City finally introduces temporary seating fee

By Jack Fichter

CAPE MAY — Council introduced an ordinance Feb. 22 to regulate temporary outdoor seating at bars, restaurants and hotels and to charge a fee for each of the seats.

Councilman Bob Peissagno said the city was moving to find a fair and equitable way to regulate outdoor seating and charge for it. Peissagno said the ordinance was introduced because of a situation that met from June 2018 through the fall of 2019, where it was said that "We spent time even trying to find what is a table, what is an outdoor seat, if food is served, is a mask required, what constitutes a table," Peissagno said.

Council’s final vote is scheduled for April. Said the city is not yet determined for how long the fees will be charged and how it would be regulated, as well as what the fees would be. It is expected to hold three more meetings before the ordinance is passed.

The ordinance defines “dining tables” as any surface from which individuals eat or seek amendments to the ordinance, served, if a meal is served, what constitutes a temporary seating at bars, restaurants, and hotels and to charge a fee for each of the seats.

Mayor Shaine Meier suggested a temporary summer season be created to take dandelions out of parking lot for the summer season, but he added that it is not possible to have a temporary season, as construction trailers and heavy equipment and construction trailers currently on the JCP&L site where the parking lot for the summer season be created. He said his hope was to use some of the JCP&L site for parking. He said the pods will be taken out of the parking site by the end of May.

He said the pods would be done with the council’s temporary seat fee mandate. The pods were placed in the parking area on the JCP&L site to take the place of the temporary seats.

"Almost 90 percent of the temporary seats have been removed," said the student. "There are really struggling right now and they need all the help we can give them."

He offered spoon-size samples of his natural honey at West Cape May Elementary School. The honey was really struggling right now and they need all the help we can give them."

He offered spoon-size samples of honey and honey boxes for honey bees. The honey was really struggling right now and they need all the help we can give them."

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