Committee, design firm begins talk on specifics

Architect says public safety building will fit on firehouse site

BY JACK FITCHER

CAPE MAY — A committee including the city’s fire department chief, city manager, deputy manager and a committee made up of city staff and members of USA Architects, selected to design a new public safety building.

Councilman Shane Morris said much of the meeting was discussing a needs assessment for the building, “room to room.”

He said there were discussions regarding current locations of the fire and police departments, number of hosts for firefighters and the city administration office.

“Every aspect of what goes into a firehouse or a police station was discussed,” Morris said.

City Manager Neil Young said a representative of USA Architects met with the Public Safety Building Advisory Committee, which is open to the public.

“They made it very clear that a combined public safety building can fit in this location,” Morris said, speaking of the current location of the city’s firehouse.

He said USA Architects is committed to working with the public and creating a building that fits in a city that is National Historic Landmark.

The architectural staff photographed buildings throughout Cape May Borough.

See Committee, Page A3

Safety building advisory board vice chair quits

BY JACK FITCHER

CAPE MAY Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Noting that the Public Safety Building Advisory Committee has finished its job, vice chairman Richard Thomas said he was resigned from the committee in April.

“I am going to enjoy life,” he said.

Dougherty served as chief of Cape May Valley Fire Department for more than 25 years.

In a 3-2 vote April 22, City Council appointed Kathleen Wyant as chairwoman of the Public Safety Building Advisory Committee. Wyant was selected from among three applicants following the resignation of former chairman Jerry Gallaxy at the committee’s last meeting.

Dougherty said he was retiring as acting chair since that time.

Council members Vinny Sheehan and Zack Mullick voted against the naming resolution, stating they were not included in the decision process.

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Cape May Star and Wave

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2019

1.00

Meter rates doubled at mall to ease city parking

BY JACK FITCHER

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — In a 3-2 vote, City Council agreed to raising parking fees from $1 per hour to $2 per hour around the Washington Street mall. The initial proposal would have also raised parking rates at the beach on Beach Avenue.

Councilman Ken Wiseman and Mayor Marty Small voted against the ordinance.

The concept of the plan, known as performance pricing, is to encourage drivers to park at less expensive metered spaces away from the mall, making more space for those who would travel to the city in the process of recruiting bids for a new developer that woulderry passengers at charge throughout the city.

Members of the public spoke for more than an hour, largely criticizing the proposal. Chris Cook, owner of Across the Way on the Washington Street mall, said raising the meter rates would hurt his business and turn visitors away from the city and seem uninviting to vac-

Cook said the rate hike could cause rest-

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In other towns, the amount range

is typically a dollar, a dollar to $2 is not so very sub-

tles that it’s still going to create anxiety from our visitors. They’re going to have a negative first impression when they come back to town to things they can do, which may discourage future visitors,” he said.

Bonnie Canfield, co-chairwoman of the Park-

ing Advisory Committee, said the committee conducted research before coming up with its recommendations presented to City Council. She said the city purchased parking lots over $300,000, which would cost $1.00 per parking space to park at a parking garage in Cape May.

“Parking rates that you would have to do to even support that parking garage would be way above what we are asking today,” Canfield said.

She noted it costs $4 an hour to park in the city. “I don’t think it’s an expensive place to park in the city of Cape May but you can always find a park-

 ing place there because of that,” she added.

Part of the ordinance proposes a parking zone on Beach Avenue, out of Philadelphia Avenue, where parking will be free for about 5:30 p.m. She said the city is looking to provide free shuttle transportation around town.

Parking Committee member Dom Testa said the city is trying to realize parking spaces that eliminate the need for residents who already have space to park. By raising the rates to $2-per-hour parking fee in a workable number.

Testa said the committee believed its responsi-

bility was to look over all that is on the lot for everyone in town, not what is just for just for mer-

chants but what is best for residents and visitors and what promotes business.

“We don’t feel it’s something, it’s just going to get commercial,” he said.

The owner, Zach Boudin said he was no longer accepting requests.

“We think we should give people a reason to go somewhere else,” he said.

If visitors could stop in other towns where parking meter rates are less expensive.

Ryan Feurer, owner of a mall shop, said clear

See Meter rates, Page A3

Cape May Star and Wave

Wednesday, May 11th

Space is limited. Please sign up by calling (609) 884-6542.

Learn more at caperesorts.com/clamarama

The 8th Annual Clam Shell Pitching Tournament

Saturday, May 11th

Clamarama Rocks The Clearwater Bay

Deborah McGee/Staff in the STAR AND WAVE.

Cape May held its annual Easter Fashion Stroll on Sunday, April 21, at Roslyn Park. Above, Kaitlen Zycha, 15 months, and her mother, Macy, meet the Easter Bunny. At top, girls line up for judging in the 4 to 6 year old category. Below left are the 4 to 6 year old boys. Below left is Isabella Hanley. At bottom is the Brockman family of Rio Grande.

OUR VIEW

Like service, performance pricing key to easing Cape May’s parking troubles.

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Cape May Star and Wave

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