

REGULAR MEETING

CITY COUNCIL

MARCH 11, 2014

7:30 PM

The Regular Meeting of the Long Branch City Council was held on Tuesday, March 11, 2014 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: Mayor Adam Schneider; James G. Aaron, City Attorney; Ronald Mehlhorn, Finance Director; Kathy L. Schmelz, City Clerk

Absent: Howard Woolley, Business Administrator

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

**PRESENTATIONS:**

None

**HEARINGS:**

None

**READING AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

February 25, 2014 - A motion was made by Councilman Sirianni, seconded by Councilwoman Bastelli to approve the minutes of February 25, 2014 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

**CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES**

**PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL CONSIDERATION**

**#4-14 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 36-03 FINALLY ADOPTED ON OCTOBER 14, 2003 AND ORDINANCE NO. 26-08 FINALLY ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 29, 2008 OF THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH, NEW JERSEY (Introduced: February 25, 2014)**

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

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

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

**#5-14 AN ORDINANCE REAPPROPRIATING \$85,782.98 PROCEEDS OF OBLIGATIONS NOT NEEDED FOR THEIR ORIGINAL PURPOSES IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR THE LAKE TAKANASSEE BANK STABILIZATION PROJECT IN AND BY THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH, NEW JERSEY (Introduced: February 25, 2014)**

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

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

A motion was made by Councilwoman Billings, 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:**

**#6-14 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 308-1 ENTITLED "TAXICABS" IN THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Celli seconded by Councilwoman Billings to introduce on first reading, advertise and post according to law and set the public hearing for March 25, 2014 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

A motion was made by Councilman Sirianni, seconded by Councilwoman Celli to open the public portion of this meeting and carried out upon the following vote: Ayes 5

**Christine (no last name given) 487 Bath Avenue – Dispatcher – Shore Cab**

Spoke regarding the need for more cabs but not more cab companies.

**Dennis Sherman – 510 Ocean Avenue – Save Ocean Avenue Committee**

Spoke regarding the boardwalk, the ramp onto the beach, cyclone fencing, asked for more places for people to sit, asked for a safer roadway for walkers and bicyclists. DPW is doing a good job with access points.

Councilwoman Bastelli responded with regards to the fencing.

**Austin Gelzer – 385 Ocean Boulevard**

Asked for more benches from Howland Avenue through to town.

Mayor Schneider stated that the City will do the best they can by summer.

**Jasmine Binns – 1515 Allen Avenue, Wanamassa, NJ**

Spoke regarding a special events permit she submitted last year for a wedding this August and it has not been approved yet.

The Mayor will look into this.

**Bernard Gorcey – 36 Second Avenue**

Spoke regarding benches, parking meters, lower Broadway, Beer Garden, Broadway Arts and the Pier.

**Vincent Lapore – 80 North Broadway**

Spoke regarding the sale of the Spanish Fraternity - 149 Broadway.

**Diana Multare – 21 North Bath Avenue**

Spoke regarding comments on 149 Broadway and conflict of interest.

After ample time was given and no one else came forward, a motion was made by Councilman Billings, seconded by Councilwoman Bastelli 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** – Thank you for coming tonight. It's good to see everybody here. Thank you.

**Councilwoman Billings** – I have nothing for tonight.

**Councilman Sirianni** – Thank you very much for coming this evening and I think we are only going to get rain, no more snow, keep your fingers crossed on Thursday morning and lets pray for nice warm weather, thank you.

**Council Vice President Celli** – I have two things this evening, one is a sad one and one is a happy one. For many years I have sat here as a Councilwoman and I've certainly been honored to do that but over here to the left there has been a young lady who has sat through many Council meetings. Right now she is pretty seriously ill and I would ask all of you to say just a prayer for her, she is a wonderful person. My happy thing is, guess what Monday is? Monday is St. Patrick's Day and that's my holiday so I hope everybody enjoys it and have a nice evening.

**Council President Pallone** – Thank you. So Mr. Sherman I'll just sort of fill the public in on our conversation and anything that I found out subsequently but I mean the bottom line is, I agree with the Mayor that I think we all want to do the best we can. As far as the fencing, I agree with Councilwoman Bastelli, there's about 6/10 of a mile from South Bath to Brighton that has a six foot fence and my conversation with Sgt. Shirley today who's basically handling a lot of the FEMA reimbursement money, so let me start with that, that is something that is applied for and that's part of the reimbursement so if we were to make any change on that, that would come out of additional money that the city would have to pay. Before I spoke with him, I felt the same way Councilwoman Bastelli did when I went down there and Sgt. Shirley confirmed it. That 6' fence where it was put was put there very deliberately and that is specifically because there is as you know some very dangerous cuts in the road and where the boardwalk pilings were, were very dangerous and I must tell you I have a 6 year old who often just tries to climb that 3' fence and I'd be really nervous about him doing that in some of those areas along that stretch there as opposed to the other area where there is sort of a elongated bluff, we do actually have beach clean up as you probably know where we walk along that area and its pretty safe. So again in my conversation with Sgt. Shirley, he said even if the City wanted to do it, he probably wouldn't recommend it. He would probably keep the 6' fence as it is. I certainly agree with you as I think most of us do that it's not the most attractive thing but I think at this point it's there and I think that's the reason for it being there and I think it's a legitimate one. As far as the benches, also I agree with the Mayor. I counted 6 benches I guess between South Bath and Brighton and certainly we could use some more and I think if we could get that done that would be great. The Cottage Place, I think the Mayor explained that. I didn't know the cost involved but in my conversation with Director Migliaccio he also indicated and I mentioned that to you as well that before even the thought of doing anything down there, we have to see how the sand settles down there to even think about to do a handicapped ramp, to doing any kind of access ramp down there and finally in

terms of the, just the improved signage and so forth, I spoke with Director Roebuck who is here and you know again, it's the kind of thing where we are going to try to do the best that we can and hopefully in the summer, some of those signs might have fallen down, we probably can do some painting, do some signage just to make that sort of work for everyone, meaning the joggers, the walkers, the pedestrians and the vehicles so you know I hope that answers a little of your question. I think we all have the same goal here and we all want to see the same thing and I think as the summer season comes forward we will try to do the best we can but I always appreciate your coming and giving us your thoughts and certainly will continue to try to do what we can to make it good for you and for everyone. Thank you.

**Councilman Sirianni** – If I may, a year ago, February, March, we didn't even know if we could open up Brighton Avenue and West End Avenue beaches. We had people asking us, are they going to open? Are they going to open? The condition of the beach, the way the steps were, this that and the other thing and the power of DPW and everyone involved, the carpenters and everything, we opened up the season with Brighton Avenue beach and West End Avenue beach. It is a very big concern of ours. We are not going to rest our (inaudible) that we have miracle workers that work for the City but we will be working in regards to this. We are working on this.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Celli seconded by Councilwoman Billings to adjourn this meeting at 8:18 p.m.