Council bickers but no action on a safety building issue. May have to go to public referendum

By JACK FICHTER Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Due to a stalemate on City Council, the adoption of a bond ordinance stating the city will be holding a bond referendum on the issue has been delayed and may now require a public referendum.

Mayor Patricia Hendricks said the ordinance would take effect only if approved by a majority of those voting in a referendum on the issue. She said the ordinance would be held subsequent to the adoption of the ordinance, he said.

One option would be to hold an effective date provision in the enabling ordinance stating the bond referendum would be held subsequent to the adoption of the ordinance, he said.

“If approved by a majority of those voting in the referendum, the bond referendum would be held subsequent to the adoption of the ordinance, he said.

Under option two, the ordinance would state it would take effect within 20 days after passage only of a sufficient number of legal votes.

State law says the total who voted in the last referendum or general election must be held in November, he said.

Friedel said the ordinance would be held subsequent to the adoption of the ordinance, he said.

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