

ANNUAL MEETING Taxpayers Association of Cape May

Cape May City Hall Auditorium Aug 11, 2023 1pm -2:15pm

Board Members Present: Jules Rauch, Peter Cole, Peter Iurato, Bob Elwell, Dennis Crowley, Stacy Sheehan

New time and day for meeting: 3rd Thursday of the month in Convention Hall.

Next meeting Sep 21, 2023 in Convention Hall.

- Minutes approved for July 14, 2023 meeting

Financial Report (provided by Treasurer Peter Iurato) Expenses for the month:

\$70.00- Cape Graphics for Website

\$250.00- Cape May Police- National Night Out

\$12.00- Postage

Deposit

\$12,035

\$30,720.48 – total account balance

Membership Drive results- 423 returns (more still coming in)

School Report- Cape May Elementary School- 160 students 60% Coast Guard, 40% City

The following positions were appointed:

President- Peter Cole

Vice President- Jules Rauch

Treasurer/ Secretary- Stacy Sheehan

Jules Rauch – Provided background on some of the projected cost for the following projects;

Firehouse- being built \$5.5-6 M

Police Station-\$5-6M

DeSal plant- \$30-40 all new

Seawall extension- \$50M Kiwanis to Poverty Beach

Dennis Crowley discussed what MTRAC has been working on since Mar2020. Some of the proposals to the council have been adopted, others have not.

- Occupancy tax
- Financial impact resolution
- Employees stipends
- Pilot program for regional school with Coast Guard Base contributing to the cost of their students in the school. (\$150,000 per student to attend Lower Cape May Regional)
- Regulations and Fees for seasonal rentals
- Annual analysis of annual fees
- Rentals and Use of Low Speed Vehicles
- Revenue recover system for city utilities
- Program Based budgeting.
- Shared Service agreements
- Business improvement area for the beach
- County tax base for Cape May
- Reassessment of properties in Cape May

Dennis Crowley comments, Cape May is a business and must be treated that way.

Peter Cole talks about what he is looking to do as the newly elected president.

- Hold the city accountable to their spending
- Revamp the website
- Committee on projects
- Meet with MTRAC on a regular basis.
- Have City authorities attend TPA meeting and provide updates

Stacy Sheehan- Presented what she will be doing to provide more information to the TPA members. An email will be sent before every council meeting to let the members know what is on the agenda. There will be a brief description of the ordinance and resolution being proposed. If you would like more information, there is a link to the city website to access all attachment. We will also utilize emails to alert members of any important information.

Public Comment:

- The public asked questions and were provided answers if possible. Some questions around reassessment of properties in Cape May and how that will affect taxes paid to the city, county and regional school.
- 2700 people live in Cape May,
- ~4800 commercial and residential rateables
- 72% of residence listed as vacant
- Home values have increase ~3.5% of assessed value