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Push renewed to Livestream city meetings

Public has right to see discussion of advisory boards, duo contends

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council continues to debate Livestreaming or videotaping the city's advisory committee meetings with votes ending in 3-2 splits.

At a June 18 meeting, Councilwoman Stacy Sheehan asked that a resolution tabled at council's previous meeting be brought back for discussion. In a 3-2 vote June 5, council voted to table a resolution to Livestream or videotape the city's advisory committee meetings. At that meeting, Mayor Chuck Lear, Deputy Mayor Patricia Hendricks and Councilman Shaine Meier voted to table the resolution while Sheehan and Councilman Zack Mullock voted "no."

At the June 18 meeting, City Solicitor Frank Corrado said to bring the resolution back would require a "yes" vote from three council members. Sheehan asked to amend the resolution to Livestream or videotape meetings of the Public Safety Building Advisory Committee rather than all of the city's advisory committees.

She said a new Public Safety Building could cost up to \$15 million.

"I think it would be good to have public visibility to what is being discussed at these meetings," Sheehan said.

Corrado suggested the matter be placed as an item for discussion on the agenda for council's first work session in July. He said the issue of public participation at advisory committee meetings could also be discussed during the July meeting.

"It seems to me that one of the problems that this council is running into on sort of a regular basis is how to handle the relationship between council and the advisory committees," Corrado said. "I think you would be better served by discussing that globally at a work session than bringing this particular resolution back off the table."

Meier said he did not understand the benefit of taking the resolution off the table. He said he wanted to give the advisory committees time to respond to a question if they wished to be streamed or taped.

Councilman Zack Mullock suggested the meeting in progress would be a good time for discussion of the matter since council had a short agenda.

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No mechanical failure found in plane wreckage

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) released a preliminary report on a small-plane crash near Cape May Point that killed the pilot May 29, indicating the aircraft was flying very low above the ocean before it hit the water.

According to the report, the aircraft, a Mooney M20J, "was destroyed by contact with the water and subsequent collision with the surf while maneuvering at low altitude along the beach at Cape May. The commercial pilot was fatally injured. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and no flight plan was filed for

the personal flight which originated at the Trenton-Robbinsville Airport."

In a written statement to the NTSB, a witness described his position on the beach near the Cape May Lighthouse where the Atlantic Ocean meets Delaware Bay and the New Jersey coastline curves westward from its generally north-south direction.

According to the witness, "I saw a single-engine plane flying parallel to the beach but only about 10 feet above the water. It appeared stable and in control but then dipped, hit the water, and skipped up out of control. It climbed steeply, gaining perhaps 100-200

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Officials with the city, county and Chamber of Commerce of Greater Cape May dedicated the Cape May Transit Jitney Service on June 21. The free service will operate seven days a week throughout the summer.

Come on, take a free ride

Ribbon cutting launches Cape May's jitney service

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — With the cut of a ceremonial ribbon June 21, officials from the city, county and Chamber of Commerce of Greater Cape May dedicated Cape May Transit Jitney Service, a free conveyance that operates from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days a week.

The service is provided by a contract with the Atlantic City Jitney Association and funded by increased parking meter fees at the Washington Street Mall.

Free service is provided along the beachfront as well as from the park-and-ride lot at Cape May City Elementary School on Lafayette Street. One route has nine stops along Beach Avenue. A second route includes the elemen-

tary school, the Welcome Center, stops along the Washington Street Mall and along Lafayette Street and Pittsburgh, Delaware and Pennsylvania avenues.

Mayor Chuck Lear called the free jitney service another demonstration of the city's commitment to offer the best services possible for residents and visitors. He thanked the Parking Advisory Committee for studying new ways to approach Cape May's lack of parking.

Lear said preliminary jitney runs during the first two weekends of June gave the city the opportunity to test routes and gather feedback from riders.

"We are gratified to receive so many positive comments from riders and bystanders," he said.

The jitneys are compliant with the Americans

with Disabilities Act, air conditioned and run on clean natural gas as fuel, the mayor said. The 13-passenger jitneys are equipped with wheelchair lifts.

Manny Mathioudakis, president of the Atlantic City Jitney Association, said he was honored to partner with the city of Cape May for the summer of 2019 and, hopefully, more summers. The Jitney Association was established in 1915 and is the oldest private transportation company in the nation, he said.

Mathioudakis said safety is the No. 1 goal of the association followed by customer service for riders.

"Let's all have a good summer and more to come," he said.

Jim Ridgway, president of the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Cape

May, said the chamber has 316 business members that would not exist without tourists.

"Last year just alone, we had 407 tour buses come into this Welcome Center, just over 94,000 visitors walked through the front door of the Welcome Center," he said. "This year alone we are up on bus traffic, we're not even through June and we're at 81 buses just for the month of June."

What's key about the jitney service is the fact that it is free, Ridgway said, adding that the chamber is excited about the new transportation service for Cape May.

Mathioudakis introduced two supervisors who would be stationed in Cape May through the summer.

An app, Jitney Surfer, is available from Google Play and the App Store.

Van Drew to arrange meeting with Army Corps

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city is closer to a meeting with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to ask for a change in the template for beach replenishment and a demonstration beach project.

At a June 24 meeting of the city's Beach Safety Committee, Deputy City Manager Jerry Inderwies reported on a meeting he had last week with U.S. Rep Jeff Van Drew. He said he told Van Drew the goal of the committee was for the Army Corps to change the template for beach replenishment and look how sand is distributed on Cape May's beaches.

"The first beach replenishment got sand on the beaches. Now what we're doing is just piling sand on top of sand and there has been no other thought or engineering into the process to see if it's correct."

—Deputy City Manager Jerry Inderwies

"It hasn't changed since the first beach replenishment," Inderwies said. "The first beach replenishment got sand on the beaches. Now what we're doing is just piling sand on top of sand and there has been no other thought or engineering into the process to see if it's correct."

He said he asked Van Drew for a demonstration

beach from the Army Corps to see if what the city is accomplishing with beach replenishment is really the most effective and safest process possible. Inderwies said Van Drew asked his assistant to set up a meeting with the Army Corps.

The city's next beach replenishment is scheduled for September, so any changes would not be implemented

for at least two years, Inderwies said.

Beach Safety Committee Chairman Dennis DeSatnick said the purpose of a demonstration beach was to make a change in the replenishment template and watch its outcome. Inderwies said he found news stories in the city's archives referring to beach replenishment dating back to the 1960s. He said it took 20 years for the Army Corps to begin Cape May's beach replenishment project.

Inderwies said the city in the late '60s was considering jetties and the city's Public Works Department drove

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4TH OF JULY

Picnic & Lobster Bake at Congress Hall