

REGULAR MEETING

CITY COUNCIL

JULY 27, 2010

7:00 P.M.

The Regular Meeting of the Long Branch City Council was held on Tuesday, July 27, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 344 Broadway, Long Branch, New Jersey.

**PRESENT:**

Joy Bastelli, Councilwoman; Kathleen Billings, Councilwoman; John Pallone, Councilman; Michael Sirianni, Council Vice President; Dr. Mary Jane Celli, 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:**

July 13, 2010 – Motion by Councilperson Sirianni seconded by Councilperson Pallone to approve the minutes of July 13, 2010 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: 5

**CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES**

**PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL CONSIDERATION**

**#9-10 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 325-26, SCHEDULE II OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH (PARKING – HULICK PLACE) (INTRODUCED: JULY 13, 2010)**

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

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

A motion by Councilperson Sirianni, seconded by Councilperson Bastelli to adopt said ordinance on third and final reading was adopted upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

**#10-10 BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$1,100,000 FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO PROPERTY ACQUIRED FOR THE CREATION OF A MUNICIPAL PARK IN AND BY THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,045,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE CITY FOR FINANCING THE APPROPRIATION (INTRODUCED: JULY 13, 2010)**

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

**Emanuel Jones**

Asked what the City was going to do about the youth in the City.

The Mayor stated that there is a public portion later on in the meeting and that this was strictly about the ordinance.

**Harold Bobrow**

Asked if it was wise to have another million dollars in bonding?

The Mayor stated that this is money already committed by the State of New Jersey and gave to the City of Long Branch so its just paperwork that has been in place for several years.

**Harold Bobrow - 295 Ocean Boulevard**

Asked Mr. Mehlhorn how much has the City paid out of the City's pocket for the bonding, interest and everything up to this point.

Mr. Mehlhorn stated that he has no clue. Monies came from a grant from Green Acres, how much is the loan, how much did we pay back...

Mr. Mehlhorn will get the information for the next meeting.

Discussion continued regarding projects that are ongoing, various sources of funding, grants, loans, City bonding and monies.

Mr. Mehlhorn discussed the bond ordinance. Money will be borrowed under a bond anticipation note. 1 ½ % will be paid back on that note for a year. Hopefully at the end of the year, this project will be done and the City will put in paperwork to Green Acres, get the money from them and pay off the bond.

**Donna Peterson - Rockwell Avenue**

Asked where the park was that is being created.

Mr. Mehlhorn stated that this was mostly for Manahasset Creek Park. If there is money left over and the project is complete, there will be a couple other parks that would get the benefit of the dollars.

Mr. Aaron explained green acre monies to Ms. Peterson.

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

A motion by Councilperson Billings, seconded by Councilperson Pallone to adopt said ordinance on third and final reading was adopted upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

**ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION: PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 10, 2010**

None

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

**STATEMENT TO THE PUBLIC**

In the interest of serving the public in the most efficient manner possible, the following guidelines shall be established for public participation.

The public shall be invited to make any comments on individual Ordinances and Resolutions before a vote is taken. The public comment during the portion of public discussion is to be limited to comments directly related to the Ordinance and/or Resolution under discussion.

At the conclusion of the meeting, there will be additional time for public participation and citizens of the City will be heard on any subject matter. Members of the public who wish to address the Council may do so for a period of up to five (5) minutes subject to any adjustment

deemed necessary and appropriate by the Council President based upon the situation at hand.

Citizens wishing to address the Council must give their name, street address and the group, if any, that they report to or represent.

The Mayor and Council welcome all members of the public to express their views on any issues. The Council reserves the right to terminate any remarks made by any individual, which are rude, or in a tone, which would insight or engender hostility whereby, in the judgment of the Council President, the meeting may become disruptive.

A motion by Councilperson Sirianni to open the public portion of the meeting was seconded by Councilperson Pallone.

**Barbara Andres – Cooper Avenue**

Spoke regarding the tax bill she received. Went on to speak about the increase in ratables. The increase is immoral.

**Kalif Salaam – 144 Laurel Street**

Spoke regarding the community being taken back. Everyone needs to help. Went on to speak about respect, education and programs in the community.

**John Rogers – 225 Joline Avenue**

Spoke regarding the community, lack of programs for the kids, not recreation programs, there are those. I'm speaking about programs regarding who the Mayor is, who the police officers are on the streets and respect. There is no respect now. The kids today need opportunity and stop being labeled.

**Donna Peterson – 104 Rockwell Avenue**

Spoke regarding the proposed ferry service. Went on to speak about R181-10 adopted last meeting and Siperstein's buildings on Broadway.

**Dean J. Moise – Joline and Edwards Avenue**

Spoke regarding pedestrian crossing at Joline and Edwards. Asked for a sign to be posted.

The Mayor stated that it was a State road but we will contact them to see if we could put some sort of crossing there.

**Daryl Coleman – 230 Seaview Avenue**

Spoke regarding Long Branch as a community. Reiterated what Mr. Rogers stated. We can do more together, collectively. The kids must relate to the police officers. Went on to speak about the need for an indoor facility. Everyone desires a chance. Spoke about Housing Authority rules, change and chances.

**Jonathan Matthews – 156 Belmont Avenue**

Spoke regard the children of the community. Need mentoring / job programs. Spoke regarding the police being seen in the area. It's not just about recreation. It takes parenting, teachers and a community. You as the Council need to walk around and talk to people.

**Harold Cooper - 113 South 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

Spoke regarding a statement by Councilman DeStefano regarding an article in a magazine about Long Branch beaches. Went on to speak about an article in the newspaper about good government and respect for one another. Spoke regarding the process of a home being taken and polled Council as to their feelings and respect.

**Marco Diaz - Rockwell Avenue**

Thanked everyone for speaking today. Would like to have a meeting with everyone. Told everyone that on July 31<sup>st</sup> from 12-5 pm the All Neighbors Foundation will have a Kids Activity Day at Jerry Morgan Park.

**Steven Worsely - 655 Buttonwood Avenue**

Spoke regarding issues that the City is dealing with. Kids today need opportunity. It's up to adults to give them opportunity. Kids need to feel important, they need to work for self accomplishment. The City needs to get back respect and it needs to be done as a community.

**Diana Multare - 21 North Bath Avenue**

Stated that she is happy about the turnout and the reason for everyone being here. Thanked Council for the new office hours. Went on to speak about the right to assembly and the right of free speech. Spoke regarding the organization, Long Branch Citizens for Good Government and what they stand for.

**Emanuel Jones**

Spoke regarding kids, fathers, mothers, all in need of jobs. Stated that when the Housing Authority hires companies, they tell them that jobs have to be given to members of the community. Asked if the City has any jobs for individuals that live in the City of Long Branch. Went on to state that the majority of Pier Village and the oceanfront are employing people that are not from Long Branch.

The Mayor stated that most of the employees live in Long Branch as far as City Hall. Disagrees with the statement that no one from the City works at the beach.

**Bill McLaughlin - 448 Ocean Avenue**

Spoke regarding the hiring of minorities when making the deals with Pier Village. Went on to speak about the article in the Press regarding respect, pay to play, bonding, budgets, eminent domain, \$500,000 given to the Applied Group, lawsuits and respect to be given from the new Council.

**Rosella Coleman - 144 Laurel Street**

Spoke regarding the problems with the youth in town. They need something to do. We need to have the kids familiar with the Police. Our community needs the chance to help get the kids back. We are coming to you for help and we are willing to work with you to get that help.

**Vincent Lapore - 80 North Broadway**

Spoke regarding his handout and told the Council they have 30 days to take action on the redevelopment. (Handed Council an ordinance and a resolution) Ordinance was regarding the abolishment of Ord 15-96 regarding the redevelopment plan.

Mr. Lapore went on to read the ordinance into the record. He requests an introduction on August 10<sup>th</sup> and an adoption on August 24<sup>th</sup>. Went on to read the resolution into the record abolishing resolution 38-96 regarding redevelopment areas. He requests an adoption date of August 24<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Lapore stated what the importance of these measures are.

**Harold Bobrow – 295 Ocean Boulevard**

Spoke regarding the cost of the Pier on one hand vs. the people that are in need of help. The proposing of office hours in the evening was a great idea. Asked if there was any reason that these meetings should not be live televised.

**Lori Smith – Avenel Boulevard**

Spoke regarding the youth in town and it can't be reiterated enough that something needs to be done. The community needs to get involved. Police need to be present. Show the children you're friendly. You have volunteers, just ask. Positive influence is needed.

**Michael Bland – 81 Avenel Boulevard**

Congratulated the new Council and the Mayor. We need a sense of compassion back in the community. The people need your advice and encouragement.

**Charlese Seabrooks – Pleasure Bay Apts.**

Spoke regarding police presence when she was younger in school and how they were your friends and they were there to help you. Now after an incident that happened in the police department years ago, I lost all respect. Children need to know the police. They need to interact with them.

**Keith Coven – 111 Bath Avenue**

Spoke regarding the relationship of the police with children. The City has to get back respect. There needs to be better communication with the police.

**Lori Ann Vendetti – 38, 33 Marine Terrace**

Has been coming regularly to Council meetings for 8 plus years and this meeting is emotional and unbelievable. Count me in to help wherever I can. Went on to speak about the articles in the newspaper concerning the conduct of Council meetings and how the old Council acted towards the member of MTOTSA. Spoke regarding the taping of Council meetings and stated that there were many vacant buildings in the City. They should be used for the youth for schooling, training of some sort to help them. I will volunteer to tape the meetings. Spoke about the turnaround on Seaview Avenue.

**Donald Riley – 170 Atlantic Avenue**

Spoke regarding the five minute rule, congratulated the new members of Council, taxes, programs that could be eliminated to reduce taxes, city vehicles, gas, insurance and monies that the City spends unnecessarily. Went on to speak regarding layoffs in the City.

**Michael Golf – 170 Rosewood Avenue**

I was the owner of the barber shop on 155 Broadway and lost it to eminent domain in 2007. We were there since 1995. I left out of anger but returned to the City I loved. When is the City going to love me back?

After ample time was given and no one else came forward a motion was made by Councilperson Sirianni seconded by Councilperson Billings 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 TWO (2) RAFFLE APPLICATIONS FOR HOLIDAY EXPRESS

Motion by Councilperson Sirianni, seconded by Councilperson Billings to approve the above listed applications were carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

**Councilwoman Bastelli** – Yes, I just want to thank everybody who came out tonight. I share a lot of your concerns; I live in your neighborhood. I've worked hard in the neighborhood and I want you to know that there are things available. One particular organization, it's called United Neighbors. It was started as a crime watch with many of the same issues and reasons that you've come here tonight. The President of it is currently Ronald Cox and I'm sure that they can use some new blood, new passion and new help. It covers the area between where many of you said that you live. As far as interacting with the Police Department, August 3<sup>rd</sup> is a program that has been set up for years now. It's called National Night Out Against Crime. It's held at Slocum Park at 6 pm the first Tuesday of every August. It's also this August, 6 pm, Slocum Park and that's an opportunity that's been set up specifically for the community and young people and children to interact with the Police Department and I would like to see everyone there with your children because it is an opportunity and it's a beginning. It's not an answer but it is a beginning. Also, there are programs that are happening in the Library, when it is a rainy day, there are teen programs that are set up by teens in the City, living in the City and they are very good programs. I would ask you to look into that. I will be happy to tell you about them personally. As far as mentoring goes, I do mentor. I mentor an 11 year old girl that lives in the City and I do that through Aslan Youth Ministries. They need volunteers. I hear a lot of people here saying that they are willing. I know Mrs. Bouldin. I saw her there today and there are many volunteers that are already doing it and that is an opportunity. It is a mentoring program and a tutoring program in place right now in Long Branch. Also, I just want to commend Mr. Worsely, I don't see him but I read about his work. I think that...I commend him for being involved, for stepping up. Anytime a citizen steps up and volunteers their time to help other people and to teach people what they've been through and to give them back their own experience, I commend that and I think that we can all work together. I am very interested in helping you and I mean that from the bottom of my heart.

**Councilwoman Billings** – I just want to thank everyone for coming out tonight. I also want to thank you for how polite you all were and how you got your message across in a calm way without screaming or hollering. I know a lot of you for a lot of years and I look forward to the next four years working with you to make the City better, thank you.

**Councilman Pallone** – I agree with everything the other Council women have said and I would just like to say that your concern, I honestly feel that your concerns are our concerns and I think we all feel that way. I wanted to...Councilwoman Bastelli mentioned a couple of things which I'd like to just piggyback on, it was the same exact thing she was talking about and a lot of people in the community were talking about this police interaction and how important it is. I have a 2 ½ year old and we walk up Broadway uptown everyday and one of the most exciting things to him and its such a small little thing is, we're walking up Broadway

and across at St. Luke's Church was a police officer in his car and my son just kind of pointed like this, he's 2 ½ years old and the Officer flashed the lights and I mean that was just, I mean at 2 ½ it just was the greatest thing for him. Joy also mentioned National Night Out, another thing which is next Tuesday; she mentioned you know it's in the calendar. I went last year and that really was a great opportunity to interact with the police and again I took my son, they had this K9 demonstration with the Police Officers, frankly, I never wanted to get near any of the dogs but I mean it was just a really nice thing and the kids loved it and there was just this communication that was going on between the Police and the kids and again I know that's not the answer. I know there's a lot that can be done and I think that you're all here and I look forward to helping anyway you can, we can and the last thing Joy also mentioned the Library and again I have my 2 year old is just, he is there 2, 3 times a week. They have a toddler program, teen program, computer learning programs. Last week I took him, they had a live Penguin to show to the kids and again, it's not the answer but it's a great thing. I'd like to thank the Administration for that, Mary Jane and Joy I think were on the Board of Trustees but it's a great program that...I didn't know about it myself until I had a child so that's why I'm just throwing out if you don't know about it, they have daily programs there, weekends and a lot of things going on that we all should look into. Thank you.

**Councilman Sirianni** - I want to thank you very much for coming out this evening. Very inspiring that citizens in Long Branch taking a very serious issue and bringing it forward, and everyday in everyone's life their busy, they have things but to take time out and come here is monumental and great. You need to be complimented for doing that. In listening to everyone and taking notes and everything, someone started to say it takes the village, it takes the village to raise a child and what I'm taking back to the Council when we meet is that we need to solicit all agencies within the City. That's the Board of Education, the City Police, churches, community group. It's a balancing, it's a juggling act because we all got our tax bills, we have a concern put in front of us and I think the word is volunteering and finding agencies. Joy, I mean Miss Bastelli, she just rattled them right off, put them in.... in fact I'm working with these different groups, church, school, City, Police and get this information out where you can go, where you can take your kids, what you can do because like I said, there's a balancing act that we are entering in and the balancing act is the budget so I look forward to taking my notes, meeting with the rest of the Council and Administration and getting some answers and seeing what we can do. This is a major concern and I think everyone at this table is listening to what you are saying.

**Councilwoman Celli** - Tonight was very inspiring to me and I'm certainly glad that everyone in the community came out and expressed their concerns. I'm aware of some of them, some of them I was not. I certainly want to compliment all of you who came up to the podium and spoke in a reasonable manner. You had issues, you had concerns and I think everybody up here, I saw them take notes. They heard what you said, they are listening to you but you have to give the new Council a chance. They've only been in office for less than a month so I would just ask that you let them, they are aware of what you said but there has to be some things done within the Administration that perhaps we can fix and we will work on it and you have my word on that. And I always have two good things to say, I try anyway. First of all we missed a birthday; one of our Council members had a birthday. Mr. Pallone happy belated birthday on the 17<sup>th</sup> and yesterday I was very very proud, O'Heegans honored five of our City officials, our Mayor, our Business Administrator, Kevin Hayes, Carl Jennings and Mr. Migliaccio for what they have done for the ADA in this City. It was 20 years old and you have to look around and you see many of the things that were done. The ramp outside this City Hall was done for that, the ramp in the library was done, Manahasset Creek Park is ADA so please remember all of the things that these people who are physically challenged help them like we are going to help you and with that, I say the meeting is adjourned.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

This meeting of the Long Branch City Council adjourned at 9:30 p.m.