

“GOD BLESS AMERICA”

REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 20, 2018

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 Walsifer, Councilman Magovern, Councilwoman Nicolay, Borough Attorney Greg Cannon, Esq., Business Administrator Colleen Connolly, and Borough Clerk April Claudio

ABSENT: Councilman Brennan

The Borough Clerk stated “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, 2017 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:

- Honoring St. Patrick’s Day Parade Grand Marshal and Deputy Grand Marshal

RECEIPT OF BIDS:

- Beach Chair and Umbrella Rental Concession
 - o There were four bidders: Stephen Angelos, Justin Sokol, Mike Pimco and Tiffany Boden. The starting bid was \$2500. The highest bid of \$12,000 was made by Justin Sokol.

WORKSHOP DISCUSSION:

- Summer Rental Garbage Pickup
 - o Mike Campbell, Director of Public Works and Bob Poff, Director of Code Enforcement, spoke about the existing special Monday garbage and recycling pickup for summer rentals. Would like to disband the policy. Propose to hold everyone to the same standard with the normal garbage schedule. Hope will alleviate a lot of complaints about not cleaning up after garbage pickup.
 - o Ms. Connolly stated Code Enforcement will do a good education with renters at the time of C. O’s. Mr. Poff will have to work with DPW to address those not complying with the new procedure.
 - o Mr. Poff stated his office wrote about 115 summonses for garbage last year. Would hand out a copy of the garbage schedule when CO is scheduled and then leave a copy at the house when they do the inspection.
 - o Council member Magovern stated it’s worth a try but is skeptical that it will work because of lot of landlords are absentee.
 - o Council member Walsifer stated the ordinance was put into place to solve a problem and it isn’t so why not go back to the way it was and go from there.
- School Safety
 - o Mayor Doherty discussed the number of school shootings that have occurred in 2018. Has been working with Ms. Connolly, the Chief of Police, and Superintendent Hallman about posting a police officer at the Belmar School. There’s a NJ Congressman working on a law to pay towns to provide safety.
 - o Council member Walsifer recalled there used to be two off duty police officers in the school and asked if they are still there. Mayor Doherty recalled there is one but they do not carry a gun, the police officer that would be in the school would carry.
 - o Ms. Connolly discussed current policies in place for safety.
 - o Council member Magovern stated this is a good idea but doesn’t fix the problem which must be addressed on a national level.
- Verizon WIFI
 - o Mr. Cannon stated they have determined the poles are not in the right of way but are on Borough property. This means the project would have to go out to bid. The proposal from Verizon is for

- every third pole. This doesn't stop another carrier for wanting to be on another pole.
- Mayor Doherty stated they advised Verizon of this and it seems they might not be interested anymore.

PETITIONS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Council member Magovern made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2018 meeting, which was seconded by Mayor Doherty and approved unanimously.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL:

Council member Magovern: Congratulated Eric Griffin on being accepted to go to Annapolis. Historical Society had a great show and tell event. Thanked DPW for putting in a pathway near Lake Como on North Blvd. Condolences to Parkland High School victims. Hope the state and national laws will be addressed to prevent this again.

Council member Walsifer: Harbor Commission working on ways to better market the marina. Might consider getting some marketing help from a professional. NJ already does strict background checks for guns and thinks other states should look at our laws.

Council member Nicolay: Arts Council has a new show on books. Little League signups are taking place.

Mayor Doherty: Rumor mill has been working overtime with the lifeguard's situation. Last year was the first year there were some complaints that there were lifeguard stands unattended or down. Spoke to the Chief of Police about this and asked him to address it. During the off season this was discussed. The Chief sent a letter to all current lifeguards to ask them to reapply for this year, expand number of lifeguards on staff, and suggested we increase the salary. Encouraged everyone that was a lifeguard last year to apply to come back.

PUBLIC SESSION: Public Session on resolutions only on the Agenda.
None

Mayor Doherty made a motion to close the public session, seconded by Council member Nicolay 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 offered **2018-47, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS**, for adoption, which was seconded by Council member Nicolay and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Magovern, Nicolay and Walsifer

PAYMENT OF BILLS: certification that the vouchers listed on the warrant register numbering 1713thru 1774 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	\$81,701.52
05	General Capital Account	\$451,282.74
11	Water/Sewer Account	\$3,260.89
21	Beach Utility Account	\$6,310.93
41	Dog License Account	\$1,464.00
55	Trust Fund Account	\$5,204.84
Total:		\$549,224.92

Council member Magovern offered **2018-48, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING STATE CONTRACT PURCHASE OF EMERGENCY VEHICLES**, for adoption, which was seconded by Council member Walsifer and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Magovern, Nicolay, and Walsifer

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:

2018-49

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ACCEPTING AND ADOPTING THE CENTRAL JERSEY JOINT INSURANCE PROGRAM’S SAFETY INCENTIVE PROGRAM

2018-50

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR FOR CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION’S “Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964”

2018-51

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUNDS

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

AYES: Magovern, Walsifer, Nicolay, and Doherty

ORDINANCES:

First Reading & Introduction

ORDINANCE 2018-01

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER XIX (TRAFFIC) OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR, SECTIONS 19-46 HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES

Mayor Doherty offered Ordinance 2018-01 for first reading and adoption, which was seconded by Council member Walsifer and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Magovern, Walsifer, Nicolay, and Doherty

First Reading & Introduction

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-02

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER XL OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR, SECTIONS 40-3.14 FEES

Mayor Doherty offered Ordinance 2018-02 for first reading and adoption, which was seconded by Council member Walsifer and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Magovern, Walsifer, Nicolay, and Doherty

PUBLIC SESSION:

Joan Corallo, A Street, asked for clarification on Ordinance 2018-02. Senior center is working out great and Ray Claudio is a plus.

Christine Cardelino, 15th Avenue, has spoken before about more stop signs on her street. Asked when they will be going in. Ms. Connolly stated the Police Department has been working with the CFO to purchase them.

Maria Florio, 115 12th Avenue, stated her rental neighbors are horrendous with garbage. Other issue is dogs and bicycles on the boardwalk. Asked what the rules are. Mayor Doherty stated dogs are permitted on the beach at certain times but not on the boardwalk. He added that bicycles are allowed at certain times. Ms. Florio stated the signage is unclear. Mayor Doherty stated Mr. Campbell will look into the signage issue.

Bill Karatz, resident and former lifeguard supervisor, stated he is embarrassed by the way the lifeguard situation was handled. Has never received a certified letter telling him to reapply for his job. They work to hire as many lifeguards as possible but starting in early August a lot of the lifeguards go back to school or their fulltime jobs. Increase in pay rate doesn’t compete with Uber and being a bar back. Thinks a lot of lifeguards will go to other towns because of this.

Mayor Doherty asked Mr. Karatz why it is more challenging to find lifeguards. Mr. Karatz stated the pay is part of it. Other towns are having issues covering their beaches as well.

Mickey McDonald, 4th Avenue in Bradley Beach, was involved with lifeguards and fire departments in NYC. Here as a beach patron, four of his sons are lifeguards. Also, a swim coach and tries to recruit his best swimmers to be lifeguards. Believes pay is inadequate. This is not an easy beach. Had an incident a few years ago where he had to be rescued by the lifeguards and he recovered because of the good care they took when rescuing him. Feels there needs to be open dialogue on what needs to be changed.

Ms. Rotella, 210 12th Avenue, house always has a high-water bill. Property is a two-family house. Her unit had high bills and was addressed. Now the first floor is having high bills. Not sure what the issue is. Only use the house in the summer and on weekends in the winter. There is no way they have used 99,000 gallons. Ms. Connolly stated she will review the file with Mr. Campbell and reach out to them.

Tom Dilberger, 1000 River Road, discussed his views on the recent shootings and society's way of living.

Corinna Weinkofsky, Assistant Supervisor for Belmar Beach Patrol, stated she has 25 years of service in Belmar. Was disappointed to hear about the proposal to replace the staff via text from some coworkers. Felt she deserved some discussion prior to. Wants to clear up some myths about the pay scale. There was media print that the starting salary was \$8.50 last year for a rookie which is incorrect. Ms. Connolly stated she believes that was taken from the ordinance. Mayor Doherty stated there is a pay scale.

Chris Leo, Beach Captain 18th Avenue, stated he has been lifeguarding for 40 years. Felt they were all disrespected and this was mismanaged.

Chris Yoder, 5-year lifeguard, stated he loves representing Belmar and working on the beach. Was trained by the best people. It's not for lack of effort from management, they are trying to hire new guards. Couldn't get enough people. Either not enough people are applying or there aren't enough people who are capable. Not sure why new people go to other towns.

John Holthusen, stated he would like to continue being a lifeguard here and doesn't want to go to another town. Feels some may want to go to other towns. Feels there should be more talk on this before any decisions are made.

Mayor Doherty read the letters sent to the lifeguards by the Chief of Police. The letter states the Chief wants to take management into a different direction and keep the rank in file. Everyone is encouraged to reapply.

Tim O'Donnell, 57-year lifeguard, asked if Ray Elms and Corrina Weinkofsky and himself will be supervisors again. Mayor Doherty stated it will be up the Chief of Police. He said he didn't get an application. Felt if he was going to be fired it should have been done the right way by bringing him into the office. Felt everyone should have got a certified letter not just management. Felt as Training Officer he is not management.

Mayor Doherty pointed out the letter to management tells them to contact the Chief of Police to discuss reappointment to their positions.

David Hagner, 30-year lifeguard, believes there will be a problem. This job is the toughest. Feels will lose a lot of quality guys.

Dave Kirk, 27-year lifeguard, commended Mayor and Council for their public service, however there is an issue which is why everyone is here. He wanted to commend the lifeguard supervisors last year who worked hard to try to cover the beaches as best as possible. They did a lot with very little over the past five years. There is communication with headquarters when a stand is down. If it was a problem why wasn't it discussed then with Mr. Elms. Why wait until now when it's critical time to get ready for the summer.

Tom Savick, lifeguard since 1997, and member of Belmar Water Rescue since 2001, feels what is lost in the letter is that the rank in file serve under the administration. A lot of them have other job offers. He would like the position of training officer for Belmar but not until the current training officer is ready to give that up. Felt the way this was done will cause loss of experience. Agrees things are broken and need to be fixed but not at the management level.

Pat Wann, 18th Avenue, stated we have the best guards. Asked what the hurry is to fire and rehire these guys. She thought Mayor Doherty was on the selection committee but it was clarified that it is the Chief, Ms. Connolly and Council member Magovern. Asked Ms. Connolly what her qualifications are to interview these candidates.

Mayor Doherty stated all seasonal employees reapply every year. He stated he will support the Chief of Police throughout this process.

Ms. Wann stated she believes how this was done to them was hurtful.

Ross O'Neill, stated it all comes down to rescues and nobody has drowned while they have been on duty. Ray Elms, Bill, Harry and Corinna have all been in charge for years. Have the most rescues than anywhere in NJ which has been under Mr. Elms' watch. There are reasons a stand might be down. If have man power would have all stands up.

Chris Venino asked why Ray, Corrina, Tim and Harry aren't coming back, the answer of it's the Chief of Police's decision, is not enough. Asked Mayor Doherty why he didn't question the actions of the Chief. Asked when the Chief will be back so they can discuss these issues with him. Mayor Doherty stated he will be back for parade day and suggested maybe he could come to the next Council meeting.

Colin Rodgers felt Mayor Doherty should sit with the Chief and discuss what the reasons are for doing this. Felt they need to hear the reasons from the Chief.

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

Respectively submitted,

April Claudio
Municipal Clerk