

Lear, Hendricks say goodbye

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the ways that are uplifting and satisfying for our neighbors, visitors, Coas-

ties, businesses and community organizations.”

Hendricks said she would continue to safeguard and promote Cape

May’s resiliency and sustainability and understanding and honoring the city’s historical legacy and environmental stew-

ardship.

“Among the accomplishments I remember from the last four years is the establishment of the advisory committees, the tireless dedication of their members and their innovative proposals to solve community issues,” she said.

The Beach Safety Advisory Committee improved the city’s beach management options and practices, Hendricks said.

She said the Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee distributed pedestrian safety brochures, bicycle lights and developed and distributed a Cape Island bike route map working with West Cape May and Cape May Point, and promoted new signage and street markings compatible with the bike map.

The Parking Advisory Committee sought to understand the city’s persistent parking issues and studied new approaches to resolve challenges, Hendricks said.

The committee came up with new parking space rates, alternate traffic flow, free parking and a jitney service, she said.

“I encourage the new administration to build on these successes,” Hendricks said. “All of these innovations — beach safety, bikes, improved parking solutions — they didn’t come from high-priced consulting firms, they came from our neighbors who volunteered their time, their energy and their ideas to improve local conditions and solve local problems.”

Lear said it was a huge

honor and privilege to serve the city as mayor for the past four years.

He said council was aided immeasurably by commissions, advisory committees, year-round residents and seasonal homeowners that are vital to the city’s growth and success.

“We may not always agree on what to do and how to do it, but we share respect and a passion for this city that transcends politics and I hope we have the good grace to keep it that way no matter how we serve the city,” Lear said.

Accomplishments of the outgoing council included the adoption and implementation of an effective outdoor seating policy for restaurants, cost-neutral establishment of the Fire Prevention Bureau, establishment of town hall meetings and award of a nearly \$3.5 million grant from the state for the rehabilitation of the Franklin Street School to a library branch, he said.

“Let’s remember the quick and effective response to the coronavirus pandemic led by the City Manager’s Task Force that helped our businesses remain viable at the height of the summer season and offered essential ways for community members and visitors to practice safety protocols,” Lear said.

He acknowledged Inderwies for doing an exemplary job of leading Cape May through the pandemic while carrying out the city’s day-to-day business.

Lear said he could always count on Hendricks

‘Someone giving 41 years of their life to the city, mostly in a full-time capacity, is impressive and can’t go unnoticed. Thank you, Mr. Lear, as a taxpayer and lifelong resident, for giving us your time, effort and most of your adult life to the city of Cape May.’

—City Manager Jerry Inderwies

and Meier’s participation, ideas and their willingness to meet new challenges and to explore new opportunities.

“I’ll miss our serious conversations and their good humor,” he said.

“I extend my deep appreciation to the countless number of volunteers who lead and serve on our standing commissions and our invaluable advisory committees,” Lear continued. “They are simply the best and the brightest in the interest of our city.”

He said while he knew he wanted to serve Cape May as a member of the police department, it never occurred to him that he would one day serve as mayor. Lear said he enjoyed every part of serving as mayor.

“I wish the new City Council well and offer my willingness to assist them in any way that advances this city that we cherish,” he said.

Lower OKs Erma sewer bonds

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Lower Township Council approved the Lower Township Municipal Utilities Authority (MUA) issuing \$18 million in project notes to finance installation of a vacuum sanitary sewer collection system in Erma in areas that are within the existing county Water Quality Management Plan.

The project would include the installation of more than 44,000 linear feet of vacuum sewer

mains and laterals, two vacuum sewer pump stations and all work and ancillary costs to provide sewer service for about 850 new customers.

According to the resolution, the MUA will finance the project with a loan from the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank and the state Department of Environmental Protection. The MUA anticipates being released from the project note by using proceeds from the bonds, unspent project note proceeds, connection fees and other

MUA revenue.

In March, MUA Board of Directors Chairman Brian O’Connor said estimates were received for three types of sewer service. The price tag to outfit Erma with standard gravity sewer was more than \$30 million, which would have forced a rate increase, he said. O’Connor said the MUA looked at pressure treatment and vacuum sewer.

“Vacuum sewer seems to be the most reasonable way to sewer this entire area and the cost of it is half, \$15 million,” he said.

O’Connor said MUA Executive Director Mike Chapman determined Erma could be sewered with a vacuum system.

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