

REGULAR MEETING

CITY COUNCIL

APRIL 27, 2010

7:00 P.M.

The Regular Meeting of the Long Branch City Council was held on Tuesday, April 27, 2010 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; 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.

PRESENTATIONS:

UFD Valor Awards – The Mayor, Captain Muolo and the Fire Chiefs made presentations to various firefighters for their lifesaving techniques.

READING AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

MARCH 23, 2010 / APRIL 13, 2010

March 23, 2010 – Motion by Councilperson Giordano, seconded by Councilperson Brown to approve the minutes of March 23, 2010 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 4 / Abstain 1 Celli

April 13, 2010 – Motion by Councilperson Celli, seconded by Councilperson Brown to approve the minutes of April 13, 2010 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 3 / Abstain 2 Giordano, Unger

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES

PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL CONSIDERATION

None

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION: PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED FOR MAY 12, 2010

#3-10 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY CHAPTER 116 BEACHES – FEES 2010

Motion by Councilperson Celli seconded by Councilperson Giordano to introduce ordinance on first reading, advertise and post according to law and set the public hearing for May 12, 2010 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

#4-10 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 247 OF THE "PARKS" OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH TO ESTABLISH FEES AND INSURANCE COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR USE OF PARKS AND PAVILIONS

Motion by Councilperson Brown seconded by Councilperson Celli to introduce ordinance on first reading, advertise and post according to law and set the public hearing for May 12, 2010 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

RESOLUTIONS:

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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

Kevin Brown

Spoke about why he was sent to Long Branch years ago and what he has been doing since he left. Wished the Mayor and Council well.

Joe Turpin - 15 Hobart Manor

Spoke regarding the environment, Branchport Creek and wastewater being pumped to Two Rivers.

Donna Peterson - 104 Rockwell Avenue

Spoke regarding downtown blight article in the Press, Beachfront North case, blight, the closing of Fort Monmouth and tax ordinances.

Denise Hoagland

Spoke regarding what the Council has stated in the past regarding redevelopment, Ron Mehlhorn's budget, the future of Long Branch, a past conversation she had with Carl Jennings regarding boys sports and lack of girls sports and taking of properties in Beachfront North.

Walter Frattin - 55 Matilda Terrace

Spoke regarding the beaches, bathroom facilities at the ocean front, sand blowing up on the street, ramp to the beach, trucks riding on the beach, development, parking and the layout of the new buildings.

Bruce McCloud - 47 Cooper Avenue

Spoke regarding how the City deals with its taxpaying citizens and eminent domain abuse.

Bill McLaughlin - 448 Ocean Avenue

Spoke regarding the debate, funding for the Pier, taxes, recreation, bonding for parks, closing of Ocean Avenue, salaries of employees, attorney, planning and engineering fees and the spending of tax payers money. Also spoke about deferring pension obligations.

Michael Bland – 81 Avenel Boulevard

Asked how much Phase II of the Pier is going to cost the City and the Mayor and Mr. Bland went on to discuss what the project entailed. Went on to speak about the need for a family center and a proposal that was submitted in 2005 for a family center.

Diana Multare – 21 North Bath Avenue

Spoke regarding a meeting of the Long Branch Citizens for Good Government and term limits for municipal government.

Vincent Lapore – Long Branch

Spoke regarding the City's debt, the Tajfel project in Beachfront South, redevelopment and the Lighthouse Mission, Fuschia Triangle and Judge Lawson's decision.

Harold Bobrow – 295 Ocean Boulevard

Glad to see commendations are being given out to the Fire Department members. They should also be given out to the Police department as well. Went on to speak about televising the meetings and tax abatement for Pier Village Phase III.

Harold Cooper – 113 South 7th Avenue

Spoke regarding the Mayoral debate, redevelopment, eminent domain, time limit for the public to speak, what the citizens allow the Council to do and teams of individuals running together.

Carl Jennings – Recreation Director, City of Long Branch

Gave a back ground of his work for the City and how he grew up in Long Branch and how he respects everyone. Got up to the microphone to defend his character regarding a comment made by Denise Hoagland.

Bernard Gorcey – 36 Second Avenue

Spoke regarding the Sewer Plant smell, situation on Broadway and the cutting of taxes.

Jean Hastings – 33 Hobart Manor

Spoke regarding the recreation program here in Long Branch which was made up of boys and girls.

Mary Cooper – Long Branch

Stated that she is not sitting on "sides", she is just attending a meeting.

Menashe Ouzer - 779 Bowyer Avenue

Spoke regarding why he decided not to run for Council. Spoke regarding the taxes and the State, pensions, realty appraisals and hopes whoever wins can control the taxes.

Lori Ann Vendetti – 33, 38 Ocean Terraces

Congratulated Kevin Brown on his eminent domain fight. Went on to speak about the people who had lost their homes, the current pier project and stated there should be things for children.

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

APPLICATIONS:

None

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Councilman Brown – Just wish everyone a happy evening. I have no other comments, thank you.

Councilman Giordano - I just wish all the candidates good luck next week. It will be fun to watch for a change and happy mother's day to all the mothers.

Councilman Unger - Well, where's Pudgy? I disagree on one thing Harold Cooper said because I thought this was a great City Council meeting. I'm not sure, I don't mean to put words in your mouth but even when you have rambunctious meetings, that is specifically protected by the Constitution and it's what the Constitution is all about. Meetings don't need to be polite. People can even say things that might have an erroneous fact in it. That's not the point. The point of free speech is to have a meeting like this where so many opinions were exchanged and in our democracy which is so threatened and is so weak in many of its functions, I think this is one of the best meetings I have ever been to. I just wish more people spoke from the other side. Some people, their political speech is more based on where their bread is buttered and they use their political speech, in other words, follow the money and they will see what their political opinion is. I wanted to ask you a question Bruce, how much were you compensated for your house?

Mr. McCloud – Spoke from the audience. Parts of the conversation was not clear. Mr. McCloud did state that it ended up being 220.

Councilman Unger – I'd have to think that your property today was a three story house, 4 or 5 bedrooms, I would have to think it's worth a million, million and a half and when I think about the psychological abuse that everybody mentioned tonight, I don't want to make political hate but I want to say that you know, in situations like this you know, some people as for (inaudible) and I'm not offering it and I'm not saying I would promote tax payer money at that expense but the fact of the matter is you guys got screwed and you got screwed royally and I just hope and its not for my own benefit to tell you the truth, I just hope we have a new Mayor and a new administration whoever it is on May 11th, May 12th because term limits is probably the most important thing. You're never going to get around the money, you're never going to get around the dirty way and the corrupt way elections are financed. Its endless and you have to have term limits and I suggest next Monday night when the 20 some odd Council candidates get up there and I mean every one of you, every one of you people running with the Mayor, ask them what they think about term limits and ask each one next Monday night because

it's the only thing that can ever make democracy work half as well as its supposed to. Thank you.

Dr. Celli – Tonight was a very interesting night and I certainly enjoyed looking around the room and seeing all the seats filled and I'd like to see that all the time. Don't come just for when you have a gripe or just when you want to make some comments. We're here as someone said, we are your public servants and we do listen to you whether you believe it or not. There was some erroneous statements made tonight and I'm not going to go into it but I do believe we did, or at least I did, the best I could as a Councilperson. Saying that, I was very proud of all our paid firemen and our volunteer firemen. It is volunteer week and for all of you in the audience who are volunteers and I know several of you because I know where you are and what you do, I say thank you for your job. It's also library week so why not go next door and borrow a book or go to Elberon and see what a great library we have there and with those comments I'd like to wish everybody Happy Easter, Happy Passover and a Happy Mothers Day and don't forget to vote.

Mr. DeStefano – I have to say that the last meeting before the election I really expected it to be a lot more lively. I want to thank everyone for being almost respectful, I think you did your best and it was certainly appreciated. You had a lot to say and you got to say what you wanted to say. As far as term limits are concerned, I'll tell you my feelings about them. I absolutely don't believe in them but if Mr. Unger gets elected, I do. With that, we're adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting of the Long Branch City Council adjourned at 9:00 p.m.