

**REGULAR MEETING**

**CITY COUNCIL**

**APRIL 22, 2014**

**7:30 PM**

The Regular Meeting of the Long Branch City Council was held on Tuesday, April 22, 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; 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

**HEARINGS:**

2014 Municipal Budget

A motion was made by Councilwoman Billings to open the public hearing on the 2014 Municipal Budget, seconded by Councilwoman Celli / Ayes 5

**Bill McLaughlin – 448 Ocean Avenue**

Spoke regarding the increase in the Administration budget, City Attorney salary, Engineer budget up, Bureau of Conservation is up, telephone bills are up and then went on to speak regarding the reserve for uncollected taxes.

**Vince Lapore – 45 Marine Terrace**

Spoke regarding tax increases and asked about anticipated financing.

Motion by Councilman Sirianni to close the public hearing was seconded by Councilwoman Bastelli / Ayes 5

**Gerry Scarano – Ocean Boulevard**

Spoke regarding health benefits for the Mayor and Council and the budget.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

April 8, 2014 - A motion was made by Councilwoman Celli, seconded by Councilman Sirianni to approve the minutes of April 8, 2014 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

**CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES**

**PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL CONSIDERATION**

None

**ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:**

**#9-10 AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CERTAIN REGULATIONS GOVERNING ON-STREET METERED PARKING WITHIN THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH AND AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 244, ENTITLED "PARKING LOTS AND METERS", AND CHAPTER 325, ENTITLED "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC", OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH**

A motion was made by Councilman Sirianni to introduce on first reading, advertise and post according to law and set the public hearing for May 15, 2014, seconded by Councilwoman Billings and carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

**#10-14 BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BY THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF \$925,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$880,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE CITY TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF**

A motion was made by Councilman Sirianni to introduce on first reading, advertise and post according to law and set the public hearing for May 15, 2014, seconded by Councilwoman Billings and carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

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

**Dennis Sherman – Ocean Avenue**

Thanked Councilman Pallone and Councilwoman Bastelli for answering his email. Went on to speak about the condition of the oceanfront and repairs that needed to be made.

**Austin Gelzer – Ocean Avenue**

Spoke regarding the American with Disabilities Act and the fencing near his home.

**Camille Deronin – Ocean Plaza Condominiums**

Spoke regarding the plans for the boardwalk and the cabanas at Ocean Plaza. Went on to speak about access points, bluff repairs and West End.

**Diana Multare – 21 North Bath Avenue**

Spoke regarding the manner in which Council meetings are conducted.

**Vincent Lapore – 45 Marine Terrace**

Spoke regarding the remarks of Dennis Sherman, Pratap Talwar's presentation on the boardwalk repair and other solutions. Went on to speak about the removal of the boardwalk.

**Scott Whitehead – 525 Ocean Boulevard**

Spoke regarding the dangers of bicycles on the walking path from South Bath Avenue to Pier Village.

**Bill McLaughlin – 448 Ocean Avenue**

Spoke regarding the fencing along the boardwalk and how cuts could have been made in the budget to have had the boardwalk repaired sooner.

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. 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** – No comment tonight. Thank you for coming. One thing, May 13<sup>th</sup>, remember to vote. Thank you.

**Councilwoman Billings** – I'd just like to clarify that the bond that we introduced tonight is 90% FEMA reimbursable so 90% will come back to the City. The City will only be responsible for 10%. What happens is we have to lay out the money first, the project must be completed and then we get reimbursed and I just wanted to clarify that. Thank you.

**Councilman Sirianni** – You know, I know it's a long evening. Our meetings start at 7:30 but at 6:00 we have our workshop meeting and that's where you can see us talking about things, going over topics etc... and something very extraordinary happened today. We were approached and given a bond request that we pushed through. Normally we don't like surprises and if you were there you heard us being very transparent telling the administration and the department heads that we do not like to be hit up with a request, large sums or a resolution and vote on that night. We don't do that. We need to have time so we can investigate it, think about it, work about it, talk amongst ourselves to see what we're going to do. This bond request that came in is taking care of the Pinsky Fountain that no one has been talking to us about, that is not working, so we are putting in, we got money from FEMA to do the repairs. This is that 90% FEMA 10% us, the Promenade lighting, the Promenade walkway railing and bulkhead and its going towards repairs to Takanassee. The Council, we decided to move on it today. We are not taking the two week notice to research it because we know, and I wish they stayed and I'm going to say his name but Mr. Sherman was present. He saw us working (Council and the Mayor stated that Mr. Sherman was still in the back talking to Mr. Migliaccio), Mr. Sherman was there, he saw us, he saw us work on it and these were items Mr. Sherman that you said were not taken care of. We are taking the action to take care of them. Please come to the workshop meetings. You'll get your time up here to talk and to air your grievance, pack a lunch, we normally go into Exec that's when you have to leave, you can take a break, but come and see how we actually do our job, please, you're more than welcome. Mr. Sherman, I'm sorry, I didn't see you there but you were present. You did see us move on that and you didn't bring that...and you didn't say thank you for moving that stuff.

**Council Vice President Celli** – Tonight I look around the room and I'm happy to see everybody believe it or not. I wonder if you all realize that today is Earth Day. It was a beautiful day outside. Take time, even though its dark out, look at the trees and I know many of you have allergies and they bother you but take time to look around and stop the complaining and be thankful for what we have. Yes, we have a lot to do and we know that but there is work in progress and you heard me say last time and I'll say it again. It takes time, it takes money and it takes patience. And with that I will say good night and thank you for coming.

**Council President Pallone** – I'd like to thank everybody for coming this evening. I'd like to just do a reminder; the meeting that's scheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup> has been rescheduled to Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> because of the Municipal Election that takes place on the 13<sup>th</sup>. The other thing I want to just mention is that you know, it's on the website and we've mentioned it many times but there is an opportunity for anyone to come to speak with Council members one on one during our Council office hours which are held the first

Wednesday of each month and you can contact the City Clerk at any time to schedule an appointment to do that so with that I need a motion to adjourn...

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bastelli seconded by Councilman Sirianni to adjourn this meeting at 8:20 p.m.