

*Michael R. Wigley, AIA, LEED AP
Randy B. Duplechain, P.E.
Charles R. Woodward, Jr., LS
W. Zachary Crouch, P.E.
Michael E. Wheedleton, AIA
Jason P. Loar, P.E.
Gerald G. Friedel, P.*

REHOBOTH BEACH CITY HALL COMPLEX

Task Force Interview: How the City Hall Complex Should be Perceived September 9, 2013

The following represents the highlights of a discussion that took place at the September 9, 2013 meeting of the Rehoboth Beach Task Force. The discussion was moderated by Michael Wigley of Davis, Bowen & Friedel, Inc. with added participation from Rob Belfiore of EDiS.

- **IDENTIFIABLE FEATURE.** The complex should have an element or combination of elements that set it apart from other buildings along Rehoboth Avenue identifying it as a civic building serving as City Hall.
- **NOT TOO PRETENTIOUS.** While identifiable, the complex should not display extravagance.
- **FEELING OF STABILITY.** An outward visual assurance that the City's government is stable and reliable; and, most importantly, that in event of emergency the building actually is stable to serve 911 and other related services.
- **OPEN & INVITING.** The building should be perceived to be welcoming and inviting for residents, visitors and staff alike.
- **BUDGET.** Regardless of design features considered, the budget should be checked and re-checked as the design process unfolds.
- **EASY TO NAVIGATE.** The building's design should strive to permit easy access and navigation by those utilizing and visiting it. Ideally, signage should be minimal – design elements themselves should make it clear where entrances are for example.
- **CONTEXT.** While it was not felt that the building should be a throwback to past architectural style, it was felt that it should not ignore its context and history either. Addressing the street similarly to its Rehoboth Avenue neighbors; maintaining the present scale of neighboring buildings; and utilizing materials compatible with the area – all should be considered.
Note: The City's library was suggested as a civic building that was appealing and one that met the ideals stated.