice.

Review and discuss the Force Main Alignment Report related to the wastewater ocean outfall.

A memorandum dated January 8, 2016 from Mr. Jason Marshall of GHD was forwarded to the Commissioners with regard to the force main alignment. (Copy attached.)

GHD engineers are working on the three phases of this project which are the force main, pump station and the outfall itself. In 2012, a study was done to outline the area of the outfall. The alignment is proposed to come out from the wastewater treatment plant onto Roosevelt Street, follow State Road, turn onto and follow Canal Street, go under Rehoboth Avenue and through Grove Park and then come out onto Grove Street and follow Henlopen Avenue to Deauville Beach. Canal Street will be required to be closed for an extended period of time. Within the next week, test fitting of some of the pipes will be done to determine the actual depth for the pipes. The cost for the project will be less than \$5,000,000.00. The City will repave all the affected streets from curb to curb or from side to side. No private easements will be needed because the pipe will be within public rights-of-way entirely. The permits for the project will be submitted in February 2016.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

With regard to BP04, the bid for the City Hall/Police Department is still being reviewed by EDiS Company and Corrado Construction with Whiting Turner, the low bidder. It is anticipated that a Special Meeting will be held in approximately two weeks to award the bid. The City auction is scheduled for February 6, 2016 beginning at 10:00 a.m. The west side parking lot will be closed to the public, and the east side parking lot will be open with limited parking. On January 18 & 19, 2016, the entrance and exit to City Hall off of Rehoboth Avenue will be closed due to site engineers doing water testing. The entrance and exit off of Third Street will be open for police vehicles and employees. Appropriate signage will be in place for those closings. Offices are closed on January 18, 2016. Considerable progress has been made on the Parking Department building.

City Manager Lynn recommended the approval of the Street Aid expenditures:

01/13/2016	572	Delmarva Power	\$8,349.39 (Street Lights)
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Commissioner Mills made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McGuinness, to approve the Street Aid expenditures as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no reports.

CITY SOLICITOR'S REPORT

There was nothing to report.

COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS

The American Shore Beach Preservation Association Conference will be held in Washington, D.C. on February 23, 24 & 25, 2016. Commissioner Mills will be attending the conference on behalf of the City.

DISCUSS ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON FUTURE AGENDAS.

Items to be included on future agendas are: 1. Restaurant size. 2. Brewery-pubs. 3. Refuse. 4. Rental ordinance.

CITIZEN COMMENT

There was none.

Budget sessions will be held on January 27, 2016 at 9:00 a.m., February 10, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. and February 26, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

The next Workshop Meeting will be held on February 8, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

There being no further business, Mayor Cooper adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

(Lorraine Zellers Secretary)