

REGULAR MEETING

CITY COUNCIL

JUNE 28, 2011

The Regular Meeting of the Long Branch City Council was held on Tuesday, June 28, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 344 Broadway, Long Branch, New Jersey.

Present: Michael Sirianni, Council President; Kathleen Billings, Council Vice-President; Joy Bastelli, Councilwoman; John Pallone, Councilman

Others Present: Adam Schneider, Mayor; Howard Woolley, Business Administrator; James G. Aaron, City Attorney; Ronald Mehlhorn, Finance Director; Kathy L. Schmelz, City Clerk

Absent: Dr. Mary Jane Celli, Councilwoman

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

PRESENTATIONS:

Soccer Trophies were presented by Mayor Schneider and Carl Jennings, Director of Recreation to the Long Branch Youth Soccer Team

READING AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

June 14, 2011 – Motion by Councilman Pallone seconded by Councilwoman Billings to approve the minutes of June 14, 2011 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 4 / Absent 1 Celli

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES

PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL CONSIDERATION

#17-11 BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE PRELIMINARY COSTS OF A SOLAR ENERGY PROGRAM IN AND BY THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$250,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$238,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE CITY TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF (INTRODUCED: JUNE 14, 2011)

A motion by Councilwoman Bastelli to open the public hearing on said ordinance was seconded by Councilman Pallone.

Harold Bobrow – 295 Ocean Boulevard

Believes this to be a good idea. Asked how the City arrived at the figure. Mr. Mehlhorn stated it was from the consultant. Mayor Schneider and Councilman Pallone also answered as to how they arrived at that figure.

Vincent Lapore – 80 North Broadway

Asked if anyone contacted the County with regards to a Shared Service. Councilman Pallone stated that he was in touch with them. Mr. Lapore asked Council not to act on this ordinance. It needs more justification.

Gerry Scarano – Ocean Boulevard.

Spoke regarding the solar panel project at the Board of Education.

Harold Cooper – 115 S. Seventh Avenue

Stated that the Board of Education is ahead of most. Stated his concerns with bonding.

Donna Peterson – Rockwell Avenue

Asked where the panels were going. Council President Sirianni stated that that is what the study will answer.

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

A motion was made by Councilman Pallone, seconded by Councilwoman Bastelli to adopt on third and final reading was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 4 / Absent 1 Celli

#19-11 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 244 ENTITLED "PARKING LOTS AND METERS" OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH (INTRODUCED: JUNE 14, 2011)

A motion by Councilwoman Billings to open the public hearing on said ordinance was seconded by Councilman Pallone.

Donna Peterson – Rockwell Avenue

Asked for confirmation on the location. Spoke regarding the fact that more people would come if there were no meters.

Diana Multare – 21 North Bath Avenue

Thinks that it is a great idea to experiment. Spoke regarding enforcement. The Mayor stated that the Police Department will enforce this.

Council President Sirianni stated that the meters are on loan to the City at no cost.

Simon Skove – 220 Cleveland Avenue

Asked the name of the manufacturer of the equipment.

Mr. Woolley stated it was Digital.

Bill McLaughlin – 448 Ocean Avenue

Thinks this is a great idea. The City needs income. This should be taken right into Pier Village.

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

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bastelli, seconded by Councilman Pallone to adopt on third and final reading was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 4 / Absent 1 Celli

#20-11 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 293 SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING (INTRODUCED: JUNE 14, 2011)

A motion by Councilwoman Billings to open the public hearing on said ordinance was seconded by Councilman Pallone.

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

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bastelli, seconded by Councilman Pallone to adopt on third and final reading was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 4 / Absent 1 Celli

#21-11 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING MUNICIPAL CONSENT ORDINANCE FOR THE OFFICE OF CABLE TELEVISION ("OCTV") FOR ORDINANCE ADOPTED JANUARY 25, 2011 (INTRODUCED: JUNE 14, 2011)

A motion by Councilman Pallone to open the public hearing on said ordinance was seconded by Councilwoman Bastelli.

After ample time was given and no one else responded, a motion by Councilwoman Billings to close the hearing was seconded by Councilman Pallone.

A motion was made by Councilman Pallone, seconded by Councilwoman to adopt on third and final reading was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 4 / Absent 1 Celli

#22-11 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 116-5 OF THE ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH WHICH GOVERNS RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR BEACHES

A motion by Councilman Pallone to open the public hearing on said ordinance was seconded by Councilwoman Bastelli.

Donna Peterson - Rockwell Avenue

Asked if smoking would still be allowed on the boardwalk and asked who would keep an eye on this?

The Mayor responded the police department will enforce this. We might extend it to the promenade next year and all city parks.

Lori Ann Vendetti - 33, 38 Ocean Terrace

Asked if it included the high tide mark on the beach and if it were applicable to the beach clubs as well.

The Mayor stated, yes. That area is still a Long Branch beach.

Karen Blumenfeld - Executive Director of GASP (Global Advisors on Smoke Free Policy)

Thanked the Mayor and Council for making Long Branch a leader on restricting smoking on beaches since 2003 to protect all people on the beach.

Harold Bobrow - 295 Ocean Boulevard

Complimented everyone. This is a great idea. Suggested that the fines collected for smoking could be given to the Cancer Society or a program to prevent other people from smoking.

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

A motion was made by Councilman Pallone, seconded by Councilwoman Billings to adopt on third and final reading was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 4 / Absent 1 Celli

#23-11 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 109 OF THE ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH WHICH GOVERNS ANIMALS - VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

A motion by Councilman Pallone to open the public hearing on said ordinance was seconded by Councilwoman Bastelli.

Lori Vendetti - 33, 38 Ocean Terrace

Asked if this was the vicious dog ordinance.

Mr. Woolley stated it was regarding the leash law and preventing the impounding of dogs. It was to raise the level of the fines to the maximum permitted under the ordinance.

Donna Peterson - Rockwell Avenue

Spoke regarding dogs not on a leash.

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

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bastelli, seconded by Councilman Pallone to adopt on third and final reading was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 4 / Absent 1 Celli

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

#24-11 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING LONG TERM TAX EXEMPTION AGREEMENT (BLOCK 332, LOT 1) (GREGORY SCHOOL)

A motion was made by Councilman Pallone, to introduce on first reading, advertise and post according to law and set the public hearing for July 12, 2011 was seconded by Councilwoman Billings and carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 4 / Absent 1 Celli

#25-11 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 325-3k, SCHEDULE XVIII (325-44) OF THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH (HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES - COTTAGE PLACE)

A motion was made by Councilman Pallone, to introduce on first reading, advertise and post according to law and set the public hearing for July 12, 2011 was seconded by Councilwoman Billings and carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 4 / Absent 1 Celli

#26-11 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING 325-27, SCHEDULE III, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH ENTITLED "PARKING

PROHIBITED DURING CERTAIN HOURS ON CERTAIN STREETS" OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH TO PROHIBIT OVERNIGHT PARKING ON HOLLYWOOD AVENUE BETWEEN WESTWOOD AVENUE AND JOHN GUIRE AVENUE

A motion was made by Councilman Pallone, to introduce on first reading, advertise and post according to law and set the public hearing for July 12, 2011 was seconded by Councilwoman Bastelli and carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 4 / Absent 1 Celli

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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

Pat Schneider / Robyn Levin

Updated Council with what will be done with monies from the Historical Centennial Committee. Books are being sold at Oceanfest. Gave donations to the Church of the Presidents from proceeds of the book and \$3,500 to the Hotel Markers project. This is being done through the Long Branch Historical Association and Save Ocean Avenue.

Donna Peterson - Rockwell Avenue

Asked Council why they became Council members.

John Pallone - I like serving the City and helping people when I can. I like the whole democrat process that we are involved in here and I think the Mayor and the Council have some nice projects in the hopper here and I hope to be a part of that.

Joy Bastelli - The City of Long Branch as well as the people of Long Branch are important to me. I've served and volunteered in the community before in many ways and I enjoy serving. I think the progress that Long Branch has made is good and I want to see the progress continue. It has been a very positive experience working with the City employees whom I think are hard working and serve our town very well. I also enjoy serving not only with Mayor Schneider and each Council member but also with the entire group of dedicated people here at the State. They give 100% to Long Branch.

Kate Billings - I worked in the school district for 33 years and I got to know this community and its people very well. They worked with me very well and I wanted to give back to this community and make this community even better then it already is.

Michael Sirianni - I've been on the school board several years ago and I enjoyed it. It takes a lot for a person who has to cast a vote. Sometimes you stay up wondering if you're doing the right thing but it is a desire to make the place that I live better, to make us a stronger community, safer community. I like what was done in the past with regards to the redevelopment. I think what we had before was not...what it ended up to be and the way it looked down at the oceanfront, not one of our favorite periods but...and there's going to be a lot, you're not going to please everyone. I've been in the restaurant business since I was 9 years old so I know that if we sat down one on one, someone is going to say "well I don't like this" and I agree with some of the likes and the dislikes but the bottom line is that we have a common goal and that is to make Long Branch the best place on the Jersey

Shore and that's why I wanted to run for Council. I think I politicked as much as I could up to a certain point and campaigned up to a certain point and I was able to win in the election. What happens in four years from now, that's a different story. Whether one decides to do it or not or what the end result will be in that election we will see but it was my desire to improve.

Lori Ann Vendetti – 33, 38 Ocean Terrace

Spoke regarding changing the time of the regular meeting so the public does not have to wait. Went on to speak about 65-69 Ocean Terrace condos in MTOTSA and asked what the stall was in the approvals.

Mr. Woolley stated that the City is waiting for their final plans. There is no stall. There have been 2 or 3 very productive meetings with professionals. Once they fine tune one or two things then it will be presented to Council.

Bill McLaughlin – 448 Ocean Avenue

Spoke regarding the 4th of July celebration and the cost to the City taxpayers. Asked how much money the Chamber generates from this celebration. Why is the chamber making a profit?

Vincent Lapore- 80 North Broadway

Spoke regarding ordinance # 17-11 and # 18-11, legal bills on the bill list, bond rating for the City to which Mr. Mehlhorn responded "AA". Went on to speak regarding Tax Anticipation Note, Board of Education payment and Rooney's Crab House project. Mr. Woolley stated that they were grandfathered in as part of a previous ordinance and received site plan approval from the planning board.

Diana Multare – 21 North Bath Avenue

Spoke regarding R220-11 and asked questions relating to Mr. Woolley's contract.

Harold Bobrow – 295 Ocean Boulevard

Asked if the Cable Corp ever gave the City the \$78,000.00? Councilman Pallone stated that the City will get it up to a year from when it was signed. Spoke regarding R205-11 relative to the Housing Authority, it's a very good idea and asked if the City was putting up any money for this project? Mr. Mehlhorn stated no. Asked if Mr. Woolley's contract is affected by what the Governor signed. The Mayor stated that he did not know. He then asked if the contract with the Renaissance was supposed to provide parking in West End. The Mayor said he would have to go back and check that.

Gerry Scarano – Ocean Boulevard

Spoke regarding hand outs at the train station promoting Long Branch, mermaid parade, water fountains in the parks and port-a-johns, having a salt water pool in town, health insurance and Mr. Woolley's contract.

Harold Cooper – 113 S. Seventh Avenue

Spoke regarding Mr. Lapore's comments. Concerned whether Mr. Lapore and Mr. McLaughlin speaks the truth or not.

After ample time was given and no one else came forward, a motion was made by Councilman Pallone, seconded by Councilwoman 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 HONORARY MEMBERSHIP FOR MERT MERIC IN THE OCEANIC FIRE ENGINE CO. # 1
2. APPROVAL OF HONORARY CITY AND STATE ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP FOR JENNIFER MAILLARD IN THE WEST END ENGINE CO. # 3
3. APPROVAL OF MEMBERSHIP FOR DAVID IVINS IN THE OCEANIC FIRE ENGINE CO. # 1

Motion by Councilwoman Bastelli, seconded by Councilman Pallone to approve the listed application was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 4 / Absent 1 Celli

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Councilwoman Bastelli - I'd like to say congratulations to the soccer coaches and the soccer teams. I know they are not here but I was very pleased with their winnings and I'd like to wish everyone a happy and healthy 4th of July. Tonight marks our last meeting closing out our first year and I'd like to thank again the residents of Long Branch for electing me and giving us all the opportunity to serve our town. I'm pleased that we were able to get even closer to accomplishing rebuilding our fishing pier and I have enjoyed this first year and I look forward to the next three. Thank you.

Councilwoman Celli - Absent

Councilman Pallone- I'd like to thank everybody for coming this evening and I want to apologize again for all of us for being late with the start of the meeting. I'd like to wish everyone a great weekend. Happy 4th of July.

Councilwoman Billings - I thank everyone for coming out and we appreciate your comments and I've said this before, we do listen and we do take them seriously and I hope everyone has a great 4th of July.

Councilman Sirianni - And for myself, I guess it didn't register, thank you Councilwoman Bastelli for letting us know that we are ending our first year. Mrs. Peterson, I guess just through luck your question of why we ran for Council coincides at the end of our first year. I'll make you a deal, next year at the same meeting this time, you ask us again so that we remember what we are here for. I appreciate that. I'd like to wish everyone a happy 4th of July. Be is safe. No fireworks in the backyard please and have a safe and healthy one and yes, God Bless America.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Pallone, seconded by Councilwoman Billings to adjourn this meeting at 9:30 p.m.