

REGULAR MEETING

CITY COUNCIL

AUGUST 24, 2010

7:00 P.M.

The Regular Meeting of the Long Branch City Council was held on Tuesday, August 24, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 344 Broadway, Long Branch, New Jersey.

**PRESENT:**

Joy Bastelli, Councilwoman; Kathleen Billings, Councilwoman; John Pallone, Councilman; Michael Sirianni, Council Vice President; Dr. Mary Jane Celli, Council President

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mayor Adam Schneider; James G. Aaron, Esq., City Attorney; Howard Woolley, Administrator; Irene Joline, City Clerk

**ABSENT:**

Ronald Mehlhorn, Finance Director

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

**PRESENTATIONS:**

Life Saving Awards were presented to the following individuals for actions above and beyond the normal course of their lives: Tom Baxter, Erin Volosin, John McCallopus and Bob Musanti

The Mayor presented flowers and a plaque to Irene Joline, City Clerk on behalf of the present and past Mayor's and Council on her retirement.

Irene Joline stated that it was a pleasure to serve wishes everyone well.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

August 10, 2010 – Motion by Councilperson Sirianni seconded by Councilperson Bastelli to approve the minutes of August 10, 2010 was carried out upon the following roll call vote: 5

**CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES**  
**PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL CONSIDERATION**

**#11-10 ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING SECTION 75-11 (A) (2) ENTITLED "LEAVES OF ABSENCE," SECTION A (2) ENTITLED "SICK LEAVE" OF THE "REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH" (Introduced: August 10, 2010)**

A motion was made by Councilperson Sirianni to open the public hearing on this ordinance was seconded by Councilperson Billings.

**Harold Bobrow – 295 Ocean Boulevard**

Spoke regarding the cap of \$15,000.00 on sick leave. Asked about other employee contracts with individuals in the City. Asked if this ordinance could be altered if someone has a contract. Mr. Woolley stated that there are contracts in place now that allow an employee to take more than \$15,000.00 in sick time. As they expire, they will not be able to, that clause will not be able to be placed back in there because the legislature has capped any sick leave payouts that a Municipality can make to any of its employees at \$15,000.00. This covers the employees that are not now covered by collective bargaining agreements.

After ample time was given and no one responded, a motion was made by Councilperson Sirianni, seconded by Councilperson Billings to close the public hearing.

A motion by Councilperson Sirianni, seconded by Councilperson Pallone to adopt said ordinance on third and final reading was adopted upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

### **ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION**

None

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

### **STATEMENT TO THE PUBLIC**

In the interest of serving the public in the most efficient manner possible, the following guidelines shall be established for public participation:

The Mayor and Council welcome all members of the public to express their views on any issues. The public shall be invited to make any comments on individual Ordinances and Resolutions before a vote is taken. The public comment is limited to comments directly related to the Ordinances and/or Resolutions under discussion. General comments follow the public participation of Resolutions.

Citizens wishing to address the Council must give their name, street address and the group, if any, that they report to or represent. Each person who wishes to address the Council may do so for a period of up to five (5) minutes with no yielding of time to anyone. This is subject to any adjustment deemed necessary and appropriate by the Council President based upon the situation at hand. Each person may speak only once.

The Council reserves the right to terminate any remarks made by any individual, which are rude, or in a tone, which would insight or engender hostility whereby, in the judgment of the Council President, the meeting may become disruptive.

A motion by Councilperson Sirianni to open the public portion of the meeting was seconded by Councilperson Pallone.

#### **Hildred Woolley - 60 Passey Gardens**

Spoke regarding an incident that occurred on Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup> wherein a shooting occurred at the apartment complex at 559 Second Avenue and the deterioration of the property since it was taken over by Second Avenue Apts LLC. The surrounding residents would like increased lighting in the area, would like enforcement of all applicable code regulations concerning 559 Second Avenue and the screening of tenants to insure the safety of the neighborhood.

Council President Celli stated that the Director of Public Safety has a copy and she is handing hers over to the Business Administrator.

#### **Maxine Greenwald - 549 Second Avenue**

Spoke regarding the West End area. Stated that they are frightened with the security of the neighborhood and the value of their homes. Asked Council to support the middle class and West End.

#### **Irving Bilalle - 12 Vine Court**

Spoke regarding the boardwalk. Stated recently that the City has invited runners from out of town and they inundate the boardwalk on the weekends. Residents who walk the boardwalk are in danger when these people run on the boardwalk. Pier Village is congested with runners and their families. Went on to speak about the traffic pattern on Ocean Boulevard and

Brighton Avenue. Mr. Woolley stated that the City has been in touch with the County and they assured the City that they were going to come up with some improvements to the situation.

### **Gerry Scarano – Ocean Boulevard**

Thanked the Police Department for the crime solving regarding the incident on Second Avenue. Went on to speak about the corner of Second and Bath Avenue. Stated that there was a bad dip and a couple of manholes. Spoke regarding the Clearwater Festival in Asbury, the creek off Seventh Avenue and the metal that is laying there. Spoke about a crane that was blocking Community Place with cones and a no trespassing sign.

### **Michelle Bobrow – 295 Ocean Boulevard**

Thanked Irene Joline for her help. Went on to speak about the number of times a resident can speak at Council meetings. Spoke regarding the item on the workshop agenda relative to the Comcast contract. Asked when it will be finalized and asked if the Council meeting will ever be broadcast.

Dr. Celli stated that there was a meeting with the administration on Thursday and the contract still has to be finalized. Hopefully it will be scheduled for the next meeting.

Mrs. Bobrow asked about the contract for the design of the Pier and asked if there will be properties that are already in the redevelopment zone that the Council perceives to be necessary for the Pier and might be taken by eminent domain?

The Mayor stated that the Riparian Rights may have to be widened out in the Ocean.

Mrs. Bobrow spoke regarding items on the bill list and the amount spent on litter bags.

Mrs. Bobrow commented on the \$20,000 spent for an ATV in the Recreation Department and asked what is the \$600.00 worth of parachutes for the 6 am Club was.....asked the Mayor to explain that cost.

The Mayor stated it was a Recreation event that takes place during the summer at 6:00 in the morning for kids in this community. Mr. Jennings is there and it's been going on for 15 years now. It's a joint project of the Long Branch Recreation Department and the Monmouth County Prosecutors Office. It's headed up most of the time by Wes Mayor, Jr. who is the Chief Investigator of the Monmouth County Prosecutors office and it is run at Manahasset Creek Park at 6 a.m. It just ended about 10 days ago.

Mrs. Bobrow also asked about the \$37,000 for the city hall plaza leaks. When are we going to have the city's buildings and ground fixed properly?

The Mayor stated that they are maintained the best we can.

### **Donna Peterson – 104 Rockwell Avenue**

Spoke regarding R225-10 and asked what it was about.

Mr. Woolley stated that it was for construction project management services in conjunction with the pier design. It's for a firm to analyze the design to see if it's buildable and what the cost will be.

Mrs. Peterson then went on to speak about the ferry service and then asked who the Council people were that were going to be sitting in on the after office hours meeting.

### **Carol Hammer – 53 Passey Gardens**

Spoke regarding a thank you that she wrote to the Mayor and Council for allowing residents to bring their pets on the beach in the off season. Asked if you could put aside an area that you could allow pets on during the summer months.

The Mayor stated he would consider it but will not promise anything.

Ms. Hammer went on to speak regarding the safety in her neighborhood.

### **Michael DeStefano – 78 White Street**

Congratulated Irene Joline on her retirement and thanked her for 20 years of service which included 7 years of agendas. Enjoy your retirement, life and your family.

### **Vincent Lapore – 80 North Broadway**

Spoke regarding the ordinance and resolution he presented for passage two meetings ago and asked what the status was on that. Went on to speak about a Monmouth County Planning Board article and the individuals involved. Spoke regarding a report from the State Comptroller regarding the use of tax abatements. Asked what the legal fees are for R232-10 and R224-10 listed on the last agenda regarding a loan / grant relative to off site improvements.

### **Harold Bobrow – 295 Ocean Boulevard**

Congratulated the City Clerk on her retirement. Went on to speak regarding the Comcast contract and televising Council meetings. Asked Mr. Woolley if any of the \$194,000 for the pier management is city money. Mr. Woolley stated 20%. To Mr. Aaron, with regards to R232-10 various questions regarding fees paid to attorneys, where the money goes after it's settled and what happens if they go bankrupt?

### **Harold Cooper – 113 S. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

Congratulated the City Clerk on her retirement. Went on to speak regarding R225-10 and asked if it was a competitive bid. Mr. Woolley stated that it was competitive procurement. Notices were sent out and 31 companies picked up the notice and 13 replied. It was narrowed down to three and the city selected Skanska. Mr. Cooper asked Council to vote no on this resolution. Asked about R227-10 and membership of the Cable Commission, terms of office, and the last paragraph of the "public statement". Spoke regarding his concerns over Mr. Lapore's statements that he makes at all of the meetings.

### **Marco Diaz – 135 Rockwell Avenue Apt. 51**

Thanked Irene Joline, happy retirement. Spoke regarding R228-10 and asked how can you get involved in the UEZ Board and what are the requirements.

The Mayor suggested he attends a meeting and there is a public portion and you have every right to address them.

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

### **RESOLUTIONS:**

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

## APPLICATIONS:

1. APPROVAL OF TWO (2) RAFFLE LICENSES FOR GREYHOUND FRIENDS OF NJ
2. APPROVAL OF RAFFLE LICENSE FOR CENTER FOR VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
3. APPROVAL OF RAFFLE LICENSE FOR ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH
4. APPROVAL OF A RAFFLE LICENSE FOR FOOD BANK OF MONMOUTH & OCEAN COUNTIES
5. APPROVAL OF A RAFFLE LICENSE FOR MONMOUTH MEDICAL CENTER FOUNDATION
6. APPROVAL OF A RAFFLE LICENSE FOR CHRIST THE CHURCH PARISH

Motion by Councilperson Bastelli, seconded by Councilperson Pallone to approve the above listed applications were carried out upon the following roll call vote: Ayes 5

## MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

**Councilwoman Bastelli** - I have known Mrs. Joline for many years but I've only worked with her for a few months and I just have to comment on how she demonstrates professionalism and excellence and such a great attention to detail and I'm going to miss her very much. I'm going to miss you and I just wish you well and may God bless you in your retirement and enjoy yourself. Also, I'd like to just say that I attended the Ray Licata Swim and it was just a wonderful event and I commend all those involved. Glen Rassis headed it with the help of Carl Jennings and all of the lifeguards and the city volunteers and the workers and the city workers and the volunteers. It was just a well run event, organized and it went off very smoothly and I really enjoyed being there and on the topic of volunteerism, we have a lot of work to do in this city and I've said this before and I'd like to say it again that many of you notice what needs to be done in the city, many of you complain, many of you criticize. I only hope that you would be willing to roll up your sleeves, get your hands dirty and come along side and volunteer your time. I did it for many years. I remember painting the railings on the boardwalk. They were green... we painted them green years ago, we had our little buckets of paint and devoted hours of time helping the City cleaning up the garbage on Broadway, cleaning up the oceanfront and I would really like to encourage once again the spirit of volunteerism in our town. We have many volunteers already and we can use more. Thank you.

**Councilwoman Billings** - I just want to thank everyone for coming out tonight and I have to say that I am very pleased at how the public has treated this new Council. I believe that people have spoken with respect and I personally, and I believe my Council member friends also appreciate the professionalism and the civility that we've been shown since we took office. Thank you.

**Councilman Pallone** - I'd also like to thank everybody for coming this evening and I just want to say to Ms. Joline, I've known you for over 20 years and simply you're the best at what you do. I'd like to give a belated birthday wish to Council President Celli. Her birthday was last Wednesday and I'd like to just remind everybody about the Council office hours which will begin next Wednesday the 1<sup>st</sup> from 6 - 7:30. Donna, to answer your question, it will be Councilwoman Billings and myself and Mr. Cooper, just to address...one of the whole reasons, one of whole goals of the City Council office hours in fact, you know as you say, Mr. Lapore, several other people come up with a lot of papers and a lot of times I am wondering myself, what are in those papers so not only for him but for whomever, the whole idea is that one on one or one on two or whatever it is, people can come and talk in more detail about any particular subject pertaining to the Council and also I think sometimes hopefully you're going to get people who don't wish to speak in a public forum like that and just feel more comfortable talking one on one with members of Council so that's the goal. Thank you.

**Councilman Sirianni** - Happy Birthday, many more. Mrs. Joline, it's been a pleasure working with you, making you laugh has always been a treat for me. Your eyes tear up, just saying good bye your eyes tear up; there she goes, so it's been a pleasure. This week, just an announcement, I can't believe the concert series opened and now we are closing them so Thursday night is the last night at Pier Village, Jazz Lobsters, so let's pray for maybe 70's, low

80's degree weather, little warm and a warmer day would be nice. I want to thank and applaud the concerned residents who came forward with this. This is what we need. We appreciate this. Your presentation was great; your concerns did not fall on deaf ears. This matter will be looked into and we will be following up on it and just to let you know, this past week, on Thursday, a few of us attended the Church of the Presidents Museum Association Fund raiser and the church is a national historical site here in Long Branch. It's amazing what we really have in Long Branch that makes it even more unique. This group of people are into phase II of the project and of course, like everyone else, they are asking, all kinds of charities and non profit organizations are feeling the recession but their work is needed. They have some grand plans for this museum that Long Branch housed seven presidents. Not too many people, not too many cities can say that they have done that and this years was very nice. They had the great great great great nephew of Ulysses S. Grant who was present and did a welcome speech so that was nice, a little tie to some real history of the United States in the bigger scheme of things so thank you.

**Councilwoman Celli** - I just want to remind everybody, the first weekend in September, on the Great Lawn there is Jazz and Blues music from 1 until 10 and its really a great afternoon so if you can, try to go out there and listen to some great music and I have some thanks tonight. First of all I want to thank Tommy for going to get the flowers because I couldn't figure out how to get them here without Irene seeing them and second of all, most of you don't know but the Mayor is on vacation and he normally doesn't come to a Council meeting when he is on vacation. Tonight is a special night and you noticed he got dressed for it so Irene you should feel honored. I know your family was here but they left, I did want to pay them tribute that they did come, I personally have worked with you for 16 years and I want to say many many thanks from all of the Mayors and all of the Council people and for all of the residents of the City of Long Branch. You've done an outstanding job and I think we are all going to miss you and thank you.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Councilperson Sirianni made a motion to adjourn this meeting of the Long Branch City Council at 8:15 p.m. which was seconded by Councilperson Pallone . Ayes 5