Public, businesses split on public drinking
Group, residents say practice has tainted city’s image: owners say it saved them
the open carry and con- sumption of alcoholic bev- erages, but that and will con- tinue to have a negative impact on our most valued asset, the quaint, family-friendly quality of life in our town.'

By JACK FICHTER

CAPE MAY — City Coun- cil introduced its 2023 mu- nicipal budget with no increase in the local property tax rate of 36.6 cents per $100 of assessed valuation.

During a council meet- ing March 16, Chief Fi- nancial Officer Neil Young highlighted changes from the city manager’s original municipal budget that has a 1-cent tax rate increase. The local property tax rate for 2023 is $10.5 million, up $84,000 or 0.8 cents from last year. The budget holds a $2.1 million, down $500,000 from 2020.

Young said the city has considered outsourcing landscaping of city parks to a vendor but that was cut from the budget. $1 million of federal stimulus money. He said the city could receive as much as $350,000.

Costello said the budget was aimed increased outdoor dining for the summer season. He said the city could receive an additional $4 million in surplus, which was cut from last year.

The 2020 city budget used $7.3 million of available state mandated levy cap in the fund.

Costello said the budget raises by taxation was de- creased by $272,000 to keep the tax rate stable.

Auditor Louis Catolico said Cape May would receive each of the $1.9 million federal stimulus money. He said that at the time but would be the state mandates limit the city to a public hearing on the budget. 

Granicus decided the city could receive as much as $350,000.

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The city council holds a public hearing on the budget on April 6. 

By JACK FICHTER

CAPE May STAR AND WAVE

LCMRHS wins state mock trial title

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The Lower Cape May Regional High School mock trial team consists of Anya Da- vis, left, Elise Egan, John Payne, Nick Frey, Chariclia (Holly) Karavanas, coach Barbara Bailey-Marley and Liv Longshore.

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Mock trial, Page A4

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