

Cape May Star and Wave

153rd YEAR NO. 19 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2007 50¢

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5	10:34	10:50	4:33	4:08
6	11:13	11:31	5:14	4:47
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8	12:18	12:50	6:49	6:30
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Raise meter rates, committee chairman says

By **CHRISTOPHER SOUTH**
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – The chairman of the parking subcommittee to the Revitalization Advisory Committee addressed Cape May City Council, Tuesday, giving recommendations including raising parking meter rates.

Existing parking meter rates are 25 cents per 20 minutes, or 75 cents per hour. The proposal was to charge a quarter for every 15 minutes of parking, or \$1 per hour.

William Murray, speaking on behalf of the parking sub-

committee, further explained the committee's recommendation, saying the additional money should go to funding a study on reducing traffic congestion and vehicle emissions.

"We would like to promote a walkable city," Murray said.

City manager Lou Corea said changing the rate to \$1 per hour would increase revenue collection by \$280,000. Last year the city collected \$852,000 from parking meters. Extending times and date when meters are in effect, or adding meters would increase revenue anywhere from additional

\$100,000 to \$350,000 based on the options selected. Corea said for now, city council indicated agreement only on raising the fee another 25-cents per hour.

"It's eye-opening to see what a minor change would do," Councilman David Kurkowski said.

Regarding the \$1 per hour cost, Mayor Jerry Inderwies referred to the ACME parking lot, saying the cost is \$6 per hour.

Councilwoman Linda Steenrod asked if raising the meter rates would increase the cost to the city.

"I don't see anything signif-

icant," Corea said. "More coins would have to be collected."

Corea also asked city council to go ahead with the authorization for the new meters to accept credit cards. He said it could take 60 days to implement the credit card system, but it did not require a resolution or ordinance to move forward. Raising the parking meter rates does require an ordinance. If introduced at the May 15 council meeting, the ordinance would be passed at the first meeting in June and made effective 20 days later.

Corea said the city would

now have to pay New Jersey sales tax on parking fees collected at city lots, meaning the city would get 93 cents after the increase goes into effect.

The parking subcommittee also recommended a tier system for parking meters, charging more at prime locations.

Other recommendations included:

- The creation of and signage for beach-goer loading and unloading zones, where a driver could drop off family members and beach gear and

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Waiting for Henry Sawyer?

A Vintage Dance Weekend was held as part of Cape May's Spring Festival sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Cape May. An elegant tea dance was held Sunday in the Magnolia Room at the Chalfonte Hotel. Pictured, above right, are Jennifer and John Ochman of West Pittston, Pa. Above, Villas resident Lucille Kalunchik and husband Bob dance before Lucille takes a break to chat (or gossip?) with friend Kit Northrup of West Hartford, Conn.

Photos by Jennifer Kopp

Tent ordinance moves forward amid confusion

By **CHRISTOPHER SOUTH**
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – City solicitor Tony Monzo outlined several modifications to the city's proposed beach tent ordinance saying the business people and the city had worked out a compromise.

The business people said no compromise was reached.

Monzo said the city's beach regulations permit tents of six feet in height and the zoning ordinance says seven feet is permitted. One draft of the amendment allowed tents to be as much as nine feet high,

which met with opposition from members of the public. According to Monzo, the city made recommendations to "clean things up" so there would be no uncertainty about beach tent height. Monzo said there was a meeting with the operators of beach tent concessions on Monday, April 23, and the parties were able to come to an agreement.

"The group agreed to certain recommendations," Monzo said.

According to Monzo, there was an agreement that nine feet high was too much and they all compromised on

eight feet. Furthermore, he said the group agreed the 150 square feet maximum was too large, and reduced the size to 100 square feet.

He said the group also agreed on the elimination of a sunset provision in the ordinance and on the size of flags or pennants on top of the tents.

But Patrick Logue, representing Congress Hall, said there was no compromise on an eight foot height level.

"That's not the understanding of the people in the room," Logue said.

Larry Hirsch from the Montreal Inn said he is more

confused than he has ever been on the beach tent issue, especially with regard to an announcement by city manager Lou Corea.

Corea said mercantile licenses for beach tent operations would not be issued by the city unless the vendor had a CAFRA permit in hand.

Hirsch said he, like others, had entered into a lease agreement with the city, but the city was regulating him out of business.

"An agreement is then null and void. If we can't use the beach you can't expect us to pay," he said.

Betty Steger said her family

has been operating its business for 74 years and never needed a CAFRA permit. This year they filed, paid the state its \$600 fee, and they still don't have a permit. Other vendors said the state has cashed their checks but

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TPA says yes to ordinance

By **CHRISTOPHER SOUTH**
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CAPE MAY – The Cape May Taxpayers Association has announced its endorsement of a \$3.5 million bond to improve the Washington Street Mall.

Jack Wichterman, speaking on behalf of the Taxpayer's Association, said the group supported the ordinance because the mall is part of the community and improvements were needed.

"The public value is clear," Wichterman said.

At the same time, he said, TPA wanted to see the funds used only for the public portion of them all. He said maintenance or other enhancements should be funded by a special improvement district (SID). Wichterman said TPA also

had a few questions they wanted answered.

City manager Lou Corea said the design work was about \$150,000, and the inspection fee was \$98,000.

Wichterman also asked what impact the \$3.5 million bond would have on the tax rate. Corea said in the worst case scenario the rate would rise 1.75 cents.

"What other funding sources have you identified," Wichterman asked.

Corea said the city had applied for federal and state transportation grants, but had thus far been unsuccessful in obtaining any grants.

TPA also wanted to know if there were any funds left over from other bonds, which could be applied to the cost of the mall project.

"There's not a lot," Corea said.

Wichterman said the TPA

support was by consensus, and was not unanimous.

Wichterman said the earliest concepts for the mall redesign were over the top, saying "We don't need \$5,000 gold plated tree grates that dogs are going to go on."

"Dogs aren't allowed on the mall," the mayor said.

"That's another ordinance that's not enforced," Wichterman said.

Later, Christine Miller said there was discrepancy in the city's numbers. The city, she said, is bonding \$3.5 million to redo the central mall area. A report prepared by the mall subcommittee to the Revitalization Advisory Committee indicated the cost of an all-brick surface for the mall would be \$2.75 million. According to the report, the cost of completing side

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Jennifer Kopp/Cape May Star and Wave

Loyalty Day May 1

It may be May Day for some, but Loyalty Day has traditionally been celebrated May 1 since its inception in 1958. Pictured are Jacquelyn Schmucker and Mary Coale, both third-graders at Our Lady Star of the Sea who joined in the celebration at Wilbraham Park in West Cape May. Cape May City Elementary students also attended the festivities as did Mayors Pam Kaithern of West Cape May and Jerry Inderwies of Cape May. Jim Roney, chaplain at VFW Post 386 served as master of ceremonies.