

**EASTPORT CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 24th, 2017
SHEAD HIGH SCHOOL - LIBRARY - 6:00 P.M.**

PUBLIC HEARING

**(SUBMISSION of PROPOSAL/PLAN to INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE
for a SPECIAL HUNT of ANTERLESS DEER)**

City Officials Present: Councilor Scott Emery, Councilor Shannon Emery, Councilor Mary Repole, and Council President, Gilbert Murphy. Also present were the City Manager, Elaine Abbott, and the City Clerk, Ella Kowal. **Absent:** Councilor Hailley Bradbury.

Public Attendance: Chris Bartlett, Connie Knight, Bob Bean, Sarah Daralis, David Daralis, Walter Cummings, Lora Whelan, Dana Turner, Chester Jenkins, and Herbie Pulk,

I. CALL to ORDER

The Council President, Gilbert Murphy, called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

He explains the purpose of the public hearing and that it is for the submission of a proposal to Inland Fisheries & Wildlife for a Special Hunt of Anterless Deer and that the Chair, Chris Bartlett and the Eastport Deer Committee members are present to answer any questions.

**II. PUBLIC HEARING for SUBMISSION of PROPOSAL/PLAN to
*INLAND FISHERIES and WILDLIFE for a SPECIAL HUNT of
ANTERLESS DEER***

Council President opens the floor for the public hearing on "*Submission of Proposal/ Plan to Inland Fisheries & Wildlife for a Special Hunt of Anterless Deer* at 6:05 p.m.

Chris Bartlett, Chair of the Deer Committee, addresses the Council and recognizes the Eastport Deer Committee members as Robert Bean, Walter Cummings, Scott Emery, Chester Jenkins, Dale Maddocks, and Dana Turner. He informs also that there are copies of the proposal available up front at the table for anyone who may be interested. He further notes that they have been meeting with the regional wildlife biologist, Tom Schaefer, since March and weekly thereafter until the proposal was written. He continues to say that it was

written as a request to IF&W because if it were to be approved by the City Council the next step would be for it to go for rule making to the Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife which is a 90-day process where their Advisory Council considers the application and Council may revise it and that they may suggest revisions as well. He further comments to say that a special hunt was held last year which was implemented after it was approved by both the Council and Inland Fisheries & Wildlife. That hunt issued 30 permits (one tag per permit). He continues to say that it resulted in 11 doe deer being harvested with no major complaints but two minor complaints. He speaks that what they wanted to do last year was to create a special hunt that would reduce the number of complaints that they were receiving during the regular hunting season and hunting is from ground blind or tree stand only as well as being in permitted areas only. He continues to explain that the major changes made to this proposal for the 2017 hunt was to increase the number of tags that would be issued. He explains there would still be 30 permits which would be equivalent to 30 hunters that are granted permission during the special hunt and each hunter would receive one tag and there would be an additional 60 tags held by the City administration to be doled out to successful hunters if they requested it. He further explains that if a hunter registers an antlerless deer at the tagging station, they may request another tag and they may do so until those 60 tags are used up. He speaks to another proposed change in that they would request that the hunt be scheduled as early as possible after the regular season. He continues to say that a special hunt cannot be scheduled during the regular hunting seasons because of conflicts with other hunters as a Warden would not know if a hunter was part of the special hunt versus the regular hunting season. The date could be as early as November 27th which is what they are proposing. Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is currently investigating this option.

He updates that a law was recently passed whereby crossbows are now included for people over 65 and that they can hunt during muzzle loading season which is the last week of November. It may be that we would be allowed to have the special hunt in conjunction with the muzzle loading season this year. He continues to say another component to this year which is a bit different from last year is that "*hunters for the hungry*" is a State program that will pay for the processing of deer into venison and they are graciously offering us a refrigeration truck to be parked at the tagging station and paying for all processing fees at Clayton Blakes in Alexander. The deer committee feels that this is a vital component to the hunt. He updates that last year each hunter got one deer and no one offered up or donated their deer to be used for the food pantries. This year a hunter can take multiple deer if they so choose. The intent is for the deer to not go to waste but that we do want to reduce the population a bit/ He continues to say that they feel that the "*hunters for the hungry*" program strengthens their proposal and will put the venison back into the community. It would be processed at Clayton Blakes and brought back to the Garrapy Food pantry or to other local pantries in Washington county such as Pleasant Point or Calais, etc.

Mr. Barlett offers up a question period from the audience or Council members to him or the deer committee members. David Daralis asks about the proficiency test that was discussed last year and asks the reason that it was not enacted. Mr. Barlett explains that it was debated at a few meetings. Deer Committee member, Chester Jenkins, explains

that it is not a criteria for a regular hunting license. Mr. Bartlett updates that the Advisory Council with Inland Fisheries and Wildlife was not in favor of the proficiency test for that reason. Mr. Daralis comments to say that his concern is that the deer are taken in the most human way and that they do not suffer. He also notes that people are feeding the deer which make them tame. Councilor Scott Emery comments to say that a lot of the hunters are not proficient and that a majority of those would not be able to pass the test.

Christ Bartlett explains the reason that the State Biologist, Tom Schafer, would not be here is that he had another engagement that required his attendance. Mr. Bartlett addresses the Deer Committee about additional safety training for archery. He believes one was proposed but is unsure if it is implemented for this year. Deer Committee member, Walter Cummings, responds that the only requirement is a two-day course with a written test.

Sarah Daralis asks who should be contacted should they see a deer walking around with an arrow in it. Mr. Bartlett responds that they can contact the Eastport Police Department and if they are unable to tend to it then they would contact the Warden and Inland Fisheries and Wildlife as they all have a line of communication and would be able to assist with the wounded animal.

Mr. Bartlett reminds everyone that archery season starts in October but that special hunt being proposal would be the latter part of November and that there would be other archers in touch that would not have the same restrictions as imposed with the special hunt.

Lora Whelan from the audience asks if the resident vs. non-resident poses any change. Mr. Bartlett responds it has changed slightly in that in 2016 they wrote it to engage property owners to participate in the hunt or to allow them to give permission to utilize the property for the special hunt. Last year it allowed for the residents, their immediate family, and the property owners. The numbers for last year was 22 residents and 8 non-residents. He speaks that it made more sense to increase the numbers to hopefully increase the number of properties successful for hunting

Sarah Daralis asks a question with regard to boundaries and if the airport is one of those. Mr. Bartlett responds that hunting is only permissible by private or public land owners with written permission. He further explains for the City that the land out by the airport would be part of the property and the Port Authority also has public properties. A list is maintained of the property owners that allow hunting. He also updates that should a hunter not have a specified location, the Deer Committee works with them to offer up those locations that are permissible. Private properties are outside of the congested residential area.

David Daralis asks if marksmen were considered to take the deer. Deer Committee member, Chester Jenkins, responds that it was taken into consideration but that it is very costly and he also comments to say that it is one of the last resorts that IF&W will consider. Bob Bean, Deer Committee member, also notes that the Advisory Committee's orientation is for recreational hunting. Mr. Bean also updates that the marksmen would need to go through the State and meet special criteria.

Councilor Repole asks if there will be a map this year. Mr. Bartlett responded yes there will be and that there would be specific requirements to each location as well as restrictions to the hunter.

Council President, Gilbert Murphy, calls for further questions; there were none.

MOTION REPOLE **SECOND** EMERY **(PASSED 4-0)**
To close the public hearing at 6:19 p.m.

III. ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING

***Referencing Item II - Submission of Proposal/Plan to Inland Fisheries & Wildlife
for a Special Hunt of Antlerless Deer***

MOTION REPOLE **SECOND** SHANNON EMERY **(PASSED 4-0)**
To accept the proposal and approve moving forward with the submission of the proposal/plan for a Special Hunt of Antlerless Deer for 2017 as presented by the Eastport Deer Committee to Inland Fisheries & Wildlife.

IV. ADJOURN

MOTION REPOLE **SECOND** SCOTT EMERY **(PASSED 4-0)** **TIME: 6:21 p.m.**
To adjourn.