

Candidates forum

Continued from Page A1

round residents. Mullock said it is very important to promote tourism. He said there is a good balance between residents and tourists in the city. Lear said City Council took action in March and April, at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, to assist restaurants and other businesses. "We quickly made outdoor seating available, so these properties are able to pay their taxes, keep their employees, pay the rent," he said. July's occupancy tax revenue exceeded what was projected following a banner year in 2019, Lear said. Asked if they would support having city de-

partments share services with other towns, Lear said Cape May has been sharing services with West Cape May and Cape May Point for policing and the construction office. He said the city is always open to possible shared services. Mullock said positions exist at City Hall that could be a shared. He said he would like to see a longer-term contract with West Cape May and Cape May Point for police services. During questions to council candidates, Deputy Mayor Patricia Hendricks was asked how she would put her campaign slogan, "Working for you and with you," into practice. She said citizen advisory committees were created during the past

four years. She said citizens have the resources, the talent and are willing to commit their time and energy to work through some very difficult tasks. Hendricks said performance parking, which was a result of the Parking Advisory Committee, yielded more than \$500,000 and funded jitney service. "That's community first. It's not talk, it's getting it done," Hendricks said. Bezaire said his slogan is "A candidate for all the people." He said that is something the city is desperately missing, noting City Council has been divided for four years. "There's no clear cooperation," Bezaire said. He called for clear communication with residents regarding the city's bud-

get. He said members of the advisory committees are selected, not appointed. "The people don't get put on committees that should be with the proper backgrounds," Bezaire said. DiSanto said his slogan is "captain." "I am a leader and I am here because we need leadership," he said. "There's no leadership in Cape May anymore and it's falling apart and the wheels have come off." DiSanto said the city's emphasis needs to be on building a city marina. He said a marina would be part of a network along the East Coast that would draw visitors. The council candidates were asked if they would support placing parking meters on Beach Avenue from Philadelphia Avenue to Poverty Beach since the lack of meters is a wasted opportunity for revenue. Bezaire questioned if the cost of installing

and servicing the meters would outweigh the revenue. He said he is open to exploring the option. DiSanto said he is not in favor of placing meters in that location. He said the emphasis should be on creating a parking lot on Lafayette Street instead of a public park due to the toxicity of the site. "It should be encapsulated with blacktop, it should be a parking lot," DiSanto said. Hendricks asked the audience online and in person to think back about 10 years when the question of more meters on Beach Avenue was placed as a ballot initiative and failed. She said parking meter technology has changed with the use of kiosks. Hendricks said the Parking Advisory Committee encouraged visitors to park on the east end of Cape May after 5 p.m. and use the jitney. She said the proposal could be re-examined. Asked about ideas

to stimulate economic growth along Beach Avenue, where Convention Hall is located, DiSanto said the hall could host more concerts. He suggested the city participate in fishing tournaments and use Convention Hall for the awards ceremonies. Hendricks said the neighborhood needs more than a facelift. Bezaire said the beach around Convention Hall is underutilized. He suggested holding concerts and bringing back movies on the beach. It is important that the city work with the developer that purchased the former Beach Theatre property, Bezaire said. Council candidates were asked how the city should address parking issues, noting an increase in visitors, and whether a fee should be charged to ride the jitney. Hendricks said there was no charge to ride the jitney during the first year and that it would cost \$36,624 per space to build a parking garage. "We have to see whether we can gain parking in and around town and utilize a system that moves people around town," Hendricks said. Bezaire said parking should be part of the big picture that would include bike paths, looking at remote parking lots with trolley service and re-evaluating traffic flow. "Parking has been an issue for 60/70 years and it hasn't gone anywhere, and we talk about it every election cycle and every council as far as I can remember talks about it and nothing's gotten done," Bezaire said. DiSanto reiterated the city should turn Lafayette Street Park into a parking lot. "Why would we want to have people walk around a toxic waste site?" DiSanto asked. "It's been remediated but it's still toxic." The jitney is a waste of money with minimal ridership, he said.



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TIDES : Oct. 7-14, 2020

DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
7	11:54		5:19	6:21
8	12:23	12:40	6:01	7:16
9	1:17	1:37	6:54	8:17
10	2:23	2:43	7:58	9:21
11	3:34	3:51	9:08	10:20
12	4:39	4:53	10:15	11:13
13	5:35	5:50	11:17	
14	6:27	6:42	12:02	12:14

MOON PHASES
Last quarter, Oct. 10 • new moon, Oct. 16

Cape May Star & Wave
165 YEARS OLD • 1854-2019

CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE (ISSN 519-020)
Volume 166 Number 41

Published weekly by Sample Media, Inc.,
963 Lenape Drive, Lower Township, NJ 08204

Published Weekly (52 times a year)
SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: By mail for \$42 a year; \$75 for two years; \$22 for six months. Periodical Postage at Cape May Court House, N.J. and additional mailing offices.
POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to the Cape May Star and Wave, P.O. Box 2427, Cape May, N.J. 08204.

See Candidates, Page A9



VOTE ZACK MULLOCK for MAYOR



Endorsed by former Mayor Bob Elwell, former Mayor Tom Phelan, former 25-year Volunteer Fire Chief Barney Dougherty and Former Freeholder & Cape May Business Owner, Bob Matthews

Environmental Protection Preservation of the Sewell Tract

- Zack Mullock is 100% in favor of preservation of the Sewell Tract. Zack has testified under oath that his position is to preserve the Sewell Tract as Open Space.
- Zack Mullock pushed council to engage its own attorney for the city to protect the Sewell Tract.
- Zack acted when the third party organization lost a major ruling in the current case and publicly blamed the judge. And when the city was warned that a loss of the case could cost taxpayers millions.
- Zack Mullock brought the City Solicitor, another council person and the DEP together to discuss protecting the Sewell Tract - the first such direct discussions in three years.
- Zack called for the city to engage with the Army Corps of Engineers and the environmental groups: Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, Audubon Society and American Littoral Society for their support.
- Zack pushed to have city owned lots, surrounding the Sewell Tract, and worth millions of dollars, to be submitted to the County's Green Acres so the proceeds would go as funds to preserve the Sewell Tract.

Zack Mullock's personal environmental record – Zack actually completed many environmental actions:

- Managed family business to provide a solar system for the entire electrical needs of Cape May National Golf Club – one of the largest in the county.
- Protected 50 acres to agricultural land to prevent Rio Grande commercialization from moving south. Now a bee farm where all of the profits go to the beekeeper.
- Preserved a five acre farm from development which is now an Alpaca farm.
- Established another 50 acre private bird sanctuary where only foremost birders and photographers are permitted.
- Established Cape May National Golf Club as one of the county's largest fresh water Aquifer recharge sites through six man made lakes.

Don't listen to the nay-sayers, vote for Zack Mullock if you want real environmental protection.

COMMUNITY FIRST!

Fiscal Responsibility ★ Project Management ★ Financial Planning

www.MullockForMayor.com

Paid for by Mullock for Mayor, 1149 Lafayette Street, Cape May