

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MINUTES**

FEBRUARY 24, 2020

5:30 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Mark Walsifer, Councilman James McCracken, Councilwoman Patricia Wann, Borough Attorney Jerry Dasti, Business Administrator Edward Kirschenbaum and Borough Clerk April Claudio

ABSENT: Council President Thomas Brennan and Councilman Thomas Carvelli

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 February 20, 2020 and 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

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

Mr. Kirschenbaum explained the resolution. Maser is no longer offering these services, so the DEP is requiring we hire someone new.

Steve Lemoine, C Street, asked if it was put out to bid.

Ms. Claudio and Mr. Dasti stated the contract is under the bid threshold and does not need to be put out to bid.

Mayor Walsifer made a motion close the public session, which was seconded by Councilwoman Wann and approved unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS:

Mayor Walsifer offered the following resolution for adoption:

No. 2020-73 RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, APPOINTING BRINKERHOFF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR

Seconded by Councilwoman Wann and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Wann, McCracken and Walsifer

ORDINANCES:

First Reading & Introduction

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-13

ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 29 OF THE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED "WATER/SEWER RATES"

PUBLIC SESSION:

Gerald Buccafusco, 409 5th Avenue, stated he believes this meeting is not being held in compliance with the open public meetings act. Ms. Claudio explained the meeting notice was emailed to the Asbury Park Press, the Coast Star and Tap Into It on February 20th. It was also posted at Borough Hall and on the Borough's website. Mr. Dasti explained we are in compliance with the law.

Steve Lemoine, C Street, asked for an explanation on the water increase. Mayor Walsifer stated there was presentation at the last meeting that he missed which explained we are at a \$400,000 deficit this year. There is no surplus left. Councilman McCracken suggested Mr. Lemoine review the presentation from the last meeting.

Joan Corallo, A Street, stated most are not happy with the price increase. Asked if there was any savings from

the renegotiation of the NJ American Water contract. Mayor Walsifer stated the problem is the previous administration was eating up the surplus since 2013 and now there is debt service due and other costs going up. He added we will be metering the beach to make sure the beach utility pays their fair share for water usage.

Ms. Corallo stated she has a problem with how the meters are read. Believes they should be read every 90 days exactly and not 104 days or 89 days because then her bill may have excess usage. Mr. Kirschenbaum stated he would look into this.

Linda Sharkus, 4th Avenue, stated she is surprised to hear about the water problem. Suggested study groups of residents to help solve the town's problems. Suggested looking into outdoor showers that don't have roofs on them. She also has an issue with receiving a water bill for a phantom water meter. Mr. Campbell stated he would look into it.

Bob Lynch, 10th Avenue, asked how much money the town is trying to raise for water. Mayor Walsifer explained the tiers and how if you use more water you pay more. Mr. Lynch stated the price of the water isn't the issue, it's the infrastructure. Understands the water costs what it costs but wants the costs to be shared fairly.

Cy Reitmayer, 5th Avenue, stated last year taxes went up, this year water is going up and asked what's next. Suggested raising beach badge fees to cover the cost of the water out of town residents are using on the beach.

Sue Finnegan, 5th Avenue, objects to the tier levels for water. Why should her water cost more than someone else's?

Councilwoman Wann made a motion to close the public session and adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mayor Walsifer and approved unanimously.

Respectively submitted,

April Claudio
Municipal Clerk