

REGULAR MEETING

CITY COUNCIL

MAY 22, 2012

7:30 PM

The Regular Meeting of the Long Branch City Council was held on Tuesday, May 22, 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:

Pier Village III

Tom Bauer the architect for the project made the presentation. It will include more than 300 housing units, 61,000 sq ft of retail space, a 68 room hotel and a public area which will include a stage and carousel. The boardwalk will be widened and Ocean Avenue will be split into a triangle heading towards Morris Avenue with the hotel being built between them. There is going to be wood in the design of the hotel to compliment the boardwalk. Another change was to the restrooms at the Morris Avenue beach entrance. The beach access will remain but the restrooms will be moved and a concession stand will be put up nearby. There will be a 140x240 ft public amenity area that will house a carousel which will remain open all year. There will also be a stage area and play space for children. The roads around it will be reshaped to calm traffic. Pedestrians will be given priority in the entire space. There will also be space for approximately 10 restaurants and storefronts. The parking configuration is still in the works.

Motion by Councilwoman Bastelli and seconded by Councilman Pallone to open the public portion on the presentation only.

Donna Peterson – Rockwell Avenue

Asked if anything other than the carousel would be for children. Went on to speak about how things used to be. She feels that there are too many stores and restaurants. Needs to be more affordable.

Daniel Pinheiro – Owner Stewarts Root Beer

Loves the concept. Would like to see this be a more year round community.

The Mayor stated that that is the goal.

Vincent Lapore – 80 North Broadway

Asked about the pool, Morris Avenue Beach access and comfort station, height of the hotel, the deed restriction and its impact to which Applied responded that the deed restriction has no impact. Mr. Lapore went on to speak regarding parking and tax issues.

Maureen Sazio – 25 Pavilion Avenue

Enthralled by the project but doesn't see how more people can come without someone to park their cars. There needs to be sufficient parking.

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

READING AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

May 8, 2012 – Motion by Councilman Pallone seconded by Councilman Sirianni to approve the minutes of May 8, 2012 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES
PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL CONSIDERATION

None

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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

Greg Yuberto – 55 Chelsea Avenue

Spoke regarding the article in the Press on May 13th regarding parking meters, the cost and bonding.

Maureen Sazio – 25 Pavilion Avenue

Spoke regarding parking on Pavilion Avenue and metered parking there. The Mayor stated that Pavilion Avenue was taken out of the metered parking plan.

Donna Peterson – Rockwell Avenue

Spoke regarding Pier Village taxes, the Finance Director and pensions and Broadway development.

Patrick Tedese – 316 Oakley Avenue

Asked that a bench be placed on the boardwalk dedicated to Shauna Adams who was killed overseas in a military training. She is from Long Branch and also worked in Long Branch.

The Mayor stated that the City ran out of benches and ran out of spots. He would like to see something of a living event rather than a monument. The City will work something out.

Vince Lapore – 80 North Broadway

Spoke regarding Bond debt and the United States flag in the lobby of City hall sponsored by Solomon Dwek.

After ample time was given and no one else came forward, a motion was made by Councilman Sirianni, 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/ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP OF GREGORY PAPAILIOU IN THE NEPTUNE HOSE COMPANY

2. APPROVAL OF ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP OF STEVEN STEGER IN THE NEPTUNE HOSE COMPANY

3. APPROVAL OF STATE ACTIVE/HONORARY MEMBERSHIP OF JOSEPH MERKEL IN THE NEPTUNE HOSE COMPANY

A motion was made by Councilwoman Celli, seconded by Councilman Sirianni 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 – I have two items tonight to remind the community that this weekend we have Art in the Park at West End Park from 10:00 in the morning until 5:30 at night. It certainly is a nice day out. Please come and enjoy and see all the artist out there and they display some wonderful wares and the second thing I think is probably a little more important to me, but it is Memorial Day weekend and the City offices will be closed on Monday however the services will be on Monday at 9:00 at Fireman's Field and then we go down to the beach and the Mayor throws the wreath in the water and then we go to Jerry Morgan Park at 10 or 10:15 and then at 11:00 we are back here at City Hall and the flags are lowered and up again so please remember this weekend. It is Memorial Day weekend. Thank you.

Councilman Pallone – I'd like to thank everybody for coming this evening and I would also like to mention that on June 28th, Thursday, June 28th the Trustees of the Long Branch Public Library are having a very nice fund raising event, a wine tasting and hors d'oeuvres at the Cedars and Beeches. There are only 50 tickets that are going to be sold and I'm just going to read this if I may and there are brochures or leaflets in the back that I'm going to read from but in any event "We invite you to join us for a taste of good wines from Court Liquors, hors d'oeuvres prepared by Cedar and Beeches and good conversations provided by you, our guests as we sit and talk together on a warm evening night enjoying the porch, the lawn and the lovely downstairs rooms of Cedars and Beeches" and again this is Thursday the 28th of June from 7 – 9 pm. Tickets are \$25.00. There is information in the back and it's going to be a very nice event and as I indicated, it benefits, all the money is a benefit to the Long Branch Public Library. Thank you.

Councilman Sirianni – Thank you very much for coming out. Thank you very much for your great presentation on Pier Village Phase III. Have a safe holiday weekend and we'll see you in two weeks. Thank you.

Councilwoman Bastelli – I'd like to thank everyone who was involved with the Downtown Renew cleanup on May 12th. I'd especially like to thank the Mayor and City Council for their participation, Director Jacob Jones in the Office of Community Development, Director Fred Migliaccio and the crew from Public Works, and Director Carl Jennings for their help in making the cleanup such a success. Thank you Mr. Salvatore, Superintendent of Long Branch Public School and all the hard-working students from the high school and middle school, Mr. Robinson and his high school news team for video reporting the day, the Second Baptist Church Youth Group, Long Branch Covenant Church volunteers, Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore, Troop # 1720, Director Ingrid Bruck and the Long Branch Free Public Library's Green Teens, the Long Branch Environmental Commission, the Long Branch Green Committee, the Greater Long Branch Chamber of Commerce and the many concerned and hardworking residents who worked hard to clean up our downtown. Thank you to the volunteer surveyors and all the businesses that agreed to work with the Downtown Renew committee to meet city ordinances and improve our downtown. I especially thank the Downtown Renew Committee who worked tirelessly and dug deep into their pockets and their hearts contributing in many ways; Carol Mellaci, Jen Smiga, Nekesha Marshall, Thalia Sweet, Barbara Hoffman Gaffey, Virginia Hoffman and Linda Doherty. True community spirit was demonstrated by the huge turnout of concerned residents. Bags and bags of garbage were picked up and numerous blocks and lots were cleaned. Business owners took notice and some joined in the effort by joining the clean-up, contributing ideas and agreeing to participate in a cleaner downtown. We have more work to do, but this was an encouraging start.

Councilwoman Billings – I'd like to thank everyone for coming out tonight. We all appreciate your input and we'll see you in three weeks.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Sirianni, seconded by Councilwoman Bastelli to adjourn this meeting at 8:55 p.m.