

REGULAR MEETING

CITY COUNCIL

JUNE 23, 2009

8:00 P.M.

The Regular Meeting of the Long Branch City Council was held on Tuesday, June 23, 2009 at 8:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 344 Broadway, Long Branch, New Jersey.

PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mayor Adam Schneider; Howard Woolley, Administrator; James G. Aaron, City Attorney; Ronald Mehlhorn, Finance Director; Irene A. Joline, City Clerk

ABSENT:

Anthony Giordano, Councilman

The pledge of allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was had for the passing of former Councilman Michael Palughi.

Certification was read into the record.

8:00 PM HEARINGS:

2009 BUDGET AMENDMENT

Motion was made by Councilperson Celli, seconded by Councilperson Brown to open the public hearing on this ordinance.

Vincent Lapore – Long Branch

Asked Mr. Mehlhorn, under pensions, asked what the dollar amounts would have been for the complete contribution to the pension fund by the taxpayers for this year without the deferments.

Mr. Mehlhorn responded and stated approximately 1.4 million dollars more.

Went on to discuss the deferments and time payments.

Motion by Councilperson Celli, seconded by Councilperson Brown to close the public hearing on the budget amendment.

R131-09 Resolution adopting the 2009 Municipal Budget

Motion by Councilperson Celli, seconded by Councilperson Brown to adopt the 2009 Municipal budget was approved upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 3 / Nays 1 Unger / Absent 1 Giordano

READING AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

MAY 26, 2009 – Motion to approve the minutes of May 26, 2009 was offered by Councilperson Celli, seconded by Councilperson Brown - Ayes 3 / Abstain 1 DeStefano / Absent 1 Giordano

JUNE 9, 2009 – Motion to approve the minutes of June 9, 2009 was offered by Councilperson Brown, seconded by Councilperson Celli – Ayes 3 / Abstain 1 Unger / Absent 1 Giordano

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES
PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL CONSIDERATION

#11-09 ORDINANCE AMENDING HANDICAPPED PARKING ORDINANCE TO PROHIBIT PARKING AT 404 WILLOW AVENUE (Introduced June 9, 2009)

A motion by Councilperson Celli seconded by Councilperson Brown to adopt said ordinance on final reading was adopted upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 4 / Absent 1 Giordano

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

#12-09 AN ORDINANCE CHAPTER 177 FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION ORDINANCE

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 July 14, 2009 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 4 / Absent 1 Giordano

#13-09 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION FOR A PROGRAM TO UPDATE AND MAKE CURRENT PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS FOR THE USE OF THE LOCAL ASSESSOR OF THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NJ

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 July 14, 2009 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 4 / Absent 1 Giordano

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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

Diana Multare – 21 North Bath Avenue

Spoke regarding the budget, specifically the overtime and the accrued vacation and sick time of the employees.

Jerry Scarano – Ocean Boulevard

Spoke regarding properties for sale in the redevelopment zone and weeds on Broadway and Second Avenue.

Michael Winnick – Long Branch

Spoke regarding the Ocean Place Hilton and the vision of Pier Village. Asked the Mayor and Council to continue with the dreams.

Lori Vendetti – Ocean Terrace

Spoke regarding families living in their homes without the worry of them being taken away. Must adopt an ordinance to take away the threat of eminent domain.

Tom Sheedy – 28 Bayview Court

Member of the Long Branch Citizens for Good Government. We need a citizen group for the city's spending. Spoke regarding health benefits and salaries for employees, hiring fees, city attorney budget, broadcasting council meetings on television and residential property for commercial use.

Vincent Lapore – Long Branch

Spoke regarding R131-09, asked what the present status was with Beachfront South, Carmen Vendetti, resident of MTOTSA and what he stood for.

After ample time was given and no one came forward a motion was made by Councilperson Celli seconded by Councilperson Brown to close the public portion of this meeting.

RESOLUTIONS:

On file in the Clerks Office and the City's Web Site.

APPLICATIONS:

1. APPROVAL OF ANTHONY MIGLIACCIO AS A MEMBER OF THE ATLANTIC AND TRUCK COMPANY

A motion by Councilperson Brown, seconded by Councilperson Celli to approve the above application was passed upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 4 / Absent 1 Giordano

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Councilman Brown – No comment

Councilman Giordano – Absent

Councilman Unger - I just wanted to say that I did attend Carmen's funeral mass in Newark in the Ironbound section and it was a very thoughtful time for me and for many of the people that went there as when Mr. Lapore was speaking I thought a little bit about the neighborhood, the Ironbound is a magnificent neighborhood that the New York Times would probably refer to as "blue collar" or working class and it's a magnificent neighborhood and a magnificent example of people holding their neighborhood together in spite of forces around them, social and economic, that might bring a neighborhood down or turn into something else and I think we could understand the MTOTSA case from that perspective seeing where these folks came from and their determination not to let the people of wealth and power mow them down and mow down the constitution in the name of greed and I always thought Carmen was charismatic, he always had a sparkle in his eye, there was something about him that I thought was very very special as Vincent said, he was a man of very few words but I found him extraordinarily compassionate and wise and I'm sure the Vendetti's, Fifi and Lori are very proud to be a part of Carmen's family so I mean I agree with Lori, I think its time to really get an ordinance together, I submitted one to the Council, it still hasn't really gone anywhere as you said, there's Belmar, there's Edison, there's many towns that have passed eminent domain

ordinances that restrict the use to, of this type of process to strictly governmental applications and we ought to do it in Long Branch and we ought to put this chapter behind us and we ought to do it as quickly as possible.

Dr. Celli – I would just like to remind everybody that before the next Council meeting we have the 4th of July and in Long Branch we have a great Oceanfest down on the boardwalk and I've ordered good weather so I hope it comes true but come down to the boardwalk and see everything, its quite a place to see. Thank you.

Mr. DeStefano – This evening we had a very brief workshop which left us with a lot of time between the workshop and the regular meeting which usually begins at 8:00. What we've come to the conclusion is that we should go on summer hours, it took me 19 years to think of it but if the workshop agenda is short for July and August, what we're going to do is start this meeting one hour sooner at 7:00. It will be noticed, it will be put on the web but as long as we can keep the workshop agenda, and I'll know that because we do the agenda the Monday before the meeting then what we are going to do is begin these meetings at 7:00 so I say that to all of you here so you'll know right away, the workshop is at 6, this meeting will be at 7 assuming that everything can get done on time.

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting of the Long Branch City Council adjourned at 8:30 p.m.