

**REGULAR MEETING**

**CITY COUNCIL**

**AUGUST 14, 2007**

**8:00 P.M.**

The Regular Meeting of the Long Branch City Council was held on Tuesday, August 14, 2007 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:**

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

The pledge of allegiance was recited and certification was read.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

July 24, 2007

Motion was made by Councilperson Giordano, seconded by Councilperson Unger to approve the minutes of July 24, 2007 – Ayes 4 / Abstain 1 Celli

**CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES**  
**PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL CONSIDERATION**

**#29-07 AN ORDINANCE ON PIER VILLAGE LAND EXCHANGE (INTRODUCED: JULY 24, 2007)**

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 Celli, seconded by Councilperson Giordano 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

**ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION: Public Hearing set for 8/28/07**

**#30-07 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION FOR THE ENGAGEMENT OF SPECIAL CONSULTANTS FOR THE PREPARATION OF A MASTER PLAN OR PLANS TO CONFORM WITH PLANNING LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY IN AND BY THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY**

A motion was made by Councilperson Giordano seconded by Councilperson Celli to introduce on first reading, advertise and post according to law and set the public hearing for August 28, 2007. Ayes 5

**#31-07 AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH AS TO PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE AREA OF WESTWOOD AVENUE AND JEFFREY STREET**

A motion was made by Councilperson Giordano seconded by Councilperson Celli to introduce on first reading, advertise and post according to law and set the public hearing for August 28, 2007. Ayes 5

**#32-07 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING 325-38 OF THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH ENTITLED SCHEDULE XII RIGHT TURN ONLY TO DESIGNATE CERTAIN DIRECTIONS OF TRAVEL FROM THE INTERSECTION OF INDIANA AND BATH AVENUE AS RIGHT TURN ONLY**

A motion was made by Councilperson Giordano seconded by Councilperson Brown to introduce on first reading, advertise and post according to law and set the public hearing for August 28, 2007. Ayes 5

**#33-07 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING 325-26 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH ENTITLED SCHEDULE II PARKING PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES ON CERTAIN STREETS OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH TO PROHIBIT PARKING ON SECOND AVENUE AT OR NEAR ITS INTERSECTION WITH GARFIELD AVENUE**

A motion was made by Councilperson Giordano seconded by Councilperson Brown to introduce on first reading, advertise and post according to law and set the public hearing for August 28, 2007. Ayes 5

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

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

**Margaret Rice - 176 Branton Avenue**

Spoke regarding the program tomorrow night at the Library at 7pm regarding Lighthouses. Pamphlets are in the back of the room for all their summer programs. September 8<sup>th</sup> is the grand opening of the Art Exhibit.

**Jim Keelan - Belmont Avenue**

Spoke regarding the resolution amending the increase in UEZ for sidewalk cleaning. Went on to speak regarding the permits for the Avenue Beach Club, the lower Broadway Project, MTOTSA and redevelopment and tax increases.

**Bill Nordahl - 67 Marine Terrace Apt. 3**

Spoke regarding R226-07 Housing Liaison Officer. Who will it be?

Mr. Aaron stated that the Officer will be Jacob Jones.

Mr. Nordahl - Went on to speak regarding the Hope VI project and asked how the UEZ is tied in with housing.

Mr. Aaron explained about RCA's.

**Donna Peterson - 104 Rockwell Avenue**

Spoke regarding the Hotel Campus project, the need for recreation areas for the children, retail and affordable housing.

### **Kevin Brown – 162 Broadway**

Spoke regarding the City running under the Faulkner Act. Spoke regarding Proctor Estates and the closing process.

The Mayor stated that he does not approve every project that comes here. The City had virtually no involvement with Proctor Estates other than what was public and there was nothing wrong in my doing closing. The Mayor went on to discuss the closings of Proctor Estates and articles in the paper.

### **Dennis Sherman – Ocean Boulevard**

Spoke regarding R227-07 rescinding R130-07. Thanked the Mayor and the Council for listening to the people.

### **Nancy Anderson – 448 Ocean Avenue**

Spoke regarding the Green Acre signs in the City and would like signs that that area is Green Acres.

Mr. Woolley stated that Green Acres was here this morning and went over that issue with them.

### **Bill Schatzow – 967 Elberon Avenue**

Thanked everyone for the Green Acres property. Asked who controls the safety there.

The Mayor stated that the City controls it and what we're looking to do now because part of what we wanted to do was a complete and total refurbishment of the whole area which is necessary which would include the road and the boardwalk. Went on to speak regarding the designing of a plan and how to pay for it.

Mr. Schatzow asked how long will it take before it gets fixed?

The Mayor stated that some things will be fixed for next summer, bathrooms...

Mr. Schatzow asked about repairs at the boardwalk. There are holes.

The Mayor stated that much has been fixed over the last couple months and are constantly fixing holes down there.

### **Bob Kenya – 440 Washington Avenue**

Spoke regarding handicapped ramps and asked if we could get money through Green Acres seeing as its Green Acres property. Thanked the Council for the resolution that was done.

The Mayor stated to Mr. Kenya that the boardwalk cannot be done in bits and pieces. The entire boardwalk needs to be rebuilt.

Mr. Kenya thanked Mr. Unger for his trying to preserve all the historical places that he can.

**Michele Bobrow – 295 Ocean Boulevard**

Spoke regarding the Recycling report. Asked how it compares to previous years.

Mr. Woolly stated that he would get back to her.

Mrs. Bobrow spoke regarding errors on documents and bills on the bill list. Spoke regarding the lease/purchase of the three new vehicles and asked about what we do with old vehicles.

Mr. Woolley stated that we auction them off.

Mrs. Bobrow went on to speak regarding R226. Asked if it was a new position and was there any money that went along with it.

Mr. Aaron stated it was a new position with no new money.

Mrs. Bobrow stated she had visitors who walked to Pier Village and said it was overwhelming and doesn't fit with the Community.

**Harold Bobrow – 295 Ocean Boulevard**

Spoke regarding the boardwalk and Hovnanian. Asked for the people of Beachfront South that we get together with your developer and do infill and you could accomplish things and fix the boardwalk. We need to talk as a group. Make Beachfront South a neighborhood.

**Marco Diaz – 135 Rockwell Avenue Apt. 51**

August 25 at 11:30 – 4pm the Long Branch Concordance is having a back to basics resource fair. All Neighbors Foundation is having a meeting Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> at the Library. Looking for donations. Asked if anyone would like to come to please attend.

**Marshall Colver – 449 Broadway**

Spoke regarding the Lake Takanassee Beach Club. The Mayor stated that acquiring the property is very unlikely.

Mr. Unger stated that Green Acres said that funding is the number one priority in the State of New Jersey.

Mr. Colver went on to speak about the Avenue.

Mr. Woolley stated that issue was between the DEP and the Avenue.

Mr. Colver went on to speak about the pier, funding and Hovnanians contractual obligation to the redevelopment.

**Vince Lapore – Long Branch**

Spoke regarding a mortgage agreement with Broadway Arts and property taken by City by eminent domain on Melrose Terrace.

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

**Mr. Aaron** – With respect to the allegations that have been made to the DeSica properties, please note the following facts: The DeSica family was originally in another Phase of the waterfront redevelopment area. It was bought out of that property and went into and purchased the property that they presently own with full knowledge that it was in a redevelopment area. They purchased the house for \$200,000.00. They were offered by the developer and that purchase was in 2001, they were offered by the Developer before the City became involved over \$900,000.00 for that piece of property even though an appraisal on that property only put the property value at \$590,000.00. The City has not taken that property. The City is in court with the DeSica's. They have an attorney, the attorney is presently negotiating with the City not only for the purchase of the property but for an extended period of the time for the DeSica's to stay in the property until the property is being used. So whatever information has been passed out that does not comport with that, I would submit that anybody can go look at the Court records that are available, that will substantiate everything that has been said. Thank you.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

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

**APPLICATIONS:**

1. APPROVAL OF A RAFFLE LICENSE FOR ST. MICHAELS CHURCH
2. APPROVAL OF A RAFFLE LICENSE FOR ST. JEROME PTA
3. APPROVAL OF SAM SIRIANNI AS HONORARY/CHAPLAIN OF THE BRANCHPORT HOSE CO. #3
4. TRANSFER OF A TAXI OWNERS LICENSE FROM MURAT TAN TO MUSTAFA YAMAN

A motion by Councilperson Brown to approve the listed applications was seconded by Councilperson Celli and carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

**Councilman Brown** – Good evening ladies and gentlemen. Again we've gone through City Council meeting and ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your patience and your willingness to learn about your City. One thing that always comes to mind, communication is the key. Allegations can always be made. I have not and never will use the power of the office of City Council to demean, undermine and steal from any citizen. I am not using my Veterans status or the threat of slavery tactics on anyone. Communication, if you want to know something, my number is listed. Communications, if you want to talk to me, just ask. Communications, if you don't believe what I say, talk to your fellow citizens. Thank you for your patience, thank you for your concerns, thank you for your interest but remember, allegations are just that, allegations, thank you.

**Councilman Giordano** – Nothing, thank you.

**Councilman Unger** – I just want to say that I thought Mr. Bobrow made a reasonable and credible proposal that I think is worth considering and even though it's a long way off, it is conceivable that we lose the current developer of Beachfront South and I think he's making a proposal that would benefit the community involvement, perhaps a revisioning of that section of West End that is part of West End. I recently crossed the road there with a surf board last Saturday and I, basically you take your life into your hands in the summer and I think as our planning consultant has made it a goal to connect east and west sides of Ocean Avenue, certainly if Beachfront South was a consensually developed community based development with the same sort of size and type of housing as we have in the rest of West End it might be more a part of our community and we might be able to link it with pedestrian crosswalks that were in fact safe so I support his efforts and I hope going forward that the administration and the Council and our various planning folks might get a chance to do what he requests. Thank you.

**Dr. Celli** – I wasn't going to say anything tonight but I'm going to say two things. One positive and one negative. Many of you here in the audience have been down the senior center and one part of the senior center has not had any air conditioning during the extreme hot weather. I spoke to the Director of Public Works and all of a sudden it got done and for the people from Public Works I say thank you for your hard work for getting it back up and in working position. Second of all, I don't like anyone making an allegation about using my Veteran status. I am very proud to have served the Country. You can say what you want about me personally, but don't take it in vain of being a veteran. Thank you.

**Mr. DeStefano** – I just have a small comment and what I generally find interesting is that on this, of this panel, people on the board, everything we say is obviously is open to scrutiny. If we mistakenly word a sentence, we put a word that doesn't have the meaning we think it should, there's a lot of criticism yet people obviously have an opportunity during general comments to get up and they can say pretty much whatever they want. It could be truthful; it could be a complete and total lie. What I ask is, try to get to the truth and the real knowledge of whats happening, don't always take what people say at the microphone as the sole truth. I'm sure there's more to it then just that. With that, thank you and this meeting is adjourned.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

This meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.