

REGULAR MEETING

CITY COUNCIL

MARCH 22, 2011

7:00 P.M.

The Regular Meeting of the Long Branch City Council was held on Tuesday, March 22, 2011 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; Howard Woolley, Administrator; Barry Capp, Assistant City Attorney; Ronald Mehlhorn, Finance Director; Kathy L. Schmelz, City Clerk

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and certification was read into the record.

PRESENTATIONS:

None

HEARINGS:

None

READING AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

March 8, 2011 – Motion by Councilman Sirianni seconded by Councilman Pallone to approve the minutes of March 8, 2011 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES
PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL CONSIDERATION

None

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

#9-11 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 325-25 SCHEDULE I AND ORDINANCE 325-25 EMERGENCY NO PARKING OF THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH (RIVERGATE WAY)

A motion was made by Councilwoman Billings, seconded by Councilman Pallone to introduce on first reading, advertise and post according to law and set the public hearing for April 12, 2011 and carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

A motion was made by Councilman Sirianni, seconded by Councilwoman Billings to open the public portion of this meeting and carried out upon the following vote: Ayes 5

Donna Peterson – Rockwell Avenue

Spoke regarding wind turbines.

The following Girl Scouts got up to ask questions regarding rip tides and currents:

Anna Gimberg, Felicia Ashtina, Karen Raddock, Ava Giordino, Alyssa Aurillio, Amanda Helper, Madeline McLaughlin

The Mayor answered along with Ptl. Mike Monahan of the LBPD.

Diana Multare – 21 North Bath Avenue

Spoke regarding National Sunshine week, read an article from the newspaper regarding the ACLU, two bills before the senate regarding public meetings and OPRA, lifeguard stations at Takanassee Lake.

Gerry Scarano – Ocean Boulevard

Spoke regarding OPRA, evacuation route, preserving the lighthouse and wants the beach information on the website.

Ben Gorcey – 36 Second Avenue

Commended the Girl Scout leader, spoke about beach fees, parking authority and the beach front. He believes meters should be installed.

Vincent Lapore – 80 North Broadway

Spoke regarding beach fees, items on the bill list and an article in the Atlanticville – Abbottsford Avenue property. Asked for a no vote on R77-11.

Harold Bobrow – 295 Ocean Boulevard

Spoke regarding beach fees, increasing beach raking fees and asked Council to sell beach passes online. Asked if the Cable agreement money could be set aside for televising Council meetings. Went on to discuss the budget.

After ample time was given and no one else came forward, a motion was made by Councilman Sirianni, seconded by Councilwoman Bastelli to close the public portion of this meeting.

RESOLUTIONS:

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

APPLICATIONS:

None

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Councilwoman Bastelli – I’d like us to not forget the people that are suffering in Japan. Just because its not front page news right now, they are still devastated over the three calamities that happened and I just want to make sure we remember them and what ever efforts we can do to help them we should try to do that. Thank you for coming tonight.

Councilwoman Billings - Again I'd like to thank everyone for coming out. We do appreciate your input into making this a better place to live and have a great week, thank you.

Councilman Pallone- I'd like to thank you all for coming this evening. Mr. Lapore, if he's here I'd like to comment on the Adams Street, if not I don't think it's necessary. Mr. Lapore, I just wanted to, I know you had your concerns about Adams Street and I just wanted to discuss that a little because I've been down there several times in the course of this discussion. One of the things as I understand, there is a lot of litigation that was involved with the City so it was in the cities best interest to sort of resolve the situation as quickly as possible but more importantly is that that road going down there, if you had parking even on one side, forgetting both sides, but even on one side, there was concerns that a fire truck could not get access down there and so that was a big concern so literally if you had parking just on one side you couldn't get it down there. Now part of the settlement of course was that Mr. Kushner or whatever his name is, he is allowing for five parking spaces so that people could go in there and park and you could still maintain the necessary access to get down there to the beach. The other thing is, since this is happening and you know it was on the agenda since July since we came into office, I constantly go down there to see if there is a lot of people who come down there, if there is anybody who is interested in parking there and I think one time I saw one car, even through the summer so to me that seemed like sort of a fair deal. As far as the access, I kind of agreed with you and I mentioned this to Council that you know it looks like its private property and one of the things that we all agreed to is that we were going to put a beach access sign on the corner of Ocean Avenue so in fact people know that they can get down there. How long that sign will stay up, I don't know but that was a concern certainly for myself and I think for all of us so that will be placed there and the last thing is, in terms of broken ladders and everything, there is just a bulkhead there period so even if you go down there, you still cant get access to the beach so you have to sort of walk around literally I would say a couple hundred yards in either direction to either get onto the beach which in fact there is not really any beach anyway and I think the concern is more for fisherman and so forth anyway then for the beach access which is fine but again I understand your concerns but I think that the agreement and based on the situation there was actually a good one and I didn't think that is really favoring the property owner in any way and again, that's my opinion so I just wanted to point that out because I wasn't exactly clear what you were saying but I don't think, you know, it was a little different.

Councilman Sirianni - I would like to thank the Long Branch Environmental Commission. They did a presentation last week on their environmental resource inventory for the City of Long Branch. It will be going to the Planning Board. It was a very nice presentation. It was recorded by the Cable Commission, it has been aired on TV already so I hope you watch it. It is a very long painstaking inventory of everything that goes on environmentally with the City. This is something that we will be using for our sustainability for the City and once you receive the title being sustainable and environmental, it helps you obtain grants and support and funds for things that go on in the City so we are on TV, we do things very nicely, this was all done by volunteers through the Environmental Commission, the Green Committee is going to get involved with it and I would like to publicly thank them. It was a great presentation and it's on TV.

Councilwoman Celli - And I'd like to just add something what Councilman Sirianni said. It was a public hearing held here in this room and it was very well attended so those of you who say we don't have public hearings and people don't show up, they show up if they are really interested and with that I thank you for coming and I need a motion to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Pallone made a motion to adjourn this meeting of the Long Branch City Council at 8:10 p.m. which was seconded by Councilman Sirianni