

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

MINUTES

JULY 21, 2020

6:00 PM

Mayor Mark Walsifer, Council President Thomas Brennan, Councilman James McCracken, Councilman Thomas Carvelli, Councilwoman Patricia Wann, Borough Attorney Jerry Dasti, Business Administrator Edward Kirschenbaum and Borough Clerk April Claudio

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 4, 2019 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

2020 BUDGET & BUDGET AMENDMENT HEARING:

Public Hearing: Katrina Clapsis, 1304 B Street, asked about the budget amendment. Mayor Walsifer stated after the budget was introduced with a 5.5% increase our finance team took another look and did a great job lowering it to 1.9%.

Gerald Buccafusco, 409 5th Avenue, felt the Council should be discussing the budget in more detail. Would like an explanation on the increases. Mayor Walsifer stated we are paying down debt, pension costs have gone up and we have an inherited legal settlement to pay. Mr. Buccafusco stated he would like to know where the cuts are. He felt he could easily cut \$300,000 out of the budget if given the chance. Mayor Walsifer disagreed and felt our financial team worked hard and did a great job to get the budget where it is.

Joan Corallo, A Street, asked about the money in the parking utility budget. Mayor Walsifer stated that money is there so we can purchase another scooter and license plate reader if we expand ParkMobile. Ms. Corallo asked why there is a meter line item in the beach budget. Mayor Walsifer explained money collected on the beachfront during beach hours goes into the beach utility not the parking utility.

Cheri Russo, 1218 Briarwood, felt the budget decrease was due to former Mayor Matt Doherty's letter to the editor.

Councilman McCracken made a motion to close the public hearing, which was seconded by Mayor Walsifer and approved unanimously.

Mayor Walsifer offered the following resolution for adoption:

No. 2020-147 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT TO APPROVED 2020 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Seconded by Councilman Carvelli and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Brennan, McCracken, Carvelli, Wann and Walsifer

Councilman Carvelli offered the following resolution for adoption:

No. 2020-148 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF THE 2020 BUDGET AND BUDGET AMENDMENT

Seconded by Mayor Walsifer and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Brennan, McCracken, Carvelli, Wann and Walsifer

WORKSHOP DISCUSSION:

Mr. Kirschenbaum stated two Sundays ago the beach was hit with a lot of people. This led to OEM and other departments discussing the beach management plan. A decision was made to limit daily beach badge sales to 7500. This past weekend it worked out very well. We are still using the drone and enforcing social distancing. We are working on code red alerts about beach closures.

Chief of Police Tina Scott stated the Police Department issued 236 summonses in the past two weeks. The number of summonses issued this year compared to last year is about a 90% increase. The department has adjusted schedules and more Special Officers will be added soon. Councilman Carvelli asked if the Police

Department would enforce social distancing in someone's backyard. Chief Scott replied not but would review it on a case by case basis to see if there are ordinance violations. Councilman McCracken was concerned about having enough resources to get through the summer with kids going back to college. Chief Scott stated they deal with this every year and will have no staffing issues.

Mayor Walsifer stated Drew Huisman is being rehired to work in DPW to help with electrical work and overseeing projects. It will ultimately save us money. Mr. Kirschenbaum stated he will be paid \$83,000 with no benefits and no overtime. In the last four years we spent between \$30,000-72,000 on electricians. There have been two DPW high end supervisors that have retired and a third on his way out. This will ultimately be a huge cost savings for the Borough. He added that Mr. Huisman has a lot of expertise to offer.

Mayor Walsifer thanked Mr. Kirschenbaum, Mr. Dasti and DPW Director Mike Campbell for getting the flapper valve finally installed at Lake Como.

PETITIONS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilman Carvelli made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2020, which was seconded by Mayor Walsifer and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Brennan, McCracken, Carvelli, Wann and Walsifer

REPORTS OF COUNCIL:

Councilman Carvelli: Was happy the budget was decreased. BBP budget is on for approval which matches the money collected so far for this year. Harbor Commission met last week and discussed kayak racks. Boat slips are up. Planning Board met last night and reviewed stormwater ordinance and approved a subdivision of the Methodist Church property.

Councilman McCracken: Shade Tree Commission met on the 15th, working on amendments to the shade tree ordinance. July 12th was a busy weekend and OEM took everyone's concerns into consideration and adjusted the beach plan. This past weekend went very well. Budget was introduced about a month ago; since then they have had meetings and worked with professionals to make changes. Matt Doherty's letter had nothing to do with the changes to the budget. The process was already in the works. Felt it is a strong conservative budget and fiscally responsible. It doesn't compromise any services to the residents.

Councilwoman Wann: Community Policing is working well. Thanked the Mayor and Council for working together. Thanked Chief Scott and Mr. Kirschenbaum for addressing problems and concerns. Professionals did a great job cutting the budget. Thanked the lifeguards for their hard work.

Councilman Brennan: Environmental Commission finish up the Environmental Resources Inventory. Arts Council is having their first virtual exhibit. He posted a letter on social media trying to voice his concerns on some issues and apologized if employees felt it was criticizing them. That was not the intent. All the staff has been working hard. DPW is doing a great job cleaning the beach. Police is working hard and stepping up. First responders are doing a great job. Applauded the commitment of the beach staff for continuing to work despite people being rude. Would like to see communication about beach closures be increased. Encouraged all staff to wear masks.

Mayor Walsifer: Everyone who worked on the rescue of the boy in the sand should be commended. Congratulated Belmar Elementary School graduates. SID budget is only for money already collected. To help the businesses no additional money will be collected in the next four quarters.

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

Vicky Renner, 1106 D Street, stated someone told her that the BBP money was missing. Mayor Walsifer stated all money collected was turned over to the BBP.

Mike Hayes, 603 10th Avenue, thanked Councilman Carvelli for helping the BBP. He would like to propose the BBP budget for 2021 be a calendar year budget rather than a fiscal year budget to get back on track.

Councilman Carvelli made a motion to close the public session, which was seconded by Councilman McCracken and approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA - RESOLUTIONS:

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.

Mayor Walsifer offered the following resolutions for adoption:

No. 2020-149 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS

No. 2020-150 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUNDS

No. 2020-151 RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CALENDAR YEAR 2020 SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT BUDGET AND SETTING THE HEARING ON THE BUDGET

No. 2020-152 RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO N.J.A.C. 5:30-14.4 ET SEQ. CHANGE ORDER NUMBER ONE FOR THE RAILROAD AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Seconded by Councilman Brennan and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Brennan, McCracken, Carvelli, Wann and Walsifer

ORDINANCES:

**ORDINANCE NO. 2020-30 *Second Reading & Public Hearing*
ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR AMENDING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCE CHAPTER 16 POLICE REGULATIONS SECTION 18 FEES FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT SERVICES**

Public Hearing: None

Mayor Walsifer made a motion to close the public hearing, which was seconded by Councilman McCracken and approved unanimously.

Councilman Brennan made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-30, which was seconded by Mayor Walsifer and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Brennan, McCracken, Carvelli, Wann and Walsifer

**ORDINANCE NO. 2020-31 *Second Reading & Public Hearing*
ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR AMENDING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCE CHAPTER 33 PORTABLE STORAGE UNITS AND DUMPSTERS**

Public Hearing: None

Councilman McCracken made a motion to close the public hearing, which was seconded by Councilman Brennan and approved unanimously.

Mayor Walsifer made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-31, which was seconded by Councilwoman Wann and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Brennan, McCracken, Carvelli, Wann and Walsifer

**ORDINANCE NO. 2020-33 *First Reading & Introduction*
ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER XI "PERSONNEL" "SEC. 11-3, SCHEDULE "D", DETERMINING SALARIES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS, POSITIONS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

Mayor Walsifer offered Ordinance 2020-33 for first reading and introduction, which was seconded by Councilman McCracken and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Brennan, McCracken, Carvelli, Wann and Walsifer

PUBLIC SESSION:

Maria Rondinaro, Pinetree Way, was disappointed in the lack of budget discussion and that the professionals didn't speak.

Tom Volker, 527 8th Avenue, asked where on the website he can find beach status updates. John Sabia, Multimedia Director, stated it is under Belmar Alerts. Mayor Walsifer stated it is also out on Social Media.

Vicky Renner, 1106 D Street, felt it would be helpful to have no swimming signs up when there are red flags to help the lifeguards. Suggested beach workers be given walkie talkies to help with communication. Mr. Kirschenbaum stated they use a mass text system. Ms. Renner would like to see code red alerts about community policing meetings. She felt the budget changes explained to the Council should have been explained to the residents as well. Felt Christine Bell and Doug Kovats did a great job assisting the Planning Board Monday night.

Sharon Mahoney, 809 Main Street, appreciates all the time and efforts everyone is making. Felt the Special Police Offices are not paying enough attention. They are not observing social distancing. Felt we should have a zero-tolerance policy on everything. She thought there was an ordinance that says you can't wear bikinis on Main Street. Suggested giving free water to the beach workers. Mr. Campbell stated we do. Mayor Walsifer added that the workers were sent home early this past Monday. She felt the beach workers need an easier way to contact the Police. Mr. Kirschenbaum stated the fastest way is for them to call dispatch. She would like to see social media announcements of closures earlier. She asked if there have been discussions on prohibiting car meetups. Mr. Kirschenbaum stated we cannot prohibit them but if there are law or ordinance violations the Police Department will address them.

Cy Reitmeyer, 400 5th Avenue, asked about tree removal. Councilman McCracken explained the permit process. He felt the town should prune the street trees. He asked if there is still a policy about tents on the beach. Councilman McCracken felt the tent ordinance should be looked into further before next summer.

Angela Pheiffer, 5th Avenue, asked about increasing beach badge fees. Mayor Walsifer stated we are talking with the beach staff and attorney about it for next year.

Pedro Gomez, 611 5th Avenue, was concerned about traffic backup on 5th Avenue where cars are waiting to turn onto Main Street.

Gerald Buccafusco, 5th Avenue, encouraged everyone to review the budget. Felt the public has a right to know how the Council feels about the budget. Felt there was more time spent explaining the hiring of Drew Huisman rather than explaining the budget. Felt we should do a proper search for someone with equal or better skills.

Cheri Russo, Briarwood Road, stated her neighbor wants to know why there has been an increase in unlawful activity and if anyone is having problems with mail delivery. Mayor Walsifer stated his mail has been delayed and suggested she reach out to the Post Office. She asked if the shower at L Street beach could be touchless.

Councilman McCracken 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