

**REGULAR COMMISSION MINUTES OF THE WILDWOOD
COMMISSIONERS IN THE COUNTY OF CAPE MAY, NEW JERSEY**

Wednesday, March 12, 2025
Commissioner's Meeting Room
Time: 5:00 p.m.

MEETING CALLED

Meeting called to order by the Mayor.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Administrator, Ed Grant leads in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk called the roll and the following Commissioners answered to their names:

Commissioner McConnell – here, Commissioner Mikulski – here, Mayor Troiano – here

OTHERS ATTENDING

Marc DeBlasio, DeBlasio & Associates, PC

Ed Grant, Administrator

Steven A. Morris, Solicitor

Lisa A. Brown, City Clerk

Amanda Neill, Aide to the City Clerk

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

As per N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, the City Clerk read the Open Public Meetings Act Announcement.

PRESENTATIONS:

•Wildwood Police Department & Wildwood Fire Department

Commissioner Mikulski states that on July 9, 2024, he received a phone call at 11:15pm from Chief Joseph Murphy involving a shooting in Wildwood. Due to the quick response from the Wildwood Police Department and Wildwood Fire Department, the victim, Vilte Gruzdyte is alive and well. Chief Murphy states Vilte is doing well and back home in Lithuania with her family. He recalls that night was a difficult night for all involved with police conducting many yard searches and the suspect was apprehended. Because of the exemplary work from both the police and fire departments, he received a letter and certificates from the Ambassador of Lithuania praising and giving thanks to both Fire and Police individuals. Fire Chief Ernest Troiano III states they were a block away when the call came in and did not hesitate to respond to save a life, even with the crime scene not yet being secured by police. Chief Troiano says Ms. Gruzdyte is doing great and he is proud of the exemplary men and fire individuals for their hard work and efforts. Chief Murphy, Chief Troiano, and Commissioner Mikulski present certificates of appreciation to both the Police and Fire Departments. Commissioner Mikulski says John Lynch played a key role for this presentation to take place. John Lynch states Vilte is a story of miracles. At the time, she was 20 years old and had only been in Wildwood for 1 week on a work visa when the tragic event took place. He notes the true miracle was Fire and Police stopping everything and coming together to get to Ms. Gruzdyte. He notes Ms. Gruzdyte walks well, her arm is paralyzed but improving and has difficulties with her speech but continues to improve daily. A GoFundMe was created to help aid the family where over \$100,000.00 was raised. Mr. Lynch speaks to Ms. Gruzdyte and her mother 2-3 times a week and notes they both are incredibly grateful and thankful to the Wildwood Police and Fire Departments and the entire community. Commissioner Mikulski says Chief Murphy is an asset to the community and praises him for his work and dedication to Wildwood. At this time the Board of Commissioners presents Chief Murphy with a Proclamation to thank him. Chief Murphy states he takes great pride in the men and women in the Police Department and is proud to lead them. He says it is an honor to be apart of this community and thanks the Board of Commissioners. The Police and Fire Departments pose for a photo to commemorate the moment with the Board of Commissioners.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

February 26, 2025 Regular Meeting

MOTION: McConnell SECOND: Mikulski

ROLL CALL: McConnell – Yes, Mikulski – Yes, Troiano – Yes

ORDINANCES:

1321-25 Ordinance Amending Ordinance Chapter 6, Section 6 of the General Ordinance of the City of Wildwood governing Bus Parking and Permits (**INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING**)

MOTION: Troiano SECOND: Mikulski

ROLL CALL: McConnell – Yes, Mikulski – Yes, Troiano – Yes

The Mayor announced Ordinance No. 1321-25 has passed First Reading.

2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET:

109-3-25 Introduction and Approval of the 2025 Municipal Budget
(PUBLIC HEARING/ADOPTION SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 9, 2025)

MOTION: Troiano SECOND: Mikulski

ROLL CALL: McConnell – Yes, Mikulski – Yes, Troiano – Yes

The Mayor announced the 2025 Municipal Budget has been Approved.

EARLY PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

RESOLUTIONS: City Clerk read the resolutions listed on the agenda.

- 110-3-25 Authorizing Emergency Temporary Appropriations
- 111-3-25 Authorizing refund to Sergio Vlad for 3 Block Parking Permits in the amount of \$375.00
- 112-3-25 Authorizing the City to conduct an online auction with GovDeals for Abandoned/Unclaimed, Auto Auction beginning April 7, 2025
- 113-3-25 Approving Change Order No. 1 as submitted by DeBlasio & Associates on behalf of Fred M. Schiavone Construction, Inc. re: Bennett Avenue Street End Improvements, modifications to ramp and installation of safety bollards (increase of \$62,307.74 for a new contract amount of \$530, 207.74)
- 114-3-25 Approving Change Order No. 2 as submitted by Colliers Engineering & Design on behalf of Fred M. Schiavone Construction, Inc. re: Boardwalk Rehabilitation Phase VI, installation of additional railings and light fixtures (increase of \$48,512.85 for a new contract amount of \$4,923,110.94)
- 115-3-25 Authorizing contract increase with LawSoft, Inc. in the amount of \$3,000.00 for a new contract amount of \$20,250.00
- 116-3-25 Authorizing the award of a 2-year concession contract to Beach Brew Coffee to sell Iced Coffee on the Wildwood Beaches for a total contract value of \$65,000.00 (2025-2026)
- 117-3-25 Authorizing the award of contract to Core Mechanical, Inc. to provide City-Wide HVAC Services through January 31, 2027 in the amount not to exceed \$21,420.00
- 118-3-25 Approving Shared Services Agreement with the Borough of Wildwood Crest for Little League Field Maintenance from March 1, 2025 – September 30, 2025 for a total of \$15,000.00
- 119-3-25 Authorizing the use of funds designated for the City of Wildwood from the FY2025 Wildwoods Urban Enterprise Zone Fund for the Roberts Avenue UEZ Corridor Street End Improvement Project in the amount not to exceed \$600,000.00
- 120-3-25 Authorizing Triad Associates to prepare and process a FY2025 Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) Request Package – Senators Booker & Senator Kim Grant Application and FY2026 Community Project Funding (CPF) – Congressman Van Drew Application for ADA security and emergency access improvements under the Boardwalk at the street ends of Lincoln and Wildwood Avenues, under the existing Professional Services Agreement
- 121-3-25 Supporting the submission of an application for FY2026 Community Funding for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Emergency and Security Access Improvements at Wildwood and Lincoln Avenues and the Boardwalk
- 122-3-25 Authorizing award of a Non-Fair and Open Contract for Professional Services to Jim Rutala for grant writing services for various capital improvement projects in the amount not to exceed \$10,000.00
- 123-3-25 Authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$2,702,752.25 dated March 12, 2025
- 124-3-25 Authorizing filing of all reports and other data contained in this agenda
- 125-3-25 Authorizing the issuance, sale and award of the Note in connection with the SFY2025 Water Bank Construction Financing Program of the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank (I-Bank) to finance Lead Service Line Replacement Project, Phase 1, in the aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$20,000,000.00

MOTION: McConnell SECOND: Mikulski

ROLL CALL: McConnell – Yes, Mikulski – Yes, Troiano – Yes

REPORTS:

•Engineers Report – On file in the City Clerk’s Office – In reference to the Bennett Avenue Street End Improvement Project, Marc DeBlasio says the concrete work is almost complete. DeBlasio & Associates have been working feverishly on the Capital Improvement Plan Phase 3- I-Bank and are on target to have plans and specs uploaded by mid-April. A pre-construction meeting was held March 11th for Phase 1, Contract 1 and the Lead Service Line Replacement Project will begin in June in Middle Township and will make its way to the island. Mr. DeBlasio presents the Board of Commissioners with a video presentation detailing the dune project. He states a drone was flown over the beach from Wildwood Crest side heading North. The video showed Wildwood in its current condition, overlaid with its potential future condition. Mayor Troiano states it is a

775ft Plunge and the DEP assured the City area “C” would not come into play but still remains in the plan. Mayor Troiano says the City needs the access road as it is used as the main transportation to the piers and events, noting the high tide will run into that area and does not want to push the high tide line close to that road.

Commissioner McConnell asks what is the purpose of the dune. Mayor Troiano previously suggested to the DEP to allow the City to build a wall to shield the front of the Boardwalk, however, the DEP said it would not be acceptable.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

COMMUNICATIONS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: During regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners Meeting. Remarks will limit to five (5) minutes per person. The City Clerk will be keeper of time and advise speaker when time has expired. Each member of the public will be permitted to speak only once per meeting. Criticism of public employees will be directed to the Human Resources Department during work hours.

Carl Schmoyer, 5201 Ocean Avenue: Mr. Schmoyer says he attended the meeting in Wildwood Crest stating the DEP proposed to take half of the access road which he feels contradicts the original plan. Mr. Schmoyer is concerned for wildlife as he recalls there being 10ft of water at high tide in 1984. Mayor Troiano agrees the water would come up to the first original old section of the Boardwalk. Mr. Schmoyer states this will be a real detriment to the island. Mayor Troiano says the Board of Commissioners are not being greedy but are concerned and looking out for the people in this community.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Regular Business Meeting was recessed at 5:47pm by motion of McConnell and seconded by Mikulski. The City Clerk read the subject(s) to be discussed and convening this meeting.

•Contractual Matter – Hereford Inlet to Cape May Inlet Coastal Storm Risk Management Project

RECONVENED: The Regular Meeting was reconvened at 6:23pm by motion of McConnell and seconded by Mikulski. No action was taken.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business to discuss, this meeting was adjourned at 6:23 pm. Remarks as typed highlighted not verbatim as to subject matter.

MOTION: McConnell SECOND: Mikulski
ROLL CALL: McConnell – Yes, Mikulski – Yes, Troiano – Yes

Krista McConnell, COMMISSIONER

Steven Mikulski, COMMISSIONER

Ernest Troiano, Jr., MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
Lisa A. Brown, City Clerk

DATE MINUTES APPROVED: March 26, 2025