City tax rate stable under 2020 budget

By JACK FICHTER

CAPE MAY — City Manager Jerry Inderwies has presented a 2020 budget to the City Council with no increase in the local property tax rate.

At a Feb. 26 meeting, he said the budget totals $32.1 million, comprised of $20.5 million for the current fund, $7.7 million anticipated in increased tax revenues and $3.9 million for the Tourism Development Fund of the Water-Sewer Utility. Inderwies said the current fund is proposed to increase 2.45 percent, the Beach Utility 6.6 percent, the Tourism Utility 5.1 percent, and the Water-Sewer Utility 3.9 percent.

Inderwies compared the 2020 budget with last year and said the city received $1.4 million in grants in 2019.

Although we did use more surplus, we recovered that," Inderwies said. "The proposed rate to use for the current purpose tax rate would remain $0.0703 per $100 of assessed value.

He presented anticipated revenue for the current fund for 2020. Revenue from parking meters is anticipated to increase 10.3 percent, $68,000, and $44,000. Inderwies said room tax is projected to increase by $15,000 to $1.4 million. Construction office revenues is anticipated to increase 23 percent from 2018 to 2019.

The city receives 55 percent of its revenue from taxes, 17 percent from grants, 15 percent from parking meters and street tax.

Wilson,Guess Who, Greenwood, Platters on way to Cape May

By JACK FICHTER

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The season kicks off July 1 with the local’s Convention Hall including a number of concerts in the coming classic rock, country and Motown.

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CAPE AID Concert for the Homeless

The Geno White Trio performs March 1 as part of the 4th annual CAPE AID Concert for the Homeless at First Presbyterian Church of Cape May. The concert was a benefit for the Branches Outreach Center.

Stand up and be counted: Groups say census shapes future of region

It takes just 10 minutes to answer 10 questions that will shape our future for the next 10 years.

CAPE MAY — Just like many things in life, the census is about cost and power.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the count provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners, non-profits, other governmental, private and nonprofit agencies use to provide daily services, products and support for the community. Every year, billions of dollars in federal funds go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, municipalities and other governmental, private and nonprofit agencies based on census data.

The results of the census also determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, and they also decide how congressional and state districts will be drawn.

City may use drone to monitor surf zone area

By BY CIRCUS SIMMONS

CAPE MAY — A member of the local Cape May County Advisory Committee is suggesting the city purchase a drone to photograph and practice lifesaving at the surf zone related to the surf zone, where a number of injuries have occurred due to a sharp drop-off.

On Feb. 24, committee member Richard Langham, who is the city’s deputy fire chief, said the city purchased a drone about five years ago to take photos of Poverty Beach and other beaches. He said the city’s information technology director, Don Shawback, has the photos on file. Committee member and Lower Cape May Regional High School science teacher Richard Demers said two drones owned by the high school are outdated and would not be suitable for building data relating to the surf zone in Cape May. Demers had suggested using one of the school’s drones.

Demers said he was certified in 2014 as a drone pilot and suggested the city consider buying a drone. A low-budget drone could be purchased and the city could have a server to do pre-flight planning, by the drone, process the information and make it accessible online. Demers said the city is a commercial entity, so it would get a subscription fee of $1,000 per year.

Another way I’m thinking is getting through an umbrella program that also has a subscription fee of $1,000 per year," he said. "It has a pre-flight program and it has the flying program and it has the drone program, process the information and make it accessible online. Demers said the city is a commercial entity, so it would get a subscription fee of $1,000 per year.

It’s one shot every 10 years to ensure our local civic, public and nonprofit agencies get the resources they need. It’s an investment of about $57.5 million in federal funding nationwide to be exact, at state. How it’s distributed statewide and locally depends on reaching out to our local community,” the news release stated.

Government officials in Atlantic and Cape May counties are urging residents of their counties to participate in the census to help generate more state and federal funds flowing into the area.

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