

REGULAR MEETING

CITY COUNCIL

MAY 12, 2009

8:00 P.M.

The Regular Meeting of the Long Branch City Council was held on Tuesday, May 12, 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:

Mayor Adam Schneider; James G. Aaron, City Attorney; Ronald Mehlhorn, Finance Director; Kathy L. Schmelz, Deputy Municipal Clerk

ABSENT:

Howard Woolley, Administrator; Irene A. Joline, City Clerk

The pledge of allegiance was recited. Certification was read.

READING AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

APRIL 28, 2009 – A motion was made by Councilperson Brown, seconded by Councilperson Giordano to approve the minutes of April 28, 2009 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 4 / Abstain 1 - Celli

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES
PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL CONSIDERATION

#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"

This ordinance was introduced on April 28, 2009.

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

After ample time was given and no one responded, a motion was made by Councilperson Unger, seconded by Councilperson Brown 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

#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

This ordinance was introduced on April 28, 2009.

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

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 Brown, seconded by Councilperson Giordano to adopt said ordinance on third and final reading was adopted upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

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

This ordinance was introduced on April 28, 2009.

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

Bill McLaughlin – 448 Ocean Avenue

Asked what this ordinance was about.

Mr. Mehlhorn stated that 2 ½ % is authorized in the operation section. The City is asking for it to go up 1%. You can bank the CAP for one year.

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

A motion by Councilperson Brown, 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:

#1-09 HISTORICAL PRESERVATION ORDINANCE – LONG BRANCH, NJ

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 26, 2009 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

#9-09 AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING OUTDOOR FRESH PRODUCE MARKETS

A motion was made by Councilperson Brown, seconded by Councilperson Celli to introduce on first reading, advertise and post according to law and set the public hearing for May 26, 2009 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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

Vivian Taomina

Asked if the City could come up with some sort of plan to have it so taxpayers in the City could get on the beach for free.

The Mayor responded that he doesn't feel it would be a good idea but will speak to her after the meeting.

Michelle Bobrow – 295 Ocean Boulevard

Asked if there were any plans yet on televising Council meetings.

The response from Mr. DeStefano was that there were no plans. Mr. Unger stated that he wanted it in the budget but no one agreed.

Harold Cooper – 113 South 7th Avenue

Spoke regarding the school budget and lower Broadway being in disarray.

Diana Mulfare – 21 North Bath Avenue

Spoke regarding the bond ordinance for the Pier and salaries of various city workers.

Avery Grant – 405 Atlantic Avenue

Believes the Council should take a positive attitude on free beach badges to taxpayers.

Bill McLaughlin – 448 Ocean Avenue

Spoke regarding the Mayors statement in the paper regarding LB fiscal affairs and pension obligations, tax abatements and eminent domain abuse

Vincent Lapore – Long Branch

Spoke regarding property on McKinley Street, Beachfront North and Mr. Aarons firm.

Will Summers – representing the Atlantic Surfing Museum

Spoke regarding a Maritime and water sports museum in the City.

Menasha Ozer – 779 Boyer Avenue

Spoke regarding the school budget, the City budget, closed businesses and taxes in the City.

After ample time was given and no one came forward a motion was made by Councilperson Giordano 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:

NONE

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Councilman Brown – Yes good evening everyone, at this time being a member of the Second Baptist Church, we're having Friends Day at the Middle school this

Sunday at 10am and we are inviting you all to the services. We already invited our family and now we are extending the invitations to our friends.

Councilman Giordano – Thank you, I just wanted to wish Councilwoman Celli and everybody else a belated Happy Mothers Day since we missed you last time.

Councilman Unger – Well I wanted to welcome my friend Will Summers, my friend and fellow surfer. Will's been part of the surfing community for many decades and is very very highly respected. He's networked up and down the east coast and the west coast in the surfing community and in the islands, you know that people typically surf in like Puerto Rico and Hawaii and he's got a really solid group. They've formed a non profit. They are very interested in doing on the east coast what is already happening on the west coast which is surfing museums. They are great little tourist attractions. It's a sport that has a great history and he'd like to come to Long Branch so I hoped that we'd give him a hand and listen to his proposals. He's interested in finding a location and hopefully we can give him assistance in that respect. Secondly on taxes which several people spoke about tonight. We are looking at contracts with City employees and we did discuss it in the workshop, I cant tell you what the details of what we discussed were but several of us on Council feel that we do have some options and that we are going to look at making some tough decisions, I don't know if we'll have enough votes to make a big effect but we understand that the annual increase in taxes just cant go on indefinitely. We are driving people out of the City and I do think we are hurting our residential neighborhoods so we do take it seriously and thank you all for your comments. Thank you.

Dr. Celli – I'm not going to apologize for this but I want you to know that I missed the last meeting because I had the nerve to take a well earned vacation. I very very seldom miss meetings and you can look at my attendance records but yet my name happened to be in the paper because I missed a meeting. I was away, I was in New York and I was not in Long Branch. As I said, I'm not going to apologize and I think every Council person has the right to have a vacation. Thank you.

Mr. DeStefano – On that note, I will remind everyone as I have for the last couple of meetings that I will be on vacation for the next Council meeting so I will not be present and it will be the budget hearing so I just want you to know that again as I've said before, I'm not skipping out, I do support the budget as it currently stands, however it works out, I'm sure it will be in good hands and my final word is, Mr. Grant, please don't ever do that again.

ADJOURNMENT

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