

City Council approves IT contract, vehicle purchases

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council approved a contract for information technology (IT) services and the purchase of a recycling truck, street sweeper and beach tractor.

Council approved an \$8,500 IT service contract for City Hall with Barber Consulting Services.

The contract calls for complete network maintenance, installation of the latest service packs and fixes, spyware removal and prevention, backup maintenance and installation and configuration of servers, PCs and any other needed functions.

At a July 3 meeting, Deputy Mayor Lorraine Baldwin said the IT contract runs from July 1 to Dec. 31 with the entire payment due at the start of the agreement.

City CFO Kevin Hanie said the payment acts as a sort of bank applied to the time the service provides to the city. He said any of the \$8,500 remaining at the end of the year would roll over into 2024.

City Manager Mike Voll said the Cape May Police Department has used Barber Consulting Services. He said he was pleased with the service they provided to Lower Township when he served as city manager for that municipality.

Hanie said there would be no charges beyond the \$8,500 payment.

Voll said the city is exploring using Comcast as the telephone service provider to City Hall since the current system is failing daily.

He reported all lifeguard stations were staffed on the oceanfront. Voll said the

Cape May Beach Patrol and emergency medical services were very busy over the July Fourth weekend.

Council approved the purchase of a new street sweeper for the Department of Public Works at a cost of \$355,380, a recycling collection truck priced at \$206,961 and a beach cleaning tractor for \$194,175.

As part of its agreement to lease vehicles from Enterprise Leasing, the city received five Polaris off-road utility vehicles, Voll said, as well as three new pickup trucks. Six hybrid police vehicles are on the way.

He said the city is still short of summer employees.

Pre-recorded messages have begun over the city's expanded beach public address (PA) system. Voll said a flag ceremony would be held at 6 p.m. daily.

During public comment,

former councilwoman Stacy Sheehan asked about a bill the city received for a \$30,000 application fee from the state Division of Land Resources.

Mayor Zack Mullock said the fee covered permits for beach showers and future expansion of lifeguard headquarters on Beach Avenue.

He said expansion of lifeguard headquarters was far in the future.

"We wanted to add at least the outline of beach headquarters," Mullock said.

The expansion of the building would move it closer to the ocean in depth, he said.

"We're asking for a few more feet to push out," Mullock said.

Currently, 46 percent of the beach patrol is staffed by women. Lifeguard headquarters lacks a sufficient locker room and showers for

female lifeguards.

Voll said no plans have been created for the building expansion.

"We plan on having a police station next year and in the future, I guess next would be to do a beach patrol headquarters," he said.

Sheehan said the city began collecting recycling based on the cost of outsourcing the service as being too expensive. She said the city purchased a recycling truck less than three years ago.

Trash pickup leads to the greatest number of worker's compensation claims, Sheehan said. Councilwoman Maureen McDade said the new truck picks up the cans.

"It's becoming more challenging to even get trash pickup here on the island. We've had one vendor in particular go out of business very quickly," she said. "There are other businesses right now who are even unwilling to take on any more clients."

Lower HPC

Continued from Page A1

tures. She said the grants could offset each other, preventing the township from having to provide matching funds.

"We're concerned about what's going on with the house and we're concerned about people breaking in," Tell said. "Our volunteers have cleared out a significant amount of space behind the house, taken out dead trees that have fallen down, brush that was growing up close to the house to try and make it so that the police could see behind it."

Tell said the HPC found evidence people were camping or living behind the house.

"We'd like to know what we can do to help you make that place what it should be," she said.

Mayor Frank Sippel said he spoke with Police Chief Kevin Lewis and patrol cars are regularly stopping at the property. He said the HPC asked for dumpsters on the property but said he believed it was too much work for a volunteer commission.

The Department of Public Works will clear a portion of the lot, according to the mayor. Sippel said plaques would be placed on the house.

Tell said she would assist the township in applying for grant funds.

Councilman Tom Conrad said some projects have been put aside since the township had a large tax increase.

"I want this done; I wanted this done years ago," he said.

The county will be celebrating its 250th birthday in three years, Tell said. Conrad acknowledged the Foster House was in existence before America was a nation.

According to the New Jersey Historic Trust, the Foster House is significant as a well-preserved, first period, heavy timber frame building that features exposed beams, original flush board walls and several original fireplaces.

The house's main block was remodeled around 1830 in the Federal style and retains chair rails, mantels and door trim that resulted from the remodeling. It is one of the few remaining structures from the first period in the area originally known as Fishing Creek in Lower Township.

The house is also locally significant as the residence of Nathaniel Foster, a respected leader who served



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

The Lower Township Historic Preservation Commission is concerned that restoration work has stalled at the Judge Nathaniel Foster House.

as a justice of the peace for almost 30 years.

Foster was an early justice in the county whose son fought in the American Revolution. He was appointed justice of the peace for Cape May County in 1739. When he died in 1769, he left his property to his son, Salathiel,

and to his grandson, Reuben, the son of his deceased son, George.

The Foster House remained in ownership of the original family until 2006 when Isabella Foster Sake-wicz passed away. The Cape May County Historical and Genealogical Society bought

the property and stabilized the house. The county Open Space Program then bought it and leased it to Lower Township, which promised to restore the house over the next decade either as a well-preserved Colonial period home or township historical museum.

TIDES: July 12-19, 2023

DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
12	4:24	5:04	10:15	11:17
13	5:24	5:57	11:07	
14	6:20	6:45	12:14	11:58
15	7:10	7:30	1:05	12:45
16	7:56	8:12	1:51	1:30
17	8:39	8:51	2:34	2:12
18	9:20	9:29	3:14	2:53
19	9:59	10:06	3:53	3:33

MOON PHASES

New moon, July 17 • first quarter, July 25

Cape May Star & Wave

167 YEARS OLD • 1854-2022

CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE (ISSN 519-020)
Volume 169 Number 26

Published weekly by Sample Media, Inc.,
963 Lenape Drive, Lower Township, NJ 08204

Published Weekly (52 times a year)

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: By mail for \$42 a year; \$75 for two years; \$22 for six months. Periodical Postage at Cape May Court House, N.J. and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to the Cape May Star and Wave, P.O. Box 2427, Cape May, N.J. 08204.



Garden Center

- Succulents
- Perennials
- Hanging Baskets
- Rose Bushes
- Annuals
- Bedding Plants
- Trees
- Shrubs
- Bagged & Bulk Mulch
- Potting Mix
- Organic Soils

Homemade Baked Goods

- Pies • Breads
- Sticky Buns • Butter Cake

Local Products

- Farm Fresh Produce
- Honey
- Jams and Jellies
- Salsa
- BBQ Sauce
- Hot Sauce
- Dry Rubs
- Salad Dressing

Homemade Salads

- Macaroni • Potato • Orzo
- Italian Pasta • Broccoli
- Red Grape Chicken

House Garden Flags • Candles
Indoor & Outdoor Decorations

NOW AVAILABLE
LOCAL PRODUCE
Blueberries • Squash
Cucumbers • Peaches
Pickling Cucumbers
White Sugar Corn
Field Grown Tomatoes

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED
609-536-8262

517 SOUTH DELSEA DRIVE • CAPE MAY, NJ

SELECT ANNUAL FLOWERS
50% OFF

SELECT VEGETABLE PLANTS
75% OFF

ALL TROPICALS
50% OFF

ALL HYDRANGEAS 40% OFF

BAGGED BLACK MULCH
5 for \$20.99
(MUST BE BOUGHT IN QUANTITIES OF 5)
CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER OFFER.

SECOND LOCATION PRODUCE STAND
OPEN DAILY 8AM - 5PM • SUN. 9AM - 1PM
CLOSED WEDNESDAYS
609-854-7217
310 N. Railroad Avenue • Rio Grande

OPEN 7 DAYS • MON. - SAT. 8AM - 5PM • SUN. 8AM - 4PM

**BEACH BY DAY,
THEATER
AT NIGHT!**

**NOW through
July 15th**
Wed - Sat at 8:30 PM

**A TALE OF
TWO CITIES**

**Cobbled Together
by the
Brothers Lovejoy**

at Cape May Presbyterian Church
500 Hughes Street, Cape May

ELTC
EAST LYNNE THEATER CO.

EQUITY PROFESSIONAL • CAPE MAY, NJ

www.ELTC.info 609-602-8703

PHOTO: Jim Walsh

Supported in part by a grant from New Jersey Department of State, Division of Travel and Tourism