

# Budget

Continued from Page A1

don't value the quality of life," Crowley said.

Due to the city's healthy increase in revenue, the taxpayer's association recommended the city hire new personnel to create a "real enforcement capacity within the city government."

He said spending \$100,000 on hiring enforcement employees from a \$22 million budget is not a big deal.

Crowley suggested council look carefully at existing and new regulations and make sure a system is in place to regularly enforce the rules.

"Let's step up our enforcement, so when we look at our quality of life as reflected in our regulations and ordinances, it really is what we want it to be," he said.

Deputy Mayor Tracy Sheehan said she receives complaints from residents concerning construction,

dumpster and tent permits.

"Not only construction permits but the fact that people don't get a permit to do construction," she said. "They don't abide by what the permit says they're supposed to do."

Sheehan asked if additional code enforcement would be placed under the control of the police department or construction office or both.

Mullock said the city has two full-time code enforcement officers. Sheehan asked if code enforcement is covering activity taking place on the weekend.

Police Chief Dekon Fashaw said some unpermitted work is being missed on weekends.

Sheehan complained that code enforcement has not issued citations.

City Manager Mike Voll said the city would assign a code enforcement officer to work weekends as it had last year.

Fashaw said code enforcement officers could

be asked to work weekends or a part-time employee could be added.

"I would caution measuring the success of the code enforcement office by the amount of summonses written," city solicitor Chris Gillin-Schwartz said.

He said there are methods to enforce city codes without writing a ticket.

"You can go out to the site and talk to the property owner, you can write a letter — there's different ways to approach that but it's not just a one-trick of force either, there's other ways to enforce the code," Gillin-Schwartz said.

Voll said his approach was to try and work with property or business owners. Violators are given a week to 10 days to comply and then a summons is issued if the situation has not been remedied, he said.

"It's always better to try and work with people than to all of sudden penalize them," Voll said.

Sheehan said she looked at the dumpster permit

list which had fewer listed than all the dumpsters in town.

City auditor Leon Costello said if the city wanted to add a part time code enforcement officer, council could amend the budget to add more money to the police salary line item and increase revenue to offset the cost to avoid a tax increase or wait until November and transfer money unspent on other line items.

Fashaw suggested adding more hours to current officers. Mullock suggested Voll and Fashaw meet and come up with a recommendation for council.

Chief Financial Officer Neil Young said some funds may be available under police salaries and wages. If council wanted to hire an additional building inspector to work weekends, the construction office line item would need to be amended in the budget, he said.

Young said there was flexibility in the police budget to hire part time

or seasonal code enforcement personnel. Mullock said that would be his preference.

At the end of the year, the city usually has \$1 million to transfer to different line items, Young said.

Crowley offered an illustration.

"You've got a wagon full of ordinances and regulations and every year we're putting more on top of that wagon," he said. "We've got the same two horses pulling it, those horses are getting tired."

"Put another horse on the wagon because the staff of this city is working as hard as they can to do their jobs and their job is getting bigger than their capacity to do it because we don't have enough people," he continued.

Voll said he didn't believe the city needed to hire extra personnel and would work with current staff. Mullock said he wanted Voll and Fashaw to meet and discuss the issue.

**WHAT IS YOUR MORTGAGE PLAN?**

**CALL OUR RESIDENTIAL LENDING TEAM TODAY**

**609-463-5210**  
mortgage@sturdyonline.com



**STURDY SAVINGS BANK**  
Building Your Future. Celebrating Our Past  
NMLS #410428

**100**  
1922-2022

sturdyonline.com

Member FDIC

**TOBACCO & VAPE MART**

**OPEN 7 DAYS** **NEW BIGGER STORE**

**HAND CRAFTED PREMIUM CIGARS**

**ALL TYPES OF TABACCO BAGS**

**DELTA 8 • CBD • HOOKAH**

**CORNERSTONE PLAZA**  
709 RT 9 S. • CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE  
609-536-2179  
WWW.TABACCOANDVAPEMART.COM

DO YOU HAVE A WRITE-UP OR PHOTO YOU'D LIKE TO SEE IN THE CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE?

Include your name, address, daytime phone.

Email to: cmstarwave@comcast.net  
Mail to: P.O. Box 2427, Cape May, NJ 08204

**OYSTER BAY**  
RESTAURANT & BAR

GREAT STEAKS and SEAFOOD

**BAR OPEN**  
Wednesday – Sunday from 4pm

**SERVING DINNER**  
Thursday – Sunday  
Starting at 5pm

615 Lafayette Street • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-2111  
www.OysterBayRestaurant.com

**CAPE MAY COUNTY COAST GUARD COMMUNITY EVENTS**  
**APRIL 29 - MAY 7, 2022**

**APRIL 29 Coast Guard Salute**

at Mudhen Brewing Co.  
6:00 pm - 10:00 pm  
127 W. Rio Grand Ave.  
Wildwood, NJ 08260

**MAY 7 Coast Guard Community Festival**

at TRACEN (Training Center Cape May)  
10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
1 Munro Ave., Cape May, NJ 08204

This is a FREE event.  
Photo ID will be required for all adults.  
Bags are subject to search.

CoastGuardCommunity.org

**PARTNERS**

FORD & SCOTT ASSOCIATES, L.L.C.  
Municipalities of Cape May County  
ALLEGRA  
CAPE MAY CHAMBER  
CAPE MAY COUNTY COAST GUARD COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
HERALD.COM

**SPONSORS**

L3HARRIS  
MOREYS Pure Water Parks  
BEER JERRY EXPERIENCE  
La Mer BEACH BOUTIQUE  
OCEANFIRST BANK  
STURDY SAVINGS BANK

HISTORIC COLD SPRING VILLAGE presents *Feasting on History*

THE 20th RESTAURANT GALA

Tuesday, May 3rd at 6pm

Naval Air Station Wildwood Aviation Museum at Cape May Airport.

Tickets: \$85/person or \$700 for a table of ten.

Reserved seating will only be assigned to groups of TEN guests.

For all other guests there will be open/unassigned seating.

\*Tickets are tax-deductible to the extent of the law.

Sponsored by **STURDY SAVINGS BANK** 100 1922-2022

To reserve your tickets please visit hcsv.org.