

Note: Meeting Appears
On Borough of Wildwood Crest Facebook page and You tube by date.

March 26, 2025

The Mayor led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The meeting of the Board of Commissioners, Borough of Wildwood Crest, Cape May County, New Jersey, was held at Borough Hall at 5:00 p.m. On roll call the following answered to their names:

Schiff - Franco – Cabrera - YES

Mr. Cabrera read the following statement: In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, the notice requirements have been satisfied as to the time, place and date of holding said meeting by posting notice on the bulletin board in the Borough Hall and by e-mailing and same to the Herald of Cape May County and The Press of Atlantic City on October 15, 2024.

Mr. Cabrera next announced the one-way in and the one-way out method of ingress and egress in case of emergency.

Mr. Franco motioned and Mr. Schiff seconded that Ordinance No. 1449 be passed on second reading and final passage by title only.

Vote: Schiff - Franco – Cabrera – YES

THE CLERK READS THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCE BY TITLE:

ORDINANCE NO. 1449

**ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF WILDWOOD CREST
AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING ARTICLE I OF CHAPTER 37
GARBAGE, RUBBISH, SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT OF THE CODE
OF THE BOROUGH OF WILDWOOD CREST REGULATING SECTION
4, CONTAINERS, RECEPTACLES, PLACEMENT FOR COLLECTION**

Mr. Franco motioned and Mr. Schiff seconded that a public hearing now be held on Ordinance No. 1449.

Vote: Schiff - Franco – Cabrera – YES

After hearing nothing from the public, Mr. Franco motioned and Mr. Schiff seconded that public hearing on Ordinance No. 1449 now be closed.

Vote: Schiff - Franco – Cabrera – YES

Mr. Franco motioned and Mr. Schiff seconded that Ordinance No. 1449 be passed on second and final reading and advertised according to law.

Vote: Schiff - Franco – Cabrera – YES

THE CLERK READS THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCE BY TITLE:

ORDINANCE NO. 1452

**ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF WILDWOOD CREST
AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH
OF WILDWOOD CREST ARTICLE I, UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION
CODE OF CHAPTER 22 AMENDING FEES FOR PERMITS**

Mr. Franco motioned and Mr. Cabrera seconded that Ordinance No. 1452 be passed on first reading, advertised according to law, be brought up for second and final reading and public hearing on April 9, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

Vote: Schiff - Franco – Cabrera – YES

The Board of Commissioners recognized and honored the Crest Memorial Boys Basketball Team for their outstanding season.

The team finished an undefeated season by winning the Optimist Tournament, the Island Tournament and the Scoop Taylor Tip-Off Classic, and won their division in the Atlantic Cape Junior High League. Bravo.

THE CLERK READS THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BY TITLE:

RESOLUTION NO. 25-107

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE BOROUGH OF WILDWOOD CREST AUTHORIZING THE CY 2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET BE READ BY TITLE ONLY AND THAT A PUBLIC HEARING BE HELD ON THE CY 2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-8 provides that the budget be read by title only at the time of the public hearing if a Resolution is passed by not less than a majority of the full membership of the governing body, providing that at least one week prior to the date of hearing a complete copy of the approved budget is advertised, has been posted on the bulletin board in Borough Hall, and copies have been made available by the Borough Clerk to persons requiring them on a daily basis thereafter, including the date and time of the actual public hearing held as a result thereof; and

WHEREAS, these required conditions have been satisfied.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Wildwood Crest, in the County of Cape May, State of New Jersey, that the municipal budget of the Borough of Wildwood Crest be read by title only.

Mr. Schiff motions, and Mr. Franco seconds that the foregoing resolution be adopted.

Vote: Schiff - Franco – Cabrera – YES

PUBLIC COMMENT ON RESOLUTION NO. 25-107:

Mike Garcia, Auditor from Ford Scott & Associates gave the governing body an overview that Wildwood Crest and they were below both state mandated caps: 532,000 below the 3.5% spending cap and 1.3 m below the 2% tax levy cap. The borough is also 76 m below state maximum debt rate and managing finances efficiently as evidence by the strong Moody's rating of AA2 and the recent Bond Sale – 3.167%. The borough will have a slight increase from last year by approximately \$9.00 per year for every \$100,000 assessed, or \$43.00 for the average assessed home which is \$450,000. There was an increase in spending (653,000): 418,000 in Salary/Wages predominantly from Collective Bargaining Agreements, Minimum wage requirements and lifeguard wages. In addition, both Health Insurance increased by \$170,000 and Pension increased by \$82,000 while debt service decreased by \$168,000. There was an increase in sewer payments (\$136,000) to the MUA but it was offset by sewer billings. All other increases not mentioned accounts for \$14,000 increase. There was a slight increase in the local tax.

Chris Hughes, inquired about beach maintenance and it was relayed that seasonal salaries are approximately \$50,000 and other maintenance such as portable toilets are approximately \$110,000 and lifeguard wages are approximately \$800,000.

The Mayor thanked our Auditor Mike Garcia, CFO Francine Springer and all department heads and fellow commissioners on the 2025 budget and noted the surplus was strong.

Chris Hughes, inquired about the average property value if condo or home determined the average assessment and Mr. Garcia indicated it is the average assessed value (\$9.00 on \$100,000; \$18.00 on \$200,000, etc.)

Commissioner Schiff indicated that the \$800,000 in lifeguard salaries is for approximately 110-111 employees.

Hearing nothing from the public, Mr. Schiff motions, and Mr. Franco seconds that the public hearing on the CY MUNICIPAL BUDGET now be closed.

Mr. Schiff motions, and Mr. Franco seconds that the foregoing resolution be adopted.

Vote: Schiff - Franco – Cabrera – YES

THE CLERK READS THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BY TITLE:

RESOLUTION NO. 25-108

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE BOROUGH OF WILDWOOD CREST AUTHORIZING ADOPTION OF THE CY2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET, INCLUSIVE OF \$17,441,245.72 FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES, BE ADOPTED

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Wildwood Crest, County of Cape May, New Jersey, that the budget herein set forth is hereby adopted and shall constitute an appropriation for the purposes stated of the sums therein set forth as appropriations, and authorizations of the below amount of \$17,441,245.72 for municipal purposes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the summary of revenues for inclusion in the 2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET are as follows:

GENERAL REVENUES	
Surplus Anticipated	\$ 4,700,000.00
Miscellaneous Revenues Anticipated	8,709,113.50
Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	310,000.00
AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES	<u>17,441,245.72</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	<u><u>\$31,160,359.22</u></u>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the summary of appropriations for inclusion in the 2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET be and the same are as follows:

GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS	
Within "CAPS"	
(a&b) Operations including Contingent	\$17,025,564.00
(e) Deferred Charges and Statutory Expenditure – Municipal	2,023,228.00
Excluded from "CAPS"	
(a) Operations - Total Operations Excluded from "CAPS"	5,272,501.58
(c) Capital Improvements	1,807,400.00
(d) Municipal Debt Service	4,162,500.00
(m) Reserved for Uncollected Taxes	<u>869,165.64</u>
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	<u><u>\$31,160,359.22</u></u>

Mr. Schiff motions, and Mr. Franco seconds that the foregoing resolution be adopted.
Vote: Schiff - Franco – Cabrera – YES

THE CLERK READS THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BY TITLE:
RESOLUTION NO. 25-109

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE BOROUGH OF WILDWOOD CREST CANCELING ERRONEOUS 2025 SEWER RENTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$124.00 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 7201 OCEAN AVENUE

WHEREAS, it has been determined by the Tax Collector of the Borough of Wildwood Crest, that a sewer account has been billed erroneous sewer rents for 2025; and

WHEREAS, sewer account 1386-2, at 7201 Ocean Avenue had no water meter installed for the year 2024, the sewer rents levied in 2025 should be canceled; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector of the Borough of Wildwood Crest has determined the said erroneous sewer rents should be canceled accordingly as indicated below.

Block / Lot Sewer ID#	Name	Amount
94.03/1 1386-2	Madison Wildwood Crest RE LLC 7201 Ocean Avenue 2025 Sewer Rents	\$124.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Wildwood Crest, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey, hereby authorize the Tax Collector of the Borough of Wildwood Crest to cancel said sewer amounts for 2025.

Mr. Schiff motions, and Mr. Franco seconds that the foregoing resolution be adopted.
Vote: Schiff - Franco – Cabrera – YES

THE CLERK READS THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BY TITLE:

**RESOLUTION NO. 25-110
RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE BOROUGH OF
WILDWOOD CREST AUTHORIZING ADVERTISEMENT OF A NOTICE TO BIDDERS
FOR 2025 ROAD RESURFACING PROGRAM**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Wildwood Crest, in the County of Cape May, New Jersey, that the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized to advertise a Notice to Bidders in *The Herald of Cape May County* on April 2, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the plan and design as set forth in the Specifications on file in the Borough for **2025 ROAD RESURFACING PROGRAM** is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED Sealed bids will be received by the Bid Opening Committee in the Commissioner's Meeting Room, Wildwood Crest Borough Hall, on **Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.**, prevailing time, for furnishing the items hereinafter set forth in accordance with the Specifications on file in the Borough Hall. Said items are as follows:

2025 ROAD RESURFACING PROGRAM

Mr. Schiff motions, and Mr. Franco seconds that the foregoing resolution be adopted.
Vote: Schiff - Franco – Cabrera – YES

THE CLERK READS THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BY TITLE:

**RESOLUTION NO. 25-111
RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE BOROUGH OF
WILDWOOD CREST AUTHORIZING AWARD PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
CONTRACT TO THE LOMAX GROUP FOR SPECIALIZED ENGINEERING AND
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING SERVICES IN CONJUNCTION WITH GREEN TEAM
COMMUNITY FORESTRY CONSULTATION SERVICES – PART II - AT THE NTE SUM
OF \$4,450**

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Wildwood Crest has determined that there exists the need for specialized engineering and environmental consultation services to be provided to the Borough of Wildwood Crest for the Community Forestry Consultation; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Clerk received a proposal from The Lomax Consulting Group dated November 25, 2024 and that proposal was forwarded to a review committee consisting of the Borough Administrator, Constance Mahon, Borough Clerk, Patricia Feketics, Chief Financial Officer, Francine Springer, and Borough Solicitor Ronald J. Gelzunas; and

WHEREAS, the Review Committee has reviewed the proposal submitted by The Lomax Consulting Group and based upon the review criteria, has recommended that the proposal of The Lomax Consulting Group best meets the Borough's needs and that The Lomax Consulting Group has the professional credentials and abilities to perform the services required of the subject contract; and

WHEREAS, under the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1, et. seq., the subject contract would be a contract for professional services because:

1. Professional services of the type herein sought are of such a nature as to require a high degree to trust and confidence in the individual providing the service and may require the creation of a confidential or fiduciary relationship between that individual and the Borough;
2. The services required are highly specialized or technical in nature;
3. The services require peculiar ability and skill, and demand a high degree of specialized knowledge or expertise;
4. The services are such that their relative worth must be judged by subjective considerations that are not susceptible of valuation by competitive bidding;
5. The individual or entity who will provide these services has demonstrated competence and particular expertise in the services required;
6. The individual or entity who will perform these services is held to and fully adheres to the strict ethical standards that govern the involved profession;
7. The services include advise to and consultation with the municipality that require both knowledge and judgment on the part of the individual or entity providing services, as well as the confidence of the municipal officials, such that competitive bidding is not feasible or practical;

8. The services to be provided are such that their nature, scope and duration are not capable of precise measurement, but rather require a flexibility and discretion that render competitive bidding impractical and inefficient; and

WHEREAS, this contract is awarded without competitive bidding in accordance with the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1, et. seq. as an authorized exception to the public bidding as a Professional Services Contract; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners of the Borough of Wildwood Crest concur with the Review Committee's recommendation to award the contract to The Lomax Consulting Group; and

WHEREAS, the CFO has certified the availability of funds as evidenced below by her signature:

Account Number(s) _____ Amount _____

Signature _____

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Wildwood Crest, in the County of Cape May, New Jersey, as follows:

1. The above recital paragraphs are incorporated herein as if set forth at length.
2. That the contract for the Environmental Consulting Services – for Green Team Community Forestry Consultation Services be awarded to The Lomax Consulting Group for Part II.
3. The award of this contract is contingent upon compliance with the New Jersey Pay to Play Law as set forth in N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1; production of the Business Entity Disclosure Certificate, Affirmative Action Compliance Notice, New Jersey Certificate of Employee Information Report, New Jersey Business Registration Certificate and proof of insurance as required in the contract and certification from the Chief Financial Officer as to the availability of funds.
4. That the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized and empowered to enter into a professional services contract effective immediately and not to extend beyond one (1) calendar year, with The Lomax Consulting Group, who shall be compensated pursuant to attached Proposal (TLCG FILE: 25-983.5) which is incorporated herein, at the billable rates set forth therein not to exceed \$4,450.00.
5. That a Notice of Award shall be published in *The Herald of Cape May County* as required by law within ten (10) days of passage of this Resolution, which notice shall state that this Resolution and the contract are on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Borough Clerk.

Mr. Schiff motions, and Mr. Franco seconds that the foregoing resolution be adopted.

Vote: Schiff - Franco – Cabrera – YES

THE CLERK READS THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BY TITLE:

RESOLUTION NO. 25-112

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE BOROUGH OF WILDWOOD CREST AUTHORIZING ADVERTISEMENT OF A NOTICE TO BIDDERS FOR LANDSCAPING SERVICES FOR HIGBEE AND MOREY FIELDS

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Wildwood Crest, in the County of Cape May, New Jersey, that the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized to advertise a Notice to Bidders in *The Herald of Cape May County* on April 2, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the plan and design as set forth in the Specifications on file in the Borough for **LANDSCAPING SERVICES FOR HIGBEE AND MOREY FIELDS** is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED Sealed bids will be received by the Bid Opening Committee in the Commissioner's Meeting Room, Wildwood Crest Borough Hall, on **Wednesday, APRIL 23 at 10:30 a.m.**, prevailing time, for furnishing the items hereinafter set forth in accordance with the Specifications on file in the Borough Hall. Said items are as follows:

**LANDSCAPING SERVICES
HIGBEE AND MOREY FIELDS**

Mr. Schiff motions, and Mr. Franco seconds that the foregoing resolution be adopted.

Vote: Schiff - Franco – Cabrera – YES

THE CLERK READS THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BY TITLE:

RESOLUTION NO. 25-113

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE BOROUGH OF WILDWOOD CREST AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A FY2026 COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF HEATHER ROAD BOARDWALK FISHING PIER

WHEREAS, the Office of Congressman Jeff Van Drew accepts applications for Federal Funding through the House Appropriations Committee; and

WHEREAS, this program is available to all counties and municipalities in the 2nd District of the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, subject to funding appropriation, the Community Project Funding Grant Program is established to address specific community infrastructure issues throughout the 2nd District of the State; and

WHEREAS, these projects are approved at the discretion of the House Appropriations Committee; and

WHEREAS, this grant program does require a local match; and the Borough agrees to match up to 35% of the project costs; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Wildwood Crest carefully considers grant programs that assist the Borough in achieving projects and programs that are priorities for the community; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Wildwood Crest wishes to apply for a FY2026 Community Project Funding Grant for the Reconstruction of Heather Road Boardwalk Fishing Pier Project; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough of Wildwood Crest formally approves a FY2026 Community Project Funding Grant application.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as FY2026 Community Project Funding Grant to the office of Congressman Jeff Van Drew on behalf of Wildwood Crest.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the Borough of Wildwood Crest and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

Mr. Schiff motions, and Mr. Franco seconds that the foregoing resolution be adopted.

Vote: Schiff - Franco – Cabrera – YES

BILLS: Mr. Franco motions, and Mr. Schiff seconded that all bills properly authorized, as submitted, be paid.

Vote: Schiff - Franco – Cabrera – YES

Report from Chief Lloyd:

Calls for Service: 1,050

Criminal Investigations: 18

Service Calls: 146

Traffic: 181

Arrests: 7

Chief Lloyd reminded all that April 1-30, 2025 is the U Drive, U Text, U Pay campaign sponsored by the NJ Highway Traffic Safety Department.

REPORTS: Mr. Franco motions, and Mr. Schiff seconded that all reports received from the Court Administrator, Chief Financial Officer, Tax Collector, Chief of Police, Supervisor of the Recreation Department, Construction Official, Fire Prevention, Emergency Services Coordinator for the EMS and the Wildwood Crest Volunteer Fire Company for the month ending February 28, 2025 be accepted as presented.

Vote: Schiff - Franco – Cabrera – YES

MINUTES: Mr. Franco motions, and Mr. Schiff seconded that all minutes from the regularly scheduled meetings dated February 19, 2025 and March 12, 2025 be approved as presented.

Vote: Schiff - Franco – Cabrera – YES

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Capital Projects

1. Bayside Bulkhead Replacement and Flood Mitigation Improvements
 - The contractor has completed all of the underground storm sewer system piping and has started on the replacement of the bulkheads starting at Primrose Road and working north. The contractor has completed the bulkhead installation at Primrose, Myrtle, Forget me Not, and Sweetbriar Road. Lotus Road bulkhead is scheduled to be installed next.
2. FY2023 NJDCA Small Cities Program-Municipal Building Bathroom Improvements
 - The bid opening occurred on October 30, 2024, and the lowest responsible bidder was Capri Construction Company in the amount of \$270,549.00.
 - A preconstruction meeting was held on November 14, 2024, and the contractor has started work. The rough plumbing, electrical work and tile installation are complete, and the contractor is currently working on the plumbing fixtures.
3. FY 2024 NJDOT Municipal Aid Program-Reconstruction of Toledo Avenue
 - The bid opening occurred on October 30, 2024, and the apparent low bidder was Asphalt Paving Systems, Inc in the amount of \$2,174,400.00.
 - A preconstruction meeting was held on December 11, 2024 and the contractor has started work. The contractor has completed the installation of the sanitary sewer system and water services. The contractor is currently working on the replacement of the concrete.
4. 2025 Road Resurfacing Program
 - The project is scheduled to be advertised for public bid on April 2, 2025 and the bid opening is scheduled for April 23, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Grant Applications

1. FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance (BRIC) & (HMA)
 - The Borough is proposing to submit to FEMA BRIC for two (2) bayside storm sewer pump stations and associated storm sewer improvements in the northwest section of the Borough.
 - The Borough is proposing to submit to FEMA HMA for the Washington Avenue storm sewer improvements as outlined in the recently completed study.
 - Both grant applications have secured initial selection from FEMA.
 - Additional information was provided to NJOEM on November 14th.
2. FY 2024 NJDCA Boardwalk Preservation Fund
 - The Borough has selected to submit the Reconstruction of the Heather Road fishing pier.
 - The grant application requests \$3,600,000.00 for the replacement and extension of the fishing pier including ADA accessible walkways, fishing nodes and pavilion.
 - The Borough was notified by NJDCA that a \$1,087,425.00 grant was allocated for the project.
3. Federal Funding Grant Opportunity-Congressman Van Drew – FY2024
 - Our office has been in contact with Congressman Jeff Van Drew's office to discuss federal funding opportunities for Borough capital projects.
 - On December 28, 2023, our office submitted a funding request for bayside flood mitigation improvements.
 - On March 12th, our office and the Borough met with representatives of Congressman Van Drew's office and were informed that the project was selected for special funding consideration.
4. FY2025 NJDOT Municipal Aid Program
 - The NJDOT is accepting grant applications for Bikeway, Pedestrian and Roadway Improvement Projects. The application deadline is July 1, 2024.
 - Our office has been authorized by the Borough to submit the Reconstruction of Stockton Road as the grant application.
 - The grant application was submitted on May 28, 2024.
 - The Borough was notified that a \$158,190.00 grant was allocated for this project.
5. FY2024 NJDCA Small Cities Program – Crest Pier Bathroom Improvements
 - The Borough was notified that a \$400,000.00 grant was allocated by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for Crest Pier ADA Bathroom Improvements.
6. NJ IBank (NJIB) – Sanitary Sewer and Roadway Improvements
 - The NJIB advised the Borough that approximately \$3,000,000.00 in grant forgiveness is available along with grant funding for engineering services.

- The application is currently in progress and Steps 1, 2 and 3 have been completed. We are currently working on completing Step 4.
- Design plans and specifications have been completed and uploaded to the NJIB portal on March 21, 2025.

7. Federal Funding Grant Opportunity – Congressman Van Drew – FY2025

- Our office has been in contact with Congressman Jeff Van Drew’s office to discuss federal funding opportunities for Borough capital projects.
- On March 13, 2025, our office submitted a funding request for Crest Fishing Pier Reconstruction.

Commissioner Schiff indicated that the bulkhead project is coming along nicely and looks great.

Mayor Cabrera added that the I Bank 3 million grant will be for Bayview Drive and some side streets. We can apply for I Bank in 2026 and that will be earmarked for Park Boulevard.

On a side note, the mayor asked the CFO to get the figures for how much money was obtained through all of the grants we have received.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Moved Presentation for Boys CMS Basketball Team to the beginning of the meeting.

DISCUSSION:

NEW BUSINESS: N/A

OLD BUSINESS: No movement on any topic below.

-Bicycle safety – bike path: The Commissioner of Public Safety indicated will have some directional signage along the bike path pre-season.

-250th birthday committee- Volunteers are still being solicited.

-WC Municipal App- A zoom meeting was held and we are currently reviewing quotes.

-Historical museum - 2025 – On hold.

-Concession agreement hotel zone / beach chairs – On hold.

-Traffic Calming – Nothing from the county so far, but the borough will address in the I Bank Bond Ordinance.

-Back Beach Excavation: Under the current beach maintenance IP, the back beach grading /excavation can be done in house. The Engineer indicated that he needed to survey the beach and stake out the area.

-Dredging: The DOT is still in the acquisition phase.

-NJ Avenue infrastructure pre-county: Borough needs to do infrastructure work prior to the county starting in 2026 and we introduced a bond ordinance today so we can begin construction after the summer.

-Washington / Seaview – beach outfalls and capacity: Waiting on info on FEMA grant and funding and word from Congressman Jeff Van Drew.

-US ACE / NJ DEP Dune: The Mayor summarized where the borough currently sits with the project. The borough received a letter from the DEP dated March 11, 2025 regarding the dune project and that they have a firm deadline to hear back from the borough on March 18, 2025. The mayor noted the letter was available at the clerk’s office; he also indicated that he asked the engineer to use drone video footage to depict the proposed changes so the public could visualize the potential changes to the beach. The video was played and the mayor commented on it and thanked the engineer for putting together a great video.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (Five minutes maximum)

***Joyce Gould** read a correspondence from a former Clerk/ Administrator into the record.

“Dear Governing Body:

I have noted in several recent newspaper articles of the Borough's intention to pull out of the Five Mile Dune Management/Beach Maintenance Plan, administered cooperatively by the US Army Corps of Engineers and NJ Department of Environmental Protection. Once that decision becomes official and binding, I trust you will have already commissioned your environmental engineers to have a comprehensive plan ready for your adoption. Such "stand alone" plan must fully address the myriad of all current and future beach maintenance, dune management, and flooding problems the Borough will be required to remedy alone as your fellow island communities, the federal government and state will no longer partner with you in any environmental matters of this nature.

That being said, and if no final action has been taken in this regard, I would point out the major pitfalls of your potential withdrawal as follows:

1. The continuing accretion of the beach renders your clearing of outfalls virtually impossible which, in and of itself, will create a host of flooding problems that must be abated;

2. No longer partnering with the Federal Government (US Army Corps of Engineers) and the State (NJDEP) for beach protection or having a plan both agencies will endorse and sign off on will jeopardize not only our flood insurance community rating system reduction but (potentially) the Borough's actual continued participation in the National Flood Insurance Program...along with all properties situated therein.

3. You will have guaranteed that the US Army Corps of Engineers and NJ Department of Environmental Protection will be providing absolutely no assistance, be it financial or advisory, for any future beach, storm or related environmental issues that may arise.

4. You will be exposing the Borough to many potential private property owner lawsuits if flood insurance is no longer available because we have no approved dune management, beach maintenance, flood protection system in place and operational.

I respectfully request a detailed response to each of the issues I have raised herein above along with a copy of your detailed alternative plan to that which the federal and state governments would have otherwise provided.”

Kevin M. Yecco
Wildwood Crest, NJ 08260

***Chris Hughes** disagreed with the previous speaker. He questioned why you would shorten two beaches to make another one longer and then applauded the efforts of the governing body.

***Mayor Cabrera** wanted to quickly address this, but the matter is in litigation. The borough has not withdrawn from the project and the goal is to get back to the table for options to address public safety issues and ADA concerns. He noted that flood insurance rates will not be affected and the project is still on the table and they all want further discussions. He confirmed the project is approximately 53 million and it is a 50 year project.

***Dave Thompson** asked for an update on New Jersey Avenue and the mayor indicated the county will be starting in the Spring of 2026; we just adopted the budget and now the infrastructure the borough needs to do can now begin this fall; the borough’s planner and the county’s planner are coordinating on the project.

There was no one to comment on the conference line.

Commissioner Comments: NONE

THE CLERK READS THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BY TITLE:

RESOLUTION NO. 25-114

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE BOROUGH OF WILDWOOD CREST AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE/CLOSED SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT, SPECIFICALLY N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(B)

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et. seq.) requires all meetings of the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Wildwood Crest to be held in public, except that N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) sets forth nine (9) types of matters that may lawfully be discussed in “Executive or Closed Session,” i.e., without the public being permitted to attend; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Wildwood Crest has determined that three (3) issue(s) is/are permitted by N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) to be discussed without the public in attendance to be discussed during the Executive or Closed Session to be held on **Wednesday, March 25, 2025 at 5:00 P.M.**; and

WHEREAS, the nine (9) exceptions to public meetings set forth in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) are listed below, and next to each exception is a box within which the number of issues to be privately discussed that fall within that exception shall be written, and after each exception is a space where additional information that will disclose as much information about the discussion as possible without undermining the purpose of the exception shall be written:

_____ **“(1) Any matter which, by express provision of Federal law, State statute or rule of court shall be rendered confidential or excluded from public discussion.”** The legal citation to the provision(s) at issue is: _____ and the nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is _____

_____ **“(2) Any matter in which the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the state or federal government.”** The nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is _____

_____ **“(3) Any material the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy such as any records, data, reports, recommendations, or other personal material of any educational, training, social service, medical, health, custodial, child protection, rehabilitation, legal defense, welfare, housing, relocation, insurance and similar program or institution operated by a public body pertaining to any specific individual admitted to or served by such institution or program, including but not limited to information relative to the individual’s personal and family circumstances, and any material pertaining to**

admission, discharge, treatment, progress or condition of any individual, unless the individual concerned (or, in the case of a minor or incompetent, his guardian) shall request in writing that the same be disclosed publicly.” The nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is _____

_____ “(4) Any collective bargaining agreement, or the terms and conditions of which are proposed for inclusion in any collective bargaining agreement, including the negotiation of terms and conditions with employees or representatives of employees of the public body.” The collective bargaining contract(s) discussed are between the Borough and _____

_____ “(5) Any matter involving the purchase, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of bank rates or investment of public funds where it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of such matters were disclosed.” The nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is _____

_____ “(6) Any tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public provided that their disclosure could impair such protection. Any investigations of violations or possible violations of the law.” The nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is _____.

_____ x _____ “(7) Any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation in which the public body is or may become a party. Any matters falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is required in order for the attorney to exercise his ethical duties as a lawyer.” The parties to and docket numbers of each item of litigation and/or the parties to each contract discussed and the nature of the discussion, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is potential contract negotiations and more specifically is potential litigation for dune project.

_____ x _____ “(8) Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions or employment, evaluation of the performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the public body, unless all individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request, in writing, that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting.” Subject to the balancing of the public’s interest and the employee’s privacy rights under *South Jersey Publishing Co. v. New Jersey Expressway Authority*, 124 N.J. 478, the employee(s) and nature of the discussion, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is the Borough administrator position.

_____ “(9) Any deliberation of a public body occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of a specific civil penalty upon the responding party or the suspension or loss of a license or permit belonging to the responding party as a result of an act or omission for which the responding party bears responsibility.” The nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is _____

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners shall reconvene the public meeting at the conclusion of the authorized closed or executive session, which may or may not include formal action as a result of the discussion(s) held.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Wildwood Crest, assembled in public session on the date of the meeting of the governing body set forth herein above, that a closed session shall be held for the discussion of matters relating to the specific items designated above involving the Borough of Wildwood Crest. The governing body shall convene a closed session discussion immediately upon passage of this resolution and it is anticipated that the deliberations conducted in closed session shall be disclosed to the public upon conclusion of the matter and/or after determination of the Board of Commissioners that the public interest will no longer be served by such confidentiality and that the meeting will return to open session at the conclusion of the discussion and formal action may be taken if/as authorized.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipal Clerk, at the present public meeting, shall read aloud enough of this resolution so that members of the public in attendance can understand, as precisely as possible, the nature of the matters that will be privately discussed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipal Clerk, on the next business day following this meeting, shall furnish a copy of this resolution to any member of the public who requests one at the fees authorized by N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1, et. seq.

Mr. Schiff motions, and Mr. Franco seconds that the foregoing resolution be adopted.

Vote: Schiff - Franco – Cabrera – YES

The time was 5:42 p.m. and the meeting adjourned for a few minutes to go into Closed Session.

After returning to Open Session and there being no one present, Mr. Schiff motioned and Mr. Franco seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The time was 7:05 pm.

Dated: April 30, 2025

Patricia A. Feketics, Borough Clerk

