

Cape May Star and Wave

154th YEAR NO. 27 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2008 50¢

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JULY TIDE TABLE

	HIGH		LOW	
	am	pm	am	pm
7/10	2:12	3:01	8:21	9:03
7/11	3:07	3:54	9:10	10:03
7/12	4:05	4:46	9:59	11:01
7/13	5:02	5:36	10:48	11:54
7/14	5:56	6:23	11:35	
7/15	6:45	7:07	12:42	12:21
7/16	7:30	7:49	1:26	1:04
New Moon	July 2			
1st Quarter	July 9			
Full Moon	July 18			
Last Quarter	July 25			

Ordinance introduced to rescind \$10.5m bond

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Cape May City Council introduced an ordinance Tuesday to rescind the bond ordinance raising \$10.5 million for a new Convention Hall.

Interim city manager Bruce MacLeod said the measure would pave the way for the introduction of a new, similar

ordinance that would end up as a ballot issue for the Nov. 4 general election.

"City council introduced an ordinance to rescind the bond ordinance for Convention Hall," MacLeod said. "We will be holding a special meeting on July 21, and at least at this time, the ordinance introduced yesterday will be considered for adoption."

If the new ordinance is

approved and adopted, MacLeod said, it would effectively kill Ordinance 152-2008, which appropriated the \$10.5 million.

MacLeod said the move would affect the petition for a referendum to repeal Ordinance 152-2008. The petitions were certified by the city clerk on July 1. MacLeod said the city would have had to schedule a special election no sooner than

40 days and no later than 60 days after certification. He said that would have called for a special election to be scheduled sometime between Aug. 11 and 29.

MacLeod said the city could have allowed the special election to take place at a cost of about \$30,000, it could rescind the bond ordinance, or it could have asked the petition committee to withdraw their petition. He said

city council has no control over the petitioners, and opted to act to rescind the ordinance. He said he discussed the timetable and options with solicitor and bond council and put the matter before council.

MacLeod said it is the intention of city council to also consider the introduction of a new bond ordinance, which

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Let freedom reign!



The Fourth of July was celebrated Friday, July 4 and through the weekend. Cape May's annual parade, held Saturday, featured brass bands, children on decorated bikes, a stiltwalker, shown above, as well as firetrucks from around the area and much more. Above left, Amanda Hooper of West Cape May shows her American pride as she rides in a West Cape May firetruck. Left, chorus members sing patriotic songs at Congress Hall's Independence Day Bash. More photos, Page A11.

Photos by Jennifer Kopp and Bernie Haas

LT council members vote 3-2 to keep grants coordinator

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Township council voted 3-2, with Councilman Thomas Conrad playing the tiebreaker, to keep its grants coordinator.

Monday's vote means Colleen Crippen, a 16-year employee of the Township of Lower, would stay in her job, which includes coordinating the Neighborhood Preservation Program. A resolution was put on Monday's agenda to "Abolish the Position of Coordinator of State and Federal Aid."

Deputy Mayor Robert Nolan had introduced the

idea of eliminating Crippen's position as the township "grants coordinator," saying no other municipality had such a position, yet other municipalities received more grants than Lower Township. Asked for council comment, Conrad deferred until the other council members had spoken.

Councilman Wayne Mazurek he wasn't sure how the matter got started, saying there was only one reference to getting rid of the grants coordinator position made by Nolan earlier in the budget process. He said he received a call from Councilman Glenn Douglass informing him that Crippen had been given a lay-off notice from township

manager Joe Jackson, informing her he was eliminating the position. A discussion followed with township solicitor Paul Baldini saying he believed Jackson had the right to eliminate the position under the Faulkner Act. He said the township code does not speak to the right of the manager to eliminate a position created by township council, and therefore he was not prohibited from doing so.

Mazurek said the code gives council the right to create or eliminate positions, but didn't buy Baldini's explanation that a manager could do something if the code didn't prevent it.

"Are we going to list the 15,000 things the manager

can't do?" Mazurek asked.

Mayor Walt Craig referred to the situation as a "Catch-22," a situation where conflicting regulations create a confusing situation.

"We set the policy, but we can't supercede state and federal guidelines," he said. The meeting ended with no agreement between the majority of council and the solicitor.

Nolan said he Douglass had referred to the grants coordinator as a "luxury position," and the taxpayers group had spoken to the issue of cutting personnel "countless times."

Lower Township Taxpayer Association president Janet Pitts responded during public comment that the LTTA never asked that people's job be eliminated, but that wherever possible jobs not be filled after retirement or resignations. Pitts pointed out a terminal leave payout for a public works employee, which was also on Monday's agenda. Nolan said he supported moving Crippen to another vacated position in the township, but he didn't think the township needed a grants coordinator. Craig echoed those sentiments, say-

ing he never thought Lower Township was getting its fair share of grants, saying Wildwood and Woodbine had received more without a grants coordinator.

However, Mazurek earlier referred to a letter from the administrator of the state's Neighborhood Preservation Program, saying administrator Terrence Schrider called Crippen "one of the most competent and productive grants administrators in the state."

"She is held in the highest

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Fire reveals code violations

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
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CAPE MAY – Workers heating asphalt materials on a porch roof apparently started a fire at 201 Howard Street, Monday, leading to the discovery of fire code violations.

According to Cape May Fire Chief Jerry Inderwies Jr., the workers were using a propane torch when a fire started in a wall on the second floor. He said the workers were able to knock down the flames with fire extinguishers while placing a 911 call.

Inderwies said smoke was visible on the second and third floors when they arrived. Firefighters opened up wall and found the fire extended about six feet up the wall, but there was only minor smoke and water dam-

age. Firefighters used their thermal imaging camera to check for hot spots.

Inderwies said the type of construction used at 201 Howard meant there was the potential for a small fire becoming very serious in a short time.

"With this type of construction, balloon frame, the construction from the basement to the top floor is continuous, with no fire stops or insulation. Fire runs up the wall and spreads quickly. If you don't catch it in a few minutes you could lose the whole building," he said.

Inderwies said using a torch to heat and seal asphalt material can be very dangerous in Victorian era structure.

"We've had this same type of fire before and we knew what we were faced with," he said.

Inderwies said upon inves-

tigation they determined there were 15 people living in different apartments.

"They also found many fire code violations," he said.

According to Inderwies, the building's alarm system was shut off, and the electric circuit panel was in extremely poor condition.

"It was in deplorable condition – the box was rusted, corroded, which is very dangerous, and the door was off," he said.

Inderwies said the electric meter box was also rusted through and they had Atlantic City Electric come out and shut off the power at the pole. Inderwies said there were also battery-operated smoke detectors with the batteries removed by the residents because they were continually beeping.

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Cape May firefighters open a second floor wall at 201 Howard Street where workers accidentally ignited asphalt materials with a torch. Fire officials later discovered a number of fire code violations.