

REGULAR MEETING

CITY COUNCIL

APRIL 28, 2008

8:00 P.M.

The Regular Meeting of the Long Branch City Council was held on Tuesday, April 28, 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; Michael DeStefano, Council President

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mayor Adam Schneider; Howard Woolley, Administrator; James G. Aaron, City Attorney; Ronald Mehlhorn, Finance Director; Irene A. Joline, City Clerk

ABSENT:

Dr. Mary Jane Celli, Council Vice-President

The pledge of allegiance was recited. Certification was read.

READING AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

APRIL 14, 2009 – A motion was made by Councilperson Brown, seconded by Councilperson Unger to approve the minutes of April 14, 2009 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 3 / Abstain 1 – Giordano / Absent 1 - Celli

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES
PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL CONSIDERATION

None

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

#1-09 HISTORICAL PRESERVATION ORDINANCE / HOLD TO MAY 12, 2009

#6-09 AN ORDINANCE DELETING SECTION 18 (G) "REQUIRED IMPROVEMENTS" WITHIN CHAPTER 300 "SUBDIVISION OF LAND", ARTICLE V "MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS" OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH AND ADOPTING A NEW ARTICLE XI, WITHIN SECTION 300-23 ENTITLED "STORM WATER MANAGEMENT"

A motion was made by Councilperson Giordano, seconded by Councilperson Brown to introduce on first reading, advertise and post according to law and set the public hearing for May 12, 2009 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 4 / Absent 1 Celli

#7-09 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5 "ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT", 5-17 "PUBLIC RECORDS" OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH TO INCREASE FEES FOR COPIES OF CERTAIN PUBLIC RECORDS AS PART OF THE VITAL STATISTICS PROGRAM OF THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH

A motion was made by Councilperson Brown, seconded by Councilperson Giordano to introduce on first reading, advertise and post according to law and set the public hearing for May 12, 2009 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 4 / Absent 1 Celli

#8-09 CALENDAR YEAR 2009 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (NJSA 40A:45.14)

A motion was made by Councilperson Brown, seconded by Councilperson Giordano to introduce on first reading, advertise and post according to law and set the public hearing for May 12, 2009 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 4 / Absent 1 Celli

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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

Diana Multare – 21 North Bath Avenue

Spoke regarding Long Branch Citizens with Good Government and transparency, the budget and what the public gets to see. Went on to speak about different areas of the budget.

Faith Titelbaum – 9 Marshall Court

Spoke regarding a proposal to move one of the historic lifesaving buildings from Takanassee Beach to the Hoey Avenue Park.

Tom Sheedy – Bayview Court

Spoke regarding an ordinance be proposed to restrict multiple trucks at residents throughout the City. Went on to disclose addresses that have multiple trucks / vans / trailers and boats that are parked at the locations.

Leon Strapolino – Ocean Avenue

Spoke regarding the enforcement of motor vehicle laws regarding residency and NJ plate and NJ licenses, rooming houses and other code enforcement issues.

Richard Manners – 69 Marion Place

Spoke regarding Marion Place and one side of the street parking.

Mr. Woolley stated it should be ready for introduction at the next meeting and will be listed on the workshop agenda.

Lucky Wiggins – Woodrow Wilson Homes

Asked if a curfew can be established for Woodrow Wilson as the area is getting out of hand. There are many kids that are hanging out that do not belong there.

The Mayor stated he will talk to Mr. Garrett.

Vince Lapore – Long Branch

Spoke regarding the disposition and developer's agreement from 1984, the 1986 hotel deed and the illegal designation of blight.

After ample time was given and no one came forward a motion was made by Councilperson Brown seconded by Councilperson Giordano 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 THREE (3) RAFFLE LICENSES FOR THE CYSTIC FIBROSIS FOUNDATION
2. APPROVAL OF HONORARY CITY AND STATE ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP FOR MATTHEW E. WILLIAMS IN THE ELBERON ENGINE COMPANY

Motion by Councilperson Brown seconded by Councilperson Giordano to approve the listed applications was approved upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 4 / Absent 1 – Celli

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Councilman Brown – No comment.

Councilman Giordano – No comment.

Councilman Unger – I do want to address the budget situation. I know that there is a public hearing in one month from now. I think the budget process works best when we have public hearings throughout the month and actually even starting with the initial workshop. We had an open workshop last Wednesday. It's usually not well publicized, I don't think any of the newspapers mentioned it in their publications but it's the one place where the public can actually hear and see all the details of the City's budget and actually see them discussed. That budget which is about a foot thick or more is really valuable only if a citizen had access to that document could you actually make reasonable and intelligent recommendations to the City about either adding something to the budget which I'm going to recommend tonight that we do or reducing the budget and I was somewhat (inaudible) that once again attendance was very poor and I would urge next year that the City make an effort to do some publicity to get people there so in this budget, I voted no tonight on the introduction of the budget, I just want to make that clear and I'm recommending roughly \$700,000.00 in budget cuts so that we can have a fairly flat tax this year, in other words a neutral tax situation. Some of the key items I think where we can save are in our Legal fees. I asked for about \$130,000 in cuts in legal fees. I feel that our legal costs are way to high. I think in the (inaudible) face some really seriously liabilities with some of the cases that we are facing in the City as a defendant and I think since next year its widely anticipated that we're going to have a poor tax revenue collection next year it could be a very bad year. I think now is the time to really cut some of these things that are nonessential. I've recommended \$47,000.00 cuts in the Mayor/Administrator and City Council budget for things like publicity and advertising, memberships, conferences, I think we should skip the conferences this year. I recommended the Mayor and the City Council delete their salaries from the budget this coming year as a signal to the public that we understand how tough things are out there. I work in the private sector, my own company, we've laid off half the staff, an additional 1/3 of the staff is on furlough two days a week and only a small skeleton of staff remains full time and I think that's very true with many residents in this City. Just to try to move quickly, I recommended about \$80,000 in cuts in the Finance office including the Comptrollers office, Tax Collector and the Purchasing Office and these are really administrative salaries, dues conferences, slight cut back in purchases of equipment, one administrative position here and there.

In Public Works I'm recommending cuts of about \$44,000. None of them are draconian for public facilities. I'm recommending we go back to the 2008 budget, that would save \$20,000 in the garage in the public works garage overhead if we simply cut back 4% we save \$13,000. Things like that, cell phone usage would make a big difference. I've made recommendations as well in Public Safety, in Health, in Recreation and as I said they add up to roughly \$700,000 but I'd be happy to discuss them between now and the introduction of the budget. I also have a couple of increases. I'm asking for roughly \$45,000 to go into the City's Cable Commission so that we can tape these meetings, have them up on the internet or even broadcast live and I think that's more than enough budget to do that. I'm also recommending we add about \$40,000 for a Social Worker in the Senior Center. The Senior Center does not have a Social Worker doing outreach to the shut in elderly in our City and you might be aware but you might now, we have a lot of shut ins in this City. We have elderly people not being reached by the County or the State and I believe the Senior Center would really benefit and the seniors would benefit from a Social Work and finally Michael real quick, I've put in about \$3,700 for the Historic Preservation Commission. I can see them being a very minor expense to run the Commission, roughly three meetings a year with a secretary to take minutes and an attorney and so I'm recommending about \$91,000 in addition to add to the budget as well as about \$700,000 in cuts. Thank you.

Dr. Celli – Absent

Mr. DeStefano – The budget was in fact published. It's always published. It has to be published by law so the budget was published, the notification for the meeting was published so it was an advertised meeting. The other thing was that if you had attended all these points were brought up and debated at that meeting, most of them (inaudible). Finally the budget hearing is going to be in about a month, the second meeting in May and what I do want to do is remind you that as I stated at the last meeting I will not be here that meeting. Dr. Celli will be here as the Council Vice President running the meeting. I will be on vacation, something I planned a long time ago and I had no idea the budget would fall then so I want you to be clear I am not dodging the meeting and I will state right now I support the budget as it stands and whatever the results of that budget hearing is, whatever this Council adopts I'm with.

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting of the Long Branch City Council adjourned at 8:30 p.m.