

REGULAR MEETING

CITY COUNCIL

MAY 8, 2012

7:30 PM

The Regular Meeting of the Long Branch City Council was held on Tuesday, May 8, 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.

PRESENTATIONS:

None

READING AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

APRIL 24, 2012 – Motion by Councilman Sirianni seconded by Councilman Pallone to approve the minutes of April 24, 2012 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES
PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL CONSIDERATION

None

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION: (PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED FOR MAY 22, 2012)

None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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

Donna Peterson – Rockwell Avenue

Spoke regarding Budget CAP and Pier Village tax break.

Karen Lee – Dunes Townhomes

Spoke regarding the installation of parking meters by Seven Presidents. Stated that all the beachgoers are going to want to park on the side that doesn't have the meters and the residents will be even worse off. Asked for resident only parking.

The Mayor stated that he is not in favor of resident only parking. The Mayor stated that we will observe this year and make corrections as things progress.

Thomas Valenti – 280 Ocean Avenue North

Spoke regarding family vs guests. Went on to speak about taxes and monies taken in since Pier Village.

The Mayor stated that we do get additional revenue. 25% comes to the City, the County and schools have their share. Went on to speak about the police force and the cost for providing services.

Susan Wilson – 16 McKinley Street

Spoke regarding a positive comment she wanted to make about Sunday's marathon. She stated that after the event, the Great Lawn was absolutely spotless. All the garbage was picked up and you never would have known that tens of thousands of people were there earlier. She also had a small complaint about the noise so very early.

The Mayor stated it was a police matter although we do try to speak to the organizers prior to the event.

(first name inaudible) Harley – 427 Atlantic Avenue

Stated that the Friends of the Library is having their membership dinner on June 6th and looks forward to seeing everyone there.

Daniel Pinheiro – Stewarts Root Beer – Pier Village

Spoke regarding the parking meters in Pier Village which he is in favor of. Asked if the three 15 min parking spaces are going to be metered. I think it will be an issue for someone who just wants to run in and pick something up to go on the weekends at the rate of \$2.00 to park. Also concerned with the parking garage rates rising to coincide with the meters.

John Hunt – Dunes, Ocean Avenue

There is a depressed area at the intersection of Joline and Ocean Avenue north as a result of a utility excavation. The County says it's not their problem and the City says it's a County road.

Mr. Woolley stated that the City will go take a look.

Mr. Hunt went on to speak about the parking meters and was hoping other roads would have been chosen which did not include that area.

Gerry Scarano – Ocean Boulevard

Spoke regarding putting the word out to sell beach badges to coincide with garage sales. Went on to speak about the lot on Second and Broadway, stipend pay and cost for health benefits.

Vincent Lapore – 80 North Broadway

Spoke regarding long term indebtedness and bonding.

After ample time was given and no one else came forward, a motion was made by Councilman Sirianni, seconded by Councilwoman Celli 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 ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP OF STEFAN PHILLIP OLIVER IN THE NEPTUNE HOSE CO. #1
2. APPROVAL OF STATE ACTIVE AND CITY HONORARY MEMBERSHIP FOR LUIS VAMVAS IN THE PHIL DALY HOSE CO.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Celli, seconded by Councilman Pallone 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 Celli – Tonight many of you heard the workshop session on the parking meters and I think from my conversation most of you realize I was not for any of the parking meters but in my position on the City Council, you do have to make some compromises. I'm not happy with what's been done. I will vote for it because I said I would. We have all made certain choices where we didn't like certain things and we talked about it and yes we are going to have parking meters whether we like it or not. The City does need the revenue, however, there were big compromises in a good percentage of the residential areas. The people in Beachfront North, there was a big compromise. You were going to have parking meters on both sides of the street. The compromise, one side on the east side so we can't all in life have everything we want and life is not a bowl of cherries but I will tell you that I am not happy about the parking meters but we do have to think about the future of the City and that's what I am looking at. Tonight I am going to do something I don't normally do. Gerry, I have sat here for more than two years and listened to you fuss about the health benefits that you're City Council and Mayor receive. Believe me, we work pretty hard for them. You may not think it, you can get up here and you can say what you want but I'm not going to give them up. I don't think I have to. I work hard for them, any other City, they can do what they want. This is Long Branch and you should be proud of the City Council and Mayor that you have who do the job for you so please come up in the next two weeks and I am going to make a comment, it's not going to help, we're not going to debate this, (Mr. Scarano tried to speak)... it's my turn to speak and I just don't like all the things that you say about the people. How much have you volunteered in this City? This is your City also. Now, on a nice happy note... I would like to say Happy Mother's Day to everybody and please gentlemen, don't forget your mothers, sisters, aunts and uncles. Thank you.

Councilman Pallone – I just like to thank everyone for their comments this evening and for coming and have a great week and a Happy Mother's Day to everyone.

Councilman Sirianni – I'd like to thank everyone for coming in. Thank you for coming to the workshop. As the Mayor said as we sat at the table, there is going to be a lot more conversation and the best way to solve this is that we talk with each other and we can work these things out. Happy Mother's Day to everyone. Thank you.

Councilwoman Bastelli – I'd like to say that I also am not thrilled with parking. I'm not happy to have to do it with the parking meters but it is something that I realize has to be done. I realize that this City needs more police officers and that is something that is important and hopefully this will help solve some of that problem that we need to recover in revenue. I'd also like to say that I see people here that have complained about the RR tracks on Joline Avenue and they were repaired and they were repaired very well and I haven't heard anybody say any good positive comment about it. However, we did hear quite a few negative comments so I would like to first of all say that NJ Transit did a fine job. I'd like to thank Mr. Robert D'Anna who spear headed that on the NJ Transit side and I'd also like to say thank you to our own City Administrator Mr. Woolley who handled it on the City side and I think that it's time to recognize things like that. I would appreciate it. It would help us to hear your complaints a little better also. I would also just mention again, there is a volunteer opportunity this Saturday if you'd like to join us, it's from 9 – 12 and it's over by the Broadway band shell and we will be doing a litter pickup so please feel free to join us and thank you very much for coming.

Councilwoman Billings – As I said at the beginning of the workshop meeting, this decision regarding the meters was not easy for any of us but it's something we have to do. I think people don't want the meters but then if we raised your taxes, you're not happy about that either and we are all residents here so this is a way that we think we can prevent having to raise taxes and will bring some more revenue into the town but please don't think this was an easy decision by anybody on this table up here, on this dais. It was not an easy decision. I need a motion to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilwoman Celli, seconded by Councilman Pallone to adjourn this meeting at 8:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilman Sirianni seconded by Councilman Pallone to go back into executive session was carried out upon the following vote: Ayes 5