



TOWN OF OCEAN CITY

The White Marlin Capital of the World

Agenda Item # 8.B

Council Meeting June 17, 2024

TO: The Honorable Mayor, Council President and Members of Council
THRU: Terence J McGean, PE, City Manager
FROM: Diana Chavis, MMC, City Clerk
RE: Second Reading - Ordinance 2024-12, Commercial Use and Occupancy of Houseboats
DATE: June 10, 2024

ISSUE(S): Second Reading - Ordinance 2024-12 amends Chapter 14, entitled Businesses, adding Article XI entitled Houseboats and prohibiting commercial use of houseboats within the Town of Ocean City.

SUMMARY: As previously reported, Sea Rocket OC Houseboats, LLC, "Sea Rocket Houseboats" intends to rent floating structures in the Town of Ocean City for habitation. The implied location is Dorchester Street within the Downtown Marine District and one houseboat has been placed at that location.

At the May 6, 2024, Regular Meeting, the Mayor and Council noted two concerns regarding houseboats: 1) the preservation of marinas for marine-related, recreational activity as supported by the Comprehensive Plan; and 2) the proliferation of short-term rentals on houseboats. The Council unanimously requested staff provide recommendation for the prohibition of rentals with emphasis on houseboat short-term rentals by either regulation and/or zoning ordinance at staff's discretion. The proposed ordinance was presented and approved by Council at the May 28 Work Session.

FISCAL IMPACT: Not Applicable

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Ordinance 2024-12.
 1st Class Resort and Tourist Destination

ALTERNATIVES: Defer to Mayor and Council

RESPONSIBLE STAFF: George Bendler, Planning and Community Development Director
Elton Harmon, Deputy City Manager

COORDINATED WITH: City Manager Terry McGean; City Solicitor Heather Stansbury

ATTACHMENT(S): 1. ORD 2024 - Amend Chapter 14, Adding Article XI - Houseboats