

DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING

CITY COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 10, 2009

8:00 P.M.

The Regular Meeting of the Long Branch City Council was held on Tuesday, February 10, 2009 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; James G. Aaron, City Attorney; Ronald Mehlhorn, Finance Director; Irene A. Joline, City Clerk

ABSENT:

Mayor Adam Schneider

The pledge of allegiance was recited. Certification was read.

READING AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

JANUARY 27, 2009 – A motion was made by Councilperson Brown, seconded by Councilperson Celli to approve the minutes of January 27, 2009 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 3 / Abstain 2 Giordano, Unger

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES

PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL CONSIDERATION

None

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

#1-09 AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "LONG BRANCH HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE – LONG BRANCH, NJ

REMOVED FROM THIS AGENDA

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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

Gerry Scarano – Ocean Boulevard

Asked if the pier issue was a dead plan or is it still being worked on.

Councilman Giordano stated that it was still being worked on.

Mr. Scarano suggests a Citizen Action Committee be formed for transparency.

Vincent DiGenero – property owner of South Broadway

Spoke for himself and Kevin Fister regarding the development of his property on the Broadway Triangle. Would like to develop a Medical / Arts office building totaling 80,000 sq ft. and a parking lot with 326 parking spaces.

Mr. Aaron stated that this matter is in potential litigation, that there has been no application by the property owner to provide any information to the City or the City's redevelopment agency, its professionals or this project. There has been no

identification of any financing for this project, there is no identification of any renters for this project and there has been no interest shown by this property owner to develop this site for this use. In fact, what the property owner has shown for this site was a series of telephone calls for the development of this site for a potential Walgreen's which is not in accordance with the development ordinance so that if, and I invite the property owner and I thank you Vinnie, I've eaten in your restaurant for the last 20 years, never had a bad meal except for one time in 1988, I don't hold that against you and I go back time and time again. If this is a project that you are serious in developing, provide the information to Mr. Woolley and provide it in detail as with any other developer so that the information can in fact be processed and your development application if you make one can in fact be considered. Thank you.

Kevin Fister

Asked that they be granted the right to serve as their own redeveloper. Spoke regarding positive benefits of their proposal. Our parking is self contained within the structure, tax rate and shared parking for the surrounding areas such as the new theater district and Oceanfest.

Mr. Aaron stated to Mr. Fister that his attorney has already put the City on notice of a potential litigation against the City and I suggest to you and for the record that you provide a detailed application to the City's redevelopment agency.

Mr. Fister went on to state that he would meet with the City and his attorney.

Harold Bobrow – 295 Ocean Boulevard

Thanked Mr. Woolley, Mr. Turner and Mr. Talwar for gathering the people together for Beachfront South and getting ideas and trying to make an overall plan for that area. Went on to speak about Comcast renewal, 15 year contract is too much, five year contract and two five year options makes more sense and also stated the need for the Council meetings to be taped. Spoke of the report that Mr. Aaron will prepare to Council regarding eminent domain in Beachfront South.

Vincent Lapore – Long Branch

Spoke regarding DEP approvals for the Beachfront South redevelopment zone.

Mr. Woolley stated that the Hovnanian project never went to DEP.

Went on to speak about Broadway Gateway North project, Monmouth Community Bank, the sale of the subdivided lot owned by Solomon Dwek, Fourth Avenue project and the Board of Trustees of Second Baptist Church.

Diana Multare – 21 North Bath Avenue

Spoke regarding birds and asked that it's a good idea to remind people to put out bird feeders. Went on to speak about herbicides and pesticides, bugs and healthy grass.

Michele Bobrow – 295 Ocean Boulevard

Spoke regarding the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln, 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin, League of Women Voters was founded, end of Seven Year War, all in February. Release Beachfront South from eminent domain, have openness and transparency in government and respect.

After ample time was given and no one came forward a motion was made by Councilperson Brown seconded by Councilperson Celli to close the public portion of this meeting.

RESOLUTIONS:

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

APPLICATIONS:

1. APPROVAL OF A RAFFLE LICENSE FOR THE STELLA MARIS RETREAT HOUSE
2. APPROVAL OF A RAFFLE LICENSE FOR THE ILAN HIGH SCHOOL
3. APPROVAL OF THOMAS GAVIN AS AN HONORARY MEMBER OF THE WEST END ENGINE CO. NO. 3
4. APPROVAL OF KEVAN TICE AS AN HONORARY / ACTIVE MEMBER IN THE OCEANIC FIRE ENGINE CO. NO. 1

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 had a statement to make but I chose not to after Mrs. Bobrow's statement for the good and the respect of us all, I wish you all a happy evening and we look forward to seeing you next meeting. Thank you.

Councilman Giordano – No comment.

Councilman Unger – Well I think the highlight for me tonight was frankly Mrs. Multare's comments. I can only say that I hope she doesn't let her cats out in the yard because that could be a tragic situation if you have birds. We actually rescued at least three birds this summer from the jaws of our cat so if you get to them soon enough before the cat really goes to work you can actually free the birds pretty well and I'm glad you don't use herbicides, you live very close to the ocean and they wash right in and it would be nice someday in the state of New Jersey if anyone who has lawns near the Atlantic Ocean would not be permitted to use such things because it goes right into the coastal environment so again, thank you for your comments. By the way we worked on Historic Preservation tonight and unfortunately our attorney didn't come, I know there's some folks here that were going to comment on it. Our City attorney was not available to guide us so we actually postponed it so hopefully if you could come back in two weeks if you want to talk or hear about our work on the ordinance, that's when we will be doing it. Thank you.

Dr. Celli – My only comment is I wish everybody a Happy Valentines Day.

Mr. DeStefano – All I want to say is that if I put out a birdfeeder I'll get Canadian geese.

ADJOURNMENT

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