

## MAB

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said there were three other ordinances for consideration on the agenda that probably were not the result of a poll of council.

"How did the other three ordinances appear on the agenda?" he asked.

Beck said there were other ways ordinances were generated, such as from the fire company, or a township department. The ordinance amending the MAB was generated by council. Beck claimed he thought the issue had gone away.

"Now I'm scrambling to get a copy (of the ordinance)," he said.

Beck said he would not have been in this position if someone had asked if there were three members of council who wanted to move forward.

"This was discussed two meetings ago," Lare said.

Conrad, who said he approached the solicitor about drafting the ordinance, said the ordinance was generated from discussion at the previous meeting.

"Look, you have the votes - just do it the right way," Beck said.

"This is the right way," Beck said.

Simonsen said he could not support the ordinance because he had not had a chance to read it.

"My comment is I agree with the mayor. I'd like to ask for more time to discuss it and move forward. I feel I'm being put on the spot here and I'd like to do my homework," he said.

Councilman Glenn Douglass said the ordinance was only being introduced Monday, and there would be a second reading and public hearing on the ordinance.

Council voted 3-2 to table the ordinance and reintroduce it at the next meeting, based on a motion by Lare. Beck said his vote was not to oppose tabling the ordinance, but against the reintroduction. Simonsen also voted no regarding the reintroduction saying the ordinance would change between now and the next meeting.

## Lare calls inference 'dishonest'

Deputy Mayor Kevin Lare spoke out at Monday's Lower Township Council meeting

saying he took exception to Mayor Mike Beck saying the process followed for introducing Ordinance 2011-06 was improper.

Councilman Tom Conrad said he asked the solicitor to prepare the ordinance after council discussed renaming and restructuring the Mayor's Advisory Board. Beck said the proper process was not followed.

"The inference that Tom violated the law or did something improper is dishonest," Lare said.

Beck said he did not infer Conrad broke the law, but

said he had a problem with not being advised of the ordinance being on the schedule until a couple of hours before the meeting, when there were 19 days between Monday's meeting and the last.

When Lare repeated his comments, Beck responded, "I will point it out, Deputy, anytime I feel something is going wrong in this building. If you don't like it, it's too bad. You people are just stumbling over each other here. Everything you do is a disaster."

"That's your opinion," Conrad said.

## Projects

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ects to be approved by council now so the city can start receiving bids. He advised council to be ready for bids by July and have a contractor selected in August, so construction could begin on time.

MacLeod said the city would be looking for DOT Municipal aid and grant money, as well, to lower the costs of the road and utilities program.

Deputy Mayor Jack Wichterman said he hopes these projects can be done in a timely manner.

"We want to create as little aggravation for residents as possible," he said.

According to MacLeod, the remainder of the \$1.5 million will be used for purchasing heavy equipment, upgrades to city hall and ADA improvements as well as park maintenance and improvements.

MacLeod said the city

would like to replace heavy equipment including a 1999 dump truck and a 1993 boom/bucket truck. There was \$80,000 set aside for a new dump truck and \$75,000 for the boom truck. He said the city would also like to purchase a new street sweeper/cleaner which would be around \$65,000.

MacLeod mentioned there were some pickup trucks that should be reviewed for replacement as well but

Wichterman requested an assessment of how many pickup trucks the city actually needed.

"Do we need more city pickup trucks?" he asked. "If you walk out on Beach Avenue, it's like a parade," he said.

Mahaney agreed with Wichterman and said an assessment of the city vehicles should be done, to see which vehicles are needed and which ones are expendable.

There is \$300,000 that will be used for improvements to City Hall. MacLeod said Cape May applied for a state grant in order to replace windows in the building, but he is not quite sure of they will get it.

"If we don't get the grant, we'll just do what we can with the \$300,000."

MacLeod said there would be \$150,000 used for city park improvements also and \$500,000 for ADA improvements. The ADA project

would require 15 percent in advance, which is \$75,000.

In other business, city council voted to change the March 15 regular meeting to Mar. 22 at 1 p.m. MacLeod said this change was proposed because it would give the city an appropriate amount of time to prepare a resolution rewarding a construction contract for the Convention Hall.

## Wine

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exceptionally careful when breaking through the original basement wall, considering the age of the structure. According to Craig, the tunneling project took about a year and then another year and a half to install coolers and the wine racks, which are mostly handmade.

Craig said a single bottle of wine at the Washington Inn can range anywhere from \$28 to \$700.

"It's an extensive list, with incredibly fair prices, especially for a shore restaurant,"

he said.

However, if you're not interested in buying an entire bottle, you can always just sample wines. The wine bar offers a flight option, which is three, two-ounce glasses of different wine.

"It's become its own entity," Craig said. "Some people just come in for wine tasting."

He said the most expensive flight presently costs \$35. It consists of a 2007 Pine Ridge Forefront Cabernet Napa, a 2008 Castlebank Old Vine Dry Creek Zinfandel and a 2000 Opus One Napa, which is \$250 per bottle.

He mentioned the Vinfinité system purchased for the wine bar to keep the open bottles fresh. This vacuum system removes the optimal amount of air in an open bottle in less than two seconds.

He said the system has allowed the restaurant to expand their selection of wine by the glass and also helps maintain the integrity of the wine in each opened bottle. According to Craig, the restaurant offers 25 different wines by the glass at any time, as well as 15 assorted flights.

"A lot of people don't want

to buy wine by the bottle - they would rather sample several different ones by the glass."

When it comes to pairing wine and food, the wine bar offers small portion entrees for the guests that they can purchase along with a flight. Craig said he also encourages the staff to taste test the wine and find their favorites to go along with the Washington Inn entrees.

Because of the impressive selection, Craig considers his wine bar to be a "real" one.

"A lot of restaurants claim to have a wine bar, but it's

usually just a very small selection you can sample before sitting down for dinner," he said.

Craig and his brother David purchase all the wine through various channels and try to locate the wines made by smaller producers. This way they can find bottles that aren't found in many other places.

Craig has gone to many of the wine-making countries. During his travels to France, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, California and New York State, he sometimes finds wines that he purchases for

the restaurant. He also meets many interesting people in the wine and vineyard business, learning different production and growing techniques.

The Washington Inn will be re-opening Valentine's Day weekend, so anyone interested in checking out the wide array of wines can make reservations and see for themselves why the wine tasting there is such a hit.

## Tops

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where, according to Dee, people can log on and vote for their favorite events and venues in different categories. Sims said this year, over 6,000 people voted and both events won their category by a wide margin.

"It's really a pay off for all the hard work," Dee said. "We're very excited for April."

He said the jazz festival has already put together 197 musicians at the various ven-

ues for the 35th festival held April 8, 9 and 10. Kevin Eubanks, who was originally on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno, will be performing this spring as well as Grammy-award winning Latin Jazz artist Poncho Sanchez.

"It's a great musical escape for anyone who likes any genre of jazz," Dee said.

Dee said the highly attended jazz festival not only makes Cape May unique, but it also helps the local economy immensely.

"Everyone does business

with it - the hotels and restaurants love it," he said.

Sims said the New Jersey State Film Festival at Cape May held at the Chalfonte Hotel in recent years, started in 2001 and he considers it to be quite a substantial event.

"It ended up being standing room only last year," he said. "It's hard to build the following we have."

He said the film festival category in general is a tough one to win, especially when your event is only once a year for a weekend. According to Sims, Hollywood directors and independent film directors have eagerly attended

the festival in past years. This year, he said award-winning filmmaker Greg Henry, who has attended both the Sundance and Cape May Film Festivals will be returning in October. Sims said anywhere between 60 and 90 films will be shown at the Oct. 21, 22, and 23 festival.

"It depends on how many are submitted and how many the committee accepts," he said.

"We try to be a portal for (independent) films not shown anywhere else in New Jersey."

Sims said the event led to the Cape May Film Academy

and Young Filmmakers Program, which has established a mission of bringing kids into the performing arts. He said that both programs play a big part in how much support the event receives.

"We do a lot of work with kids who want to be filmmakers," he said. "There are populations that are largely under served in rural areas like this."

Dee said both events have been extremely successful, especially in recent years, but he is concerned about the funding received for the jazz festival. As a non-profit organization, the jazz festival

committee applies for state grants and looks for sponsors and advertisers.

"The state cuts back on the grants they give out and it makes it harder each year to keep it the high quality event it is," he said. "In these tough financial times, we need all the support we can get."

Dee said he hopes the continuous support from the public and the attention they receive after winning awards like the Discover New Jersey People's Choice Award will help in upcoming years.

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(ISSN 519-020), Volume 157 Number 6.  
Published weekly by Sample Media, Inc., 112 E. 8th St., Ocean City, N.J. 08226. Subscription price in Cape May County \$22; East of the Mississippi \$25; West of the Mississippi \$29. Periodicals Postage at Pleasantville, N.J. and additional mailing offices.  
POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to the Cape May Star and Wave, 600 Park Ave., #28, West Cape May, N.J. 08204.  
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