

REGULAR MEETING

CITY COUNCIL

MAY 12, 2010

7:00 P.M.

The Regular Meeting of the Long Branch City Council was held on Tuesday, May 12, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 344 Broadway, Long Branch, New Jersey.

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

David G. Brown, Councilman

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

READING AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

April 27, 2010

Motion by Councilperson Giordano, seconded by Councilperson Celli to approve the minutes of April 27, 2010 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 4 / Absent 1 - Brown

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES
PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL CONSIDERATION

#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 (Introduced: April 27, 2010)

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

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 - Brown

#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 Celli, seconded by Councilperson Giordano to hold this ordinance to the meeting of June 8th, 2010 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 4 / Absent 1 - Brown

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION: PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 8, 2010

None

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 Brown.

Michelle Bobrow - 295 Ocean Boulevard

Spoke regarding her dissatisfaction regarding the order of business on the agenda. Congratulations to everyone who ran for office and congratulations to the winners. Went on to speak about more open government and more communication.

Harold Cooper - 113 S. Seventh Avenue

Congratulated the winners of the election and spoke about the lack of voter turnout.

Michael Winnick - Woodgate Avenue

Thanked those who are leaving the council for their service in the past 20 years. We appreciate it beyond belief. Mary Jane, you staying on is delightful.

Vincent Lapore - Long Branch

Spoke regarding the Dwek trial and various conflicts with the Council.

Michael Bland - 81 Avenel Boulevard

Congratulated Mayor Schneider, Dr. Celli, Ms. Billings, Ms. Bastelli and John Pallone for being elected. Stated that everyone needs to stay involved.

Diana Multare - 21 North Bath Avenue

Spoke regarding the need for a term limit ordinance and the lack of voter turnout.

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

APPLICATIONS:

1. APPROVAL OF A RAFFLE APPLICATION FOR TEMPLE BETH MIRIAM
2. APPROVAL OF A RAFFLE APPLICATION FOR LONG BRANCH ELKS LODGE #742
3. APPROVAL OF HONORARY CITY AND STATE ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP FOR ROBERTO APONTE IN THE ELBERON ENGINE CO.

A motion was made by Councilperson Celli, seconded by Councilperson Giordano to approve the listed applications and carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 4 / Absent 1 - Brown

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Councilman Brown - Absent

Councilman Giordano - Good evening. The first thing I just want to mention obviously is to congratulate the winners. I'm particularly proud of the Mayor whom I've served with the last 16 years and Councilwoman Celli who I have had the pleasure of knowing virtually all my life and serving with the last 16 years, I'm very happy for both of them as well as I'm happy for all the new elected officials who will be taking over on July 1st. I'm very confident in their abilities, very confident that they will lead the City, continue to lead the City in the right direction and I think we're in good hands for the next four years. As far as you know, look, 35% or so, I don't know what the exact number was voter turnout, you know, everybody would love to see 100% voter turnout, but Pudge, you yelling at everybody in this room, I guarantee you 100% of the people in here voted yesterday one way or the other but it would be nice. Part of the issue is quite frankly, a May election, typically has lower voter turnout than a November election. People are more conditioned to vote in November. Our form of government, we vote in May every four years so you know, that certainly has an impact and I think quite frankly, I think people are...look, people have had the opportunity in 2010, 2006, 2002, 1998 to come out and say, "we don't like the direction the City is going in" and they've come out and said quite the opposite that they are happy with the direction that the City is going in. They are happy with the work that has been done. They are happy with the progress and they certainly are looking forward to four more years of continued work and continued progress. I don't know any other way to analyze the election. You can parse it anyway you want. The bottom line is, every candidate tried to get every voter out. There's no doubt about it. There was no lack of effort on behalf of the candidates. People who wanted to come out, came out. They voiced their opinion through their vote and they said "four more years, let's keep it going". I think that the best of the City is still ahead. There's been a lot of work done. There's been a lot of progress, there is still a lot of work to do. No City is perfect and there is no doubt about that but I think people looked and said we were better off today than we were 16 or 20 years ago and it was a resounding yes and they would like 4 years from now to be better off than we are today and I think that the candidates that were elected are going to be the leaders that will make that happen so I'm confident. I think the City has made a statement as they have in the last 4 elections and I'm proud. I'm proud of the service that the Mayor, Councilwoman Celli and obviously with Mike and Dave with what we've done over the last number of years but I'm looking forward as a resident of the City for the new team that's taking over and I wish them well. Thank you.

Councilman Unger - I just want to say its been a pleasure serving with this City Council and Diana, I heard what you, even Michael who might be a little sharp tongued out here in front is actually very business like and at times even kind in our private meetings and in executive session and I have enjoyed working with the entire Council and I think you've got an excellent new City Council coming in. I think they are well qualified. I would have liked to have seen our team win but I think the City is in good hands, I really do, going forward and on the campaign trail, in addition to my own folks that I got to know very well and many citizens around the City that I hadn't known before and have had the pleasure to meet, I got to meet Al Menkin for a

few minutes here and there on election day and I enjoyed meeting him and shaking hands and I knew John Pallone already but it was nice to have him in the campaign, got to know Michael Bland quite a bit and his mother Kelly who as you know works for our Senator Mendez and I met all sorts of people on the campaign trail. Pudgy, some folks on Mr. Krebs ticket and I think it was a really great election and I think it was a real model of the democratic process and if you really care about democracy, you have to let Vincent Lapore say what he had to say because this is the building where the first amendment is enshrined and people have to have their say. As many Supreme Court Justices have noted, even if it's unpleasant, even if it's not entirely accurate. That's what the first amendment is all about and that's what makes this Country great so I just want to say its been immensely rewarding for me these last four years, its been an immense education. Some thing's I wish I could have done better and some things I wish I hadn't done at all but I'm proud of the things that I did do, that I was able to be part of. I've promoted eminent domain legislation, I got the beach fees reduced for our kids and our teenagers. I helped push the senior ramps in for the elderly to get down to the beach, I've been pushing for cable broadcasting over our Council meetings and hopefully we will see that during the term. I know John supports it and some other people on Adams ticket will support it, it will be a great thing and I still hope to see before to long a Historic Preservation Commission. Thank you.

Dr. Celli - Good evening everybody. First of all I would like to congratulate the Mayor, let's move forward with four more years. We have three of the four new elected officials and I would like to have them stand, Kate Billings, Joy Bastelli and John Pallone. Al, I'm sorry, okay? Michael Sirianni I think most of you know is in the hospital, he's coming home tomorrow and we will move forward with the City under the leadership of Mayor Schneider. I have something to say to all the candidates. I met some wonderful people along the campaign trail as you did and there was a lot of young people out there and if you're willing to run for office, why can't you volunteer your time for the City? There are plenty of things that you can do if you really want to stay involved, just ask somebody. Put your name in for one of the boards if you're interested. Submit a resume. It's important that we keep all this invigorating experience that everybody has. We need it here in this City. We can't do it by ourselves. We need everyone. Long Branch is a family whether you like it or not, maybe I don't get along with this one or I don't get along with that one but that happens in everybody's family and it's very very important that we keep the City together, it's a great City. I'm proud to say, I guess you'd say I'm a newly elected Councilwoman of this great City of Long Branch. Thank you.

Mr. DeStefano - You know we hear a lot about the first amendment and democracy and people's right to speak and certainly everyone around here does get a right to speak. I'm not really sure of how running an efficient meeting should promote rudeness and personal attacks. I really think they need to be eliminated from this forum but you know what? In July it wont be my meeting and if the new Council decides that your first amendment right allows for personal attacks and rudeness and lets this forum you know, evolve into that or remain in that, so be it but I really don't think its appropriate, I've never thought it was appropriate but it is what it is and speaking of democracy, when you speak of term limits, voting is a democratic process. If you legislate away peoples rights to vote via term limits, you're basically letting the legislature say, "you're too stupid to handle it yourself". If you don't like them, vote them out. If you're too stupid to do that, we'll handle it for you. Most people don't want the legislature to handle all of their issues. Finally, Mayor Schneider has been elected six times

and in each of those times he's brought in, almost always, an entire team. To me what that means is, the City wants cooperation from government. They want progress from government. They are not looking for opposition candidates. They are looking for new ideas. Maybe ideas that don't always jive with what the Mayor's thinking but they are not looking for negativity, they are not looking to stand still. They are looking to move forward and I say that because you are going to have a new team coming in and as the Mayor's always said, we've had a thousand arguments but we've never had a fight and somewhere along the line we've had to learn to compromise and work with each other whether we agreed or not. There is a leap of faith at the end of the day that you trust each other enough that if you go in a certain direction, you're doing the right thing for everyone in total and that's what team work is about and that's what serving the City is about and I hope everybody that's just been elected understands, its not about them individually, its not about the prize at the end of four years of maybe being the Mayor, its serving the City of Long Branch first and then maybe you'll earn that prize some day. With that, we're adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting of the Long Branch City Council adjourned at 7:30 p.m.