

REGULAR MEETING

CITY COUNCIL

OCTOBER 14, 2008

8:00 P.M.

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

SEPTEMBER 9, 2008 – A motion was made by Councilman Brown, seconded by Councilman Giordano to approve the minutes of September 9, 2008 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 3- Abstain 2 Celli, Unger

SEPTEMBER 23, 2008 – A motion was made by Councilman Brown, seconded by Councilwoman Celli to approve the minutes of September 23, 2008 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 4 – Abstain 1 Giordano

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES
PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL CONSIDERATION

#20-08 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY VACATING A 10' INGRESS AND EGRESS EASEMENT (INTRODUCED: SEPTEMBER 9, 2008)

Motion to postpone the ordinance for adoption until legal actions have been cleared was made by Councilman Unger, seconded by Councilman Giordano – Ayes 5

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

#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

A 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 October 28, 2008.

#22-08 ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 103, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, SECTION 4, LIMITATIONS ON LOCATION OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH

A 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 October 28, 2008.

#23-08 ORDINANCE – HISTORIC PRESERVATION – REMOVED

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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

Michele Bobrow – 295 Ocean Boulevard

Spoke regarding the article in the Press regarding Hovnians contract being over. Spoke regarding the designation of developer's designation.

Jerry Scarano – Ocean Boulevard

Spoke regarding Monmouth College's 75th anniversary this past weekend and the businesses that sponsored it. Went on to speak about Hovnians deposit.

Harold Cooper – 113 South 7th Avenue

Spoke regarding the curfew imposed on the 30th and 31st and asked that it be extended through Nov 1. Went on to read an article from the Atlanticville regarding a letter to US Senator Robert Mendenz entitled "Get to Work on Impeachment for the Children."

Joe Turpin – 15 Hobart Manor

Spoke regarding the odor coming from the Long Branch Sewer Authority and the involvement of various agencies.

Harold Bobrow – 295 Ocean Boulevard

Thanked the Mayor and Council for not using eminent domain in Beachfront South and asked that there still be a sit down with people in order to get ideas to brainstorm and come up with positive ideas. Spoke regarding Mr. Zaro of Mr. Aaron's law firm being appointed to head the NJ Economic Development Committee.

Diana Multare – 21 North Bath Avenue

Announced that the Long Branch Citizens for Good Government has been launched and preceded to read part of the Press release and spoke about Beachfront South and Hovnianian pulling out.

Denise Hoagland – 68 Ocean Terrace

Asked about future use of eminent domain in future redevelopment in Beachfront South. Spoke about an article in the newspaper about moving forward with redevelopment.

Vincent Lapore – Long Branch

Spoke regarding the article in the Press regarding Beachfront South, court decisions and overall redevelopment.

Lori Ann Vendetti – 33, 38 Ocean Terrace

Asked what the Mayor meant in the newspaper where he said he was tired of the fight and went on to speak about Beachfront South being taken out of the redevelopment area.

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

RESOLUTIONS:

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

APPLICATIONS:

1. APPROVAL OF CITY ACTIVE AND STATE ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP IN THE BRANCHPORT HOSE CO. # 3 FOR FRANK R JOHANTGEN
2. APPROVAL OF CITY HONORABLE AND STATE ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP IN THE INDEPENDENT ENGINE & TRUCK CO. FOR MATTHEW L DURLAND
3. APPROVAL OF RAFFLE LICENSE FOR POLICE UNITY TOUR, INC.
4. APPROVAL OF RAFFLE LICENSE FOR A CHILD'S PLACE SCHOLARSHIP FUND, INC.

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

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Councilman Brown – No comment

Councilman Giordano – Just a couple things, one is we had a great Columbus Day parade on Sunday and I would just like to thank the committee who works year round to put that together in addition to all the City Departments that get involved, Police, Fire and Public Works. It's a great event for the City and it was very well attended all the way from the West Long Branch boarder down to Slocum Park so we thank everybody who was involved, it was a great day. The other as it pertains to Beachfront South is, there was a number of comments made tonight but just so you're clear on where I stand, I and I actually didn't read today's article so I'm not exactly sure what the Mayors comments were but in general, generally speaking I do concur that Beachfront South eminent domain will not be used going forward. As I've stated before publicly and to a couple of people here, there have been, I've been approached by property owners in Beachfront South who would like to come to speak to the City once the termination of K Hovnanian is complete and that should happen sometime in the near future so once that does happen I fully expect that we will be

Beachfront South who

ago with some of the same property owners in Beachfront South so if anybody has any questions about that, feel free to talk to me after the meeting. I'll be glad to share any other information I have about that. Thank you.

Councilman Unger – I want to second Anthony's remarks, I've also been approached by several property owners in Beachfront South, at least three of whom could no longer bear the \$30,000 a year taxes on their properties that run in the rectangular shape from Ocean Avenue to Ocean Boulevard and some of these families have been in Long Branch for generations, have been a major part of our social political and commercial life for generations and we really need to move and if it means dedesignating the zone temporarily and letting some people out and excising the northern part of the zone which is clearly is not in need of redevelopment, I would certainly favor that and I would certainly favor Anthony's comments and the Mayors comments about having a consensual approach and working with the people that are there that want to do development, it does need to be supervised by our planner. Councilman DeStefano have discussed it, we need a good plan, we need something that benefits the City but certainly we need to relieve the tax burden on these people that have been frozen from doing anything and \$30,000 a year, if you saw the places they were living, you know they are going to lose these properties fairly soon unless the City can provide some relief. I just have one other brief comment, tonight Mr. DeStefano promised us in the City Council that he would never again on his own remove an agenda item or public legislator proposal from Council deliberation as we believed happened in July 24th of 2007 and I accept his statement in this regard and I'm glad to hear it and I consider this matter behind us and I look forward to moving forward to other issues that we can work on together. Thank you.

Dr. Celli – I would like to just make a comment about the parade. I thought it was the longest and one of the best that we've had and certainly thanks to all our Director of Public Safety, all of your people who took care of us and also to the Public Works, I was totally shocked, I was sitting in Slocum Park as the parade ended and the next thing I knew, here comes the clean sweep and it was just wonderful to see everything being cleaned up right away. You know, the Columbus Day Parade is a tradition here in Long Branch and for one gentleman to take it upon himself with a committee to do the parade, he did a very fine job and everybody is to be congratulated on their part that they made it a piece of Long Branch tradition continued. Dave Brown and I attended a Call to Service Conference at Monmouth University and the main focal point of it was Governor Corzine has signed a bill where he is looking for "volunteers" to serve on Boards, Commissions and it was a very interesting conference and to Mrs. Bobrow who first started me in this several months ago I say thank you, I have learned a lot and I think everybody should go and should attend these call to service, if you ever see it its run by the Citizens Campaign and I would invite all of you to attend, to learn what Civics 101 is supposed to be, thank you.

Mr. DeStefano – No comment

ADJOURNMENT

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