

The Regular Meeting of the Long Branch City Council was held on Tuesday, June 24, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 344 Broadway, Long Branch, New Jersey.

Present: John Pallone, Council 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

ABSENT: Mary Jane Celli, Council Vice-President

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

PRESENTATIONS:

None

HEARINGS:

None

READING AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

June 10, 2014 - A motion was made by Councilman Sirianni, seconded by Councilwoman Billings to approve the minutes of June 10, 2014 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 3 / Abstain 1 Bastelli / Absent 1 Celli

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES

PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL CONSIDERATION

#17-14 ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 308-1 ENTITLED "TAXICABS" IN THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH

A motion by Councilman Sirianni to open the public hearing on said ordinance and was seconded by Councilwoman Billings / Ayes 4 / Absent 1 Celli

Mohammad Khan – Co Owner Shore Cab

Would like the taxi stands on the north west corner of McDonalds to stay and also asked that the fares rate be increased. Stated that the inspection fee was too much.

Diana Multare – 21 North Bath Avenue

Does not see the benefit of pick up and drop off points. Stands would be more useful.

After ample time was given and no one else responded, a motion by Councilman Sirianni to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilwoman Billings / Ayes 4 / Absent 1 Celli

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 4 / Absent 1 Celli

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED FOR JULY 8, 2014

AN ORDINANCE REAPPROPRIATING \$96,500 PROCEED OF OBLIGATIONS NOT NEEDED FOR THEIR ORIGINAL PURPOSES IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR THE PURCHASE OF A CAB TRACTOR AND SURF RAKE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS IN AND BY THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH

A motion was made by Councilwoman Billings to introduce on first reading, advertise and post according to law and set the public hearing for July 8, 2014 was seconded by Councilman Sirianni and carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 4 / Absent 1 Celli

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Billings, seconded by Councilman Sirianni to open the public portion of this meeting and was carried out upon the following vote / Ayes 4 / Absent 1 Celli

Diana Multare – 21 North Bath Avenue

Spoke regarding the lack of signs that are posted in Pier Village for after 5pm parking. There is no clarity.

Gerry Scarano – Ocean Avenue

Asked for a budget committee. Went on to speak about transparency with regards to Oceanfest, minutes being taken at Department Head meetings and videotaping Council meetings.

Mohammad Khan – Co owner Shore Cab

Spoke regarding Taxi stands and asked Council to please reconsider. They would even accept an increase in the fee. Also spoke regarding the residency requirement being unfair.

Vincent Lapore – 45 Marine Terrace

Spoke regarding Zoning Board vacancies. Requested a no vote on R148-14 and also on R150-14. Went on to speak about Plaza Court, Haddad, and asked why there was drilling going on at the old Siperstein site on Broadway. Spoke about R151-14 and Mr. Woolley stated that it replaces an existing agreement.

Leslie Hunt – Long Branch

Stated that the way the Council and Administration are being spoke to is not nice. She is proud of the job they are doing. Mr. Woolley is a wonderful source of information.

Ghulam Khan – Shore Cab

Stated that 50 licenses would be unbearable. Asked if the Council would reconsider keeping the stands.

After ample time was given and no one else came forward, a motion was made by Councilman Sirianni, seconded by Councilwoman Billings to close the public portion of this meeting / Ayes 4 / Absent 1 Celli

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 – I'd like to say thank you to all of the cab drivers that are here, we listened to your comments and I'd like to think about that taxi stand. I'm not sure why we abolished it completely but if it's that important maybe we can consider looking at it. No promises but I'm just interested in talking about it more. Also, I'd like everybody to remember the 4th of July is coming and Oceanfest so I hope we all have a happy and safe 4th and the last thing, I'd just like to thank Council President Pallone for what he has done over these past months as President. I think he has really served us well and I want to say congratulations on that and thank you again for all of your work this past few months.

Council President Pallone – Thank you Councilwoman Bastelli.

Councilwoman Billings – I also would like to commend Council President Pallone for his professional manner in which he has conducted the meetings for the last 9 months and you did a great job, John.

Council President Pallone – Thank you.

Councilman Sirianni – Thank you very much for coming out. Oceanfest is coming up and have a great 4th of July and again thank you very much, John for taking us these 9 months.

Council President Pallone – Thank you Councilman.

Council Vice President Celli – Absent

Council President Pallone – I would just like to say that I've enjoyed being the Council President. Thank you all for being here and for your comments always. Thank you to the Mayor and Administration and Council for your support. Just so you know, I'd like to welcome Councilman Sirianni who will be the new Council President effective July 1st. Councilwoman Celli is going to be the Vice President for the next 4 years and the 3 of us will alternate on a yearly basis on July 1st for the remainder of our term so have a great 4th and thank you very much.

ADJOURNMENT

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