

Surf City delays plan to charge for beach work

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SURF CITY — An ordinance that would make oceanfront property owners pay for beach repair work on their property will be introduced at the regular Borough Council meeting March 8, Surf City Mayor Leonard Connors said.

Connors originally intended to have the ordinance ready for introduction at a special meeting Wednesday night. However, he said the specifics were still being worked out, and the special meeting was cancelled.

There is no other municipality on Long Beach Island that currently has such a law, but several officials in other LBI towns have expressed interest in Connors' idea.

Under the planned ordinance, if the borough determines that sand has to be dumped on private property to fix the dune system or the beach, the property owner would be charged with the cost of placing sand on that particular piece of property.

Property owners would only be charged for whatever work was done on their property and not for any sand placed as part of a larger repair project.

Connors has said he'd like to have the ordinance approved by the council soon to help pay for repair work that is needed between 18th and 24th streets in the borough.

It is not uncommon for storms to cause erosion requiring emergency repairs in some parts of the island. Long Beach Township, for instance, had to approve \$150,000 for work after an unusually high tide washed away sand all the way up to the fronts of some oceanfront homes earlier this year.

Connors said he hasn't heard any complaints from oceanfront homeowners in the borough since he announced the plan last week.

"I don't think the oceanfront homeowners would be upset with it. They certainly wouldn't want to have other taxpayers in the borough pay for sand on their lot," the mayor said.