

REGULAR MEETING

CITY COUNCIL

JANUARY 24, 2012

7:30 P.M.

The Regular Meeting of the Long Branch City Council was held on Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at 7:30 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; Dr. Mary Jane Celli, Councilwoman / via telephone communication; 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

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

HEARING: 7:30 P.M. – Petition for Plan Endorsement

Councilman Sirianni stated that there is going to be a presentation on the Petition for Plan Endorsement that the City is filing with the State. It calls for a public hearing which we will have now and after the presentation there will be time for public participation in regards to this matter.

Robert Beckelman, Esq.

Mr. Beckelman stated that the reason we are here tonight is for the City's application for plan endorsement. The City in connection with the redevelopment back in 1996 received a designation status of a regional center with the City looking to reestablish the regional center designation and the process has changed since 1996 to plan endorsement. Basically the State looks to have coordination between local government master plans and the State Development and Redevelopment Plan and it's a finding by all of the relevant State agencies that the master plan is consistent with the goals and policies of the State Development and Redevelopment Plan. The City began this process in 2008 to re-up the regional center status. A large part of the process has been completed.

Michelle Bernich – Long Branch Planning Department

The process began in 2008 when the City met with all the agencies and all the partner State agencies and the Office of Smart Growth to go through the process. The process is 10 steps and the City has achieved 7 of them. Tonight is step 8. The first step was the meeting in January of 08, created a Plan Endorsement Advisory Committee, prepared the municipal self assessment report, steps 4 and 5 were the preparation of an opportunities assessment and a constraints assessment by the state, local community visioning exercises and had various public meetings and hearings related to the municipal self assessment, the master plan, the pier and the ERI, state prepared consistency review of the City's documentation and the 8th step is the MOU which resolution is scheduled before Council this evening. Part of the requirements is to comply with the state plan and there are a few items that we still need as requested by the State which are the municipal boundary which has been discussed for the centers which will include the pier area, the coastal consistency statement and the 3rd step is the information that the state required for wastewater management.

Robert Beckelman – The public hearing, MOU and resolution is what is needed to actually receive plan endorsement. The state has already authorized and executed the Memorandum of Understanding and has

asked the City to do the same to follow through with the commitment to receive plan endorsement. The regional center status has been very useful to the City in connection with implementing redevelopment particularly with the CAFRA permit. The reason to continue plan endorsement is to continue to have benefits from the State. The benefits of plan endorsement is because you're expressing to the State that you are committed to the states development and redevelopment plan and that the state will provide whatever assistance it can in connection with the economic development policies and it will also demonstrate the City's commitment to follow through with the master plan that is consistent with the State's overall goals and policies. There is no financial commitment to be made.

Mr. Beckelman also noted that the planning board is in attendance at this meeting which is specifically authorized by the regulations for plan endorsement.

Council President Sirianni asked if there was anyone in the public that would like to speak may do so now.

Vincent Lapore – 80 North Broadway

Spoke regarding concerns on the beaches and dunes and they should be excluded from the center except for the pier area between Morris Avenue and Madison. Spoke regarding redevelopment zones in the area. Asked if this will extend the power of the redevelopment zones on the beaches and will there be design guidelines instituted from those redevelopment zones for those beaches and dunes area?

Mr. Beckelman stated no, it's essentially a clarification. By having a regional center status, that's where development will be encouraged so it's clear that there will be no development on the beaches or dunes. They asked they be specifically excluded.

Mr. Lapore – Asked about the area between Morris and Madison.

Mr. Beckelman – Only to the extent that it is already authorized. There is no extension of development rights.

Mr. Lapore asked about the wastewater management plan.

Mr. Beckelman stated it was part of the action plan that is not accomplished yet.

Mr. Lapore went on to speak about the State having an advisory role in this and CAFRA approvals. Asked who made up the plan advisory committee and the master plan advisory committee.

Michelle Bernich stated who made up the committees.

Mr. Sirianni asked if there was anyone else that had a comment to make. No one came forward and the public hearing was closed.

PRESENTATIONS:

None

READING AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

January 10, 2012 – Motion by Councilman Pallone seconded by Councilwoman Billings to approve the minutes of January 10, 2012 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES
PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL CONSIDERATION

#1-12 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PARAGRAPH (2) OF SUBSECTION E OF SECTION 345-28 "RC-1 BEACHFRONT MIXED" OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH

Motion by Councilman Pallone, seconded by Councilwoman Billings to reject this ordinance at the request of the Planning Board attorney was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION: (PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED FOR February 14, 2012)

None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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

Debra Clark – 510 Springdale Avenue

Asked about the status of the burned down structure in the neighborhood.

The Mayor responded that it's still an ongoing tug of war.

Kevin Hayes responded that the attorney's office is moving forward with the title search and we are going to have an unsafe building hearing.

Debra Clark went on to state that people are running around in the yard and it should be secured and furniture is being dumped in front of the home and asked who is responsible for the fire hydrant in front of the house.

Kevin Hayes stated that the fire department takes care of that.

Donna Peterson – Rockwell Avenue

Spoke regarding R25-12 and the paving of Bath Avenue and asked if other streets in the City are going to be paved.

Mr. Woolley spoke regarding Transportation Trust Funds that were used.

Donna Peterson went on to speak regarding R27-12.

Vincent Lapore – 80 North Broadway

Spoke regarding the bill payout and the UEZ quarterly report, Pier Village Phase III professional fees, Parking Authority Audit, R30-12 and asked if an appraisal was done, R31-12, City calendar and asked if it included advertising or is it the whole cost of the calendar, R24-12, the appointment of David Brown to the Sewer Authority and stated what his reasons were as to why Ordinance 1-12 was created and asked why Cape May was chosen for the coastal consistency.

Diana Multare – 21 North Bath Avenue

Asked about the coastal consistency statement – Mr. Beckelman responded – criteria through state regulations.

Gerry Scarano – Ocean Boulevard

Spoke regarding street signs, fuel tank removal should be listed on the City's website along with grant monies available. Asked if there were GPS systems on snow plows and again spoke about Health benefits.

Ben Gorcey – 36 Second Avenue

Spoke regarding UEZ, beach erosion, plan endorsement, Broadway, and asked if the County and Asbury Park are involved in the pier.

Mr. Woolley stated that Asbury Park is in support of the pier project.

After ample time was given and no one else came forward, a motion was made by Councilman Pallone, 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:

1. APPROVAL OF HONORARY MEMBERSHIP FOR PETER FRANCIS GRAY IN THE ELBERON ENGINE CO. #4

A motion was made by Councilman Pallone, seconded by Councilwoman Billings to approve the listed applications was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Councilwoman Bastelli – No comment.

Councilwoman Celli – Thanked the Clerk's office and Council for their cooperation with regards to her attendance at the meeting tonight.

Councilman Pallone – No comment.

Councilwoman Billings – No comment.

Council President Sirianni – Thanked everyone for coming out. Next Council meeting is February 14th and I am working that night, we have a dinner at the Culinary and if anybody would like to go please see me. Thank you and this meeting is adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bastelli, seconded by Councilwoman Billings to adjourn this meeting at 8:20 p.m.