

Lear, Hendricks file papers for re-election bids this fall

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Mayor Chuck Lear and Deputy Mayor Patricia Hendricks submitted signed petitions from voters to seek re-election to City Clerk Erin Burke on July 24 on the steps of City Hall.

Lear and Hendricks are running as a team and have selected their campaign slogan as “Working with You and for You.”

“We’ve had a lot to do the last three and half years and we want to see those projects through,” Lear said.

The projects include the restoration of the Franklin Street School for use as a branch library and construction of a new public safety building.

“We’re in the middle of the COVID crisis and we want to make sure that the residents and businesses are represented well,” Lear said.

Hendricks said the city has advisory committees that invested time and a level of expertise that the city would not otherwise be able to afford.

“We had the challenge of working through the 18 months of the master plan as members of the Planning Board and we feel that



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

In this staged photo, Mayor Chuck Lear and Deputy Mayor Patricia Hendricks, right, turn in their petitions to run for re-election in the fall to City Clerk Erin Burke.

we are committed to the principles of sustainability and resiliency,” she said. “We hold those dear and want to keep those going forward.”

“We are working for the people and with them and we want to continue that onto another four years,” Hendricks continued.

Lear, a life-long resi-

dent of Cape May, graduated from area schools and spent 37 years in the city’s police department. Hendricks, a real estate agent, has lived in Cape May since 1985, is the past president of the Cape May County Board of Realtors and is a former schoolteacher.

Their campaign website is votelearhendricks.com.

Cape May Convention Hall built with undersized air conditioners

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The air conditioning system in Convention Hall is too small for the building, a problem that has existed since its construction. The system has been receiving frequent repairs.

Councilwoman Stacy Sheehan said July 22 during a City Council meeting that the city has been receiving “tons of bills” for the air conditioning system in Convention Hall.

“I think as a council we have to start looking at how much are we putting out month after month and maybe we should just bite the bullet and buy a new unit,” she said.

City Manager Jerry Inderwies said a report from the engineering firm of Mott MacDonald estimated a cost of \$500,000 to replace the system with an appropriate unit.

“Because the one installed is too small and obviously has flaws,” he said. “It’s just something to consider for next year’s capital budget.”

Sheehan asked how much the city has spent on the air conditioning system in the past year. She said she believed at least \$100,000 was spent on repairs to the system.

Inderwies said he could supply a report. He said the system recently experienced glycol leaks, which can be hazardous.

“The only real solution is to replace it with the correct units,” Inderwies said.

The air conditioning unit was within the specifications for the building, meeting the criteria of what the engineer and architect recommended, but the system was not appropriately sized for the building, Inderwies said.

Councilman Zack Mullock said the city has spent \$35,000 this year on the air conditioning system and more than \$50,000 was expended last year.

The city spent \$21,000 repairing Convention Hall’s heating and air conditioning systems in 2016 and \$49,288 in 2017.

Unconfirmed reports stated the air conditioning units on the roof were not coated when installed, affecting the aluminum coils.

At a May 5 meeting, council approved a resolution for settlement and dismissal of Convention Hall litigation against Kimmel Bogrette, the architectural firm that designed the building, filed

by the prior administration, according to city solicitor Frank Corrado.

“The building was not FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) compliant as it was constructed. It was a little bit too low and the problem was that the city was afraid that FEMA would require the building to be raised or demolished and rebuilt,” he said at that time.

Corrado said the litigation has been taking place since 2016 with the city’s expenses to date of \$448,000 in legal bills.

He said had the city litigated the case and lost and FEMA required raising the building, the city would have been on the hook for millions of dollars. He said the only remaining issue in the litigation was whether the city was paying too high a flood insurance premium during the years that the building had no assurance from FEMA that it would be treated as a compliant building.

Council awarded a contract last week to Multi-Temp Mechanical of Westville for heating and air conditioning maintenance services for city buildings. Multi-Temp Mechanical was the lowest of five bidders. The city formerly had a maintenance contract with Falasca Mechanical of Vineland.



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DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
29	3:52	4:38	9:50	10:48
30	5:00	5:37	10:50	11:50
31	6:02	6:33	11:47	
1	6:59	7:24	12:46	12:42
2	7:50	8:11	1:37	1:32
3	8:37	8:55	2:24	2:20
4	9:21	9:36	3:08	3:05
5	10:03	10:16	3:49	3:48

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