

REGULAR MEETING

CITY COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 24, 2009

7:00 P.M.

The Regular Meeting of the Long Branch City Council was held on Tuesday, November 24, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 344 Broadway, Long Branch, New Jersey.

PRESENT:

David G. Brown, Councilman; Anthony Giordano, 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; Kathy L. Schmelz, RMC, Deputy Municipal Clerk

ABSENT:

Brian Unger, Councilman; Irene A. Joline, RMC, City Clerk

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

HEARING: Municipal Self-Assessment Plan

Michele Bernich, Zoning Official – City of Long Branch

What we did was put together this Municipal Self Assessment report with the help of CMX to address the issues of the State Plan and goals and to see if the City is consistent with them in order to re-establish the City as a regional center and also to petition for urban center which will bring the City into another level in the planning process and what the report is, is a snapshot of where the City is today in many different categories in the economic sector, parks and recreation, the planning process and how it also is identified with the State plan goals. There are 8 or 9 different goals that we addressed together with the Planner and what the City will be asking from smart growth is this petition for regional centers and urban center designation. This report was reviewed by City officials, CMX and also a planned endorsement advisory committee. They reviewed the draft, we've gotten their comments and introduced it to Council a couple of weeks ago and implemented your comments into the final report that will be sent to the office of Smart Growth.

I hope that explains it a little bit. Do you need me to go into more detail?

Council President DeStefano – Just one thing, what the benefits would be of being in the regional center and urban center.

Michele Bernich – The regional center, there's many of them in the state. What that does is allows each regional center to apply for different types of funding and grants and the City has done that in the past. There are fewer urban centers, there are currently 9, Long Branch would be the 10th and that actually elevates the City to another level at the top of the States planning process and would benefit the City in getting different and more grants to help with all of these plans and ideas that the City has going forward. We were going to petition for that expanded designation.

Council President DeStefano – Does anybody else have any specific questions or concerns?

No response from Council.

Council President DeStefano – Okay, what I'm going to do is just take a moment, follow the typical rules of public session and that is everyone will

have an opportunity, if they have questions or comments regarding the plan to be able to state them and ask their questions and as always, please state your name and address for the record when you come to the microphone. You'll have an opportunity to speak once. We are going to try to move it along. I'm going to try not to keep it at five minutes, maybe three and as always, have respect for everyone in the audience, questions first, comments later. So with that I'd like to have a motion to open the hearing on this particular item

Councilperson Celli – So moved.

Councilperson Giordano – Second.

Council President DeStefano – Again, it's on this particular item which is the Municipal Self Assessment Plan. If anybody has any questions or comments...

Motion to close the public hearing?

Councilperson Giordano – So moved.

Councilperson Celli – Second.

Council President DeStefano – Thank you Michele.

READING AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

November 10, 2009 – Motion to approve the minutes of November 10, 2009 was offered by Councilperson Giordano, seconded by Councilperson Celli – Ayes 4 / Absent 1 Unger

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES
PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL CONSIDERATION

#20-09 ORDINANCE AMENDING 325-3C, SCHEDULE II (325-26) (LONG BRANCH AND BAY AVENUE) (INTRODUCED: NOVEMBER 10, 2009)

A motion was made by Councilperson Giordano to open the public hearing on this ordinance was seconded by Councilperson Celli and carried out upon the following vote: Ayes 4 Absent 1 - Unger

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 Celli, seconded by Councilperson Giordano to adopt said ordinance on third and final reading was adopted upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 4 Absent 1- Unger

#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 (INTRODUCED: NOVEMBER 10, 2009)

A motion was made by Councilperson Celli to open the public hearing on this ordinance was seconded by Councilperson Brown and carried out upon the following vote: Ayes 4 Absent 1 - Unger

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

A motion by Councilperson Celli, seconded by Councilperson Brown to adopt said ordinance on third and final reading was adopted upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 4 Absent 1- Unger

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:
PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 8, 2009

#22-09 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING TITLES AND SETTING SALARIES FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH FOR THE YEAR 2009

A motion was made by Councilperson Celli, seconded by Councilperson Giordano to introduce on first reading, advertise and post according to law and set the public hearing for December 8, 2009 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 4 / Absent 1 Unger

#23-09 ORDINANCE REAPPROPRIATING \$155,000 PROCEEDS OF OBLIGATIONS NOT NEEDED FOR THEIR ORIGINAL PURPOSES IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR THE PURCHASE OF VARIOUS VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT LISTED HEREIN IN AND BY THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY

A motion was made by Councilperson Giordano, seconded by Councilperson Celli to introduce on first reading, advertise and post according to law and set the public hearing for December 8, 2009 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 4 / Absent 1 Unger

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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

Diana Multare - 21 North Bath Avenue

Spoke regarding the presentation that was held in the Workshop session pertaining to the pier and ferry. Against the whole idea of a pier and ferry. Long Branch would look like a terminal site.

Joe Acerra - 9 Calvert Avenue

Asked if the Mayor or Council can briefly go over the presentation as he missed it in the workshop session.

The mayor gave a brief summary of the presentation that took place regarding the Pier and Ferry by McLaren Engineers.

Mr. Acerra asked that the project includes the carpenters union and wished the Council good luck in the endeavor.

Robert Napoli - Interlaken, NJ

Owns a local business here in town. Spoke regarding the Municipal Self Assessment Plan being a good idea for the City.

Diane Zutnick - 33 Cooper Avenue

Asked what the impact this pier and ferry project will have on our taxes.

Mayor Schneider stated that the City would not have an answer to that right now. The majority of the money would be federal money. When it comes time to fund the pier, the City will have to find sources of funding because the City will never have that kind of money. Most money will be federal.

Ms. Zutnick spoke regarding the new Governor and how he has a very different agenda for how he thinks we should run this state. Concerned about the taxes in this City and the impact the new project will have on the City.

Vince Lapore – Long Branch

Spoke regarding a bill payout of Mr. Aaron's regarding preparation for verbal argument before Judge Lawson, Memorandum of Understanding with CJS and their financial capabilities.

Tom Sheedy – 2 Bayview Court

Spoke regarding City employee contracts and he has notified the Governor elects transition team to let them know.

Hunter Halverson – 524 Ocean Boulevard

Stated he has lived here 75 years and wants to offer his services free of charge to the City regarding any help they may need. Spoke regarding high bushes on West End and Second Avenue, spoke with Director Richards and the problem was solved. Went on to speak about bushes going onto sidewalks, McLoones Pier House should have railings there and people fall. Went on to speak about an organization to help youth in the City. The City should have a program regarding rape, torture, mutilation and murder of children. Asked to help the City.

Michelle Bobrow – 295 Ocean Boulevard

Spoke regarding what she is thankful for this week. Stated thank you for admitting eminent domain is wrong and for giving back some of our lives.

After ample time was given and no one else 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 posted on the City's Web Site.

APPLICATIONS:

1. APPROVAL OF A RAFFLE LICENSE FOR THE MA'OR YESHIVA HIGH SCHOOL
2. APPROVAL OF LUIS ROMERO AS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE WEST END ENGINE CO.
3. APPROVAL OF STEPHEN LEPPER AS AN HONORARY MEMBER OF THE BRANCHPORT HOSE COMPANY
4. APPROVAL OF JONATHON RYAN AS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE ELBERON ENGINE COMPANY
5. APPROVAL OF DIAGO BURITICA AS AN HONORARY / ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE WEST END ENGINE COMPANY

A motion by Councilperson Brown, seconded by Councilperson Celli to approve the above applications was passed upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 4 / Absent 1 Unger

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Councilman Brown – Yes, good evening everyone. As we all know, this Thursday is Thanksgiving, from my household to yours, I wish you all a hardy and helpful, thankful Thanksgiving remembering those who are less fortunate than we are, thank you.

Councilman Giordano – Thank you. I would like to wish everybody and their families a happy and healthy Thanksgiving and as Dave pointed out, there are many people less fortunate than all of us. All of the local food banks, both local in Long Branch, regional, at the County level all could use support this holiday season. They're all running very low on food inventory so if there is anything you can do to help your local food bank, please do so, thank you.

Councilman Unger – Absent

Dr. Celli – I'm not going to be a copycat but I was going to say the same thing but I wish all of you a very happy Thanksgiving. We have many blessings and I think sometimes we forget how truly lucky we are and happy to live in a great country like the United States of America so with that I'd like to wish everybody a happy and healthy Thanksgiving.

Mr. DeStefano – There were a couple of comments made by one of the speakers.... Miss Multare was concerned about the ever changing nature of the City of Long Branch and I just wanted to address a couple of the comments. One is, we are building a pier to look busy? I don't think so. We've been busy over the years and we've accomplished a lot if you look at Beachfront North and Pier Village. We don't just look busy, we are busy, we accomplish. Number 2, Long Branch is going to change. Long Branch is not the same Long Branch that my father grew up in, it's not the same Long Branch that I grew up in and it will certainly be a different Long Branch for my children. It's a natural progression. We need to learn to manage change and keep it a healthy city. Finally, all of the people we might be bringing in, what a violation this is of Long Branch's history. There was a book written in the 40's as a project called Entertaining a Nation and it discussed the fact that our roots are in entertainment in being a vacation spot, in being a resort. We're returning to that. With that, we're adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting of the Long Branch City Council adjourned at 7:55 p.m.