

REGULAR MEETING

CITY COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 28, 2012

7:30 P.M.

The Regular Meeting of the Long Branch City Council was held on Tuesday, February 28, 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; 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.

PRESENTATIONS:

None

READING AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

February 14, 2012 – Motion by Councilman Pallone seconded by Councilwoman Celli to approve the minutes of February 14, 2012 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES
PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL CONSIDERATION

#2-12 AN ORDINANCE COMPELLING PAYMENT BY INSURANCE CARRIERS TO THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH FOR FIRE LOSSES AND DEMOLITION COSTS IN EXCESS OF \$2,500.00 (INTRODUCED: FEBRUARY 14, 2012)

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

Vincent Lapore – 80 North Broadway

Asked why this ordinance was being brought about.

Mr. Woolley stated that in the event there is a situation in town where property has suffered a fire and the owner will not demolish it and the City has to because it's an unsafe structure rather than spend taxpayers money and put a lien on the property and wait until the property is sold to recoup the taxpayers money.

Mr. Lapore went on to state that it was an antibusiness measure.

Debra Clark – 510 Springdale Avenue

Stated she was in favor of the ordinance and asks Council to vote for it.

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 Bastelli to adopt on third and final reading was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

#3-12 BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY BY PURCHASE, GIFT OR CONDEMNATION IN AND BY THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY APPROPRIATING \$1,505,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,433,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE CITY TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF (INTRODUCED: FEBRUARY 14, 2012)

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

Vincent Lapore- 80 North Broadway

Asked why there was not a dollar amount listed for each property.

Mr. Mehlhorn stated that the Bond Counsel prepared the ordinance and he would get him those figures if he'd like.

Mr. Lapore then continued on about Broadway Arts and their lack of funding for the Broadway project.

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

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

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION: (PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 13, 2012)

#4-12 BOND ORDINANCE REPEALING BOND ORDINANCE NO. 17-11 FINALLY ADOPTED JUNE 28, 2011 OF THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY AS REFERRED TO HEREIN

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bastelli, seconded by Councilman Pallone to introduce on first reading, advertise and post according to law and set the public hearing for March 13, 2012 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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

Avery Grant – 405 Atlantic Avenue

Asked Council on behalf of the Concerned Citizens Coalition that part of Seaview Avenue be co-named in memory of its first two chairs, Sharmaine Patterson and Julia Wheeler for their contributions to the community.

Council President Sirianni stated that we will work on that.

Vincent Lapore – 80 North Broadway

Spoke regarding Res 62 and 63-12, the bonding of monies, solar panel ordinance and the cost of various departments regarding Oceanfest. Went on to discuss beach revenues.

Harold Cooper – 113 South 7th Avenue

Asked Mr. Mehlhorn what the financial condition of the City was.

Mr. Mehlhorn stated that it was stable. Highest rating in bond anticipation notes, highest ratings you can get.

Mr. Cooper asked what the city owes in bonds.

Mr. Mehlhorn stated we owe over \$48,000,000.

Mr. Cooper went on to speak about further bonding.

Mr. Mehlhorn explained the reason for the bond ordinance.

Harold Bobrow – 295 Ocean Boulevard

Asked if beach funds are segregated.

Mr. Mehlhorn stated that it's accounted for separately.

Mr. Bobrow went on to speak regarding parking meters and revenue.

Dave Cochran – 10 Grant Street

Spoke regarding the parking at Beachfront North and look forward to working with the City to try to resolve the matter to have it fair for everyone.

After ample time was given and no one else came forward, a motion was made by Councilwoman Celli, seconded by Councilman Pallone 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 just like to personally thank the residents of Beachfront North for their emails and their concerns. I really appreciated the way you addressed us and the emails and the tone of the emails, we've taken them seriously. I think hopefully you know already that there is no parking meters proposed for Grant Street or any of those streets nearby that and I just hope you are aware of that. I thank you for coming out tonight and thank everyone for their concerns and comments. Mr. Grant, thank you for your proposal remembering those two women. I would like to see them memorialized in some way. They really did good work and thank you for coming out.

Councilwoman Celli – I have two things this evening. First of all I'd like to remind everybody of the fund raiser tomorrow night at the Ocean Place Hilton for the West End Fire Relief Fund, \$35.00, food, music, come out and have a good time and support the people who are involved with the fire and second of all I would like to thank Council President Mike Sirianni for leading us this last 10 months and doing an excellent job and of course I would congratulate the new Council President Kate Billings. Lots of good luck Kate.

Councilwoman Billings - Thank you.

Councilwoman Bastelli – I just want to say thank you for the excellent, excellent leadership that you've demonstrated and I really appreciated it and I know you did a nice job. Thank you.

Councilman Pallone – I just like to thank everyone for coming this evening and expressing your opinions and your concerns and Michael, thank you very much and Kate, good luck.

Councilwoman Billings – I'd just like to take a moment to commend the residents of the City and the business owners regarding the fund raiser that is being held at the Ocean Place tomorrow night. Unfortunately it sold out. They sold over 400 tickets and that's all they could accommodate but this town has truly rallied around the victims, both the business and the personal victims of West End and I along with the rest of my Council are very proud to be representing the City.

Council President Sirianni – I would like to thank everyone for coming out this evening and again, for the Beachfront North people, thank you. It was a very well orchestrated petition. We appreciate that and I hope those that did write to me, I did answer back to. It has been a fun 10 months. The method to our madness if you want to know is after the election for all of us to take equal turns as President. It's a 10 – 10 – 10 – 9 – 9, something to that effect if I'm not mistaken so that gives us all experience as our time as being President of the Council. I've enjoyed doing it for the past 10 months and I look forward to doing it again but the way that works out is next round of elections so hopefully I will be back. With that, I need a motion to adjourn?

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Pallone, seconded by Councilwoman Bastelli to adjourn this meeting at 8:15 p.m.