



May 27, 2008
WORK SESSION
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
TOWN OF OCEAN CITY

In attendance: Mayor Rick Meehan, Council President Joe Mitrecic, Council Secretary Nancy Howard, Council Members Jim Hall, Jay Hancock, Mary Knight, Lloyd Martin (present for the Closed Session only) and Margaret Pillas, City Manager Dennis Dare, City Solicitor Guy Ayres, Assistant to City Manager Kathy Mathias, Finance Administrator Martha Bennett-Lucey, Emergency Services Communications Supervisor Janet Guiton, Parks and Recreation Director Tom Shuster, Tourism/Convention Center Director Mike Noah, Tourism/Convention Center Assistant Director Debbie Travers, License Inspector Rich Mason, Deputy City Clerk Kelly Allmond, Members of the Press and Interested Parties.

Council President Joe Mitrecic called this work session to order at 12:02 a.m.; then, **Council Secretary Nancy Howard moved to convene into closed session to discuss legal, personnel and contractual matters; seconded by Council Member Jim Hall. The vote was unanimous.**

The Open Session reconvened at 1:32 p.m..

1. Council President Joe Mitrecic reported on the closed session held prior to this open session at 12:00 p.m.. Topics of discussion were: to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, removal or resignation of appointees, employees or officials over whom it has jurisdiction, or, any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice; to consult with Staff, consultants or other individuals about pending or potential litigations; to comply with a specific constitutional, statutory or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter; and, to discuss a matter directly related to a negotiation strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal if public discussion or disclosure adversely impacts the public body's ability to competitively bid or make proposals. Persons present were: Mayor Rick Meehan, Council President Joe Mitrecic, Council Secretary Nancy Howard, Council Members Jim Hall, Jay Hancock, Mary Knight, Lloyd Martin and Margaret Pillas, City Manager Dennis Dare, City Solicitor Guy Ayres, Assistant to City Manager Kathy Mathias, Tourism/Convention Center Director Mike Noah, Tourism/Convention Center Assistant Director Debbie Travers and, Amy Rothermel. **Council Member Mary Knight moved to accept both ads for the Town's upcoming advertising campaign from MGH Advertising; seconded by Council Secretary Nancy Howard. The vote was unanimous.**

In the open session, **Council Member Jim Hall moved to appoint Amy Rothermel to the Town's Board of Elections; seconded by Council Member Mary Knight. The vote was 6-0 with Council Member Lloyd Martin absent.**

2. In accordance with the Town's Employee Recognition Program, Emergency Services Communications Supervisor Janet Guiton introduced Communications Center Employees Melissa Cardamone and Christina Taylor.
3. City Solicitor Guy Ayres reviewed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Town and the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company (See Attachment A). **Council Member Jim Hall moved to approve; seconded by Council Member Mary Knight. The vote was 6-0 with Council Member Lloyd Martin absent.**
4. Mayor Rick Meehan presented Al "Hondo" Handy with the Governor's Citation issued by Governor Martin O'Malley. Also, Mayor Meehan announced that in April 2008, Hondo received the Maryland Recreation and Parks Association (MRPA) Citation Award.
5. Tourism/Convention Center Director Mike Noah requested approval to extend the MGH Advertising contract for another year. **Council Secretary Nancy Howard moved to approve a contract extension with MGH Advertising for one year; seconded by Council Member Margaret Pillas. The vote was 6-0 with Council Member Lloyd Martin absent.**
6. The Maryland Municipal League's (MML) Executive Director Scott Hancock and Government Relations Director Candace Donoho reported on the MML's current legislative efforts (See Attachment B).
7. Worcester County NAACP President Edward S. Lee presented *Telling the Story, A Cultural and Economic Enterprise* (See Attachment C). President Lee explained that this Project's mission is to define, document and support the cultural history of Worcester County. Pocomoke City Mayor Michael McDermott stressed the importance of revitalizing the history of the Lower Eastern Shore.

President Lee asked for the Town's consideration to grant \$13,650 (25% of the actual cost) to support this heritage project. Mayor Meehan said he supports this concept and, noted the benefit of connecting the Worcester County municipalities.
8. Council Secretary Nancy Howard reviewed the Town's letter of support for Atlantic General Hospital's expansion efforts. **Council Member Jim Hall moved to approve; seconded by Council Member Jay Hancock. The vote was 6-0 with Council Member Lloyd Martin absent.**
9. License Inspector Rich Mason addressed business license requirements for the Downtown Associations weekly flea market. **Council Member Jim Hall moved to waive licensing requirements until July 1, 2008; seconded by Council Secretary Nancy Howard. The vote was 6-0 with Council Member Lloyd Martin absent.**

May 27, 2008 Work Session continued...

Council Member Margaret Pillas voiced her continued support for reducing the budget and capping the tax rate at two-cents above the constant yield tax rate.

Council Secretary Nancy Howard moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:01 p.m.; seconded by Council Member Jim Hall. The vote was 6-0 with Council Member Lloyd Martin absent.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AMONG
THE OCEAN CITY VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, INC., CHRISTOPHER N. LARMORE
AND
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF OCEAN CITY

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (“MOU”) is hereby made and entered into this __ day of May, 2008 by and among The Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as the “OCVFC”), Christopher N. Larmore (“Chief Larmore”), and the Mayor and City Council of Ocean City (hereinafter referred to as the “Town of Ocean City”):

WHEREAS, by its Charter, duly adopted and amended, the Town of Ocean City has empowered its City Council to take such actions necessary to suppress fires and prevent the dangers thereof; and

WHEREAS, OCVFC has been providing fire services to and for the Town of Ocean City for over 100 years; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Ocean City recognizes the longstanding commitment of the OCVFC to the public safety of the Ocean City and West Ocean City community, its businesses, residents and visitors, the value of the services of the members of the OCVFC to the Town of Ocean City, and the intangible and immeasurable benefit that all such charitable and volunteer organizations bring to the civic life and well being of the Ocean City community; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Ocean City has found it necessary to hire career paramedics/firefighters to provide 24/7 coverage for fire protection and emergency medical services; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Ocean City intends and desires that the OCVFC remain an effective long term partner with the Town of Ocean City in providing fire protection and

emergency medical services to the Ocean City and West Ocean City community, its businesses, residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the OCVFC desires to maintain its historic presence in Ocean City and to continue to fulfill its longstanding commitment to the public safety of the Ocean City and West Ocean City community, its businesses, residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, due to the relationship between the OCVFC and the Town of Ocean City having become unduly strained and beleaguered, on February 12, 2008 the membership of the OCVFC passed a motion to relocate the OCVFC from Ocean City; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Ocean City and the OCVFC have now pledged to work together with the goals of resolving the strained relationship between the Town of Ocean City and the OCVFC, creating an effective and efficient organization for the provision of fire protection and emergency medical services to the Ocean City community, and maintaining the historic and beneficial presence of the OCVFC in the Ocean City community; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Ocean City and the OCVFC recognize the need for a unified command in the provision of fire protection and emergency medical services to the Town of Ocean City in the form of a single Fire Chief with full administrative and operational authority as set forth below over the Career Paramedics/Firefighters of the Fire/Emergency Medical Services Division of the Town of Ocean City ("Fire/EMS Division"), the Ocean City Office of the Fire Marshal ("Fire Marshal") and the OCVFC; and

WHEREAS, all parties hereto share the goal of creating a cohesive and efficient combined career/volunteer fire protection and emergency medical services department for the Town of Ocean City; and

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2008 the City Council passed a motion to appoint Chief Larmore as Fire Chief with full administrative and operational authority as set forth below over the Career Paramedics/Firefighters of the Fire/EMS Division, the Fire Marshal and the OCVFC; and

NOW THEREFORE, the above recitals being incorporated herein and made a part hereof, the Town of Ocean City, the OCVFC and Chief Larmore have reached and do hereby memorialize the following understanding:

1. The Town of Ocean City hereby appoints and Chief Larmore hereby accepts the position of Fire Chief, at the nominal consideration of \$1.00 per year or part thereof, with full administrative and operational authority as set forth below over the Career Paramedics/Firefighters of the Fire/EMS Division, the Fire Marshal and the OCVFC. Concurrent with this appointment, Christopher N. Larmore will vacate the post of elected Fire Chief of the OCVFC.

2. Upon the appointment of Chief Larmore as Fire Chief:

a) The Director of Emergency Services will relinquish all authority to manage, administer, or supervise the Fire/ EMS Division to the Captain of the Fire/ EMS Division; and

b) The Career Paramedics/Firefighters of the Fire/EMS Division will respond to and work under the direction and control of the Captain of the Fire/ EMS Division; and

c) The Captain of the Fire/ EMS Division and the Fire Marshal will respond to and work under the direction and control of Chief Larmore; and

d) The members of the OCVFC will continue to respond to and work under the direction and control of their duly elected chief officers who in turn will respond to and work under the direction and control of Chief Larmore; and

e) Chief Larmore will report directly to the Mayor and City Council on all matters relating to the discharge of this authority. Otherwise, on the day to day operation of the Fire/EMS Division and the Fire Marshal, Chief Larmore will report to the Mayor and City Council through the City Manager.

3. No major organizational restructuring of the Fire/EMS Division or the Fire Marshal will occur without the approval of the City Council. Chief Larmore will have full authority to set all policies, procedures and SOPs for the Fire/EMS Division, the OCVFC and the Fire Marshal subject to approval by the Mayor and City Council and, to the extent such measures affect the administration of the OCVFC, subject to the approval of Board of Directors of the OCVFC.

4. Chief Larmore will have the authority and responsibility to plan, propose and administer the budget of the Fire/EMS Division and the Fire Marshal in coordination with the City Manager, subject to final budgetary approval by ordinance enacted by the Town of Ocean City.

5. Chief Larmore will forward monthly reports to the Mayor and City Council regarding the state of the OCVFC, the Fire/EMS Division and the Fire Marshal and will appear quarterly before the City Council at its regularly scheduled meetings to inform, advise and consult with the Mayor and City Council regarding the provision of fire protection and emergency medical services.

6. The OCVFC reserves its longstanding right to communicate directly to the Mayor and City Council on all matters.

8. Upon the execution of this MOU, the Officers and Board of Directors of OCVFC will request that the membership rescind its motion to relocate from Ocean City.

9. This MOU is not intended to and does not create any right, contract, benefit or obligation, enforceable in law or equity against any party hereto.

10. This MOU will terminate at the first of the following to occur: 1) the voluntary resignation of Chief Larmore; 2) an affirmative vote by majority of the City Council to relieve Chief Larmore of his duties as Fire Chief for just cause; 3) the affirmative vote of the Board of Directors of the OCVFC to terminate this MOU; or 4) the Town of Ocean City, in cooperation with OCVFC, hiring a full time salaried Fire Chief. The Town of Ocean City, the OCVFC and Chief Larmore will each attempt to provide the others as much notice as is practicable under the circumstances, preferably thirty days written notice, prior to terminating this MOU by resignation or an affirmative vote to terminate as provided above.

11. The undersigned represent and warrant that they have the authority to execute this document respectively on behalf of the Town of Ocean City and the OCVFC.

IN WITNESS OF THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, each party to this agreement has executed it below.

Mayor and City Council of Ocean City

By: _____
Richard W. Meehan, Mayor

Date _____

By: _____
Joseph M. Mitrecic, President

Date _____

2008 MML Legislative Session Wrap-Up



MML Legislation to Designate all DNR Parks and Playgrounds Monies for Municipalities is Successful

Legislation introduced at MML's request to designate all grant monies in the Department of Natural Resources' Community Parks and Playgrounds Program to municipalities (SB 1000/HB 1604) passed unanimously. The intent of the program has always been to assist municipalities in upgrading and refurbishing urban and suburban parks and playgrounds. In most years, this program is funded at approximately \$5 million.

MML Successful in Amending Critical Areas Program Legislation

Legislation to make sweeping changes to the State's critical areas program (HB 1253) passed during this session of the General Assembly. MML worked closely with the Critical Areas Commission to ensure that the final legislation would strengthen the current program but also protect local land use authority.

Stormwater Management Legislation Includes Specific Municipal Program

The Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund (SB 213/HB 369) establishes a program created during last November's special session to reduce non-point source pollution runoff into the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays. The budget approved during this just-completed session will fund the program at \$25 million for Fiscal Year 2009. A League-supported amendment to fund special projects in municipal parks adjacent to Maryland waterways was added to the legislation.

Municipal Hotel Tax Bill Passes in Final Hours

SB 131, legislation introduced to allow municipalities to impose a hotel tax, passed the legislature this session. As amended, the legislation applies only to municipalities in Montgomery and Somerset Counties. MML is pleased to finally pass legislation allowing municipalities the authority to impose a new tax at the municipal level and hopes that this will open the door in future years to passage of additional municipal taxing authority legislation.

Water Resources Legislation - Third Time's the Charm!

For the third year in a row, legislation to address water restriction issues in the Piedmont area of the State was introduced and for the first time was successful. This year's legislation (SB 674/HB 1423) permits the Department of the Environment, when issuing water permits, to give priority to community water systems over the issuance of permits for private wells.

Over please...

Harmful Bills Successfully Defeated this Session

This session, MML opposed a number of bills harmful to municipalities:

- ✓ Among the most onerous bills, legislation to repeal the law that requires homeowners to apply for a homestead property tax credit was defeated. There is evidence that some homeowners, either intentionally or unintentionally, are claiming a homestead tax credit on non-owner occupied properties, costing local governments thousands of dollars in lost property tax revenues.
- ✓ Also defeated this session was legislation that would have required, under the Open Meetings Act, all votes of a public body be taken in open session. MML opposed the legislation citing numerous examples where some votes taken in open session could potentially harm delicate property acquisition negotiations or compromise employee disciplinary actions.
- ✓ Legislation to allow homeowners and community associations to have legal standing in challenges to local land use court actions was defeated again this session. This year's legislation was more general and potentially more harmful than bills introduced in prior years.
- ✓ Finally, legislation extending the period wherein legal claims against a local government may be filed from 6 months to one year passed the House but died on the Senate floor without ever coming to a vote in the full Senate.

Speed Camera Legislation Runs Out of Time

MML's priority legislation to allow speed cameras in residential areas and school zones failed in the final hours on the last day of the 2008 General Assembly session. The legislation (HB 364/SB 269) went to a House and Senate conference committee in the final days of the legislative session to iron out differences between bills approved by the two bodies. Although conferees completed their work with only hours left in the 2008 legislative session, the conference committee report did not make it back to the Senate or House in time for both bodies to accept the conference report, resulting in the demise of the legislation.

Annexation Bill Fails in Final Hours

HB 857, legislation to allow municipalities to annex lots located partially within municipal borders without going through the entire annexation process, died on the Senate floor on the final day of the 2008 legislative session. The legislation was special ordered repeatedly throughout the evening and, as a result, the bill was never voted on by the Senate.

Additional information may be found by accessing MML's website and choosing "legislative advocacy" - www.mdunicipal.org.

Dr. Clara L. Small

Worcester County, Maryland African-American History Project

(This project will focus primarily on the townships of Snow Hill, Pocomoke, Berlin and Ocean City, Maryland)

The Eastern Shore is possibly the site of the greatest source of untapped (unrecorded) history in the country. The most continuous records from Colonial times to the present exist here on the Shore, but the history of this region has virtually suffered from "benign neglect" by most historians. If historians broach the subject at all, it is usually in a negative manner. In addition, any analysis or discussion of Americans of African descent is usually relegated to a paragraph or is simply ignored. Unfortunately, that history is not recorded and its valuable resources and memories are in danger of being lost forever because many of the participants to this history have already died, or are dying on a daily basis. The goal is to preserve the past, to preserve local history, and to preserve memories through the eyes of local residents or their history, our history, will be lost forever.

Contrary to many beliefs, the Eastern Shore produced more than slaves, even though it was supposedly mild on slaves and slavery. It also produced some of the most famous abolitionists and conductors on the Underground Railroad; it produced one of the first African-American inventors; it produced the first Black Nationalists; it produced the first recorded instance of an African-American who owned a vast amount of land in Colonial America, as well as owned a slave; and numerous other firsts. There are many contemporary and former local, state and national figures whose roots are in this area, but unfortunately, most of their stories will never be told because they are not readily known or accessible to everyone and those stories are not being taught in schools. Oral histories will be very useful in this study because there are many members of the community who were very prominent and their memories of the changing complexities of the community will help to explain many events and incidents. There are also immigrants and migrants to the area whose stories of survival, courage and hope would be an inspiration to all people. The result of this study will be the identification of African-American landmarks and the outstanding contributions of African-Americans in each township.

"Not to know is bad. Not to want to know is worse. Not to hope is unthinkable. Not to care is unforgivable."

Nigerian Proverb

"A man without knowledge of himself and his heritage is like a tree without roots."

Dick Gregory

Project Budget Justification

I. Advertisement of Project	
Contact all forms of media, as well as all churches, organizations, Social groups, sororities, fraternities, fraternal organizations, etc.	\$ 600.00
II. Travel and Research at Depositories of African-American History and Culture	
A. National Archives at Washington, D. C.	
B. National Archives at College Park	
C. The Schomburg Library, New York City	
D. Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland	
E. Maryland Legal Law Library, Annapolis, Maryland	
F. The Edward Nabb Research Center, Salisbury Un., Salisbury, Maryland	
G. UMES, Frederick Douglass Library Special Collections, Princess Anne, Maryland	
H. The Mormons Collection	
I. The Freedmen's Bank Collection	
J. The Slave Narratives	
K. The Julia Purnell Museum Collection	
L. Local Historical Societies and Museums (Lodging, meals)	
	\$ 7,500.00
III. Research and Perusal of Printed Materials Pertaining to Worcester County and African-Americans in the County	
A. Books	
B. Articles	
C. Documents	
D. Oral Histories	
E. Microfilm	
(This will take approx. 8 or 9 months to a year)	\$15,000.00
IV. Oral History (To Interview Older Residents and Significant Personalities In Order to Learn of Their Heritage and Their Memories of Their Ancestors)	
A. Training Sessions for the persons who are to help with the interviews and to help identify those who need to be interviewed (4 Sessions at \$500.00 per session)	
	\$ 2,000.00
B. Tapes (400 to 500, 60 minute tapes to record the history)	\$ 600.00
C. Tape Recorders (approx. 10 @ 39.99)	\$ 400.00
D. Interviewing, Recording and Tapping of approx. 200 residents (Time, travel, meals, etc.)	\$ 3,500.00
E. Transcribing of Tapes (The rule of thumb is that it takes 6-12 hours to transcribe a one-hour tape. Each word and utterance must be transcribed as it is spoken.)	\$15,000.00
V. Writing the History	\$10,000.00
Total	\$54,600.00 ÷ 4 = 13,650