

REGULAR MEETING

CITY COUNCIL

DECEMBER 8, 2009

7:00 P.M.

The Regular Meeting of the Long Branch City Council was held on Tuesday, December 8, 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, City Clerk

ABSENT:

Anthony Giordano, Councilman

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

READING AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

November 24, 2009 - Motion to approve the minutes of November 24, 2009 was offered by Councilperson Celli, seconded by Councilperson Brown - Ayes 4 / Absent 1 Giordano

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES

PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL CONSIDERATION

#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 (INTRODUCED: NOVEMBER 24, 2009)

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

Michelle Bobrow - 295 Ocean Boulevard

Asked what the average increase was in the upper salaries over last year.

Mr. Mehlhorn stated that several bargaining units are still in negotiations for 2009. About 4 to 4 ¼ percent is still locked in from the previous contract.

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

A motion by Councilperson Brown, seconded by Councilperson Celli to adopt said ordinance on third and final reading was adopted upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 3 / Nays 1 Unger / Absent 1- Giordano

Motion to carry to the meeting of December 29, 2009 was by Councilman Brown, seconded by Councilperson Celli - Ayes 4 / Absent 1 Giordano

#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 (INTRODUCED: NOVEMBER 24, 2009)

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

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

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:
PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 29, 2009

#24-09 AN ORDINANCE VACATING RIGHT OF WAY IN BLOCK 302 OWNED BY THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH ACCESS TO SEAVIEW AVENUE

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 December 29, 2009 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 4 / Absent 1 Giordano

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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

Michelle Bobrow – 295 Ocean Boulevard

Spoke regarding Ord # 24-09 and the properties for the right of way. Asked if they were all owned by the developer and Mr. Aaron stated, yes, one is owned by Cook.

Went on to speak regarding the resolutions awarding contracts and the ability to negotiate with different community organizations for bidding and how it coincides with the budget. Spoke regarding CMX bill on the bill list and asked what the total would be. Mr. Woolley stated he believes it was 170. Went on to discuss Basil Baumann & Prost bill and redevelopment attorney bills.

Lynn Petrovich – Oakhurst, NJ

Spoke regarding individuals that are exempt from the bargaining union and asked who they were. Mr. Mehlhorn responded and stated that it was because of confidentiality. Asked about terminal pay and Mr. Woolley stated there was none. Asked about longevity pay and cost of living, "The Beat Goes On" from the Governors office, which makes changes in the CAP and capping employee sick and vacation time.

Diane Zucknick – 33 Cooper Avenue

Spoke regarding what was paid to Mr. Plosia, contracts with employees, sick and vacation time, city spending, city benefits and city taxes.

Diana Multare – 21 North Bath Avenue

Spoke regarding compensation budget of City employees. Went on to speak about other municipalities and how they handle time accrued by their employees. Spoke regarding the hiring of a Purchasing Agent with the old Purchasing Agent still employed. Asked if this was going to bump up her pension.

The Mayor stated, no.

Vincent Lapore – Long Branch

Asked Mr. Aaron for a record of the bill payout before Judge Lawson on the Fuschia Triangle matter. Went on to speak about ordinance 24-09 and asked Mr. Woolley if a formal appraisal was done on this property.

Mr. Woolley stated, not to his knowledge.

Mr. Lapore asked if all the parties will be notified. Mr. Woolley stated yes.

Went on to speak about the affordable housing units on 4th Avenue.

Jerry Scarano – Ocean Boulevard

Asked about the corner of Bath, Broadway and Norwood. Mr. Woolley stated that the City has applied to DEP for remedial action work plan and are waiting for their approval, there is money in place to build a pocket park there. Stated more signs should be up regarding public parking in that area. Went on to speak about sidewalks, school children waiting for the bus near the train station, League of Municipality reports by employees who attend, wooden fire escapes, overspending, EPA involvement in the new Pier and the 2010 calendar.

Tom Sheedy – 28 Bayview Court

Spoke regarding increases compared with the rate of inflation, employee salaries and renegotiating contracts.

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

APPLICATIONS:

1. APPROVAL OF A RAFFLE LICENSE FOR THE SPINA BIFIDA RESOURCE NETWORK

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 Giordano

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Councilman Brown – Good evening everyone, in case you were not paying attention, the regularly scheduled meeting for the 22nd has been postponed. We will be reconvening on the 29th, therefore, the 29th being after the holiday season, I wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas, happy New Year, happy Hanukkah and just happy Long Branch Day. Thank you citizens, come back on the 29th. We love to see you.

Councilman Giordano – Absent

Councilman Unger – I voted no on the salary ordinance because I think I've got, all I have is a vote really and I've got to file an objection to Ron's contract. I like Ron personally, he's a gentleman, he's a fine professional, he is extremely bright and this is in no way personal or even political, this is just about governance and I voted no on the salary ordinance and I will vote no on it again when it's reintroduced because I think we need to reopen that contract and take out some of the lavish provisions that were approved again in July of 2006 without any debate or discussion and I just think its unconscionable and even though there is only 6 or 7 months left in the contract, I think we should do something materially about it, thank you.

Dr. Celli – Two of the speakers got up and spoke about this document which is the Waste Fraud and Abuse. It was done by a commission by the State of New Jersey. There are 14 townships, communities, cities, whatever you want to say that were sited for different, lets say infractions, however, at the end of the book in the appendix, everyone of those townships managed to dispute what these people said were facts so even though its put out by the State of New Jersey, it doesn't mean that it's right and Mrs. Bobrow, for your information, I did read it just so you know. I walked into City Hall this morning and again this afternoon when the lights were on and the lights looked beautiful, City Hall looks beautiful, the whole City looks beautiful and to everybody who partake in this, I certainly appreciate it because I had someone come up to me and say, "Are you an elected official in this town?" and I said "yes and I'm proud of it" and the person said to me "well you should be because the City looks beautiful". So thank you to all the City workers and I again along with Councilman Brown, Councilman Unger, Councilman Giordano and I'm sure Councilman DeStefano wish everybody in this City a very happy holiday for those of you that are celebrating this weekend and for those of us that are celebrating in another couple of weeks. Happy Holidays to all.

Mr. DeStefano – I'm not sure if I heard correctly so I will repeat what I thought I heard that three people made up half of the payroll in the City of Long Branch. I think you need to recheck those numbers, I'm sure somebody slipped a decimal on the calculator somewhere or doesn't know how to use excel with a pie chart. The other thing is is if you were at the workshop meeting we were talking about CAPS and what the City Council has been doing and a lot has been stated you know the City operates with Unions, operates under Civil Service and we have over the years as was clearly stated in the workshop put CAPS and worked very diligently with the Unions to cap a lot of sick time by outs so we are doing that. Thank you and you are certainly welcome you know to our efforts because that's what we're here to do. Mr. Scarano, I'm sorry you felt that that was a campaign piece.

I thought that picture was a great, on the front was a great picture of the park and it did represent a lot of the people that were involved with the community club and in the City there so everyone was invited, not everyone made it, oh well. With that, I hope everybody has a happy holiday and we are adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting of the Long Branch City Council adjourned at 7:45 p.m.