

REGULAR MEETING

CITY COUNCIL

JANUARY 13, 2009

8:00 P.M.

The Regular Meeting of the Long Branch City Council was held on Tuesday, January 13, 2009 at 8:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 344 Broadway, Long Branch, New Jersey.

PRESENT:

David G. Brown, Councilman; Anthony Giordano, Councilman; Brian Unger, Councilman; Dr. Mary Jane Celli, Council Vice-President; Michael DeStefano, Council President

OTHERS PRESENT:

Adam Schneider, Mayor; Howard Woolley, Administrator; James G. Aaron, City Attorney; Ronald Mehlhorn, Finance Director; Irene A. Joline, City Clerk

The pledge of allegiance was recited. Certification was read.

READING AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

DECEMBER 29, 2008 – A motion was made by Councilperson Unger, seconded by Councilperson Celli to approve the minutes of December 29, 2008 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES
PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL CONSIDERATION

#27-08 BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE REPLACEMENT AND INSTALLATION OF A NEW RADIO SYSTEM FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT IN AND BY THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$500,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$475,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE CITY TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF (INTRODUCED: DECEMBER 29, 2008)

A motion was made by Councilperson Giordano to open the public hearing on this ordinance was seconded by Councilperson Celli.

After ample time was given and no one responded, a motion was made by Councilperson Giordano, seconded by Councilperson Celli to close the public hearing.

A motion by Councilperson Giordano, seconded by Councilperson Celli to adopt said ordinance on third and final reading was adopted upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

#28-08 BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$230,000 FOR THE PURCHASE OF A GARBAGE TRUCK FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AS REFERRED TO IN SECTION 3 (E) OF BOND ORDINANCE NUMBERED 21-05 FINALLY ADOPTED JUNE 28, 2005 AS AMENDED BY BOND ORDINANCE #38-07 FINALLY ADOPTED OCTOBER 9, 2007 IN AND BY THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$219,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE CITY FOR FINANCING THE APPROPRIATION (INTRODUCED: DECEMBER 29, 2008)

A motion was made by Councilperson Celli to open the public hearing on this ordinance was seconded by Councilperson Giordano.

Michelle Bobrow – 295 Ocean Boulevard

Asked what exactly the cost of the garbage truck was.

Mr. Mehlhorn stated that the cost of the garbage truck is estimated at approximately \$210,000.00.

Mrs. Bobrow went to speak about the time usefulness of the truck.

Mr. Mehlhorn stated that it was in accordance with state statutes.

After ample time was given and no one responded, a motion was made by Councilperson Celli, seconded by Councilperson Giordano to close the public hearing.

A motion by Councilperson Celli, seconded by Councilperson Giordano to adopt said ordinance on third and final reading was adopted upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 4 / Nays 1 Unger

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

A motion by Councilperson Giordano to open the public portion of the meeting was seconded by Councilperson Celli.

Donna Peterson – 104 Rockwell Avenue

Spoke regarding Senior Center, Ferry service in Long Branch, asked if there was a Citizens Action Committee, Kevin Brown's property and an ordinance to ban the use of eminent domain.

Joe Turpin – Long Branch

Spoke regarding the smell from the Sewerage Authority.

Gerry Scarano – Long Branch

Spoke regarding the creation of a Citizens Advisory Committee, spoke about putting GPS systems in police vehicles, municipal cutbacks, ferry service, parking garage and offices by Fine Fare and the new pier.

Michelle Bobrow – 295 Ocean Boulevard

Wished everyone a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year. Thanked the Clerk and her staff for efforts on downloading material off the city's website and asked about broadcasting the council meetings with the camera's in the chambers. (security camera's) Asked again for meetings to be broadcast by cable television. Went on to speak about the boardwalk repairs and the Neptune eminent domain ordinance.

Diana Multare – 21 North Bath Avenue

Expressed the importance of cable television, the meeting with the Thompson Group regarding Beachfront South development area, asked the City attorney to give a legal interpretation as to whether or not an ordinance stipulating no more eminent domain in Beachfront South is viable.

Vincent Lapore – Long Branch

Spoke regarding Broadway Arts development and financing, David Orr and the Abbottsford track, Beachfront South density and ratable,

Kevin Brown

Spoke regarding the trip he has been on and the dog shows he's attended. Asked if dogs are now permitted on the beaches. Mr. DeStefano stated yes that an ordinance was passed. Spoke regarding the closing on Dr. Rivera's building. Went on to ask about Broadway Arts financially failing, and asked if Council has a plan B. The Mayor stated, always.

After ample time was given and no one else came forward a motion was made by Councilperson Celli seconded by Councilperson Giordano to close the public participation.

RESOLUTIONS:

On file in the Clerks Office and the City's Web Site.

APPLICATIONS:

1. APPROVAL OF ROBERTO MUOLO AS AN HONORARY MEMBER OF THE OCEANIC FIRE ENGINE CO. #1
2. APPROVAL OF PAUL VAN BRUNT AS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE OLIVER BYRON ENGINE COMPANY
3. APPROVAL OF THREE (3) RAFFLE LICENSES FOR PTO RUMSON INC.
4. APPROVAL OF TWO (2) RAFFLE LICENSES FOR THE RANNY SCHOOL PARENTS ASSOCIATION
5. APPROVAL OF RAFFLE FOR THE RONALD MC DONALD HOUSE

Motion by Councilperson Brown seconded by Councilperson Giordano to approve the listed applications was approved upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Councilman Brown – Good evening everyone and happy New Year to each and every one of you and your families. As been stated by various citizens wishing us a happy New Year I would just like to extend that from myself and my family that as a Council member for the year 2009, we want to bring back the original intent of our administration and our individual quest for public office and that's the quality of life in Long Branch. We know that a new President is coming into office on the 20th. We know that it is a new history of this glorious country, a new day and we also know that we are in very tough economic times, something which most of us in this room have never seen not being old enough to remember the Great Depression. On that, Long Branch can do its part one day at a time, Long Branch can do its part by its neighbors caring for itself. Its neighbors caring for each other. We pledge to you to make Long Branch that quality of life and that beacon that it can be and should be. Again, happy New Year and a good time to all, a healthy one, thank you.

Councilman Giordano – Thank you. I just wanted to commend the Long Branch Fire Department for their actions a week ago at the fire at Second and West End Avenue at the restaurant. It was a very serious situation and a very dangerous situation and those who responded, responded appropriately and did the best they could and the Chiefs that were on the scene collaboratively made the correct call to get the men out of the building and provide for their safety first and did it in a very professional manner and we should be thankful we have a great fire department. It's one of the best in the state of New Jersey for at least 100 years and they showed last week why they are the envy of all the other fire departments in the area and we are very grateful that they do what they do. Thank you.

Councilman Unger - I just want to say two things very briefly. One, I was very pleased today with the proceedings in the conference room in the back on Beachfront South. I thought it was fundamentally a very good, open, communicative session. I hope it's productive and construction for the residents

and tax payers in Beachfront South. I thought the Planning Dept. and the Planning consultant did a great job. They let everybody speak, some people spoke very vociferously but everybody got to speak and express their opinion and it was handled very professionally, especially by Pratap and by Mr. Bobrow, Harold Bobrow who kind of co-chaired the meeting. There was a formal request made that that as a first step that the City Attorney, and he wasn't there but they asked Chubby if he would ask the administration to permit the City Attorney to do a legal memorandum on whether they can remove the use of eminent domain in Beachfront South. It was clear from the meeting, one thing that was clear was that several of the residents either want to sell or want to develop their properties or want to invest in improvements and its just not going to happen with eminent domain hanging over the neighborhood so I hope, personally hope that that request is approved and that Mr. Aaron can prepare a study on that subject and guide the Council and Administration. Secondly, Transit Village, Gerry Scarano, I think we're moving ahead on so many great projects in Long Branch, hopefully some day the hotel campus, the pier but at some point I think when we get through these big commercial projects for visitors and so forth and the commercial infrastructure, Transit Village should be the absolute #1 priority for worker housing, it's the great location, there's a lot of room over there and I'd love to see us make that a priority for us to go forward. Thank you Gerry.

Dr. Celli – I have two things this evening. First of all I'd like to second what Mr. Giordano said about the fire department. We were very fortunate and we do have the best fire department in the State of New Jersey so kudos to those of you that are in the fire department and certainly Kevin for all your hard work. Second of all I'd like to remind you that this weekend is Martin Luther King weekend and the City has a couple of events, if you have the time you might be interested in attending, one of course is the dinner on Friday night at the Portuguese Club, excellent food and on Sunday there is a march from the Martin Luther King monument on Atlantic Avenue to Second Baptist Church. I'm sorry I won't be here to participate but I would hope some of our residents would. I cant guarantee the whether it will be cold so think about the man and what he stands for, thank you very much.

Mr. DeStefano – No comment

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilperson Celli, seconded by Councilman Unger to adjourn this meeting.

This meeting of the Long Branch Council adjourned at 8:45 p.m.