

THE PRESS OF ATLANTIC CITY

WILDWOOD

City: don't feed coyotes

MICHAEL BAUTISTA
Staff Writer

WILDWOOD — Coyotes are becoming an increasingly common sight near homes, and city officials say some residents are unknowingly ringing the dinner bell.

Officials shared an update during Wednesday's Board of Commissioners meeting regarding an issue that residents have become increasingly concerned about — the growing number of coyote sightings in their community.

Residents have reported coyote sightings running around homes on the 300 block of Susquehanna Avenue in the city's back bay neighborhood or the nearby former landfill.

Officials now say the animals aren't just following instinct — they're following an easy meal.

"At this point, what we're finding is that people are feeding the coyotes. They're keeping them, you know?" said Deputy Mayor Steve Milkulski.

In response, the city put up 16 new signs telling residents and the curious in that neighborhood to refrain from feeding wildlife.

The measures follow concerns raised during the June 10 meeting, when residents said the coyotes appeared unfazed by nearby people and heavy equipment work at the former landfill. Since then, the animals have become a neighborhood attraction.

"For the last couple of days now we've had wildlife photographers waiting to get pictures of the coyotes in the lot across the street from us," said Jim Murphy, a Susquehanna Avenue resident at the June 24th meeting.

During the last meeting, Mayor Troiano said that the city has documented an alpha male, a female and their four pups living near the former landfill.

"You can go back there right now and see them. I got video of the alpha male, female and four pups running and playing around the top of the hole," Troiano said.

While some residents have called for the coyotes to be removed, the city's

Please see **COYOTES**, Page A3

EGG HARBOR CITY

Data center study OK'd

W.F. KEOUGH
Staff Writer

EGG HARBOR CITY — The city is asking its Land Use Board to study whether large-scale data centers and similar facilities are compatible with the city's master plan, a step officials say is intended to strengthen the city's legal position should such a proposal ever emerge.

Council unanimously approved a resolution on July 16 authorizing the study of data centers, server farms, hyperscale facilities or other massive computer infrastructures needed for cloud computing and AI.

City Attorney Chris Orlando said the action is a proactive response to growing interest in data center development nationwide, even though officials do not expect such a project to be proposed in Egg Harbor City.

"It's a hot topic," Orlando said, explaining that the study would determine whether the facilities are consistent with the city's master plan.

If the Land Use Board concludes they are not, he said, the findings could provide stronger legal support for denying a future application.

During the public comment period, resident Michelle Madison asked what prompted the study and whether any developer, broker, utility company or state agency had approached the city about a potential data center project.

City officials said there was no active interest in the city as a possible site.

Council President Joseph Kuehner said officials do not believe Egg Harbor City is a likely location for such a development because of its physical constraints.

"We don't believe that we would get an application for this because we don't have the property or the land mass to cover it," Kuehner said. "We're doing our due diligence ... but we don't expect any kind of" proposal.

Madison also asked whether the study would examine issues such as electrical demand, water consumption, energy use, emergency service impacts, traffic, noise and long-term tax implications. Officials said those subjects would generally be part of the Land Use Board's review.

Please see **DATA**, Page A3

TALKING NUMBERS



MATTHEW STRABUK, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

MGM Resorts International is looking to develop a parcel of land between Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa and Harrah's Resort Atlantic City.

Atlantic City clears way for MGM housing tax negotiations

WAYNE PARRY
Staff Writer

ATLANTIC CITY — City Council on Wednesday authorized the negotiation of a long-term tax exemption with MGM Resorts International to help it build as many as 1,800 new market-rate housing units on vacant land it owns near Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa.

Council voted to begin negotiating a financial agreement with Mac Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of MGM Resorts International, which owns Borgata, the MGM Tower and an expanse of vacant land between Borgata and Harrah's Resort Atlantic City.

The move follows an announcement earlier this month by Mayor Marty Small Sr. of MGM's interest in developing the 70-acre site, which had long been eyed for additional casino development.

Small made the claim after meeting with MGM officials at City Hall.

MGM has not publicly discussed the land recently, and has not responded to numerous messages seeking comment, including one this week.

The resolution passed by council only authorizes the city to begin negotiations with MGM; it does not specify a proposed tax break, or even set parameters for one.

But it does say the project is not "financially feasible" without such a tax break due to the high cost of development in Atlantic City.

"Everybody comes here looking for a tax break," said Council President Aaron "Sporty" Randolph.

"I think that's unfortunate," he said. "I like when you come here with your money and build your own project"

The land has long been the subject of speculation due to its size, value and strategic location between two profitable casinos in the city's Marina District.

In 2007, it was envisioned by MGM as the site of a \$5 billion mega-casino with three hotel towers that would have been among the most expensive gambling resorts ever built. But the project never got off the ground amid a severe economic slump that, within a few years, led to the closure of five Atlantic City casinos.

Please see **MGM**, Page A3

AC park renamed for Peoples

WAYNE PARRY
Staff Writer

ATLANTIC CITY — Dreams of offshore wind power blew away with the demise of an ambitious project by Danish company Orsted.

But some of the land they once owned in Atlantic City has become a public park, named in honor of a beloved octogenarian and community leader whose love for her Bungalow Park neighborhood is well-known in the area.

The City Council on Wednesday renamed the former Orsted Park as Peoples Park, in honor of Delores Peoples.

The 83-year-old is a veteran of the Bungalow Park Civic Association, attending every meeting, and is a mainstay in her community.

"She is our matriarch, she is our confidante," said Michelle England, president of the civic association. "She's been part of Bungalow Park for over 60 years. When Orsted turned the park over to the city, we wanted to name it after her. We are grateful we are able to give this to her and celebrate this with her."



Peoples

Please see **PARK**, Page A3