

ACTION FORM

PROCEEDING Council Meeting	FORM NUMBER: 2026-007
DEPARTMENT OF ORIGIN: Beach Committee	DATE SUBMITTED: 10/14/26
PREPARED BY: Kurt Zanelotti	
SUBJECT: Fire and Ice – Chamber of Commerce	
REFERENCE:	
RELATED PROJECT:	
REVIEWED BY: Erin Ellinger	
EXHIBITS:	
EXPENDITURE REQUIRED: \$ 0	AMOUNT BUDGETED: \$
FUNDING SOURCE (Dept./Page in CIP & Budget):	
GRANT DATA (if applicable): N/A	
Grant Name:	
Matching Funds required? If Yes, how much?	
TIMETABLE: January 29-31, 2027	
RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve	

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

The Bethany Fenwick Chamber of Commerce presented to the Beach Committee at our meeting of October 2nd, 2026. Their request is to ask us to approve and allow them to host a bonfire on the beach in conjunction with the Fenwick Shores Hotel. The bonfire would begin at approximately 5pm and last 2-3 hours. We would be part of a multi-venue event that features Ice Sculptures and Bonfires throughout the Bethany-Fenwick trading area as a promotion of the local business community and our towns. This is an event that has been successful in the past and is their second request of the Town to host. The BFCC would fulfill all insurance requirements and be responsible for the build of the fire pit and it's clean-up. Chief of Police Morrissey has endorsed this event as a fundraiser of worthy local causes. The Beach Committee unanimously approved the motion to send this request to council.

Upcoming 10th Anniversary Festival ("Fun & Games" Theme)

- **Dates:** January 29–31, 2027 [\[1\]](#)
- **Locations:** Bethany Beach, Ocean View, Millville, and Salted Vines [\[1\]](#)
- **Highlights:** Over 100 ice sculptures carved by The Ice God, bonfires, live music, food trucks, children's activities, and a beer garden. [\[1, 2\]](#)
- **Signature Events:**
 - **Drink Competition:** January 17, 2027
 - **Taste of Bethany:** January 29, 2027
 - **Chili Cook-Off:** January 30, 2027
 - **Drink Tasting Tour:** Festival weekend [\[1\]](#)
- **Admission:** Free to attend, with select ticketed events supporting local charities and nonprofits. [\[1\]](#)

Recent Highlights

- **2026 Fundraising Record:** The festival raised a record **\$53,227** for local charities and community beneficiaries. [\[1, 2\]](#)