

TOWN CRIER

This is the 6th issue of what will be a periodic communication to the citizens of Cape Charles. John Burdiss is solely responsible for the content.

Topics addressed in this issue (October 10, 2007) are:

1. Items removed from agenda to be addressed in a recessed session
2. Notable agenda items at the 10/09/07 council meeting
3. Commendation and Kudos
4. Constituents are invited

Real estate, real estate, real estate

Three agenda action items from new business (items 7.C., 7D. and 7.E.) were removed from the consent agenda to be dealt with in a soon-to-be-convened recessed session.

7.C. - related to the prospective move of Council meetings to the Cape Charles Hotel's banquet room. The Real Estate and Finance Committees of Council have been evaluating all of the Town's real estate and the needs to hold, remodel, or sell certain Town owned properties. The joint recommendation of those committees was to move the Council meeting, which in conjunction with the recapture of some Town owned space from the fire company would allow much better use of the "town hall" building; including making offices and a small conference room in the current Council chambers. As the sole Council member on the Finance Committee I fully concurred with this recommendation; however it was apparent that we had not adequately explained the reasoning, costs and benefits of our recommendation to the other members of Council. I expect this will be done in the recessed session and I continue to believe that approval is appropriate.

7.D. - related to an unsolicited offer to buy certain Town owned property on the South Side of the harbor. This offer is contingent upon a rezoning of the property to which the intended parcel to be acquired would be incorporated.

7.E. - related to an unsolicited offer to obtain an option to purchase the South Dock. A prospective developer expects to acquire Northampton County's "license" to use the South Dock as part of the prospective purchase of the STIP Park. If the purchase occurs and the license conveys, it will allow the use of the license for a period that could extend to 39 years.

As to 7.D. and 7.E. - Council rightly deferred these items to the recessed meeting to allow more sufficient analysis. There is also the possible need to conduct closed session considerations to protect and properly address the affected private interests and the best interests of the Town. Both developers are making expected and in the ultimate analysis, probably reasonable requests, given their anticipated multi-million dollar investments in each case. Nonetheless, the permanency and significance of these

matters warrant thorough evaluation and discussion before a course is set to move forward. The prospects implicated by these projects are huge (public hearings will be required). We need to assure that their impact in the near and long term on Cape Charles is as positive as can be achieved under all circumstance while attempting to responsibly balance the benefits to the Town against the requirements and needs of the developers.

Other notable agenda items – 10/09/07 meeting of Town Council

- I have grouped some items for convenience; all items on last night's agenda passed unanimously, except for Councilman Brown's abstention on the terms for a new lease with the Cape Charles Volunteer Fire Company (CCVFC), which will be the subject of a public hearing (see below).
- Recommended changes presented by Town Planner Tom Bonadeo included: changes to deal with fences & walls on corner lots; changes to the Zoning Map for Properties Zoned STIP to conform to the Harbor Master Plan; and additions to the uses by right in the PDSTIP zone.
- Appointed Andie L. Morgan to fill the vacancy on the Planning Commission. Ms. Morgan was selected from among 4 excellent candidates; a 5th had withdrawn his name. We welcome her enthusiasm, her expressed willingness to learn/be trained and her obvious desire to be an active public servant in a role that will demand much of her personal time.
- Agreed to general terms for a lease to the CCVFC, acquiescing to the majority of the sticking points identified by the CCVFC in an earlier workshop with council. Lease is subject to a public hearing – see council package for full details; one amendment included a 1 year cancellation clause, versus the 30 days existing in the 1955 lease, the recommended 6 months from town staff and no cancellation desired by the CCVFC.
- Adopted a resolution to apply for a grant (TEA-21 funds) to cover 80% of the approximately \$582k needed for the north connector and park paths (about ½ of the planned paths); a 20% match is required from Town funds.

Commendation & Kudos

- CCPD Sgt. Brown and Officer Stubbs were given a letter of commendation from the Mayor related to performance in the apprehension & arrest of a drunk driver.
- Dave Fauber, Dir. of Public Works & Public Utilities, gave credit for the certificate of recognition presented by Dixon Tucker of the Virginia Department of Health (regarding compliance with fluoridation requirements) to Thomas Stratton and Ron Bailey the water plant operators.

You are invited!

Please join me at my office – 117 Mason Ave., Suite E (next to Kelly's Pub) from 5:15 – 6:15 PM on Tuesday, October 16th. Come, voice opinions, ask questions and learn more about what your Town government and your Council are doing to honor our duty to you by always striving to serve the best interests of the Town with each action we take. Your responses and/or inquiries to anything in the Town Crier or about "Town" business are welcome at johnburdiss@baycrk.net