

REGULAR MEETING

CITY COUNCIL

MARCH 9, 2010

7:00 P.M.

The Regular Meeting of the Long Branch City Council was held on Tuesday, March 9, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 344 Broadway, Long Branch, New Jersey.

PRESENT:

David G. Brown, Councilman; Anthony Giordano, Councilman (via telecommunication); Brian Unger, Councilman; Dr. Mary Jane Celli, Council Vice-President; Michael DeStefano, Council President

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

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

READING AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

February 23, 2010 – Motion to approve the minutes of February 23, 2010 was offered by Councilperson Unger, seconded by Councilperson Giordano - Ayes 3 / Abstain 2 DeStefano, Brown

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES
PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL CONSIDERATION

None

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:
PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 23, 2010

None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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

Diana Multare - 21 North Bath Avenue

Spoke regarding the bond ordinance for the design of the pier and the ferry, R13-10 regarding the reappointment of John Brockreide to the Long Branch Sewer Authority and asked Mr. Aaron to explain the reasons given by Michael DuPont, Esq. that Mr. Brockreide can be appointed. Mr. Aaron stated that there is case law that indicates that even if an entire body is conflicted, the courts have ruled that they could vote on the issue and the issue would be whether or not that vote is arbitrary, capricious and unreasonable.

Discussion continued between Mrs. Multare and Mr. Aaron regarding certain case law pertaining to this matter.

Joseph Mauriello – 764 Ocean Avenue

Asked Mr. Aaron if he was a stock holder in Central Jersey Bank. Mr. Aaron stated he was a share holder. Asked Mr. Brown if he worked there, Mr. Brown responded yes, then asked if Mr. Giordano and Mr. DeStefano were share holders. Mr. DeStefano stated yes. Went on to speak regarding conflicts.

Gerry Scarano – Ocean Boulevard

Spoke regarding signs in the Municipal Parking Lots regarding no overnight parking which was a good idea, asked about layoffs in the City which the Mayor responded that it was an administrative decision not a Council decision. The Mayor is working on avoiding layoffs. When people leave, they do not get replaced. Spoke regarding monitoring foreclosures, blight in the downtown area and issuing temporary CO's to Broadway storefronts.

John Gregory – 247 Rockwell Avenue

Spoke regarding R13-10 and asked if the written opinion has been made public and then Mr. Aaron went over the events that led to the requirement of an opinion letter and stated that he excused himself and Mr. DuPont was asked to do the research. Went on to speak about hoping that all considerations have been given prior to the reappointment.

Harold Cooper – 113 S. 7th Avenue

Asked about the criteria of appointing someone to the Sewer Authority. Mr. DeStefano stated that the Council solicits people in the community that are interested and go over resumes to see whether or not there is adequate ability to serve and then make appointments. Mr. Cooper asked how many people applied for this position. Mr. DeStefano stated that when a member is up for reappointment that has served any length of time, they get reappointed if they are willing to serve.

Bernard Gorcey – 36 Second Avenue

Spoke regarding the redevelopment zones, debt, transparency, lowering taxes and accountability of Council and Lawyers.

Michelle Bobrow – 295 Ocean Boulevard

Spoke regarding payment of bills and the temporary budget. Asked about City Attorney / Other Expenses \$192,000. Mr. Mehlhorn stated that the budget is broken down into salaries and wages and other expenses. Miscellaneous other expenses are for various attorneys. Went on to speak regarding the bill for the lobbying firm, cable television fee and asked if the Council meetings will be broadcast. Mr. Mehlhorn stated it was a fee associated with the Cable TV Commission.

Donald Riley – 170 Atlantic Avenue

Spoke regarding the idea of the ferry being brought into town and the traffic this will cause and the appearance of the downtown area.

Vincent Lapore – Long Branch

Spoke regarding honesty, and confidence of the community, the appointment of John Brockreide to the Sewer Authority, representation of the law firm of Mr. Aaron and representation by Mayor Schneider.

Lori Ann Vendetti – 33, 38 Ocean Terrace

Spoke regarding R44-10, and asked what happens when they go over the number of animals allotted to take there? Mr. Mehlhorn stated that the City would amend the contract. Went on to speak regarding the appointment of John Brockreide and term limits.

Michael Bland – 81 Avenel Boulevard

Asked what “adequate ability” would be defined as. The Mayor responded it would depend on the board or commission. Went on to explain the process of appointing boards. There is no one formula.

After ample time was given and no one else came forward a motion was made by Councilperson Unger 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 RAFFLE LICENSE FOR RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE OF LONG BRANCH

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

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Councilman Brown – I have spoken out, and only I can say as like I always do. The holiday season is coming upon up. Be well, be helpful, have a good Easter, Passover, healthy holiday, thank you all. We’ll see you next meeting.

Councilman Giordano – No comment.

Councilman Unger – I do want to say that it came out during our meeting in the back in the Workshop that Mr. DuPont is helping with the shoes for Haiti and shoes for Chili program and I happen to have a ton of shoes in my closet that I never wear, some sneakers. He wants shoes and sneakers and boots and things that aren’t really...that are in very good shape. Obviously you don’t want to insult people with really awful shoes and sneakers. They go to the Red Bank Borough Hall which some of you know where it is. It’s the corner of Maple Avenue and Monmouth Street in Red Bank and the deadline is this Friday so if anybody, I mean it’s almost spring and it’s a good time to clear up your closet. I’m hoping to load up some shoes and take

them over there so it would be a great thing to do. As far as Mr. Riley, often comes here with some good suggestions and I actually happen to agree with you and I think one thing I would do if I was elected Mayor, I don't know if Bob Krebs would or if Adam would in his next term in fact almost every possible Council person is in this room right now, we're going to serve and get sworn in on July 1st. I see you all in the back and I see my folks over here and other folks, I think we should have more referendums, which could be expensive but we could do them on November election days and May election days and secondly I think we should have more public hearings. Sometimes five minutes isn't enough and you don't get to have a full public venting and I think we could publicize these public hearings, maybe sometimes do them on a night when the Council, when we don't put other things on the agenda and give something a full 30 or 60 minutes and if its broadcast on channel 20, have questions come in around the City from people in email and even buy cell phone. I think some of these issues like the Pier are very important and I voted yes for that one million dollar appropriation and I got roundly criticized by a lot of people for it but I thought it was worth exploring it at least. Keep in mind the pier budget is 90 - 100 million dollars and that's without cost overruns so we've got 3.7, we've spent roughly 2 million of it. Where the other 98 million is going to come from I mean we don't really know but I certainly don't want it to rest on the backs of our taxpayers in any way shape or form whatsoever. It should be a regional project, it should be countywide, it should be region wide and thank you. Thank you for bringing it up, Don.

Dr. Celli - Several people have talked about the serving on the boards and commissions. I'm inviting you all to go the Long Branch website, www.longbranch.gov and I would ask you to go to the boards and commissions, the application is there. It tells you terms, it tells you who the people are serving there. There's a lot of good information so the information is there but it's up to you to complete the resume. We do look at the résumés and we do need people. There are currently, there's an opening on the Zoning Board of Adjustment and we are also looking for people to serve on the Historic Preservation Committee so think about that. If you want to volunteer your time and please fill out the application. March 17th is my holiday so everybody enjoy St. Patrick's Day. Thank you.

Mr. DeStefano - When we pledge allegiance to the flag we say, and to the republic for which it stands, and the reason that word is significant is because when our forefathers created the country, they created it as a representative form of government, not as a true democracy and that the entire public gets to decide. The reason for that is because minority interests would never be represented in a true democracy but only in a republic. I bring that up because there is often talk about referendums, always going out for referendum and my opinion of a referendum is that, does it have its place and I'm sure at times it does but when you're elected to do a job and there is going to be a bunch of new people elected in May to do a job, you're representing people to do that job, not relinquish that job so, again, we come to campaigns and we talk about a lot of neat ideas, quite frankly, come July 1st, you want to talk for 20 minutes, I don't care, you want to broadcast, I don't care, do what you want, have a party but you know what, until July 1st, I'm still here. With that, we're adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

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