

REGULAR MEETING

CITY COUNCIL

JULY 28, 2009

7:00 P.M.

The Regular Meeting of the Long Branch City Council was held on Tuesday, July 28, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 344 Broadway, Long Branch, New Jersey.

PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mayor Adam Schneider; Howard Woolley, Administrator; James G. Aaron, City Attorney; Ronald Mehlhorn, Finance Director; Deborah L. Talerico, RMC, Deputy Municipal Clerk

ABSENT:

Irene A. Joline, RMC, City Clerk

The pledge of allegiance was recited and certification was read into the record.

READING AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

July 14, 2009 - Motion to approve the minutes of July 14, 2009 was offered by Councilperson Celli, seconded by Councilperson Brown - Ayes 4 / Abstain 1 Giordano

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES
PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL CONSIDERATION

#14-09 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 345 "ZONING" OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH RELATIVE TO ACCESSORY USES OF PROPERTIES WITHIN THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH

A motion by Councilperson Celli to open the public hearing on said ordinance was seconded by Councilperson Giordano.

Harold Bobrow - 295 Ocean Boulevard

Spoke regarding the combined area and accessory use.

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

A motion was made by Councilperson Celli, seconded by Councilperson Unger to adopt on third and final reading was carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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

Marvin Dangler – 180 Franklin Avenue

Spoke regarding flooding that occurs on the corner of Franklin, Third and Westwood Avenue. Went on to speak about the drywell system and suggested making a retention pond out of it.

Mr. Woolley stated that the road replenishment program is addressing that issue at Third and Franklin triangle. The suggestion will be taken to the City Engineer.

Michelle Bobrow – 295 Ocean Boulevard

Spoke regarding that the redacted closed session minutes will be online. Thanked everyone for being in compliance with the law and for transparency with Council meetings. Went on to speak about Cable TV and taping Council meetings, spoke regarding various resolutions that were going to be adopted, Thompson Design, Maser and Greenbaum. Spoke regarding the replacement vehicle for the Police Department and Tax Anticipation Notes.

Effie Nicas – 340 Hollywood Avenue

Spoke regarding an article in the press about a house on Hollywood Avenue and a structure being built behind a house.

The Mayor responded by going over assessor uses, variances and the fact that there is not two houses on the property. The City does not enforce deed restrictions.

Bill McLaughlin – 448 Ocean Avenue

Spoke regarding July 14th resolutions and tonight's resolutions regarding professionals that are being hired.

Diana Multare – 21 North Bath Avenue

Spoke regarding the \$300,000 from the State for the design of the ferry service and pier, criteria needed for ferry service under the supervision of the Coast Guard, pier feasibility study and employee statistics for residents of Long Branch working in Pier Village.

Harold Bobrow – 295 Ocean Boulevard

Asked Mr. Mehlhorn how much is being spent on borrowing.

Mr. Mehlhorn stated that he will not be borrowing anything.

Asked Council to reverse the seating in the Workshop so the audience could hear better. Spoke regarding the beaches and the true net of running of the beaches, Seven Presidents Ocean Walk and thanked Mr. Woolley, Mayor, Council and Carl Turner who put together the vision meeting on August 19th at 6:30 here at City Hall. Notices will be sent out to residents of

Beachfront South. Went on to speak regarding professional services for the City.

Lori Ann Vendetti – 33, 38 Ocean Terrace

Spoke regarding the American Dream Ordinance, read the Borough of Belmar's eminent domain ordinance and asks the Council to consider passing a similar ordinance.

Harold Cooper – 113 South 7th Avenue

Spoke regarding Mrs. Multare's comments referring to the feasibility study. Gave different scenarios how the \$300,000 could enhance other parts of the City, the youth, the Public Safety Director to bring on some more cadets. Now is not the time to build. Asked that the Council meetings be taped. Asked Council and the Mayor to be careful in public service.

Vincent Lapore – Long Branch

Spoke regarding Amboy Bank, Solomon Dwek, Governor Corzine's statement regarding the arrests of the past week and asked that Council vote not on Mr. Aarons firm as City Attorney.

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

PRESENTATIONS:

The Mayor, Council and Carl Jennings, Director of Recreation then went on to make presentations to the Long Branch Soccer Team.

RESOLUTIONS:

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

APPLICATIONS:

1. APPROVAL OF A RAFFLE LICENSE FOR MONMOUTH MEDICAL CENTER FOUNDATION
2. APPROVAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR CITY HONORARY AND STATE ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP FOR JAMES SALVATORE MIRARCHI IN THE ATLANTIC FIRE COMPANY
3. APPROVAL OF A BINGO LICENSE FOR THE ITALIAN AMERICAN MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

A motion by Councilperson Brown, seconded by Councilperson Celli to approve the above application was passed upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Councilman Brown – Yes good evening everyone, Mr. Sherman is not here but I would be remiss if I did not publicly say thank you for the work that Mr. Sherman and his committee is attempting to do to beautify and upgrade the quality of life in the City of Long Branch. We wish them continued success and I know that if we work together we can include the County in

the final scenario of plans, again, congratulations to Mr. Sherman, his committee and all of those responsible for solutions and remedies to enlighten the oceanfront of Long Branch.

Councilman Giordano – I missed the last meeting and I just wanted to thank all those who worked on Oceanfest this year. It was probably, you know, every year we say it's the biggest year ever and I think this year surpassed last year particularly at night for the fireworks. There were people all over the oceanfront from West End to the North End, people from in town, out of town, the fireworks show was the best one yet and in a very difficult year, economically, the Chamber of Commerce somehow pulled it off though contributions from local businesses, local residences, everybody came together, the staff from the City, from the Police to Public Works and everybody else involved for the day which is really an event that takes a whole year to plan, you did a great job so I just want to give recognition to everybody who contributed to the day. It turned out to be a great day for the City.

Councilman Unger – I just like to very quickly thank Lori Vendetti for showing us the Belmar ordinance and for indicating her determination that the City find closure soon and that we craft an ordinance that could both serve the economic development of the City and also protect homeowners and other residential properties from eminent domain abuse, also Dennis left and I appreciate his presentation on Ocean Avenue and for the very same reasons I think I'd like to see the City show the same determination to save the final Takanassee building that doesn't have a home. Its funny, Dennis mentioned the same prospective or speculative funding sources for his project, he talked about perhaps getting grants, lobbying, going to the County, going to the State where we don't have any certainty of getting funding. This is the exact same approach I am recommending to my fellow colleagues on the City Council and to the Mayor that we actually make a strong effort to save one of the Tak buildings, the Port Huron House since the other two seem to be secured. Dennis talked about the history and showing history on the new Ocean walk. While there is almost nothing more historic aside from the Church of the Presidents then the Takanassee location and it would seem to me it bears a lot more historical weight then some new mosaics or some signs on Ocean walk which I fully support but here we have an actually substantial historic structure that represents so much in our history so I hope the administration works with us on that and that we work with Congressman Pallone and the County and the private foundations that have come forward. The developer Isaac Chera has already promised to pay the six figure cost of moving this structure. Congressman Pallone has committed to getting rehab funding in the next federal fiscal year so I think some steps are in the right direction and we just need to continue. I also want to support Diane Multare's proposal that we reduce our bonding by the precise amount that Congressman Pallone has appropriated in terms of this Pier development. I think anyway we can reduce our long term debt is in that benefit. We have many legal fees and many other penalties coming in from redevelopment that are going to add more debt burden to the City's tax payers so if we could use this appropriation to reduce our long term debit its definitely a plus and finally, I hate to be loquacious but Mr. Bobrow brought up the sound in the workshop room and actually he is the second person today to bring it up. You might want to think about mic-ing the workshop room. I've heard people in the back have a hard time when we speak so I'll just throw that out to the Council President and the Mayor. Thank you very much everybody.

Dr. Celli – I have two things tonight. I’m going to tell a story, first one. I was driving along Ocean Avenue at about 10:15 this morning and I stopped my car because I had to find something in my pocket book and when I was stopped a young lady in a wheel chair went by me. By the time I got up to what was the entrance to the Senior Center, this young lady had fallen from her wheelchair. I was so shocked, I stopped the car, I got out and then I got to see Long Branch’s finest in action. First of all Police Officer Nick Cattelano stopped his car immediately, put his lights on and then he called the First Aid. He also talked to her to make sure she was coherent, I did to and she said yes. I forgot to tell you, she was pregnant, however, along came two other Police Officers, Officer Kim, I’m not sure which one and Officer David House. I have never seen such wonderful treatment that they gave this young lady in picking her up with the two people from the LB First Aid, pick her up and put her in the wheelchair and she appeared to be alright, she had a scrape on her arm but I was not only proud as a Council person but I was proud as a resident to see what our police force can do and thank you Director, please extend my thanks to them and I believe if my memory serves me and I’ve been remiss in this but I think the Councilman to my right has a birthday before we have our next meeting so G, I wish you a happy birthday. I didn’t forget.

Mr. DeStefano – Finally there has been a lot of mention about the pier and the cost of the pier and I want to remind everybody that in 1803 under President Thomas Jefferson the Louisiana Purchase cost \$15,000,000 an astronomical sum 200 years ago. It was challenged as not being constitutional and was opposed. Two hundred years later it doesn’t seem like it was such a bad idea. Sometimes you have to do things now that are appreciated later. With that, motion to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting of the Long Branch City Council adjourned at 8:00 p.m.