

REGULAR MEETING

CITY COUNCIL

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2008

8:00 P.M.

The Regular Meeting of the Long Branch City Council was held on Monday, December 29, 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:**

Howard Woolley, Administrator; Lawrence Shapiro, Esq., City Attorneys office; Ronald Mehlhorn, Finance Director; Kathy L. Schmelz, Deputy Municipal Clerk

**ABSENT:**

Adam Schneider, Mayor; James G. Aaron, City Attorney; Irene A. Joline, City Clerk

The pledge of allegiance was recited. Certification was read.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

**DECEMBER 15, 2008** - A motion was made by Councilperson Brown, seconded by Councilperson Giordano to approve the minutes of December 15, 2008 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

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

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

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

**Michelle Bobrow - 295 Ocean Boulevard**

Asked if there was an average percentage that the salary range is increasing and how will it affect the budget.

Mr. Mehlhorn stated that it was between 4 and 4 ¼ % and it effects the 2008 budget.

**Harold Bobrow - 295 Ocean Boulevard**

Spoke regarding the CAPS and salary ranges. Asked about the percentage of people getting the maximum range.

**Vince Lapore- Long Branch**

Asked about the discrepancy in the ordinance given to Council and the handouts in the back of the room.

**Diana Multare – 21 North Bath Avenue**

Spoke regarding salaries being made public with no secrecies. Asked if she could get a list of salaries.

Mr. Mehlhorn stated that at anytime you could fill out an OPRA request and get salary information on anyone.

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

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

\*\*\*\* At this time the presentation was made to Shannon Berry of the Drug Alliance, a proclamation read by Councilman Brown declaring December 2008 Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month

**#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

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

**Harold Bobrow – 295 Ocean Boulevard**

Spoke regarding the timing of the adoption the first time and spoke about interest being paid over the last five years.

**Vince Lapore – Long Branch**

Asked Mr. Mehlhorn what the total size of the bonds was that were unspent.

Mr. Mehlhorn explained the bond to Mr. Lapore.

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 5

**ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:**

**#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

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 January 13, 2009 was carried out upon the following roll call vote:

Mr. Brown - Yes

Mr. Giordano - Yes

Mr. Unger - I did want to stress at this time that I'd like to see the administration, the Council be much more aggressive than in the past in seeking Federal and State monies for these kinds of purchases. It's a big purchase, it's an absolutely necessary purchase as we had a presentation in the workshop a few weeks back. The Federal Government in 2007 had a billion dollars in grants available for similar purposes, I don't think this would have been eligible, however, in speaking with various people in the last few days in Washington DC and here in Long Branch, they've urged that we be very aggressive with the new administration that we perhaps use the RCC Consultants that we're using for this project to also lobby in Washington to ensure that City's like Long Branch can get some Federal help for purchases like this particularly given the current economic and tax climate so having said that I will vote yes.

Dr, Celli - Yes

Mr. DeStefano - Yes

**#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**

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 January 13, 2008 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 4 / Nays 1 Unger

#### **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**

Wished everyone a healthy and happy New Year. Spoke regarding the bond ordinances and life expectancies on the items.

Mr. Mehlhorn explained about life expectancies.

Spoke regarding the bill from McKenna, DuPont as conflict redevelopment attorney and asked what area that was. Mr. Woolley stated it was for Broadway Gateway.

Spoke regarding Public Strategies bill.

**Harold Bobrow – 295 Ocean Boulevard**

Spoke regarding Ord 27-08. It was told to Mr. Bobrow that it was for the replacement of units in the police vehicles, radios and the dispatch center. Asked if shared services / farming out was ever looked into.

Director Richards stated that it wouldn't be feasible at this time.

Asked if R375-08 had anything to do with the Fountains Motel.

Mr. Woolley stated that it was just a name.

Spoke regarding the cable tv contract renewal and urged the Council to broadcast live the Council Meetings.

**Diana Multare – 21 North Bath Avenue**

Spoke regarding the recession and the American Dream Ordinance.

**Vince LaPore – Long Branch**

Spoke regarding Denise Hoagland's letter to the editors, mediation of MTOTSA, Judge Cavanaugh, Diamond Beach and foreclosures in Long Branch.

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 CITY ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP FOR JUAN DANIEL PEIRANO IN THE WEST END ENGINE CO.
2. APPROVAL OF RAFFLE LICENSE FOR NEWCOMERS CLUB OF RUMSON, FAIR HAVEN, LITTLE SILVER & SHREWSBURY
3. APPROVAL OF TAXI CAB OWNERS LICENSE FOR WHWS INC
4. APPROVAL OF TAXI CAB OWNERS LICENSE TRANSFER FROM ANTHONY PALMIERI TO MUSHTAQ A. 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. The only thing I can say and the thing I am saying from my heart is a healthy and happy new year to each and everyone of you and as was extended to Council we reciprocate and send it right back to you. May this be the best year ever. Thank you all and have a good night.

**Councilman Giordano** – Just like to wish everybody a happy and health new year.

**Councilman Unger** - Same, happy New Year to everybody, happy Hanukkah and wish everybody a great 2009. I just wanted to mention in relation to the cable commission we have a kind of new age of politics in this Country with this resounding election of Barrack Obama. We're in the 21<sup>st</sup> century as you may know, it's the age of the internet, it's the age of multiplicity of channels right on your desktop computer, on your phone, on your blackberry, for us to pass up this opportunity to televise City Council meetings, Planning Board meetings, etc... to me is really a big mistake on our part. If the Council doesn't persuade the administration and work with the cable commission, the cable commission in this City is purely advisory, it is not up to them what we ask from Comcast, its up to us and to work with the administration and I think this is the year even if we don't implement it in 2009 or 2010, this is a matter of infrastructure that Comcast can provide us and if the current administration doesn't want to use it to televise City Council meetings, that's fine, that's their prerogative but at least we will have the equipment in place when a new administration is sworn in perhaps they would like to televise the meetings for the public benefit. Thank you.

**Dr. Celli** – My wish for all the citizens of the great City of Long Branch is for health, happiness and peace on earth.

**Mr. DeStefano** – No comment.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

This meeting of the Long Branch Council adjourned at 8:50 p.m.