

REGULAR MEETING

CITY COUNCIL

DECEMBER 15, 2008

8:00 P.M.

The Regular Meeting of the Long Branch City Council was held on Monday, December 15, 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:

NOVEMBER 25, 2008 – A motion was made by Councilperson Giordano, seconded by Councilperson Brown to approve the minutes of November 25, 2008 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES
PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL CONSIDERATION

None

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

#25-08 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING TITLES AND SETTING SALARIES FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH FOR THE YEAR 2008

Motion by Councilperson Celli, seconded by Councilperson Giordano to introduce on first reading, advertise and post according to law and set the public hearing for December 29, 2008 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

#26-08 AN ORDINANCE REAPPROPRIATING \$200,000 PROCEEDS OF OBLIGATIONS NOT NEEDED FOR THEIR ORIGINAL PURPOSES IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR THE VARIOUS PURPOSES LISTED HEREIN IN AND BY THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY

Motion by Councilperson Giordano, seconded by Councilperson Brown to introduce on first reading, advertise and post according to law and set the public hearing for December 29, 2008 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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

Michelle Bobrow – 295 Ocean Boulevard

Spoke regarding an article in the Star Ledger regarding development.

Francis DeLuca - 272 Ocean Avenue North

Stated that she appreciated what the Mayor and Council did for the residents of Ocean Avenue North, asked the developers to come forward and negotiate with the property owners. Also spoke regarding the time period in paying taxes.

Vince Lapore - Long Branch

Spoke regarding the Hotel Campus Project and the properties on Abbottsford Avenue and Barclay bank. Went on to speak about R307-08.

Diane Multare - 21 North Bath Avenue

Spoke regarding Mr. LaPore’s comments that were made. Mr. Aaron then commented on Barclays Bank that held the first mortgage and refused to allow a second mortgage to be placed on the property and the notes that have been signed by the developers, property owners themselves and stated that the note has been assigned to the developer itself. If Barclays decides to foreclose on the property, Barclays bank will be liable to the City of Long Branch.

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 VARIOUS TAXI OWNERS LICENSE FOR 2009
2. APPROVAL OF FOUR (4) RAFFLE LICENSES FOR THE SHREWSBURY PARENT TEACHER GROUP

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, because of the black out and thank God no one was hurt during this black out, we have been forced to change Council dates. Therefore looking forward to the 23rd, a safe and healthy happy holiday season, we will do so not because we will not be in session until after or during the middle of the holidays which is on the 29th. We still would like to see you all on the 29th and then we can wish you all a happy New Year. Enjoy the rest of this week and from my family to your families, Happy Holiday.

Councilman Giordano - I just like to wish everybody a Happy Holiday season since we wont be getting together like Dave said until after Christmas and particularly this time of year, think about those who are serving their country overseas and not lucky like the rest of us to be here and spending time with their families like we do with ours.

Councilman Unger - I'd like to wish everybody Happy Holidays and we'll get a chance to wish you a happy New Year on the 29th. I do want to point out that I'm sorry, but I was, the ordinances came, I thought we were voting to hold a public hearing on ordinance 25-08 and so I was in favor of holding a public hearing and it wasn't until after that I realized that we voted for the introduction and I had intended to vote against the introduction of this ordinance however the City Attorney Aaron mentioned to me that I would be able to vote against the adoption on the 29th which I plan on doing so I just wanted to make that correction for the record even though we cant redo the vote. Thanks.

Dr. Celli - I would like to wish all of the citizens of the City of Long Branch a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, Happy Kwanzaa and come the 29th, I'll say Happy New Year but I really wish everybody a very nice holiday and best of all, good health and I would ask you if you see a serviceman around in uniform, just go up to him, shake his hand and say thank you. I did that in the airport and they were so startled they didn't know what to do but it made me feel good and I'm sure it made him feel good too. Thank you.

Mr. DeStefano - Just a couple of comments, while you're here and you're speaking I may not be looking but I listen with my ears, not with my eyes so I do hear what you have to say. There were a couple of comments about serving all of the people and I always wondered what that meant because obviously I am here to serve all of the people. I'd love to see anyone who could make all of the people happy and all of them agree on one thing. It can't be done. The other thing is, regarding openness and discussion of various things such as the redevelopment plan, very open, very public, a lot of public input, a lot of opportunity to hear and to exchange ideas at the time. Some people participated, many many people participated, not everyone did. Regarding the Ranch and the Elberon Homeowners Association, they came before the Planning Board, it was probably the longest most difficult application I have ever sat on and the truth of the matter is everyone was heard. Everyone was heard openly and publicly, the answer for them was no. None of us like that answer but sometimes it's the answer we get so you can't confuse people listening and know, as they don't listen. Sometimes you listen and you still get no. With that, Happy Holidays and we are adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

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