MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS MEETING CITY OF REHOBOTH BEACH

March 5, 2012

The Workshop Meeting of the Mayor and Commissioners of the City of Rehoboth Beach, was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Mayor Samuel R. Cooper on Monday, March 5, 2012 in the Commissioners Room in City Hall, 229 Rehoboth Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE.

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

ROLL CALL

Present:	Commissioner	Patrick Gossett
	Commissioner	Bill Sargent
	Commissioner	Pat Coluzzi left the meeting at 11:50 a.m.
	Mayor	Samuel R. Cooper
	Commissioner	Stan Mills
	Commissioner	Lorraine Zellers
	Commissioner	Mark Hunker
Also in attendance was:		City Manager Gregory Ferrese City Solicitor Glenn Mandalas

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter dated March 2, 2012 from Toni Childers of 125 Lake Drive, Toni Sharp of 1002 Scarborough Avenue Extended, Kenneth Mills of 1 Silver Lane and Shirley Bennett of 7 Silver Lane, requesting that this letter and Petition With Regard To The Lot 6 Building At Silver Lake Shores In The City Of Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, with more than 125 supporters be read into the public record at this meeting. The current construction on Lot 6 violates the City Code and integrity of the building permit process, to the detriment of the health of Silver Lake, the shorescape surrounding the construction and the natural ambience of all of Rehoboth. The petition being brought forward signals the failure and refusal of City officials to resolve the crisis and to impress upon them that now is the time to stop the building on Lot 6 until the inconsistencies and errors are fully resolved to the benefit of Silver Lake, the existing homeowners and the broader community of Rehoboth Beach. (Copy attached.)

Mayor Cooper noted that this case if before the Board of Adjustment. The Commissioners need to address setbacks around the lakes. To interfere in the process at this point in the matter before the Board of Adjustment would be wrong for the Commissioners. An item will be placed on the next agenda to discuss the setbacks for the lakes.

Commissioner Mark Hunker said the Commissioners need to make sure that the regulations are clear, open and transparent and give clear direction to the City Manager and Building Inspector.

Commissioner Patrick Gossett said that this has been a concern of the Planning Commission and is referenced in the Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) with specifics on how to manage it. He would like to bring forward to the Commissioners at the next meeting for consideration some aspects in the Code which can be expanded to aid in this situation.

City Solicitor Mandalas noted that the Board of Adjustment is scheduled to meet on March 19, 2012. That hearing will be for the purposes of deciding whether the Board of Adjustment will rehear the matter, and if it determines that the threshold criteria has been satisfied to rehear the matter, the case will be placed on the agenda for the April meeting. If the Board of Adjustment decides not to hear the case, it will be a non-issue. Construction is continuing at this point. The Commissioners have been unfairly treated in the press. They are very interested in this issue and have a lot of questions about it. Unfortunately the way the process is set up, this issue is somewhat out of their hands at this point because it has been brought before the Board of Adjustment.

Mr. Walter Brittingham, 123 Henlopen Avenue, asked if after the decision of the Board of Adjustment, there are 30 days after a hearing that a person can appeal it to Superior Court. City Solicitor Mandalas agreed.

Commissioner Gossett said that when this case came before the Board of Adjustment, there was

an automatic stay of any action put in place. City Solicitor Mandalas responded that under the City Code which has adopted the State statute, if a Board of Adjustment appeal is filed it functions as an automatic stay of the proceedings below which would be any further construction on a home or other matter. When the initial appeal was filed with the Board of Adjustment, correspondence was sent stating that the Code invokes an automatic stay which is State imposed. Once the Board of Adjustment dispensed with the matter at its last hearing, the automatic stay was lifted and construction was allowed to continue. The Motion for Re-Argument does not re-impose automatic stay. Only if the Board of Adjustment is to determine it will rehear the case on its merits, the automatic stay would be re-imposed.

2. Letter dated February 29, 2012 from Mr. Tom McGlone, 318 Laurel Street, voicing concern with the Mayor's push to re-assess property values in the City for various reasons. (Copy attached.)

Mayor Cooper responded that it is unfortunate Mr. McGlone tried to make this issue personal with him. There were inconsistencies and wrong information in the letter. A presentation will be made later in this meeting to see what the re-assessment process involves and to see if the Commissioners want to move forward with it.

Commissioner Hunker responded that more discussion is needed regarding the possible City-wide re-assessment because it is a big part of the budget.

3. Letter received March 1, 2012 from Patty Derrick, 10 Third Street, announcing the "1st Chicken Plunge" sponsored by the VIA on September 9, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. on the beach and requesting the Commissioners to volunteer to lead the way into the ocean at Virginia Avenue. This event will help to build a bigger VIA building and is also for a cause or charity to be determined.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Cooper called for the presentation and discussion with PTA/DELVAL, a property assessment firm, concerning the steps and issues involved in a complete re-assessment of the City.

Mr. Curt Riley and Mr. Dave Hickey of Property Tax Associates/Delaware Valuations, Inc. (PTA/DELVAL) were in attendance at the meeting. Mr. Hickey provided a summary of the property tax re-assessment process. Property taxes are a form of Ad Valorem taxation. Ad Valorem taxation is a tax levied against taxpayers in proportion to the value of the asset being taxed. Ad Valorem is taxing the worth or capacity of the item rather than the income derived from use or occupation. The elected governing body of the local jurisdiction determines the tax rate necessary to meet its budgetary needs. Individual taxes are determined by multiplying the assessed value by the tax rate. The reasons for a re-assessment are: 1. The last reassessment was done in 1968. 2. Property values, economic conditions, demographics, construction costs, and property types have changed considerably since 1968. 3. Valuation models used in 1968 are obsolete and do not reflect current market conditions. The benefit to taxpayers is that the tax burden is more equitably distributed based on property type, usage and location. For example: A re-assessment's purpose is to ensure the taxpayer in a property currently worth \$100,000.00 is not paying a greater proportional amount of taxes as compared with a taxpayer who owns a property worth \$1,000,000.00. In regard to value determination: 1. Current sales information is analyzed to determine a basic value model based on units of comparison such as price per square foot. 2. Value model and rates are tested against known sales for accuracy. 3. Properties are inspected with special emphasis on location and current sales information. 4. Final value determinations are reviewed for consistency and equalization. 5. Property owners are notified of a new assessment. In regard to tax rate determination: 1. Total taxable value is computed by adding the assessed value of all taxable parcels. 2. Total budgetary needs of the local jurisdiction are determined by the governing body through its budgetary process. 3. In the year following a re-assessment, the jurisdiction is normally limited to the collection of the same level of income as previously collected. 4. As total taxable value increases, the tax rate will have to be reduced. Benefits of general re-assessment equalize the tax basis of all properties. 1. Over time, property values increase or decrease differently based on many factors, 2. Assures that the tax burden is more equitably distributed. 3. Provides the basis for the lowest possible tax rate. 4. The value of new construction can be placed on the tax roll using current values. Actual tax payment differences were provided for Ocean View and Seaford re-assessments. Examples of Ocean View and Seaford sales of homes were provided. The purpose of a re-assessment is to equalize the value of properties to the current market condition. Real estate like any other market fluctuates due to external factors. Because all properties are unique, the rate of increase or decrease in value will vary over time dependent upon a wide variety of factors and conditions. The best way to understand the current real estate market is to review properties that have recently sold. Taxes are based upon the assessed value as well as the tax rate determined by the governing body. PTA/DELVAL has developed its own software

that has models which have been specialized over time. The comparable sales analysis finds the best comparables for a specific property and then gives a range of properties to pick from. The re-assessment process would start with a thorough and complete analysis of all the properties which have sold in the City. The dynamics of those properties would be looked at regarding size of the component parts, etc. They would be broken down to the individual component parts, the units of comparison. A set of rates would be developed. Those rates would be tested against the known sales. Then the process would be started of going and knocking on every door and inspecting the properties. The landowners would be given the opportunity to answer a variety of questions regarding the property. As an entire neighborhood is done, a lot of conformity is found. A base model is built the size of the structure and is set in ranges from minimum to upper. Attributes of a physical building are dealt with. Most of the City's assessments are based on a front foot basis. The values would need to be adjusted accordingly for the properties. In the absence of vacant land sales, a building residual model would be done where the approved sales are known and all of the worth of the structure would be deducted from the sales price. Everything left would be the value of the land. When establishing assessments for commercial properties, the assessor in some cases would have to go outside the immediate boundaries of the locality to find like properties that have sold. The leased aspects of a commercial property are taken into consideration only to extent of dealing in rentals, not income throughout the operation of a business. In regard to the most sought after locations on the eastern coast of Delaware, the rent that those owners would receive are high compared to other locations. In the assessment of a commercial property, there is a market analysis of like sales and a cost approach which determines the worth and depreciation is deducted which will give an indication of value. The income approach takes the capitalized value of the income to be derived from the rental property. A net operating income is then capitalized in the indication of value. The rental stream not the length of the lease is used. Prudent ownership and investment needs to be considered instead of a sweetheart deal. Copies of all existing data would be made regarding properties to have a fundamental starting point to work from. Observations are done and adjustments are made of what is found in the neighborhood. Once the notices go out and the landowners come in to appeal, the first thing which is done is to go over the information to make sure it is accurate. When information is not received back from a property owner, best guesses are made based on experience.

Mr. Curt Riley noted that with all their clients, they have an annual maintenance agreement of which the assessor would come out quarterly or on a regular basis. Any new construction which is done would be picked up at that time, and that information would be turned over to the City. If someone would appeal, Mr. Riley would come in and present how he arrived at the valuation of the property. In the appeal process, the notices go out and people would come in for an informal appeal before the company where they would go through the record, etc. After that, the owners would receive a letter from the company stating the status of the appeal. It would also cite what the owners' recourse would be. The complete package cost is \$130,000.00. The maintenance fee of \$7.00 per parcel is separate from the contract. New construction would be \$50.00. Living area where an evaluation is made on the change is \$25.00, but porches, decks, patios and non-livable areas would be included in the \$7.00. Commercial properties would be a different fee. In other areas, municipalities would send out a letter to all the property owners stating what will take place; and the company would provide a handout of what is involved in the process.

Commissioner Stan Mills said that there has been an expression of interest in taking on a good communication program which would be to inform the property owners of what is about to happen, the appeal process, etc. In the Charter, the Board of Commissioners sits as the Appeal Board. Commissioner Mills was comfortable with moving forward with this matter.

Mayor Cooper said that as of early December 2011, re-assessment was not on his radar screen. Knowing that the City is supposed to have a three-member assessment board according to the Charter and the City does not, has given him pause. Inequities for a number of reasons have crept into the system since 1968. The price of the re-assessment could be a third of what he thought it would be in the past. This has motivated Mayor Cooper to move forward with this matter.

Commissioner Coluzzi suggested moving forward with continuing to talk about this matter. It does not make sense to have properties assessed at the 1968 rate. The presentation has shown that the whole idea is to have it revenue neutral and to have it more equitable across the board.

Commissioner Sargent said the Commissioners need to recognize that things need to be done fairly.

Commissioner Lorraine Zellers thought that the City re-assessment should move forward. Some people have expressed concern that if the City moves forward with the re-assessment, what would happen with the County assessment. Commissioner Gossett said that the County would have to re-assess the entire

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county.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Cooper called for the presentation and discussion concerning the Rehoboth Beach Farmers' Market's desire and offer to contribute money for plants and volunteer hours to do some plantings in and around Grove Park.

Commissioner Coluzzi gave a presentation regarding the Grove Park Beautification Project. The Rehoboth Beach Farmers' Market wishes to contribute up to \$2,000.00 for the purchase of plants and mulch. The Market also wishes to contribute volunteer hours to plant shrubs and flowers at the entrance to Grove Park. An aerial photograph was provided of the proposed locations of this project. It is envisioned that both native shrubs and flowers will be planted including hydrangeas, perennials, sunflowers, hardy geraniums and herbs. The plantings will be designed to add color and texture throughout the season with low maintenance requirements. The Rehoboth Beach Farmers' Market volunteers wish to start this project on April 23, 2012. Volunteers will maintain the garden including weeding and trimming. The Market requests that the City add the gardens to their regular watering schedule of other plants in the City.

City Manager Gregory Ferrese noted that there is no irrigation system in Grove Park, but there is water access via the City's tanker truck.

Commissioner Bill Sargent said that having a common solution for watering would make a lot of sense. Commissioner Hunker agreed.

Mr. Walter Brittingham said that an irrigation system should be figured ahead of time and plan to get it. What will come back in a short period of time will be a request for irrigation. The money for the project is a non-issue, but the irrigation should go along with it. The City should not be doing anything to throw money wasted in the path of where the force main will be going through. Commissioner Mills said that the proposed areas will avoid the directional drilling areas. There is a cost to the City to water the plantings on a regular basis so as part of the analysis, it should be to look at installing irrigation from the beginning.

Mayor Cooper commented that it would be better and cost effective to automate the watering.

Commissioner Coluzzi thought it would be a nice idea to put in the budget to add the irrigation system to this area. Mayor Cooper said that it would depend on whether the existing irrigation system can be extended. Commissioner Coluzzi said that according to a lot of people who come to the Farmers' Market, it is one of the best things which has happened to the City. This is one of the few community types of things that the City has for the residents. It is very important, and she would like to see this move forward.

Commissioner Gossett agreed that this project is a good idea. The only caveat would be in dealing with volunteers that a baseline expectation should be established and what is expected of the volunteers with regard to maintenance of the plants, a weeding schedule, etc. so that the volunteers have an idea of what is expected from them.

Commissioner Coluzzi said that this will be the sixth year for the Farmers' Market. For five years, she has had experience with approximately 30 volunteers that she schedules on a regular basis to do a variety of things. She did not see any real issue with getting those volunteers to work on this project.

Mayor Cooper called for the presentation and discussion concerning the installation of bike racks, crosswalks and in-road pedestrian crossing signs.

Commissioner Coluzzi gave her presentation from the Streets & Transportation Committee with recommendations before the start of the Summer season 2012. The top goal of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan is to improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists through physical improvements and policy initiatives. The guiding principles for improving safety for pedestrians and bicyclists are: 1. Design for families. 2. Best balance for pedestrians, bicycles and cars. 3. Try the least intrusive, least costly first. The Committee's recommendations are: 1. Add two sleeping policemen on Rehoboth Avenue on a trial basis. Consider the sleeping policeman as a low cost method of improving the percentage of motorists that yield to pedestrians at mid-block crossings such as on Surf Avenue and on Rehoboth Avenue. Installation could be in the high season only or all year-round. The sleeping policemen must be anchored to the pavement with break-away anchors. They require DelDOT approval for State highways and are inexpensive with a cost of \$250.00 per location. An aerial photograph was provided of the proposed locations of the sleeping policemen. 2. Remove two parking spaces on First Street and adding two bicycles parking stations on a trial basis would decrease the number o accidents. Corner parking clearance would be improved for the northeast and southwest corners of the intersection at First Street and Baltimore Avenue. An aerial photograph was provided of the proposed locations

of the bicycle parking stations. Given the narrow and crowded sidewalks, one option is to locate the parking stations on the street. In the tight downtown area, a possible location is the first parking space at the corner. This would increase corner sight clearance. In regard to the location decision process, the Streets & Transportation Committee will coordinate with the Police and the City Manager to balance demand and impact on parking supply and safety. 3. Pedestrian head-start signal on First Street on a trial basis. The recommendation is to provide a head start for pedestrians to start crossing Rehoboth Avenue before the right turns from First Avenue are given a green light. Straight through traffic begins as usual with the pedestrians. This insures that pedestrians get the right of way rather than having to fight through the first vehicle turning right. DelDOT approval is required. Most large cities do this at key signalized intersections where there is heavy pedestrian traffic. The movement is held for seven seconds to give the pedestrians crossing Rehoboth Avenue a head start. 4. Add additional crosswalks on Rehoboth Avenue. Aerial photographs were provided of the proposed locations of the crosswalks. Photographs were provided of the locations where crosswalks are missing. Various recommendations were made which would be the County's responsibility to improve. An aerial photograph and diagram were provided for a proposed extension of the bike lane across the Canal Bridge. To protect bicyclists on the open gate bridge deck, it is recommended to replace/cover that portion of the bridge deck in the bicycle lane with a bicycle friendly surface. In regard to the Bayard Avenue Bridge over Silver Lake, it was recommended to relocate the existing sidewalk to one side of the bridge deck which would permit bicyclists to walk bikes on the sidewalk. The ultimate improvement would be for a new pedestrian/bicycle friendly bridge. In summary, adding two sleeping policemen on Rehoboth Avenue on a trial basis would cost \$500.00. Removing two parking spaces on First Street and adding two bicycle parking stations on a trial basis would cost \$0.00. Providing a pedestrian head-start signal on First Street on a trial basis would cost \$0.00. It is not known what the cost would be for additional crosswalks on Rehoboth Avenue.

Commissioner Zellers thought that the sleeping policemen is a good idea along with a sign coming into the City saying to share the road, bikes and pedestrians have the right-of-way.

Mayor Cooper voiced concern with the proposed locations of the sleeping policemen. Permission will be required from DelDOT. This will be a problematic location given that people's attention need to be focused not on something in the middle of the road but what is coming to their left, etc. Sleeping policemen are typical of being usual at mid-block crossings where there is no intersecting traffic. Commissioner Hunker said that the sleeping policemen should be used in high traffic areas.

Mr. Walter Brittingham said that at the round-about, nothing will be put in on a trial basis. Radar signs should be placed on Rehoboth Avenue at the round-about. The sleeping policemen will get run over at the traffic circle.

Mayor Cooper thought that the proposed elimination of two parking spaces on First Street at Baltimore Avenue is a good idea. Commissioner Coluzzi said that the bicycles could be loaded into the proposed parking stations on First Street from the curb side.

Mr. Frank Cooper, 1006 Scarborough Avenue Extended, recommended that the City put loops on all the parking meters to spread out the parking of bicycles rather than trying to find defined spaces for parking bicycles. Commissioner Coluzzi noted that the Streets & Transportation Committee had discussed this idea; but it is not recommending this idea at the present time.

Mr. Dennis Diehl, member of the Streets & Transportation Committee, noted that he is opposed to the bicycle parking station on First Street at Baltimore Avenue. He did not object to removing the two parking spaces for safety reasons.

Mr. Howard Menaker, 16 Dover Street, asked if the Committee has talked with the police about a way to monitor the effect of all of the proposed changes. Commissioner Coluzzi acknowledged that the plan is to compare the before-and-after, after one season.

Mr. Walter Brittingham said that consideration should be made on Baltimore Avenue coming east to First Street, to take out the last two parking spaces and make them for deliveries only. Most of the parking problems are caused because there is no enforcement on First Street. Deliveries are also part of the problem.

Commissioner Mills agreed with removing some of the parking spaces to increase sight lines and adding more bicycle parking spots throughout the City. He gave pause to putting a bicycle rack in the street at street level vs. a bump-out with a curb that is the same level as the sidewalk.

Mayor Cooper thought the idea of the head start signal at First Street and Rehoboth Avenue is a good idea, but he was not sure it could be implemented there. Typically those signals are used where there are controlled right turns. On First Street, all the traffic would be held for seven seconds because there is no dedicated traffic light for the right turns. He would like to hear from DelDOT as to how much capacity will be reduced in getting through that intersection by using a head start signal. Commissioner Coluzzi suggested that different traffic light heads be put in. DelDOT would have to design and approve it.

Commissioner Mills thought that additional crosswalks would be great. The first step to be done is to analyze the proposed crosswalks so there is an understanding of what the cost will be. Finding out DelDOT's recommendations would be beneficial.

Commissioner Zellers thought that removing the two parking spaces on First Street and putting in bicycle stations in on a trial basis is a good idea. Improving the sight lines on First Street would be helpful. Police Chief Banks could analyze the crash data.

Commissioner Hunker liked the idea of the sleeping policemen before the circle on Rehoboth Avenue. He noted that something needs to be done at the circle. Another place to put the sleeping policemen would be at Christian Street and Rehoboth Avenue. Bicycles stations are key in the First Street area. He believed that the head start signals at First Street and Rehoboth Avenue and additional crosswalks on Rehoboth Avenue are good ideas.

Commissioner Gossett thought alternative spots could be given to DelDOT for the sleeping policemen. It might be an opportunity to introduce them elsewhere in the community first and then move into the area around the circle. The additional timing with head start light signals is an issue for DelDOT to look at. He is in favor of the additional crosswalks, but this suggestion is a budget matter. The additional crosswalks should be prioritized and possibly investing in one a year for five years. A crosswalk may possibly be considered in with the redesign of Lake Avenue.

Comissioner Sargent said that the parking station should be on the block which leads to the majority of Rehoboth Avenue. All of the bicycle stations should be placed near Lingos Market on the corner of First Street and Baltimore Avenue. Eventually, a bump-out would be a great change to make at that corner of the intersection.

Mr. Walter Brittingham said that if there is going to be a discussion regarding Silver Lake Bridge, it should occur with a representative from DelDOT.

Ms. Joyce Lussier, 99 Henlopen Avenue, said that this issue has been covered extremely well for the public. She was in favor of encouraging bicycles the way it is being proposed because it will reduce the parking problem a little bit.

Mayor Cooper called to discuss the feasibility of a city-wide beautification program including potential projects, costs involved, method for going forward and oversight.

Commissioner Zellers gave a presentation regarding the feasibility of a City-wide beautification program, "Rehoboth in Bloom". The Streets & Transportation Committee has had discussion with how nice Lewes looks and if it would be possible to do a similar project in Rehoboth. The mission of Lewes in Bloom is to promote the beautification and maintenance of Historic Lewes and the community at large. By doing so, historical preservation, urban forestry, environmental awareness and wide-ranging community involvement, in addition to floral displays and landscaping are enhanced for everyone's enjoyment. Lewes in Bloom began 10 years ago with one dedicated individual and seven volunteers to maintain the planters/barrels on Second Street, 1812 Park and St. Peter's Church. The inspiration was a trip to Europe and visiting quaint towns be-decked with flowers. Lewes in Bloom has been the winner of three "America in Bloom" competitions in 2003, 2005 and 2010. The buy-in was from the Chamber/Council/Parks & Recreation. The City of Lewes is the main financial supporter. Lewes in Bloom has recently incorporated as a 501(c)(3) fundraising organization. A membership drive in 2011 to the residents and businesses covered any shortfall. There is also participation in the "America in Bloom" initiative. The mission of "America in Bloom" is to promote nationwide beautification through education and community involvement by encouraging the use of flowers, plants, trees and other environmental and lifestyle enhancements. It is an independent, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. "America in Bloom" is a non-profit, volunteer-supported organization. It was started by a group of floriculture businessmen to help industry and is patterned after French, British and Canadian programs. The financial breakdown for Lewes is that Council support approximately \$9,000.00 to \$10,000.00 per year. Watering is a major expense at a cost of \$8,000.00. Volunteers have been replaced by a paid volunteer with a truck. Plants, soil, fertilizer, moss liners and planters cost \$3,000.00. Lewes in Bloom covers the shortfall. First year startup expenses could be considerable for planters, hayracks and tiered from \$25.00 to \$200.00 depending on the size/type/number.

"Rehoboth in Bloom" would foster volunteerism in the community, promote collaboration between neighborhoods/businesses/organizations. This would dovetail to other projects such as beautification of Baltimore/Wilmington Avenues, urban forestry (park maintenance, cleanup), lake preservation (buffers, rain gardens) and historic preservation. The proposed projects are Lake Gerar Bridge, The Canal Bridge (Rehoboth end) and the Bandstand area. All of these were chosen for their visibility/impact to entice resident, business and City participation. There is also a 1,000 Rain Gardens for the Inland Bays Initiative which is a regional program which promotes a sustainable, economical way of dealing with rainwater. Two sites were suggested for a demonstration rain garden because of visibility and impact: 1. City Hall Complex. 2. Grove Park Pavilion. The next step is to see how the Commissioners feel about the project, if it something that the City would like to do and figure out how to move forward whether it be through a City Beautification Committee, funding for plantings through the City with volunteers doing the work and Streets & Transportation Committee and Parks & Shade Tree Commission oversight; or to do this project with planting and watering by the contractor. The ad hoc committee had received positive input that organizations would be able to get volunteers.

Commissioner Mills liked the educational potential for the rain garden. Commissioner Coluzzi agreed. It would be great if Rehoboth Beach could be a model for a rain garden. The Center for the Inland Bays is trying to have 1,000 rain gardens established in Sussex County.

Commissioner Zellers noted the approximate costs for the three projects is in the vicinity of several thousand dollars for each one. Grants may be availability for establishing rain gardens.

Mr. Ferrese commented that \$7,000.00 will be budgeted for next year for the Rehoboth In Bloom Project.

Mr. Howard Menaker noted that as a long-term plan, money may be raised for these projects. He suggested starting with the rain garden at City Hall and the rain barrels at the Bandstand. The educational value of the rain garden teaches people something about that kind of environmental stewardship, etc. The Center for Inland Bays may have a grant to help out with the rain garden. The State may also have a grant available.

Commissioner Hunker knew of three to four businesses that would donate to the 501(3)(c) if the beautification would be done on Baltimore Avenue.

Mayor Cooper suggested finding approximately three dedicated people to champion this project.

Commissioner Zellers suggested to adopt a street end to get community involvement.

Mr. Williams, Dewey Beach, said that there needs to be a commitment to watering the different plantings.

Commissioner Zellers will work with Mr. Ferrese regarding advertising. She will meet with the Committee to pick out the specific projects.

Mayor Cooper called to discuss a draft ordinance to amend Section 220-27 of the Municipal Code of the City of Rehoboth Beach relating to sewer charges, specifically increasing the infrastructure improvement sewer service surcharge to 50% of the total of each sewer bill.

Mayor Cooper noted that this is the only revenue increase to the 2012/2013 Budget. This is the same ordinance which was adopted last year where the increase was from 25% to 35%.

Mayor Cooper called to discuss a proposal from T2 Systems to provide a parking enforcement solution to the City that interfaces with Parkmobile, including all software, 10 handheld ticket writers, hosting of the City's data, a system for ticket payments over the internet, etc.

Mayor Cooper noted that the proposal was received on March 2, 2012 from T2 Systems to provide a parking enforcement solution to the City. After a short discussion, the consensus of the Commissioners was to move forward with this subject.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Gregory Ferrese reported that in regard to the Lake Avenue Streetscape Project from Third Street to Rehoboth Avenue, the City will be receiving grant monies in the amount of \$160,000.00. The City's share will be 20% of that amount. This is the beginning of the first phase of the project which is the design phase. It is anticipated that the Delaware Avenue Restroom Upgrade Project will be completed by the end of April 2012. The ADA Project on King Charles Avenue is proceeding on schedule and will be completed by the end of April 2012 or sooner. The Roof, Lighting and Window Project at the Convention Center/Municipal Building Complex is complete except for minor punch list items. The City Hall Complex Project is on schedule. The architect has met with all

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Department Heads who are involved in this project. It is anticipated that there will be a conceptual plan by mid-April 2012. The architect has assured Mr. Ferrese that he will continue to receive input from all Department Heads. Mr. Ferrese will be sending the Board of Commissioners the final Rehoboth Beach Budget on March 9, 2012 for adoption on March 16, 2012. On March 7, 2012, DNREC is hosting a presentation in regard to the 50th Anniversary of the Storm of '62. On March 7, 2012 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., there will be a workshop in the Convention Center on "Delaware Coastal Vulnerability and Sustainability". At 2:30 p.m., there will be a screening of the film "The '62 Storm – Delaware's Shared Response".

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no reports.

CITY SOLICITOR'S REPORT

City Solicitor Mandalas anticipated having something this month to the Commissioners regarding 2 St. Lawrence Street.

COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENT/COMMENTS

There were no announcement/comments.

DISCUSS ITEMS TO INCLUDE ON FUTURE AGENDAS.

An item to be included on a future agenda is the Silver Lake and the Board of Adjustment issue.

The Regular Meeting will be held on March 16, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business, Mayor Cooper adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

(Pat Coluzzi, Secretary)