

Sworn

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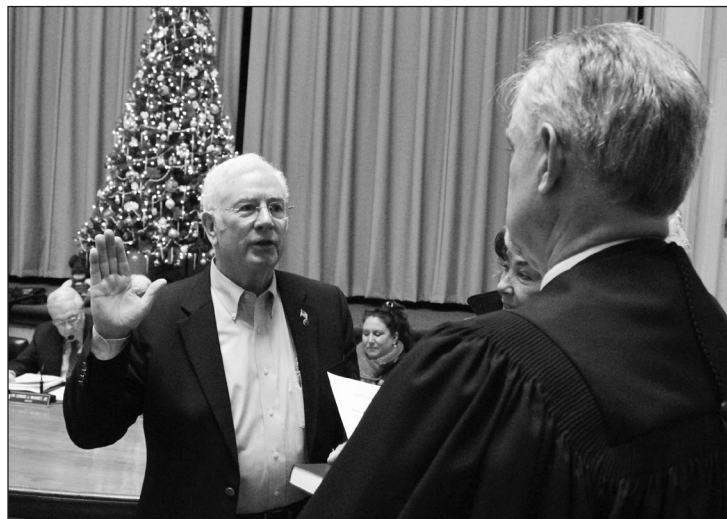
in town, and will be a potable water supply for next 25 years.

"We went from being dependent on water to a producer of water," Mahaney said.

He said the city is in the process of rehabilitating its 78-year old water tank at Madison and Columbia avenues, giving it another 50 years of life. Mahaney said 94 percent of the city is on new radio frequency meters, which can be read remotely and water utility employees can check for leaks.

Mahaney mentioned the completion of Convention Hall, which he said was not only a community center, but also a means of strengthening the local economy and extending it to a 10.5-month season. Mahaney said there is a marketing component that will help reduce the debt load on the community.

He said on Monday, the city was to accept delivery of a



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave
Above, Councilman Bill Murray takes the oath of office for deputy mayor, given by Judge Louis Belasco. Murray is also a representative to the Planning Board.

modern skate barrier fence, which would allow the city to resume roller skating.

"That was the number one use of that old hall," Mahaney said.

Mahaney referred to the 2013 budget, saying the city is in very stable financial shape.

"Not just by our estimate, but by our auditors and bond rating agencies," he said. "We

are very stable in the market, very prudent and we plot out our financial situation."

Mahaney said when the city goes to permanent bonding on Convention Hall, it will retire a little more bonding than the city is taking on.

However, Mahaney said there are four elements the city must contend with in 2013. The first, he said, is the languishing national, state and local economy. The second is Gov. Christie's 2 percent tax levy cap, which limits the amount of increase in expenditures over prior years.

"With labor costs, insurances, especially health insurance...it's very difficult to stay within the cap," Mahaney said.

Another project affecting the Cape May budget would be the newly emerging FEMA flood maps and legislation after Superstorm Sandy. Mahaney said it would have a major impact on all aspects of the community.

A fourth obstacle would be the possible linking of beach tags and beach replenishment programs. Two New Jersey senators sponsored a bill to prohibit communities that receive federal dollars for beach replenishment to charge for beach tags.

"That sounds favorable to someone who lives inland, but it's an oversimplified explanation. There are no free beaches. It's better to have beach use costs paid for by users than to put on the tax payers," he said.

Mahaney said since 1997 that city has balanced cost of maintaining the beach with beach tag revenue.

Mahaney said he was reorganizing the Mayor's Advisory Committee. He said he wanted to emphasize the sustainability plan as both public and private.

"We are all in this together," he said.

Mahaney said he contacted six more people and asked them to serve on the commit-

tee and look at aesthetics and visual aspects of Cape May, and make recommendations by March 5.

Mahaney thanked outgoing Deputy Mayor Jack Wichterman for his work, particularly regarding the school funding formula.

"We will continue working on the school funding project. In the long run I think we will be successful on this," Wichterman said. "Ten years ago they didn't have the success in the state (as now)."

Wichterman said if they are successful, the average homeowner in Cape May would save \$179 per year, while the average homeowner in Lower Township would pay an additional \$84.

"This is not going to happen overnight, but I think we will have success," he said.

Swain commented that she felt blessed to live and work here in Cape May, saying, "To serve takes it to another level.

Team

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"There were not as many people here then," he said.

Councilman Glenn Douglass, who served as campaign manager for the Independent Team, said it was a wonderful opportunity to see the three seated on Lower Township Council.

"We have a group that will work together for the township," he said.

Douglass echoed Van Drew by calling on the public to help them help the township.

Speaking for the first time from the dais, Clark first referred to his colleagues and the seal of Lower Township, saying, "I'm honored to be in this chair, with this group, behind this seal."

Clark thanked three groups for helping him get elected:

his family, political family, and the community. He referred to Neville as his "political brother by another mother," and later referred to his own mother, saying, "She is such a staunch Republican she would never have voted for me if I were not her son."

He mentioned Douglass as the part of the political family helping in Ward 3, and referred to Beck as the one who came to him and said, "The township needs your help."

"He is a man who saw a tree growing through the roof of a gas station and said this is not right," Clark said.

Beck said his political career started because of an eyesore at the intersection of Bayshore and Fulling Mill roads. There was a gas station that had been abandoned



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave
Above, Mayor Mike Beck administers the oath of office to Ward 2 Councilman Jim Neville, shown with his wife Patty. Neville was sworn in at the first meeting after the General Election, Nov. 6

so long a tree was growing out of the roof. He started a local campaign to get rid of the eyesore, was elected to council, and is now beginning his second term as mayor.

Clark thanked the community, saying they put the stamp of approval on every vote of council.

Clark said the Independent Team made promises of open government, spending wisely, providing for public safety, promoting economic development and education.

Beck said he was looking forward to the next four years.

"I'm looking at the future of Lower Township...it's going to be a lot of fun," he said.

Beck thanked his own wife and family, and said his running mates were totally committed to the town.

"The thing about being independent is you owe nobody, and yet, you owe everybody," Beck said. "We have 23,000 reasons to do our best."

The population of Lower Township is approximately 23,000.

The meeting began with the presentation of colors by members of the Cape May County Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol, including Clark's nephews Jonathon and Harrison Clark, the pledge of allegiance led by Jackson VonSavage, Jackson Sole and Joe Monzo of Boy Scout Troop 73, and an invocation by Clinton Jones, assistant pastor at Seashore Community Church of the Nazarene.

Beck swore in Charles Sandman as the municipal prosecutor.

Steps

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understand, but younger people do and know it's not appropriate for school," he said.

Pacevich said perhaps an end product of this program would be that parents would become more aware of some of the inappropriate, contemporary music.

"The parents should be aware of the music being played at these events," he said.

Pacevich said he isn't trying to ban music, but he believes there is music appropriate for headphones, appropriate for an Atlantic City nightclub, and appropriate for school.

Pacevich said a song like "Get Low" by Lil John and the East Side Boys is inappropriate for a school dance.

Parents can Google the lyrics for "Get Low," but they should be warned some are explicit.

A song like "Pumped up Kicks" by Foster the People,

has a catchy, pop music beat, but it tells a story of an individual who found his father's gun and "he's coming for you." The chorus is:

"All the other kids with the pumped up kicks,

You better run, better run,

outrun my gun.

All the other kids with the pumped up kicks,

You better run, better run, faster than my bullet."

Baby

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boatswain's (bosun's) mate works with all the rescue and survival gear and keeps up-to-date with the small boats make sure have all gear.

The couple is from Virginia - he was born in Hampton, Va., and she in Chesapeake, Va. They started dating as freshmen in high school and married a year and a half ago. John joined the Coast Guard and started boot camp in Cape May a month after graduating high school. After boot camp, he learned he would "strike," a Coast Guard term for on-the-job training, at Cape May. Meeks said he would like to make the Coast Guard a career.

Ashlyn went to Everest College in Chesapeake, Va., to become a dental assistant.

Two years ago their first daughter, Jaden Rose, was born.

"I love being a working mother, to be honest," Ashlyn said. "It's tough when he's at sea, but you get used to it."

Ashlyn said they would like to someday have a son, but she would like to wait at least five years.

John said Jaden is being protective and helping mom out as much as she can.

"If the baby's crying, if we have a bottle around she will say it's the baby's juice and bring it. She will push her in the swing and make sure she is covered with the blanket," Ashlyn said.

The Meeks have family in Virginia and North Carolina. Ashlyn's mother and brother came to Cape May the day after Maci Ann was born and

stayed two days. John's parents came up for the weekend.

Asked about Cape May, Ashlyn said, "I love it...but I don't like the cold weather as much. But I like how it is quiet until summer."

Ashlyn said having a baby is a great way to start the New Year.

"We couldn't ask for anything better," she said.

At Cape Regional Medical Center, Ashlyn received a gift basket of items for Maci Ann. She said it included blankets and quilts made by local people, a gift card to the Acme Supermarket, a free manicure from Fusion Salon and Spa in Avalon, a teddy bear for the baby, and other items.

"It was a nice basket for the baby pretty much," Ashlyn said.

Township railroad crossing are granted exempt status

LOWER TOWNSHIP - Lower Township is pleased to announce the approval of "exempt crossing" status for the railroad crossings at Breakwater Road and Tabernacle Road between Rt. 9 and Seashore Road.

The NJ Department of Transportation Commissioner Jim S. Simpson has approved their request for "Exempt Crossing" status. The new status will eliminate the requirement for our school buses, fuel trucks, Fare Free

Transportation vehicles, and others to stop at the railroad crossings.

"I want to thank our other partners in township government for testifying at the exempt hearing," Voll said.

With this approval, the commissioner of DOT has ordered Cape May Seashore Lines to: install at each crossing "Exempt" signs in conformance with Uniformed Traffic Control Devices. The signs are to be installed by Feb. 28.

Lower Township feels that this is a victory for our school bus drivers, and the safety of our children who have had to stop for a "ghost train" up to this point. Once the signs are installed, the school buses and other required vehicles will not have to stop at the crossings.

"It is a shame that so much of our tax dollars have been spent on this failed train operation," Voll said.



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**DJANGO UNCHAINED R 12:05, 3:40, 7:40
**TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 2D R 12:30, 5:00, 9:50
**TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 3D R 2:40, 7:20
LES MISERABLES PG-13 12:10, 3:30, 7:25
PARENTAL GUIDANCE PG 11:45, 2:20, 4:45, 7:05
(9:25 FRI TO WED)
THE HOBBIT: UNEXPECTED JOURNEY PG-13 3:00
LINCOLN PG-13 11:50, 7:15
**THE LAST STAND (THURS PREMIER) R 10:00

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TIDES
January 9/13
Eastern Standard Time

	High	Low		High	Low
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.
9	5:22	5:46	11:35	11:35	
10	6:18	6:44		12:30	
11	7:11	7:38	12:31	1:23	
12	8:02	8:29	1:26	2:13	
13	8:51	9:20	2:19	3:02	
14	9:40	10:10	3:11	3:50	
15	10:28	11:01	4:03	4:38	
16	11:17	11:53	4:57	5:25	

Moon Phases
Last Quarter, Jan. 4
New Moon, Jan. 11
First Quarter, Jan. 18
Full Moon, Jan. 26
Perigee, Jan. 10
Apogee, Jan. 22