City delays plastic bag ordinance until December

BY JACK FICHTER

CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

CAPE MAY—City Council tabled action on an ordinance for more revision that would ban the use of single-use plastic bags from merchants and Styrofoam food containers. At a Nov. 18 meeting, Mayor Frank Corrado said he would meet with members of the Surfrider Foundation, which offered suggestions for amendments to the proposed ordinance. He suggested council listen to any public comments at the meeting.

“I will take account of their comments. I’ve taken account of some of the comments that council members have had about the ordinance as it was drafted and introduced, and I have the comments from the Surfrider folks,” he said.

Corrado said after public comment is heard, the hearing on the ordinance could be continued. He said meeting continued at that time. He said before the next meeting, he could have a proposed amended ordinance that incorporates public and council comment and suggestions from the Surfrider Foundation. Council could amend the ordinance at the Dec. 3 meeting. If changes to the amendment are substantiated, the ordinance could be brought back for a second reading Dec. 17, he said.

Councilman Zack Mulock said he was comfortable with Corrado’s suggestions. Mulock expressed concerns that businesses were getting closer to the time of year they must order supplies for the new year. He said, “I think we have agreement on at least a plastic bag ban and I think the public should be made aware of that as soon as possible,” he said.

Corrado said until an ordinance is adopted, any business would be acting at their own risk.

During public comment, Assistant City Manager Richard Meyer, Washington Street Mall Business Improvement District vice president, thanked council for taking a 90-cent change out of the city functions and events.

“Also ordered bags out of corn and they’re compostable but they have a very short shelf life, as we are going to try to get two of them to you,” he said, to try two cases of them.

They are not for the big cons and the smaller bags. Mulock expressed concerns that businesses were getting closer to the time of year they must order supplies for the new year. He said, “I just wanted to mention we are having a little problem with the plastic bags.”

Corrado said there was a need for postable products regarding a facility in this country that is able to compost the items. “Other than the strong facility that we don’t have down here, they cook or needy in 30 days,” he said.

Emergency Predictions of the Weather Things Shop on the Washington Street Mall, said her shop has ordered bags of branded bags that she does not want to wait. Corrado said council was looking at two ways to handle plastic bags a business may already have on hand. He said one method was to build a case-by-case exemption for those that come before council and request a temporary exemption from the ordinance. Corrado said one or both suggestions could be incorporated into the ordinance. Council approved a motion to amend the public hearing on the ordinance until Dec. 3.

The original ordinance included single-use plastic products and other moisture recyclable and non- moisture recyclable food packaging to protect marine life and wildlife in surrounding waterways, to maximize the life of landfills and lessen the economic and environmental impact of waste. The ordinance also states “no operator of any store shall provide any single-use plastic carryout bag to any customer for the purpose of carrying a customer to transport products or goods out of the store.”

“While nothing will change for the single-use plastic bag, we are providing single-use paper bags or allowing reusable bags available for sale to customers. The ordinance would prohibit providing food in any disposable food service ware,” he said.

Fire dept.

The Thursdays and Friday’s will be collected on Monday, December 2, 2019

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Promenade and a new library will also be built.

next to the public safety building

and for the newspapers of the public safety complex. I don’t believe any of them have any architectural, engineering, municipal planning credentials at all,” she said.

Corrado said he is confident that the Surfrider Foundation is working with the council providing food in any disposable food service ware.

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