

REGULAR MEETING

CITY COUNCIL

OCTOBER 28, 2008

8:00 P.M.

The Regular Meeting of the Long Branch City Council was held on Tuesday, October 28, 2008 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:

OCTOBER 14, 2008 – A motion was made by Councilperson Celli, seconded by Councilperson Giordano to approve the minutes of October 14, 2008 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES
PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL CONSIDERATION

#21-08 ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SUSPEND TEMPORARILY PARKING RESTRICTIONS WHEN APPROPRIATE FOR THE PUBLIC SAFETY (INTRODUCED: OCTOBER 14, 2008)

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

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

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

#22-08 ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 103, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, SECTION 4, LIMITATIONS ON LOCATION OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH (INTRODUCED: OCTOBER 14, 2008)

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

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

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

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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

Michelle Bobrow - 295 Ocean Boulevard

Complained about the two resolutions that were added at the last minute. Read a statement on behalf of the Ocean Villa Townhouse Condo's regarding property and requests the redevelopment designation for Beachfront South be removed.

Joe Turpin - 15 Hobart Manor

Spoke regarding the smell at the Long Branch Sewer Authority and the future repairs. Would like a meeting with the City, Sewer Authority, the State DEP the City and County Health Officer to resolve this issue.

Betty DiLessio - Member of the Long Branch Senior Center and Advisory Board President

Spoke on behalf of the Long Branch Senior Center and responding to the request to move from Second Avenue to the Gregory School and the answer is no. Went on to explain the events that take place at the Senior Center and how it is centrally located for the seniors.

The Mayor responded saying that there was some discussion and that's all it's been about. There has been some discussion about what we are going to do with Gregory School. One of the ideas we have had was it will be senior housing. There has been also just some discussion about the possibility of relocating the Senior Center there. Some of the ideas that Mrs. DiLessio expressed, such as the there would be senior daycare and other things are no more than ideas and there is no plan as of yet. There has been considerable opposition voiced from people who go to the Senior Center to moving it there. I've talked to Dr. Celli, I've made it clear, if she is against it, I'm not interested in having a fight over moving it to the Gregory School. Mr. Woolley did express several years ago that the property is in a redevelopment zone, it's actually one of the few pieces that the City owned when we started that was there but if you remember, that's not a particularly great neighborhood either. If you were to wander up towards Broadway along Second Avenue, I think it would be hard pressed to say that's one of our best neighborhoods. We are looking at what we are going to do in the future before we get to the point of making any decisions, the people who use the Senior Center will be included in it, Dr. Celli will be included in it and we'll figure out what to do. We are not going to force anybody to do anything now.

The Mayor continued speaking regarding the Senior Center.

Rosemarie Buono - 29 Cottage Place

Spoke regarding keeping the Senior Center where it is. Thanked everyone and would like to be kept informed.

Marco Diaz – 135 Rockwell Avenue Apt. 51

Spoke regarding the All Neighbors Foundation event to be held on July 25, 2009 at Jerry Morgan Park.

Harold Bobrow – 295 Ocean Boulevard

Spoke regarding a meeting for the vision of the Beachfront South area and MTOTSA and have the City move forward into something positive.

Lori Ann Vendetti – 33, 38 Ocean Terrace

Spoke regarding the condition of her neighborhood. We want to stay in our homes. No one wins at this point.

Leonard Goldshein – 270 Elberon Terrace

Owns property in Beachfront South. Agrees with the Bobrow's. Asked if there could be some sort of understanding for Beachfront South to continue with their lives and not held hostage for the next 12 years and remove the designation.

Diana Multare – 21 North Bath Avenue

Spoke regarding being a property owner in Beachfront South. Went on to speak about broadcasting the City Council meetings and Planning Board meetings.

Pat Carl – 295 Ocean Boulevard

Asked the Council to remove the designation in the Beachfront South area.

The Mayor stated that he spoke before the meeting and my position today is that dropping the properties from the redevelopment zone would not be in anybody's interest including the property owners for various reasons including what you would be left with is a zoning plan for that area that probably could not be achieved without the assemblage of properties which means that the property owner or somebody who buys (inaudible) would have every right to go through the zoning board for a use that you may not want. What I've agreed to is to meet with the property owners, very much the same vein that we met with property owners 15 years ago to come up with a zoning plan that works without any eminent domain. We are in the process of eliminating that as the use of eminent domain as a legal option.

Mayor Schneider continued to speak regarding eminent domain being off the table.

Vincent LaPore – Long Branch

Stated that he fully supports the position that Lori Ann Vendetti stated this evening and that of MTOTSA. Beachfront South rode the wave of MTOTSA. Spoke regarding Mr. Zaro heading the Economic Growth Commission, and various other things Mr. Zaro is involved in. Went on to speak about the fight against the abuse of eminent domain. It is not winding down, it is only just begun.

Harold Cooper – 113 South 7th Avenue

Stated that he was happy to hear of the removal of eminent domain in Beachfront South. Went on to speak about economics and change. We all need to come together.

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

RESOLUTIONS:

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

APPLICATIONS:

- 1. APPROVAL OF THE TRANSFER OF A TAXI OWNERS LICENSE FROM RONALD GAARDER TO MUSHTAQ KHAN

Motion by Councilperson Brown seconded by Councilperson Celli 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. I’ll be very short this evening but of serious note, holiday season are coming up, the time of good cheer, fellowship and family. Lets not forget what was said last meeting and this meeting for the spirit of the Long Branch citizens to come together with the Long Branch administration. Let us remember the good will that’s coming forth in the next couple of months. Lets carry that forward in the upcoming negotiations. We are standing on a solid platform together to make Long Branch that beacon that lovely City that can be shared by all. On that note, next Tuesday, very important election like all elections but this one of importance significance the countries economic constraints, and the situation that the country faces. Lets not take our vote lightly. We still have people in this country who want to do the opposite as compared to those group of nay Sayers in Tennessee. Elect your right. Vote next Tuesday. Vote your conscience. Thank you.

Councilman Giordano – Can I just add on to what Councilman Brown was saying about voting next Tuesday but just think about the reason we are able to vote in this country and have a democracy is because of Veterans who have fought and protected this country for over 200 years and Councilman Brown and Dr. Celli are both Veterans and Veterans Day is coming up in a few days on November 11th so again we have to recognize our Veterans for all they’ve done for our Country, for what they are doing for us right now in different parts of the world in trying to keep America safe. Thanks.

Councilman Unger – I just want to comment on the folks that spoke tonight and a few weeks ago about the odors at the Long Branch Sewer Authority. I became interested in it last month driving by with my windows open when it was still warm out and noticed on that particular day it was a pretty bad

situation so I took it upon myself in the last couple weeks to do a little research and spoke with the executive director and the financial officer and as Mr. Turpin indicated tonight, the Authority has applied just last month, September for 12.5 million dollars in very low interest loans from the state which they are sure to be approved of. The funding cycle is next fall, roughly September 2009. Of that 12.5 million, the Sewerage Authority is estimating dedicating 1.75 million toward new odor control devices and facilities and they are going to hire professionals to evaluate what those best devices and best facilities might be in order for it to be most effective for the neighborhood and by the way, if anyone is wondering how to get government action, how to get a local or state government action, If you feel that there is a problem with the Sewerage Authority, please be advised that they do not investigate anything without citizen complaints and what a citizen should do is call the 800 number at DEP and that's how you make a public record about any odors or any other problem you might have with the Sewerage Authority. You can call the 800 emergency number at DEP, it operates 24/7, they give it a project number, they look into it and it goes into the public record and that's how you get a response from the Monmouth County Health Department. Thank you.

Dr. Celli - Although the seniors have gone, I would like to thank them for coming up and speaking and letting this administration know how they feel about the Senior Center. It's very important to them and the majority of them are widows or widowers and everyday they are down there and do something, exercise one thing or the other and they just wanted the administration to know that they are happy where they are. Gio mentioned November 11th. There will be a service at 10:00 at Jerry Morgan Park and at 11:00 there will be a service here out in Slocum Park and everybody has mentioned it and I would just like to reiterate, please vote on November 4th. Thank you.

Mr. DeStefano - As my counterparts have mentioned, we participate Tuesday in the Democrat process of voting an electing a president but what we need to remember is that we live in a Republic and pledge allegiance to the flag and to the republic to which it stands, there is a significant difference.

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting of the Long Branch Council adjourned at 9:00 p.m.