

REGULAR MEETING

CITY COUNCIL

APRIL 26, 2011

7:00 P.M.

The Regular Meeting of the Long Branch City Council was held on Tuesday, April 26, 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; James G. Aaron, City Attorney; Ronald Mehlhorn, Finance Director; Kathy L. Schmelz, City Clerk

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

HEARINGS:

2011 Municipal Budget

Motion was made by Councilman Pallone, seconded by Councilwoman Billings to open the public hearing on the 2011 Municipal Budget.

Prior to the hearing, Mr. Mehlhorn went over the procedure and explained the minor amendments that will be adopted in R117-11.

Diana Multare - 21 North Bath Avenue

Spoke regarding the parking lots and metered parking in Beachfront North.

Bill McLaughlin - 448 Ocean Avenue

Stated that he was in favor of parking meters.

Gerry Scarano - Long Branch

Spoke regarding health benefits that the Council receives, capital improvements and the grant for paving of Bath Avenue.

Donna Peterson - Rockwell Avenue

Spoke regarding revenues.

Vincent Lapore - 80 North Broadway

Spoke regarding R117-11, beach fee ordinance, the MTOTSA agreement regarding paving in that area, capital improvement section of the budget and attorney legal bills.

Bill McLaughlin - 448 Ocean Avenue

Spoke regarding money that is being spent on litigation, consultants, the pension system, Pier and debt.

Motion by Councilman Sirianni, seconded by Councilwoman Billings to close the public hearing on the budget.

Councilman Sirianni offered the following resolution, seconded by Councilman Pallone and adopted upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

R117-11 Resolution amending the 2011 Budget

Councilwoman Bastelli offered the following resolution, seconded by Councilman Sirianni and adopted upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

R118-11 Resolution adopting 2011 Municipal Budget

PRESENTATIONS:

None

READING AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

April 12, 2011 – Motion by Councilman Sirianni seconded by Councilman Pallone to approve the minutes of April 12, 2011 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES

PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL CONSIDERATION

#10-11 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 BEACH FEES – 2011 (Introduced: April 12, 2011)

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

Vincent Lapore – 80 North Broadway

Stated that he is against the fee that is being imposed on the kids.

Harold Cooper – 113 S. 7th Avenue

Stated he was against charging kids for beach access.

Lori Ann Vendetti – 38 Ocean Terrace

Stated that the kids should be free. Made a suggestion that you raise the adult fee to compensate for the fee being charged for the kids.

Donna Peterson – Rockwell Avenue

Stated that the kids should not be charged.

Simon Skove – Long Branch

Asked the ratio of life guard personnel to non life guard personnel and how many booths there were.

John Kerns - Norwood Avenue

Asked what the estimated revenue would be for kids 14-17.

After ample time was given and no one else responded, a motion was made by Councilman Sirianni, seconded by Councilwoman Bastelli to close the public hearing.

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

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

A motion was made by Councilman Pallone, seconded by Councilman Sirianni to open the public portion of this meeting.

Lori Ann Vendetti - 38 Ocean Terrace

Spoke regarding dogs being allowed on the beaches after hours during the summer season and being allowed to walk your dogs on the boardwalk / promenade.

Avery Grant - 405 Atlantic Avenue

Continued to read an article regarding what the Concerned Citizen Coalition was all about.

Donna Peterson - Rockwell Avenue

Spoke regarding the budget and the raises being given to employees.

Gerry Scarano - Long Branch

Spoke regarding the beaches, painting boarded up homes, no idling statute, establishing a police department outreach and painting house numbers on curbs.

Diana Multare - 21 North Bath Avenue

Spoke regarding a conversation she had with Brian Grant from Asbury Park regarding parking meters and beach fees.

Vincent Lapore - 80 North Broadway, Long Branch

Spoke regarding budget and debt and the Kushner right of way.

Bill McLaughlin - 448 Ocean Avenue

Spoke regarding lack of respect.

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 - Thank you everyone for coming tonight and I understand that the beach fees are controversial. When I was growing up here I did pay to go on the beach and I also got a job at 14. I made \$1.60 an hour at Baldanza's and I paid my own beach charge. My mother did not. I think that many children in Long Branch, if they can't get a formal job, they certainly can cut grass, they certainly can baby sit. I did plenty of it and we made sure to keep the age at least 14, not to go below that for that reason and we put a lot of thought into that. Nobody wants to charge. Personally I wished we couldn't charge anybody but there are expenses that we have to pay for and we have a beautiful beach, renowned nationwide and we have expenses to keep it that way and unfortunately in today's economy we are forced to consider this and that is definitely not something I wanted to do but I realized it's the wisest thing to do at present. Should that change next year, we are going to reevaluate it, we will look at the numbers and if it's not necessary, we absolutely will change it. I thank you for your time and I thank you for all of your comments tonight.

Councilwoman Billings - I'd like to thank everyone for coming out and we do listen to you and we do consider suggestions you make to us in spite of what some people think. I also want to remind everyone that tomorrow night, from 4 - 9 is school board elections and the school budget referendum so everyone should get out and vote tomorrow.

Councilman Pallone- I would just like to thank everyone for coming out this evening and I also appreciate all your comments, thank you.

Councilman Sirianni - I'd like to thank everyone for coming out this evening and also to back Councilwoman Billings to go out and vote tomorrow, 4 - 9, check your polling listings and I would like to also thank Councilwoman Dr. Mary Jane Celli for her time spent as Council President and she's going to hit me with the gavel, that's her turnover of the gavel to me. She's going to hit me in the head with it, so thank you very much for leading us Mary Jane, thank you very much.

Councilwoman Celli - You're more than welcome. To my Council colleagues I say thank you for allowing me to serve as your Council President. Some people in the audience asked me if I was retiring. No, I'm not retiring, I'm just giving up the job and I am turning it over to Mike Sirianni and I'm sure he will do an excellent job and for those of you who don't know, you probably realized it tonight, the Mayor has been the official time keeper so it wasn't me whoever said I wasn't keeping the time, it was the Mayor and I certainly want to thank him and he...as long as I was the President, he was always willing to be here and I think he should be here at every meeting so with that, I would like to remind everybody again, tomorrow night is the Board of Education meeting and the budget. Look at your candidates and look at the budget and vote your conscience and with that I'd ask for a motion to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Sirianni made a motion to adjourn this meeting of the Long Branch City Council at 8:30 p.m. which was seconded by Councilwoman Billings.