

REGULAR MEETING

CITY COUNCIL

APRIL 24, 2012

7:30 P.M.

The Regular Meeting of the Long Branch City Council was held on Tuesday, April 24, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 344 Broadway, Long Branch, New Jersey.

Present: Kathleen Billings, Council President; Joy Bastelli, Council Vice-President; Dr. Mary Jane Celli, Councilwoman; John Pallone, Councilman; Michael Sirianni, 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.

HEARINGS: 2012 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Motion was made by Councilman Pallone, seconded by Councilman Sirianni to open the public hearing on the budget.

Vincent Lapore – 80 North Broadway

Spoke regarding redevelopment debt, professional service fees, tax increase, revenue sources, salaries, various departments, solar project funds and spending.

Donna Peterson – Rockwell Avenue

Asked where the money from the budget comes from.

The Mayor stated that it was the budget and the monies that come in come from a variety of sources including property taxes, state aid, beach fees, grants and some federal funding.

Gerry Scarano – Ocean Boulevard

Spoke regarding health benefits being part of salaries.

Harold Cooper – 113 South 7th Avenue

Asked if there were any funds allocated to deal with the condition of lower Broadway.

The Mayor stated, yes...DPW, the Police Department, Planning, legal department, time and effort working towards the development of that area.

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

Motion by Councilman Sirianni, seconded by Councilman Pallone to adopt R97-12 which is the resolution adopting the 2012 Municipal Budget. This resolution was adopted upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

PRESENTATIONS:

None

READING AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

APRIL 10, 2012 – Motion by Councilman Sirianni seconded by Councilwoman Celli to approve the minutes of April 10, 2012 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES
PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL CONSIDERATION

#7-12 BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF CITY-WIDE PARKING METERS IN AND BY THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY APPROPRIATING \$900,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$855,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE CITY TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF (INTRODUCED: APRIL 10, 2012)

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

Donna Peterson – Rockwell Avenue

Asked where the meters will be.

Council President Billings stated that there is no definite location.

Went on to speak about where she does not want them to be.

Vincent Lapore – 80 North Broadway

Spoke regarding the City administration feeling that this would be an improvement. Went on to speak about the implementation of the monies.

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

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

#8-12 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 345, SECTION 42 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH TO REGULATE TEMPORARY SEASONAL PARKING (INTRODUCED: APRIL 10, 2012)

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

Donna Peterson – Rockwell Avenue

Asked where this was?

Council President Billings stated it's for people who want to set up parking lots for the summer season specifically for property that they own.

Louis Carlisimo – 591 Russell Avenue

Spoke regarding a season parking lot that he has at 36 Morris Avenue. He stated that the minimum square footage of the new ordinance exceeds his lot size and wanted to know if it was going to be a problem or not.

The Mayor stated to go in apply and see what happens. You may need a waiver. It's only a few spaces.

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

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

#9-12 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 324-44 AMENDED ON JANUARY 28, 2003 (NO. 2-03) TO RESCIND A HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACE IN FRONT OF PROPERTY KNOWN AS 667 MARTIN STREET OF THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH (INTRODUCED: APRIL 10, 2012)

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

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

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

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION: (PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED FOR MAY 8, 2012)

NONE

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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

Donald Clark- 509 Tabor Street

Spoke regarding the concerns regarding location and hours of parking meters.

Denise Auletta – 65 West End Avenue

Spoke regarding speeding on her street. Would like to see speed bumps installed. Went on to speak about graffiti, lighting and garbage.

Elizabeth Mosolmingo – 61 West End Avenue

Spoke regarding speeding on her street, lighting behind the 7-11 building, noise and garbage.

Bill Kohler – 537 Bath Avenue

Spoke regarding a petition signed by 17 homeowners on Bath Avenue with regards to traffic safety concerns. There are increased traffic jams, lack of proper parking and commercial vehicles parking on the street.

Camille Deronin – 525 Ocean Boulevard

Asked about the property of the former movie house on Ocean Avenue and wanted to know if anyone knew what was going on there.

The Mayor stated that an application was made for a use variance before the Zoning Board to put an expanded Chabad House. The Mayor nor the Council has any jurisdiction over the application.

Went on to speak about the property at the location of the fire in West End. The property looks very nice with the grass.

Harold Cooper – 113 S. 7th Avenue

Asked if the Council has collaborated with the Bd of Ed with reference to the students at prom time.

Council President Billings stated that one of the Council members have reached out to the Bd of Ed to suggest that the two boards meet on a regular basis to discuss common interest. We are in the process of setting something up.

Mr. Cooper then asked the Mayor to continue with a discussion on lower Broadway.

The Mayor stated that some of the properties are in foreclosure. The current owner is looking for someone to acquire it and go forward with a plan. It's an ongoing process that doesn't stop.

Donna Peterson – Rockwell Avenue

Went over various newspaper articles regarding the police department funds, redevelopment, Pier Village tax break and revenues.

Gerry Scarano – Ocean Boulevard

Spoke regarding commercial vehicles being parked on the street, Phase III of Pier Village, property at the location of the fire, Long Branch Cable Commission filming the workshop session and feels the regular meeting should be filmed also. Went on to speak about compensation of salary / health benefits.

Dana Ciaramella – 353 Willow Avenue

Spoke regarding 349 Willow Avenue. The condition continues to deteriorate. The building is overcrowded and the drug deals are blatant. The garbage piles up, house is filthy and last Monday there was gun fire. Unacceptable, the house is a disgrace. Action needs to be taken.

Vincent Lapore – 80 North Broadway

Spoke regarding transparency, pay to play, West End fire lots, the City attorney's office representing the property owner of the West End lots and conflict of interest. Went on to speak about the bill list and the lease conversion of a title.

Bernard Gorcey – 36 Second Avenue

Spoke regarding the cleanup of downtown and what area he considers "downtown". Went on to speak about the trailers and garbage near the Paramount Theater.

Antonio (last name inaudible) – 161 Morris Avenue

Spoke regarding keeping the City clean.

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

MOTIONS:

Motion authorizing the free City wide Yard Sale weekend for May 19th and 20th, 2012

Motion to approve by Councilman Sirianni, seconded by Councilman Pallone and carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

APPLICATIONS:

1. APPROVAL OF ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP FOR ANDREW J. DICHIARA OF THE NEPTUNE HOSE COMPANY

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

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Councilwoman Celli – I have two things I'd like to say tonight. Last week the City of Long Branch lost a great citizen in John Brockreide. Some of the older people in the audience remember how he started and what he has done for the City and to his family I offer my condolences and before we have the next meeting, its Mothers Day. Don't forget your mother on May 13th. Thank you.

Councilman Pallone – I just like to thank everybody for coming this evening.

Councilman Sirianni – Thank you for coming.

Councilwoman Bastelli – I'd like to say that there is an ordinance that prohibits people from sweeping litter into the street. It doesn't specifically say anything about grass clippings. I'm familiar with the litter ordinances right now because I've been looking them up and I'd like to invite everyone to please join a group of volunteers that are calling this project "Downtown Renew" and it's going to be on May 12th that is the Saturday before Mothers Day so do your mother a favor and help us clean up in honor of your mom. It's going to start at 9 and hopefully we will be done before 12 and its going to be like Mr. Gorcey said, on the corner of Third Avenue and Union and that's over by the Broadway Band Shell and we hope to bring attention

back to this area. We're beginning this effort with a cleanup to do that, to bring encouragement, to bring hope and to bring attention and we hope that you'll join us so please join us. Thank you.

Councilwoman Billings – I thank everyone for coming tonight.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Sirianni, seconded by Councilman Pallone to adjourn this meeting at 9:05 p.m.