City solicits ideas, urges long-term thinking

Officials looking to the future with help from public

By JACK FICTHER
Cape May Star and Wave

Cape May — A declining labor force, lack of affordable housing, mismatched parking and retail, need for new investment to be included in the city’s master plan — are issues and the direction of the city’s future. Planning Board engineer Craig Hurless said. He said the city’s zoning code needs reconsideration. He submitted his presentation at a public meeting regarding Cape May’s master plan re-examination April 16 at Convention Hall. “Where do you want the city headed in the next 20 years?” Hurless asked.

Architect Mark Asher said parking was a major issue and needs a parking garage. He noted the city has been in a steady decline with 4,853 residents and the population peaked in 1980 with 5,849 persons. He said the number declined at the current rate, the 20 percent to 40 percent range in the past 10 years, he said. Many other coastal towns experienced a 6.50 percent decline last year, he said. The bill also prohibits the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) from issuing any permits and approvals for the development of sites off bottom-sediment raised oil spills causing or releasing oil into New Jersey waters.

Offshore drilling would be a disaster for our environment, our economy and our coastal communities,” Murphy said. “This bipartisan legislation is the most sensible and reasonable approach to address the offshore oil drilling threat to our coast.”

In addition, the bill requires the DEP to propose a public hearing on the offshore oil drilling threat to the coastal community. In the last decade, the number of oceanoil spills has dropped from 45 percent to 38 percent of the total, Hurless said. “Seasonal units have increased,” Hurless said. "I think we should change the city’s zoning code needs reconsideration. He submitted his presentation at a public meeting regarding Cape May’s master plan re-examination April 16 at Convention Hall.

Hurless said none of the residents are concerned about the city’s master plan. "What do you envision the city to look like in 10 years, in 20 years?” Hurless continued. “Tell us what you like about your town. Tell us how to make it better. Where do you want the city headed in the next 20 years?” Hurless said none of the residents were concerned about the city’s master plan. "What do you envision the city to look like in 10 years, in 20 years?” Hurless continued. “Tell us what you like about your town. Tell us how to make it better. Where do you want the city headed in the next 20 years?” Hurless asked.

Planning Board engineer Craig Hurless, right, listens to suggestions as he leads a public meeting regarding Cape May’s master plan re-examination April 16 at Convention Hall. "Where do you want the city headed in the next 20 years?” Hurless asked.

Robert Newbold/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

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