

Council OKs parking spots for low-speed vehicles

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council approved four angled parking spots in front of Convention Hall reserved for low-speed vehicles (LSVs)

During a meeting May 17, former councilwoman Patricia Hendricks asked

if the county was aware of the city's plan to have LSVs backing up into traffic. She said the city manager previously stated county engineer Bob Church had given the project verbal approval and Church's only concern was there was enough room to back up from angled parking.

Hendricks asked if the

city had obtained written approval from Church before the ordinance was scheduled for a public hearing and possible adoption. City Manager Mike Voll said he would get written approval from Church the following day.

"He's been out there, he's sanctioned it, so we have the approval," he

said.

The area is dense and a complex spot for both vehicle and pedestrian traffic, Hendricks said.

"Is there enough room for the vehicle to back out, stop, realign with the adjacent lined buffer area without encroaching into the automobile travel lane?" she asked.

Voll said there is sufficient room.

Hendricks asked if there is enough vision for a driver approaching the LSV parking area to see beyond the portable trailer restroom on Beach Avenue and spot a vehicle starting to back up. She said LSVs

are not cars and lack a number of safety features.

"A fully loaded low-speed vehicle may have riders on the back seats facing the traffic, which is a common seating area for passengers and often children," Hendricks said.

She said LSVs are designed to be in low-speed situations, not densely traveled parking areas such as the street in front of Convention Hall. Nighttime will make the situation all the more dangerous, Hendricks said.

Some visitors who rent LSVs are not aware of these conditions, she said. Voll said public safety is

foremost with him and he would not ask council to approve the LSV parking spaces if all those conditions had not been addressed.

Hendricks said it was premature for council to adopt the enabling ordinance. She asked council to table the ordinance until the city and county could produce clear evidence that due diligence has been performed to implement the parking on Beach Avenue.

Deputy Mayor Stacy Sheehan said golf carts currently can park in standard angled parking spaces on Beach Avenue.

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Coupland

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when it was discovered and whose responsibility that was," Testa said.

In the second appeal of an HPC decision, the HPC had policy and attempted to enforce it, but the Zon-

ing Board decided to reverse the HPC's decision regardless of the fact the commission was applying a policy," he said.

Testa said if such a case went to appeal in Superior Court, the judge would know the Zoning Board failed to apply the right review standards and the judge would reverse the Zoning Board's decision.

He said the HPC vetted applications thoroughly and no decisions came from the commission that were arbitrary or irrational.

Coupland asked if the city wanted to continue to see appeals of HPC decisions or stand behind the commission and follow the historical preservation standards. He said he contacted Mayor Zack Mullock on the matter.

Testa said council should be asked, if necessary, if it could create standing for the HPC to proceed further on appeals.

"I believe if City Council understood clearly what was happening here, they would fix it," Coupland said.

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