

The Regular Meeting of the Long Branch City Council was held on Tuesday, February 27, 2007 at 8:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 344 Broadway, Long Branch, New Jersey.

PRESENT:

Dr. Mary Jane Celli, Councilwoman; Brian Unger, Councilman; David G. Brown, Council Vice President; Michael DeStefano, Council President

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mayor Adam Schneider; Howard Woolley, Business Administrator; Barry Capp, Esq., City Attorneys office; Ronald Mehlhorn, Finance Director; Kathy L. Schmelz, Deputy Municipal Clerk

ABSENT:

Anthony Giordano, Councilman; James G. Aaron, City Attorney; Irene A. Joline, City Clerk

The pledge of allegiance was recited and certification was read.

A presentation then took place by Broadway Arts

READING AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

February 13, 2007

Motion by Councilperson Celli seconded by Councilperson Unger to approve the minutes of January 23, 2007 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 4 - Absent 1 Giordano

At this point the Council took resolution #48-07 separately from the resolution portion of the agenda.

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES

PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL CONSIDERATION

None

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION: Public hearing March 13, 2007

#3-07 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING LAND ACQUISITION OF BLOCK 222 LOTS 2 & 3 IN THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS AND EMINENT DOMAIN PROCEEDINGS IF NECESSARY

A motion was made by Councilperson Celli, seconded by Councilperson Brown to introduce on first reading, advertise and post according to law and set the public hearing for March 13, 2007. Ayes 4 / Absent 1 Giordano

#4-07 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5 "ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT", 5-17 "PUBLIC RECORDS" OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH WITH REGARD TO CIVIL UNION CERTIFICATE FEES AND CHAPTER 224, "MARRIAGE", 22-4-1 TO INCLUDE A FEE FOR CIVIL UNION APPLICATION AND CIVIL UNION LICENSE

A motion was made by Councilperson Unger, seconded by Councilperson Celli to introduce on first reading, advertise and post according to law and set the public hearing for March 13, 2007. Ayes 4 / Absent 1 Giordano

#5-07 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5 "ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT", 5-17 "PUBLIC RECORDS" OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH WITH REGARD TO BURIAL PERMIT FEES

A motion was made by Councilperson Brown, seconded by Councilperson Celli to introduce on first reading, advertise and post according to law and set the public hearing for March 13, 2007. Ayes 4 / Absent 1 Giordano

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A motion by Councilperson Celli to open the public portion of the meeting was seconded by Councilperson Unger.

Margaret Rice - 176 Branton Avenue

Spoke regarding the wonderful programs that the Library has to offer such as homework labs, English Café and a Spanish Café and they are offering a program on 3/14 at 7:00.

Adam Kanafski - 15 Eleanor Avenue

Spoke regarding the geese population. Submitted a petition. This is a hazardous situation for humans. Something must be done. Spoke about what steps have been taken so far. He said that the Dept of Fish and Wildlife allows the collection and removal of geese in a program called culling.

Diane Multare - 21 North Bath Avenue

Member of the Audubon Society. Asked what method of culling the gentleman was referring to. Stated that the word culling is often a euphemism for killing. Asked that the City speak with the Audubon Society prior to making any decisions.

Rozdan Ziffer - 764 Ocean Avenue

Spoke regarding the geese feces in streets, on the sidewalks and in yards. Her grandchildren can't even play outside. She is afraid they will get sick. Read an article regarding geese and new rules on geese.

Mr. Woolley stated that the city is evaluating a proposal from DEP Fish and Wildlife.

Austin Gelzer - 385 Ocean Boulevard

Spoke regarding handicapped accessible beach access and spoke regarding the petition he submitted.

Lila Poch - President Elberon Property Owners Association - 117 Ocean Ave.

Spoke regarding the assessment bill for Realty Appraisals. Asked Council not to pay them until they go back to do another reassessment. Asked the Council to reject the reassessment for Long Branch. Many mistakes have been made. There will be a meeting of the Elberon Property Owners Association on March 11th and asked everyone if they could attend.

Kevin Brown – 162 Broadway

Spoke regarding R51-07. Feels this is discriminatory against him. Asked that all the others get named in the resolution. This is arbitrary and capricious.

Harold Bobrow – 295 Ocean Boulevard

Spoke regarding R48-07. Will there be subsidized housing included in that phase?

Response was, low income will be in another phase as will subsidized.

Lori Ann Vendetti – 33 & 38 Ocean Terrace

Asked if the property owners in BAC can keep their businesses or do they have to rent from BAC?

Patients O’Connor from BAC stated that retail will rent, residential will own.

Michele Bobrow – 295 Ocean Boulevard

Stated to Council that the public should have been allowed to read R50-07’s amendments before it was adopted. Asked about executive session minutes.

Barry Capp stated that once a matter is resolved then the minutes by law are available.

Andrea Connelly – Marine Terrace

Spoke regarding Ordinance #4-07 and asked about Mr. Unger’s comments regarding this ordinance. Read an email forwarded to her.

Mr. Unger stated that he feels this is a momentous and historic occasion.

Ms. Connelly stated that she was dismayed to hear that.

Anna DeFaria – 45 Marine Terrace

Saddened by Mr. Unger’s opinion of civil unions. Long Branch is going down.

Harold Cooper – 113 South 7th Avenue

Spoke regarding the assessments. Stated that it’s criminal. How can one survive? The City is not just buildings, it’s people.

After no one else responded, a motion was made to close the public portion by Councilperson Brown, seconded by Councilperson Unger.

RESOLUTIONS:

On file in the Clerks Office and the City’s Web-Site

Councilman Unger voted no for Realty Appraisals on the bill list.

APPLICATIONS:

1. APPROVAL OF A RAFFLE LICENSE FOR THE HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
2. APPROVAL OF A RAFFLE LICENSE FOR THE PTSO LONG BRANCH COUNCIL
3. APPROVAL OF FOUR (4) RAFFLE LICENSES FOR FRIENDS OF MONMOUTH COUNTY CHILD ADVOCACY
4. APPROVAL OF A RAFFLE LICENSE FOR OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA CHURCH
5. APPROVAL OF A RAFFLE LICENSE FOR THE NEW JERSEY REPERTORY COMPANY

A motion by Councilperson Celli to approve the listed applications was seconded by Councilperson Brown and carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 4 / Absent 1 Giordano

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Councilwoman Celli – Kudos to the DPW on the 2/13 storm.

Councilman Giordano – Absent

Councilman Unger - Stated he was sad over the fact that Mrs. DeFaria was sad with him. Glad legislation was passed regarding civil unions and also stated that he will not support euthanasia of the geese.

Council Vice President Brown – Thanked everyone for coming out tonight. Keep in mind we are all one family.

Council President DeStefano – Stated to Lila Poch that he would not be here on 3/11 to attend her meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Councilperson Celli to adjourn this meeting at 9:45 p.m. was seconded by Councilperson Brown.