

## **“GOD BLESS AMERICA”**

### **REGULAR MEETING**

**OCTOBER 3, 2017**

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Belmar held on the above date at 6:00 PM at the Belmar Municipal Building, 601 Main Street.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Doherty, Councilman Magovern, Councilman Brennan, Councilman Walsifer, Councilwoman Nicolay, Borough Attorney Greg Cannon, Esq., and Borough Clerk April Claudio

**ABSENT:** Business Administrator Colleen Connolly

“Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided to The Coast Star, the official newspaper of the Borough of Belmar, and the Asbury Park Press on December 7, 2016 notice of this meeting was prominently posted on the bulletin board of the Municipal Building and filed with the Clerk of the Borough of Belmar.”

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Our troops and their families

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

- Woman’s Club gave \$500 donations to the First Aid Squad, Fire Department and Historical Society
- Honoring Belmar Water Rescue, Police Department and First Aid Squad
- Breast Cancer Awareness Month

### **WORKSHOP DISCUSSION:**

- One Way Streets Year Round
  - o 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the South end of town east of Main Street only. Does not affect the streets west of Main Street.
  - o Chief Huisman stated the Monmouth County Street Department did some repairs to 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue in July and have notified him that they want us to make 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue one way or eliminate parking on one side of the street. The traffic lanes must be a minimum of 11 feet wide. It’s been an ongoing problem for police and emergency vehicles not only in the summer, in the winter as well. Streets from 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue heading South are narrower. Concerned it’s a liability to the Borough to keep these streets two way. Eliminating parking isn’t an option.
  - o Mayor Doherty stated when the streets are one way people tend to drive down them faster. He suggested adding additional stop signs to slow down traffic. Chief Huisman agreed but would want to make the stop signs uniform throughout town.
  - o Council Member Nicolay asked if there are any negatives to adding stop signs on B and D Streets. Chief Huisman stated no, just an inconvenience to drivers.
  - o Council member Walsifer stated during his 25 years as a police officer this issue came up a lot because of the accidents specifically side swiping of parked cars. Feels maybe we should try it for a year and see how it works.
  - o Council member Magovern asked when the State traffic manual was changed. Chief Huisman stated it was updated in 2009.
  - o Council member Brennan asked about C Street. Chief Huisman stated he would keep it the way it is or eliminate parking on one side.
  - o Public Comment
    - Mayor Doherty stated anyone who sent in comments via email will have their emails printed and made part of the record.
    - Christine Cardolino, 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, gave a hand out from the Federal Highway Administration who published regulations on one way streets vs two way streets. They determined one way streets create speeding issues. She has witnessed speeding vehicles very often. Speeding vehicles also create noise and public safety issues. There’s only one stop sign on 15<sup>th</sup> which is another issue. Concerned about the speeding near the new playground. Speed limit is also not posted on the street.
    - Genovieve Clifton, 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, has witnessed the speeding on one way streets too. Would like to know more about the liability issue. Does understand Chief Huisman’s concerns but feels it’s a seasonal issue. Would like a happy median such as traffic calming measures and visible crosswalks. Need more stop signs to slow people down. Mayor Doherty stated 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue has already been decided by the County, tonight’s discussion is the other streets.

- Paul Cutrino, 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, stated he has been here for 14 years and he can't wait for when the street goes back to two ways. It's inconvenient to have to navigate the one-way streets to get to his house. In the winter, it's quiet; it's dangerous in the summer only.
- Mary DeCotiis, 312 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, stated it is inconvenient to have the one-way streets but her biggest concern is the C Street one way sign, feels it's going the wrong way.
- William Keiser, 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue, has been side swiped twice but only in the summer. Would like to see figures on summer vs winter. He hasn't had any problems in the winter. Feels it doesn't make sense to change it.
- Danielle D. 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, asked if we did parking on one side of the street and kept two-way traffic, would that be year-round. Chief Huisman stated yes. She suggested having one side of parking in the winter on 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue instead.
- Bill Garcia, 322 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue, not opposed to the one-way streets, but thinks we can do some things differently with the stop signs. Understands it's an inconvenience but he deals with it. Enforcement is the issue; the police department can only do so much.
- Mayor Doherty asked the audience who would be in favor of stop signs on B and D Street whether the streets are one way or two ways. A majority raised their hands in favor of more stop signs.
- Freddy Arena, 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue, feels the one-way street is an inconvenience to get to and from his house. Asked for statistics on accidents between now and back in the 1940's because cars were larger back then.
- Rose Ganina, 415 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, stated she also has an issue with speeding. She suggested a four way stop at D St. and 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Carol Bresnack, 308 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, does not want parking taken away on her street.
- Mayor Doherty felt it would be a challenge to take away parking from anywhere in town.
- Carol Costello, 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue, stated she is pro one way regardless of inconvenience. Feels there are ways to calm the speeding. She suggested striping on the streets to help slow down traffic and stop signs.
- Ann Uricoli, 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, stated she hates the one way. Doesn't like the idea of more stop signs.
- Peter Piro, North Blvd., asked if a traffic study was done. Chief Huisman replied no.
- Claire Hayner, 18<sup>th</sup> and B Street, asked if Lake Como will be having a similar meeting. Chief Huisman stated he is working with Lake Como to address their traffic issues.
- Jay Davies, 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, asked if there are any regulations on traffic calming or is it up to discretion. Chief Huisman stated there are some guidelines. Mayor Doherty stated there is no issue with us adding more stop signs and speed limit signs.
- Pat Wann, 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue, asked if it is possible to put a stop sign on 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue and A Street regardless of what happens with the streets.
- Tim Mahoney, 403 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, remembered this topic came up in 2014. He measured the streets himself, none of them are wide enough. Don't want to lose parking any time of the year. The issues that came up aren't about one-way streets it's about enforcement and traffic control. Thinks the Mayor and Council are heading in the right direction by creating some consistency in town.
- Council member Nicolay felt there's always going to be a speeding problem regardless if one way or two ways. There's just people that don't respect the people that live here.

**PETITIONS:** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Council member Magovern made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2017 meeting, which was seconded by Mayor Doherty and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Magovern, Walsifer, Nicolay and Doherty

ABSTAIN: Brennan

**REPORTS OF COUNCIL:**

Council member Magovern: Next Tuesday the Belmar Historical Society is having a program on lost amusements parks at the Jersey Shore.

Council member Walsifer: Harbor Commission discussed adjusting rates for active and retired military to have the same rate as a Belmar resident. His neighbor Francis Clancy turned 100 years old this past weekend.

Council member Brennan: The reusable shopping bags are out and being used. Working with BBP and businesses to see what their interest is in participating in the program. Going to plant native vegetation at the 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue playground as a pilot for future beach plantings.

Council member Nicolay: Encouraged everyone to patron the Arts Council and shop local. Pride week at

Belmar Elementary School is this week.

Mayor Doherty: No Report.

**PUBLIC SESSION:** Public Session on resolutions only on the Agenda. We will continue to have a Public Session at the end of this meeting.

None

Mayor Doherty made a motion to close the public session, which was seconded by Council member Brennan and approved unanimously.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

The Mayor shall abstain from voting on the following Resolutions by reason of his or her "General Ineligibility" as provided by Belmar Ord. No. 9-5.

Council member Magovern made a motion to adopt, **2017-167, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS**, which was seconded by Council member Brennan and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Magovern, Walsifer, Brennan and Nicolay

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:** certification that the vouchers listed on the warrant register numbering 991 thru 1060 are as follows and comply with requirements of State Law and Borough Ordinance as to content and form, that proper and sufficient appropriations exist for the payment to be made and that there is legal authority as provided in N.J.S. 40A: 5-17(a)(1) for the payment to be made.

01 General Account	\$1,423,704.70
11 Water/Sewer Account	\$27,564.23
21 Beach Utility Account	\$4,592.82
23 Parking Utility Fund	\$14,509.01
55 Trust Fund Account	\$3,700.58
61 Tourism Development Account	\$4,033.72
Total:	\$1,463,596.05

Council member Magovern made a motion to adopt, **2017-168, RESOLUTION AWARDED CONTRACT FOR ELECTRICAL UPGRADES TO VARIOUS MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS**, which was seconded by Council member Walsifer and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Magovern, Walsifer, Brennan and Nicolay

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

All matters listed in the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the Borough Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

**RESOLUTIONS BY CONSENT:**

Mayor Doherty offered the following resolutions for adoption:

**2017-169**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUNDS**

**2017-170**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS FOR GOODWILL FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**2017-171**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EASEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE PROPERTY OWNER OF BLOCK 96 LOT 7**

Seconded by Council member Magovern and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Magovern, Walsifer, Brennan, Nicolay, and Doherty

## **ORDINANCES:**

### **ORDINANCE 2017- 22: First Reading & Introduction**

#### **ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR AMENDING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCE CHAPTER 19: “TRAFFIC” TO CORRECT AN ERROR IN SECTION 20: “THROUGH STREETS” AND TO DESIGNATE CERTAIN “SEASONAL” ONE-WAY STREETS AS “YEAR-ROUND” ONE-WAY STREETS PER ENGINEERING ANALYSIS AND DIRECTIVES FROM MONMOUTH COUNTY**

Mayor Doherty offered Ordinance 2017-22 for first reading and introduction, which was seconded by Council member Nicolay and approved by the following vote:

Council member Brennan thanked the Chief for all his work involved with this. Resident Tim Mahoney spoke eloquently about it. Based on what the people that live on the streets said it seems they can deal with the two-way streets.

Council member Walsifer suggested if we do the one ways and add bike lanes that might help and be an additional traffic calming measure.

Council member Magovern stated what he heard is that the roads are not wide enough. Listening to the people most people want two ways. He’s leaning towards two-way traffic, no parking on one side of the street in the winter and one-way parking on both sides in the summer. Council member Brennan thought that might be confusing.

AYES: Magovern, Walsifer, Nicolay, and Doherty

NAYS: Brennan

### **PUBLIC SESSION:**

Maureen Caslow, 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, thanked everyone for getting the pole down.

David Schneck, 302 C Street, stated 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue is a coastal evacuation route and should probably go west bound. Feels this would create a difficult situation during an evacuation. Felt there was confusion that we are not being required to make all the streets one way, just 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Things aren’t so terrible the way they are.

Mayor Doherty and Chief Huisman clarified that the widths of streets aren’t in Belmar code it’s in the State traffic manual. Mayor Doherty pointed out if we ignore the fact our streets are in violation it creates a liability issue. Chief Huisman stated it is a dangerous situation now.

Josh Vallario, 407 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, commended Council member Brennan on his reusable shopping bag initiative. He stated he is foregoing campaign signs for the upcoming election because he feels they just end up in a landfill and asked Council member Brennan if he would do the same.

Nancy Koenig, 303 C Street, felt if the streets are unsafe then why ask the residents what they think and not just do it. Also felt if we didn’t try to bring so many tourists into town we wouldn’t have the parking issues.

Mayor Doherty made a motion to close the public session and adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Council member Nicolay and approved unanimously.

Respectively submitted,

April Claudio  
Municipal Clerk