

Fees

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requested the township has to pay an engineer and attorney to represent the township. Galestock said the boards have been looking at increasing the fees for a number of years. Councilman Tom Conrad said he thought some of the increases were high for today's economy. Councilman Wayne Mazurek said council should consider the impact of the larger fees on builders. "There is quite a number of builders out there trying to make it," he said. Councilman Glenn Douglass agreed with Mazurek, saying he didn't want to "hit" the builders, but said fee increases did need to be considered. Deputy Mayor Kevin Lare said aside from the increase for special meetings he could

not support the proposed increases. "The Grand Hotel project put \$100 million on our tax roles. With fees like these would they have walked away?" he asked. "If council wants a modest increase, I'd say keep it to a dull roar." Council had little debate on Recreation Department fees. Department Head Zach Zelwak recommended modest increases, such as daily pool fees going from \$1 to \$2 for children, and \$2 to \$3 for adults. Pool fees have not been raised since 1985. He proposed registration fees for cheerleading, soccer, basketball and wrestling go from \$15 to \$20, and football registration to increase from \$20 to \$30. He said the football fee in Upper Township s \$50, and \$60 in Middle Township. Fee increases for campgrounds and boat slips drew

the most public comment. Township Clerk Claudia Kammer said the township has 2,791 campground sites, and 2,885 boat slips. The proposed increases would yield a projected \$16,746 and \$14,425, respectively. Public Works Director Gary Douglass proposed fees for picking up trash from commercial addresses. Businesses are not being charged for trash pick up by the township. Douglass proposed \$70 per month per two-yard dumpster and \$125 per month for a 30-yard roll-off container. Resident Joe Winters said he believes the proposed fees should be paid. He said if one goes to a marina store, for example, the prices have not been stagnant for 27 years. Marina owners countered that they have not been able to increase prices for at least

the past three years. Winters said ultimately the fees would passed along to visitors; and if the fees weren't raised the cost would be borne by the taxpayers. Jay Spori, owner of Seashore Campgrounds, said the businesses do and will continue to do their part, but he cautioned against the notion that fees would be borne by visitors. "They are putting a heck of a lot of money into your community," he said. "We have 371 sites and it adds up." Spori said visitors are shopping in the township, going to stores, restaurants, marinas, and so on. Chamber of Commerce President Sheri Hemmingway said a lot of the proposed increases would affect mom and pop businesses who are constantly giving to the community. She said

many of the proposed increases were in excess of 100 percent. She said when merchants rent their building the township is double-dipping, requiring a mercantile license from the landlord for renting the property and another one from the business operator. "It's hard enough to get our places rented. To raise prices doesn't increase business in town," she said. Rick Weber from South Jersey Marina said a fair and reasonable increase in fees is understandable, and Ernie Utsch from Utsch's Marina said he would rather see a 2 to 3.5 percent increase in all mercantile licenses rather than targeting specific businesses with fee increases. Lare said the approach to raising fees should be deliberate and council should

avoid the "Robin Hood approach" of taking from one to give to another. McPherson said the increases are the prerogative of township council. She said the county would see more towns increasing fees as they attempt to deal with the 2 percent cap signed by the governor and resulting budget shortfalls. McPherson said because of the cap and the shortfall the administration and council had to begin looking at the 2011 budget the day after they passed the 2010 budget. She said the total amount anticipated through cuts and fee increases was \$553,949 against the approximately \$1 million shortfall.

Team

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design. By keeping the project to the original budget, the project has had to be downsized. The committee was advised to begin with a project no larger than the existing hall and see what fits into the budget, approved by voters in November 2008. Convention Hall has not been closed for its

third summer season. City council took a 15 minute break during Tuesday's city council meeting so council members could review a contract for an engineering consultant on the project. Councilman Bill Murray said he had not read the contract, which council received that day, and could not vote for a contract he had

not read. He said he did read a seven page proposal prior to the meeting, but was not able to read the actual contract. Councilwoman Deanna Fiocca also indicated she would not vote for the contract. Mahaney said he did read the contract, but called for the recess so the other members of council could read the

document. MacLeod said the city is on a short timeline and if the contract was not approved Tuesday it would not be approved for another two weeks. Resident Bob Biehn said at the last meeting he urged council not to rush into decisions concerning Convention Hall. He also said the city had an ordinance requiring city

council members to be provided with contracts for a minimum time period before being asked to vote on them. City Solicitor Anthony Monzo said it was a "policy" rather than an ordinance. Biehn said he still objected to council voting on something they did not have adequate time to read and absorb. Mahaney said after the

additional bond ordinance was defeated he advised that the city would be on a very short timeline to complete the project. He said the consulting engineer being awarded the contract, Hunter Roberts Construction Group LLC had less than a week to prepare its proposal.

Meters

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attached to the curb reading "Pay to Park" with an arrow directing the driver to the kiosk where they pay. He said the chamber was just looking for a fairer system. "Public Works said they ordered more signs, but the kiosks don't function a lot. In fairness to the police, some people don't put in the right number. But the numbers are not clear," Causey said. One local person said she tried to punch in "11" but believes the kiosk read the initial "1" and assigned her payment to the wrong spot (see the Letters section, page

A8). She said had it not been for the officer who wrote the ticket testifying that a sign was missing, she would have had to pay a \$32 ticket. Causey said most people don't have a problem with meters, and even tickets if they deserve one, but it has to be a fair and equitable system. The Chamber of Commerce has a program called Parking Angels, which they run as a courtesy. The Parking Angels are volunteers who feed quarters into expired meters to help people avoid a ticket. The program is funded by local businesses. But that is not their only function.

"We spend more time showing people how to use the machines, how to use credit cards, tell them where the bathrooms are, where to eat, and direct them to the trolley," he said. Causey said he believes the city is working with the Chamber of Commerce, to an extent. But this year there seems to be a noted increase in people getting tickets when money is in the meter. He said in many cases there is a Parking Angel notice on the car telling them they received a free hour of parking. Causey said the chamber has formed its own parking committee to help find a solution to the problem. Mayor Edward J. Mahaney Jr. acknowledged there is some concern from the public about parking tickets.

"People send unpaid parking tickets to the mayor," he said. Mahaney said one man wanted him to pay him back a quarter. Mahaney said he believed the centralized pay station is more designed for a parking lot than a street. "When you put them on a linear street there is no way you are going to be able to notify everyone without a proliferation of signs," he said. Mahaney said some additional signage has already made a difference, but said the city needs to try and get its parking meter system under control. Councilman Bill Murray was the chairman of the city's parking committee and he said there were a number of

recommendations made related to parking meters, but the committee was not privy to some of the comments that were made to the chamber or the mayor. "We don't want to make our visitors mad at us," he said. Andy Fontaine was on the city's parking committee several years ago and is on the chamber's new committee. "We're looking into creative ways to alleviate the parking situation," Fontaine said. "There are some solutions, but with every solution there is some compromise on somebody's part." Fontaine said additional signage would be an excellent start, because the empty posts send a loud signal. "Why look any further when you see an empty post," he said. "I think an immediate

answer would be signage and then maintenance on equipment so there are no failures." Fontaine said he would like the meter heads to go back on the posts and let people deal with quarters rather than face a ticket. He said credit cards are nice, but the technology is not quite there yet. Deputy Mayor Jack Wichterman said he noticed a problem with the traditional meters on Beach Avenue, saying they are not labeled with the times when they must be fed or the dates when the meters are active. He said he sits in front of the Kiwanis clubhouse on Beach Avenue selling car raffle tickets, and he said people attempt to put money in before 10 a.m. or before and after their effective date.

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Dave

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Halbruner; three sons, Ryan (and Marie) Halbruner, Eric Halbruner, and Eric Barikian; a daughter, Alexandra Barikian, all of Cape May. A Life Celebration Service was held Monday in the First Assembly of God Church, Cold Spring, with Rev. James Fisher, Chaplain of the Cape

May Fire Department, and Rev. Rina Terry officiating. Donations may be made in his memory to: Holy Redeemer Hospice, 1801 Rte 9 N., Swainton, N.J. 08210 or to Cape May Fire Department, PO Box 375, Cape May, N.J. 08204.

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