DEP rule would add 5 feet to flood elevation
City may oppose change pertaining to homes, buildings, roadways and parking lots

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Deputy City Manager Mike Voll said the state Department of Environmental Protection’s (DEP) mandate to.smarten Cape May and Atlantic County to adopt new flood damage-prevention ordnances could require homes, buildings and road networks to stores expected to be under water by the year 2100 due to climate change.

Voll, who also serves as the city’s flood plain manager, said the timing was unusual because such mandates typically follow major disasters.

“It was voluntary up until two years ago and it became mandatory, and they’re starting to move forward, ” Voll said.

Once the main rules have been here, all cities in the state are expected to adopt a flood damage prevention ordinance. He said the DEP is weighing flood elevation requirements for the next iteration to the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). This means new models would enable homes on or near jetties but not just homes on roadways and parking lots.

He said the DEP is urging all municipalities to adopt the ordi- nance or risk being expelled from the Community Rating System (CRS) program of the National Flood Insurance Program. The program was initially vol- untary but only one municipality in the state cooperated, Voll said.

The Atlantic County Board of Commissioners has adopted a rezoning resolution opposing the DEP.”

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

City considering electric-powered police patrol cars

Funds in budget to purchase two vehicles for Cape May PD

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Two electric vehicles may join the police department’s fleet this year.

City Manager Mike Voll said during a City Council meeting March 15 that Police Chief Delon Funker has been extensively researching electric vehicles. The report on the vehicles will be presented to City Council in April.

The move to electric vehicles may be part of a new departmental policy to be adopted this year.

“The intent is to move more electric as the county is moving in that direction, ” he said.

“The chief has spent a lot of time researching this and I can assure you that we won’t miss a beat on patrol and run out of electricity.”

Chief Financial Officer Fathaw said he has met with and heard from the state and federal governments on several occasions to purchase elec- tric vehicles. He said the city should not be reliant on one energy source.

Funding for the vehicles will be in place by this year’s capital spending plan.

Funker said he has been researching the vehicles since 2011.

“We have to have a level two charging station, ” he said.

The police department ordered two hybrid vehicles, a level one and a level two. The vehicles are expected to be delivered in July or August due to the current shortages of computer chips.

Funker said.

“I cannot have a completely electric fleet, ” he said.

Mayor Jack Mulloch has asked the city to reduce its use of electric vehicles.

Beach Plum

City wants more spaces at Center Welcome lot, waiting DOT decision

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Since June 2015, the city has wanted to expand parking at the Center Welcome lot. By allowing cars on long-unused railroad tracks adjacent to the building but the plans has been held up in litigation with Cape May Seashore Lines, which has run a train into Cape May since 2011.

City Manager Mike Voll has been working with a megayacht development area in the area to the east of the center. The property was purchased in March 2019 by the Seabrook Group, LLC, for the purpose of expanding the Center Welcome lot.

At a March 15 City Council meeting, the city council passed a resolution prohibiting the City’s flood plain manager, said the timing was unusual because such mandates typically follow major disasters.

“It was voluntary up until two years ago and it became mandatory, and they’re starting to move forward,” Voll said. “Once the main rules have been here, all cities in the state are expected to adopt a flood damage prevention ordinance. He said the DEP is weighing flood elevation requirements for the next iteration to the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). This means new models would enable homes on or near jetties but not just homes on roadways and parking lots.”

He said the DEP is urging all municipalities to adopt the ordinance or risk being expelled from the Community Rating System (CRS) program of the National Flood Insurance Program. The program was initially voluntary but only one municipality in the state cooperated, Voll said.

The Atlantic County Board of Commissioners has adopted a rezoning resolution opposing the DEP. "The process that they followed completely cuts out local decision making," Voll said.

He said City Council is expected to discuss the issue at its meeting Tuesday and is expected to receive a sample resolution for council to consider.

The Planning Board could pass a similar resolution against FCT, he said.

Voll said the situation is an example of what happens when something is not worked through the proper legislative channels.

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

Lots on Fulling Mill Road to be rezoned for housing

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Parcels of land have sat empty for nearly five acres of the middle townships but a change would allow homes to be built on the lots.

Lomer Township Council introduced an ordinance March 7 to adopt a reden- zoning plan for the residential area.

The change would allow construction of four single-family homes and townhouses in the area that has been zoned industrial but has had no takers for such use.

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The move to electric vehicles may be part of a new departmental policy to be adopted this year.

“The intent is to move more electric as the county is moving in that direction,” he said.

“The chief has spent a lot of time researching this and I can assure you that we won’t miss a beat on patrol and run out of electricity.”

Chief Financial Officer Fathaw said he has met with and heard from the state and federal governments on several occasions to purchase electric vehicles. He said the city should not be reliant on one energy source.

Funding for the vehicles will be in place by this year’s capital spending plan.

Funker said he has been researching the vehicles since 2011.

“We have to have a level two charging station,” he said.

The police department ordered two hybrid vehicles, a level one and a level two. The vehicles are expected to be delivered in July or August due to the current shortages of computer chips, Funker said.

“I cannot have a completely electric fleet,” he said.

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