

Atlantic City Council met for a work session in the Council Chambers at City Hall with Mayor Garrett presiding. Council members present were: Otte (at-large), Kennedy (Ward 1), Behrens (Ward 2), McDermott (Ward 3), Sarsfield (Ward 4), Halder (Ward 5), and Brink (at-large). Absent: None. Also present: City Administrator John Lund.

Motion by Sarsfield; second by Halder to approve agenda as posted. All ayes. Motion carried.

Report on Issues Encountered During Listening Sessions.

First Ward: Several local businesspeople spoke. Their main concern was the deterioration of the road surface on State Street and Commerce Road. One section, between Murphy Construction and Richter Towing, was supposed to be repaired by the previous owner but it seems that work was never completed. The property owner would need to sign off for the City to take over the land and apply for a grant from DNR to fix the road. City Engineer Dave Sturm has previously estimated repairs on that road to the campground (and possibly including along Iowa Ave next to Schildberg) would cost \$800K-\$1.2M. It could possibly be added to other street projects.

In addition, some have noticed that it's very dark near the campground. Sturm had suggested preparing the area for a bike path to go there. There was discussion about whether the County could pay for some of it.

Second Ward: Residents asked about the downtown trees and also suggested adding water mains downtown when the streets are torn up for other projects.

Third Ward: Topics covered included housing; hosting a city-wide clean up in the spring; identifying a central location for food trucks to park. The City Council should participate in the aquatics committee planning. There was a question about Palm Street between 22nd and 29th; it is not wide enough for the increased traffic. People are also concerned about speed limits on 22nd and 29th from Chestnut to Route 6. A resident suggested that the City provide trash pickup as a city service.

Fourth Ward: Trees, sidewalks, and a city clean-up day were all topics at the Fourth Ward as well.

Fifth Ward: There was a lot of discussion about Parks and Recreation. Someone wants the City to sponsor a program to plant more trees to replace all the dead ones. Council discussed rules about people planting trees or putting permanent structures in the Right Of Ways.

This led to discussion about long-term on-street parking and residential areas where many vehicles are left for a long time.

At-Large (Brink): City-wide cleanup is a big request from constituents. People are concerned about too much unsightly clutter and garbage. The Mayor said that a city-wide cleanup is often a good kickstart to all kinds of nuisance abatement but it's important that the labor be provided by citizens not city staff. Behrens volunteered to work on this issue.

At-Large (Otte): The Council appreciates people who spoke. The Council is willing to hold more listening sessions and try different formats.

Discussion and Consensus on Issues from the Listening Sessions.

The #1 issue is the city-wide clean up. The #2 issue is paving on Commerce Street. #3 is campground-area lighting. Kennedy volunteered to speak to AMU about the last issue.

Downtown trees and sidewalks are already being worked on by City staff. Housing policy will be worked on at the January workshop. The aquatics committee already has some movement.

The Council discussed the city cemetery, clarifying that it is neither owned nor run by the City.

The budgeting schedule for FY26 is as follows: January-February will focus on funding priorities and estimating costs. In March the pieces are put together to be finalized in April. LOST income has been stagnant for several years between \$1.3M-\$1.4M. The Council's budget workshop will be held on January 29, 5:00 pm. The Council will consider scheduling a City clean up as part of budgeting discussions.

Motion by Sarsfield, second by Halder to adjourn at 7:41 pm. All ayes. Motion carried.

Grace N. Garrett, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Laura McLean, City Clerk