

COVID cases remain low but deaths persist

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House of the week

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166th YEAR NO. 25 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2020 \$1.00

City OKs public alcohol consumption

Temporary allowance permits open plastic containers in designated locations

Councilwoman Stacy Sheehan votes against the resolution, saying she does not see it as a financial boost for restaurants. She warns of large crowds gathering on the Washington Street Mall, preventing people from 'casually walking the mall and the boardwalk. I don't feel it's something the city wants as a family atmosphere.'

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council approved a resolution temporarily permitting public consumption of alcohol during the COVID-19 crisis on the beach, Promenade, Washington Street Mall, Rotary Park and sidewalks of designated streets.

During a virtual council meeting June 11, Mayor Chuck Lear, Deputy Mayor Patricia Hendricks and Councilman Shaine Meier voted for the resolution,

while Councilwoman Stacy Sheehan voted against the resolution and Councilman Zack Mullock abstained from the vote.

Consumption is limited to the sidewalks of Lafayette Street from Perry to Franklin streets, the 400 block of Bank and Elmira streets, Perry Street to Beach Avenue starting at Lafayette Street, Jackson Street to Beach Avenue and Ocean Street to Beach Avenue starting at Lafayette Street.

Open public consumption will

be permitted on Washington Street from Perry Street to Jefferson Street, Carpenters Lane and Lyle Lane from Perry Street to Ocean Street, Howard Street from Columbia Avenue to Beach Avenue, the 1300 block of Texas Avenue and Beach Avenue from Patterson Avenue to Pittsburgh Avenue.

The resolution states public consumption is allowed from 5 to 10 p.m. and drinks must be in plastic cups or plastic containers

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Cape May will not turn into a 'wild west drunken frontier town. This resolution is about delivering a good guest experience to our visitors during very trying times.'

— Jeff Gernitis, owner of Peter Shields Inn and FiNS Bar & Grille

Cape May OKs outside seating for restaurants

Approved eateries, bars may move tables, chairs to sidewalk, parking lot

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY— Some restaurants can now serve food and drinks at tables on the sidewalks, in parking lots and on parking spaces along city streets.

City Council approved temporary outdoor seating for food and beverages encroaching on the city's sidewalks, parking spaces and on some closed streets to ameliorate the effects of COVID-19 pandemic on restaurants and bars.

During a special meeting June 11, Councilwoman Stacy Sheehan complained she had not received a list of the restaurants and bars until 30 minutes before the start of the council meeting and suggested a vote on the resolution be delayed until the following day. She said she would have a difficult time approving something she had not read.

Sheehan abstained from the vote while the remainder of council approved the resolution.

City solicitor Frank Corrado said council did not receive the enabling resolution until shortly before the

meeting because City Manager Jerry Inderwies and City Clerk Erin Burke were working to process and review applications from restaurants and bars for seating on public property.

He suggested a cover letter from the application packages that sets forth the scope of the approvals be read into the record.

"In some cases what the city has approved is considerably different than what the applicant has requested, and in one case, the city is denying the application in its entirety," Corrado said.

Burke said she received at least three applications as of noon the day before the council meeting. She said several applications that were submitted were incomplete and not included in the resolution.

Corrado said the only reason council was involved was the applicants wished to use a portion of city property. He said he never envisioned the resolution giving council the authority to review individual applications and "second guess the

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Frank Scott/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

Hats (and masks) off to LCMRHS Class of 2020

Lower Cape May Regional High School held a drive-through graduation ceremony for the Class of 2020 on June 15 at Naval Air Station Wildwood. Restrictions on the size of gatherings and social distancing requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic prevented the district from holding the ceremony at the school. Above left, Superintendent Joe Castellucci addresses the graduates. The school band played and diplomas were distributed to the graduates.



Murphy: Organized sports can resume June 22

By DAVID NAHAN
Sentinel staff

As Gov. Phil Murphy welcomed New Jersey to Stage 2 of the COVID-19 recovery, which allows organized sports, he noted 646 liquor permits have been issued across the state for alcohol consumption as restaurants and bars have been allowed to serve patrons outdoors because indoor imbibing remains prohibited.

That is a moot point in Ocean City, which doesn't allow alcohol to be served, but from Cape May

to Somers Point to Marmora, establishments had already begun preparing for the change. Cape May approved public consumption in multiple areas in town.

On Monday, June 15, restaurants were allowed to begin serving patrons outdoors and nonessential retailers were allowed to open their doors to customers for the first time since the pandemic restrictions were put in place in mid-March.

"Welcome, New Jersey, to Stage 2 of our restart and recovery," Murphy said at his daily press

'Welcome, New Jersey, to Stage 2 of our restart and recovery. Today we begin our next leg in our journey back.'

—Gov. Phil Murphy

conference Monday afternoon. "Today we begin our next leg in our journey back."

He said two things are known with "absolute certainty," that outdoor environments are safer than

indoor environments and wearing a face covering is safer than not wearing one.

With that in mind, he said just about all types of outdoor activities were being allowed to resume on a new timetable, but the places that "remain the most dangerous for transmission" include gyms and indoor seating in restaurants. He gave no timetable on when those would be allowed to reopen, but he did say he hoped moving on to Stage 3 of the economic reopening would be in weeks rather than months.

"We will get there, but we will get there based on our health metrics," Murphy said. "If we open too quickly without restoring consumer confidence, there would be no customers."

One of the main points of Monday's press conference was that organized sports will be allowed to resume on Monday, June 22, with various restrictions based on the type of sports.

Low-risk sports such as golf and tennis may resume competitions

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