

City proposes police take over code enforcement

By JACK FICHTER

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council introduced an ordinance in a 3-1 vote to move control of code enforcement to the Police Department.

During a council meeting June 20, Councilman Roger Furlin, who cast the lone “no” vote, said he did not favor the city manager not being involved in the administration of code enforcement and that he saw no advantage of placing administration of code enforcement in the police department since code enforcement officers are currently available when needed in code enforcement situations.

Furlin asked the ordinance

introduction be tabled until all council members were present. Councilwoman Bea Pessagno was absent from the meeting. A motion to table the introduction failed to be seconded.

Deputy Mayor Shaine Meier said the city manager is often too busy to attend all departmental meetings.

“I think delegating the duties to the Police Department is ideal because the city manager can’t be leaving City Hall to inspect properties around town and give his input,” Meier said, adding that police oversee code enforcement in Middle Township.

City Solicitor Frank Corrado, who also serves as solicitor for Middle, said

township Police Chief Christopher Leusner is a proponent of police administering code enforcement because it enhances efficiency and ties into police record keeping.

“There’s better data collection, better tracking of properties that need code enforcement, better efficiency getting someone out there to answer complaints about properties that are in need of some sort of enforcement,” Corrado said.

He said it seems to be working well in Middle Township and that Cape May’s ordinance mirrors Middle Township’s enabling ordinance. While code enforcement officers in Middle Township are appointed by the chief of police, Cape

May’s ordinance states code enforcement officers would be appointed by the city manager with the advice of the police chief, Corrado said.

The ordinance would give the chief of police, in consultation with the city manager, the ability to exempt code enforcement officials and those portions of the police department regulations that are meant to apply to law enforcement officers rather than code enforcement officers, he said.

“I also think that at this point this is perhaps the administration’s efforts to put a little bit more strength in code enforcement,” Councilwoman Patricia Hendricks said.

Police Chief Tony Marino said there was a difference between law enforcement and code enforcement.

“Under law enforcement, we have individual discretion for each officer,” he said. “Although you answer to the chain of command in the department, you’re somehow autonomous when you’re out on the street handling the situations and you’re able to handle them in your own discretion with a few exceptions under the law.”

He said law enforcement is more of a “reactive situation” in which officers are going to calls spurred by complaints. Marino said he had not seen the proposed ordinance.

“My initial concern would

be a potential conflict of interest between the town and enforcement,” he said.

Marino said the Police Department operates under one specific statute that makes the police chief the day-to-day operator. He asked how that would work for code enforcement in working out details and the chain of command in which it would operate. He said there should be limited influence or interference from anyone in the day-to-day operations of the Police Department.

Mayor Chuck Lear said the ordinance does provide for the chief of police to develop a set of operating procedures outlining duties and responsibilities and setting operation priorities.



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Workers for Viasant, the contractor performing remedial work for Jersey Central Power & Light at the site of the former manufactured gas plant in Cape May, have been planting trees.

JCP&L continues remedial work

CAPE MAY — Jersey Central Power & Light Company and its contractor Viasant continue environmental remedial work at the former manufactured gas plant site, located north of the intersection of Lafayette Street and St. John Street in Cape May.

Environmental, health and safety oversight of the day-to-day activities are being conducted by Arcadis US Inc. on behalf of JCP&L.

JCP&L has successfully

achieved its initial remedial objectives for Phase 2. Limited activity, focused primarily on landscaping and work to establish the groundwater treatment system and confirm it is working as designed, will continue in June. There will be no heavy construction equipment associated with this work.

Work performed last week:

— Continue installation of electrical components within well vaults.

— Continue startup/shakedown of the treatment system using a generator until permanent electrical connection is established.

— Temporary staging of a water storage tank.

— City inspection of electrical conduit and treatment building systems.

— Continue to receive materials for the pump and treatment system.

— Repair sidewalk cracked during piezometer installation along Lafayette Street.

Free Family Fun Days at lighthouse

CAPE MAY POINT — The 1859 Cape May Lighthouse, located at Cape May Point State Park in Lower Township, becomes a beacon for family fun this summer during Family Fun Days.

Kids will enjoy hands-on activities such as making a pirate hat, along with performers and kid-friendly entertainment, while adults will enjoy browsing among the crafts vendors, all at the base of the lighthouse.

Climb the 199 steps to the top and enjoy the best view of the Jersey Cape. Family Fun Days are held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesdays, July 5 to Aug. 16. Admission is free to activities on the grounds. The cost to climb the lighthouse is \$8 adults and \$5 children (ages 3-12).

Family Fun Days are presented by the Mid-Atlantic



Susan Krysiak/Courtesy of MAC

Cape May Lighthouse Keeper Dave Yeager, left, and Rich Chiemiango, who perform as ‘Fishmeal,’ entertain children with a game of limbo.

Center for the Arts & Humanities, a multifaceted not-for-profit organization committed to promoting the

preservation, interpretation and cultural enrichment of the Cape May region for its residents and visitors.

Man gets 17 years in prison for Villas robbery

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — A Middle Township man was sentenced to 17 years in state prison for a 2014 robbery in Villas and tampering with witnesses.

According to county Prosecutor Robert L. Taylor, Jermaine Mills, 39, of Rio Grande, was sentenced

for robbery and two counts of witness tampering. Mills must serve 85 percent of his before being eligible for parole.

On Sept. 21, 2014, Lower Township police were dispatched to Villas for a report of an armed robbery. The victim informed police that he was held up

at gunpoint and his property was forcefully taken. Mills was identified as one of those responsible for the armed robbery. Through the course of the investigation, it was learned that Mills tampered with witnesses in an attempt to have them change their stories.



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Cape May Star & Wave

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TIDES : June-July 2017				
DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
28		12:30	6:08	6:15
29	12:42	1:28	7:01	7:14
30	1:37	2:26	7:55	8:16
1	2:34	3:23	8:48	9:17
2	3:31	4:18	9:39	10:16
3	4:28	5:09	10:29	11:12
4	5:21	5:55	11:15	
5	6:10	6:39	12:03	11:59

MOON PHASES
Full moon, July 9

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DAN SCHIMMEL
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eSCAPE
Gallery Two



JIM INZERO
"Beach Cove" (detail) Encaustic on Panel
24" x 36"

TARA O'LEARY
Chasing the Sunset
Gallery Three



TARA O'LEARY
"Light On The Hill" (detail) Pastel on Paper
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Artist Opening Reception
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