

REGULAR MEETING

CITY COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 10, 2009

7:00 P.M.

The Regular Meeting of the Long Branch City Council was held on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at 7:00 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; Howard Woolley, Administrator; James G. Aaron, City Attorney; Ronald Mehlhorn, Finance Director; Irene A. Joline, RMC, City Clerk

The pledge of allegiance was recited and certification was read into the record.

READING AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

October 27, 2009 - Motion to approve the minutes of October 27, 2009 was offered by Councilperson Unger, seconded by Councilperson Celli - Ayes 4 / Abstain 1 Giordano

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES

PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL CONSIDERATION

None

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 24, 2009

#20-09 ORDINANCE AMENDING 325-3C, SCHEDULE II (325-26) (LONG BRANCH AND BAY AVENUE)

A motion was made by Councilperson Celli, seconded by Councilperson Brown to introduce on first reading, advertise and post according to law and set the public hearing for November 24, 2009 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

#21-09 ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH TO LEASE SPACE FOR THE FIRE TRUCKS FROM PRIVATELY OWNED VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES IN THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH

A motion was made by Councilperson Celli, seconded by Councilperson Brown to introduce on first reading, advertise and post according to law and set the public hearing for November 24, 2009 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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

Joe Morriello – 764 Ocean Avenue

Spoke regarding Mr. Mehlhorn's compensation package.

Donald Riley – 170 Atlantic Avenue

Spoke regarding the atmosphere in the meeting room, increase in taxes, city vehicles, oceanfront development and revenue brought into the town.

Diana Multare – 21 North Bath Avenue

Spoke regarding unused sick and vacation payouts, transparency in government, the article in the newspaper written by Councilman DeStefano and payouts.

Lynn Petrovich – Oakhurst, NJ

Spoke regarding the word conservative costing taxpayers money, an article in the newspaper about accounting practices and sick days, borrowing power, debt and taxes.

Tom Sheedy – 28 Bayview Court

Spoke regarding how the public is treated.

Menashe Ouzer – 779 Boyer Avenue

Spoke regarding property taxes, putting a hold on pay increases and asked that the patrol is stepped up on his area due to break ins.

Althea Riley – 170 Atlantic Avenue

Spoke regarding other options for the 2010 budget process, sick leave and people not being able to live in town anymore because of high taxes.

Harold Bobrow – 295 Ocean Boulevard

Thanked Mr. Woolley and everyone involved in the meeting with Beachfront South, tractors and rakes, segregated accounts for the beach, transparency and televised Council meetings, forming of committees to help in the budget process, taxes in NJ and working as a team.

Vincent Lapore – Long Branch

Spoke regarding Beachfront South meetings, the new Governor, eminent domain, building in the Beachfront South redevelopment zone and Hovnanian.

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

RESOLUTIONS:

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

APPLICATIONS:

1. APPROVAL OF TWO (2) RAFFLE LICENSES FOR THE SHREWSBURY PARENT TEACHER GROUP
2. APPROVAL OF A RAFFLE LICENSE FOR THE LONG BRANCH FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND DRIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.
3. APPROVAL OF A RAFFLE LICENSE FOR MONMOUTH MEDICAL CENTER FOUNDATION

A motion by Councilperson Brown, seconded by Councilperson Giordano to approve the above applications was passed upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Councilman Brown – Yes good evening everyone, it's not usual that we get to say thank you before a holiday event but because tomorrow and hopefully we are all off, tomorrow is Veterans Day and I can thank you all in advance for hopefully supporting Veterans Day and remembering our Veterans and also coming out to the City services. As a proud letter carrier / mailman retired after 35 years and also a proud Veteran, tomorrow we in America are losing our Veterans. World War I Veterans are just about all gone and now World War II is looking to be the same way. I'm a Veteran of Viet Nam, we wish each and every one of you a happy day tomorrow and hopefully you will remember the 11th hour of the 11th day. Thank you.

Councilman Giordano – Thank you, just to pick up on Dave's comments about tomorrow being Veterans Day particularly in these last few years and this year with all that's going on around the world and all the Veteran's that are out there, service men and women fighting for us overseas, please keep all of them in mind as well as those who have fought in the past or who have served in the past. We have three people just up here alone, Councilman Brown, Councilwoman Celli, Mr. Mehlhorn and I'm remised if there is anyone in the audience, thank you for your service to our Country, thank you.

Councilman Unger – Well since Don Riley asked us to respond on the tax issue I thought I should say something, a couple things come to mind Don, one, the Governor elect has indicated that one of the things that he wants to aggressively do is review municipal practices and authorities and agencies of the State to see if we are doing things that need to be relooked at to save the taxpayers money and when he said that some of us in the room thought about this ban on GAAP accounting that the State demands, the only State in the union that simply does not permit a municipality to use GAAP accounting and that permits municipalities, as you heard, we're allowed to go 173 million dollars in debt under the system we have so that's something that we could really press our legislators that we just had our two incumbents reelected, we could press them to take a look at that I mean I don't know the answers but I think if you don't aggressively look at things and knock them around and discuss them, you're never going to find out what you can and what you cant do and what you cant do, should you give up? Should you just say, no, we can't do it? No, I think a public official and a Mayor and a City Council person and a legislator should be beating the drum, should take a position, should write an (inaudible), should do a press release, should make it known, should rally the other municipalities on

what we can do, so that's my point of view on that Don and you may find the next workshop meeting two weeks from now interesting if the City Council President has indicated he is willing to schedule a workshop discussion of this, it could be very interesting and maybe we'll be able to have one or two outside experts possibly if that's okay with the Council President and really try to figure out what we can do to cap these payouts with some of our employees. I think that would be a constructive move so that's what I have for you tonight.

Dr. Celli - As my colleagues have mentioned, tomorrow is Veterans Day and I'd like to invite everybody to come to the Jerry Morgan Park at 10:00 and enjoy the service and then come over here to City Hall and we also have another service and the VFW has open house tomorrow. I'm a proud Veteran of the Air Force and I am very proud to tell you that but there are an awful lot of troops all around the country and all I can say is God bless them and God bless America.

Mr. DeStefano - Prior to every public session people get to speak at the microphone I state very clearly the rules. I have five things that I state, I state them at every meeting. One of them is that there's a five minute limit for people at the microphone. Last meeting, Mr. Riley, when he was told that his five minutes were up, specifically said he didn't care and he wanted to continue to speak, in my opinion, that's rude. I was very clear about the rule and I asked him to cut off at his five minutes. Regarding the person with the tax issue, I don't recall anyone being rude, I recall the Mayor in fact trying to be helpful, look at the tax bill and try to make some determination. I'm not sure we're all at the same meeting or we have the same perspective at that meeting but I do have the rules, I state them at every meeting, I do ask for everyone to adhere to them and I do appreciate it, with that we're adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting of the Long Branch City Council adjourned at 8:00p.m.