

REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL  
NOVEMBER 12, 2013  
7:30 PM

The Regular Meeting of the Long Branch City Council was held on Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 344 Broadway, Long Branch, New Jersey.

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

Others Present: Howard Woolley, Business Administrator; James Aaron, City Attorney; Ronald Mehlhorn, Finance Director; Kathy L. Schmelz, City Clerk

Absent: Mayor Adam Schneider

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

**PRESENTATIONS:**

None

**HEARINGS:**

None

**READING AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

October 22, 2013 - A motion was made by Councilwoman Bastelli, seconded by Councilwoman Bastelli to approve the minutes of October 22, 2013 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

**CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES**

**PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL CONSIDERATION**

None

**ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:**

**#13-13 ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH TO LEASE SPACE FOR FIRE TRUCKS FROM PRIVATELY OWNED VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES IN THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH FOR 2013**

Motion by Councilman Sirianni, seconded by Councilwoman Celli to introduce on first reading, advertise and post according to law and set the public hearing for November 26, 2013 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 4 – Abstain 1 / Sirianni

**#14-13 ORDINANCE AMENDING AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING TITLES AND SETTING SALARIES FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH FOR THE YEAR 2013**

Motion by Councilwoman Billings, seconded by Councilwoman Celli to introduce on first reading, advertise and post according to law and set the public hearing for November 26, 2013 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

**#15-13 ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 45-3.C (2) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH (FIRE DEPARTMENT)**

Motion by Councilwoman Bastelli, seconded by Councilwoman Billings to introduce on first reading, advertise and post according to law and set the public hearing for November 26, 2013 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 4 – Abstain 1 / Sirianni

**#16-13 ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN INTERESTS IN REAL PROPERTIES BY NEGOTIATION, PURCHASE, CONDEMNATION OR EMINENT DOMAIN, SAID PROPERTIES BEING IDENTIFIED ON THE ANNEXED SCHEDULE AND PARCEL MAPS**

Motion by Councilman Sirianni, seconded by Councilwoman Bastelli to introduce on first reading, advertise and post according to law and set the public hearing for November 26, 2013 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bastelli, seconded by Councilman Sirianni to open the public portion of this meeting. Ayes 5

**Leslie Hunt – 611 Wardell Street**

Spoke regarding Monmouth Medical Centers “A” rating and thinks it would be nice for the City to acknowledge this.

**Diana Multare – 21 North Bath Avenue**

Spoke regarding Ordinance 16-13 and asked about the language.

Mr. Aaron stated that the language is from the State of New Jersey Attorney General’s Office.

Mrs. Multare went on to speak about the low cost of solar panels

**Bernard Gorcey – 32 Second Avenue**

Spoke regards Thanksgiving and Hanukkah being on the same day, projects going on on the oceanfront, Seaview Tower property and the new development and boardwalk repair.

Councilwoman Billings addressed the new development at the Seaview Tower location.

**Vincent Lapore – 80 North Broadway**

Spoke regarding R265-13 and the dollar amount, various bills on the bill list such as attorney fees and West of Pier and Leslie Schneider’s Board of Adjustment appointment. Also spoke regarding ordinance #16-13.

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. Ayes 5

**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** – Council President Pallone had asked me to put together just a small summary about one of the resolutions that we passed a couple of meetings ago and it involved EMEX which is a company that supervises reverse auctions for our City and we

participated in this reverse auction with our electric bill, we began back in March and what happens is, utility companies are allowed to bid on our electric and the lowest bid wins for our particular city. Now we participated in that and over a period of 7 months, we had a total savings of \$27,000 which was considerable and so two meetings ago, we passed another resolution to do a reverse auction on our utility for natural gas and currently we had been paying .56 per therm and after the auction the lowest bidder was .53 so once again we will be saving the City money on our utility bill with this natural gas as well as our electric so I hope that helps explain that particular resolution and I just want to say thank you again for coming and one more thing, November 16<sup>th</sup>, this Saturday there's an organization in the County, it's called the Monmouth County Long Term Recovery Group and what they do is address unmet needs of storm victims and they're particularly interested in Long Branch and they will be at Long Branch Covenant Church which is at 355 Joline Avenue here in Long Branch and they'll be here on Saturday from 10am to 2pm and they'll be taking applications for help. They offer free labor and they also offer assistance in other things such as furnishings, appliances and they are committed to long term recover, they are committed to 7 years and now that the dust has settled with a lot of homes that were affected and now that they've received their FEMA or their insurance, there is still unmet needs and that's where Monmouth County Long Term Recovery Group wants to come in and assist and so if anyone knows of anyone or if you yourself have been affected, please attend this important day and hopefully you can get some of your unmet needs met. Thank you.

**Councilwoman Billings** – I'd just like to take a quick moment to thank the Long Branch Fire Department and all the mutual aids that responded to the brush fire on Atlantic Avenue. I spent about 2 hours down there and we kind of take the fire department for granted but to watch them in action, their number one priority were those houses on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. If the wind had turned and even though there is a little stream there, if that wind had turned and they weren't prepared it could have jumped right across to those houses and thankfully nobody had to be evacuated and the fire burned out eventually but it was a long night for all of them and I also thank all the mutual aid fire departments that came in to help us. Thank you.

**Councilman Sirianni** – Thank you for coming out this evening for those that braved the cold and of course thanks to our Long Branch Fire Department and surrounding areas for taking care of us with that fire and please stay warm and have a safe trip back home. Thank you.

**Council Vice President Celli** – I too would also like thank the Police and Fire Department for what they did. I went down there and took a look and I was satisfied that they were doing an excellent job. I also would like to publically thank the Director of Public Works. I've been after him for 6 – 8 months to bring the recycling truck from the County, well besides doing that, he went out and was able to obtain for a price, the recycling machine that came. It was down at 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue at the Senior Center and I know some of the residents were very happy to see it again so Fred, thank you on behalf of myself and the rest of them. I appreciate what you did. Thank you.

**Council President Pallone** – I'd also like to thank the staff as well and thank you all for coming and have a great week. Thanks.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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