

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

MINUTES

OCTOBER 6, 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 September 28, 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, Steve Belecki, and John Cox

WORKSHOP DISCUSSION:

Mayor Walsifer stated DPW Director Mike Campbell is retiring. Thanked him for everything he has done for the town and wished him luck.

Mayor Walsifer stated we are still working on the civil service issues but will have an ordinance for the next meeting.

PROCLAMATION: Breast Cancer Awareness Month

PETITIONS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilman Brennan made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2020 meeting, which was seconded by Mayor Walsifer and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Brennan, Wann, McCracken and Walsifer

ABSTAIN: Carvelli

REPORTS OF COUNCIL:

Councilman Carvelli: Reminded everyone if they place a refrigerator or freezer out for pickup, they have to remove the doors.

Councilman McCracken: Housing Authority met today. They have two new residents moving in. They are working on a bid for their roof. Shade Tree Commission is working on a tree inventory. He would like to see some benches put back on the boardwalk. Mayor Walsifer stated we just allowed bikes back on the boardwalk, which we will monitor and then determine if can put benches back.

Councilwoman Wann: ADA Committee meets October 29th and will have a guest speaker on Alzheimer's. Location to be determined. Glad to see Ordinance 2020-36 on the agenda; it has been a tough summer.

Councilman Brennan: Encouraged everyone to donate to Jackie Minchala's GoFundMe. He would also like to see benches back on the boardwalk.

Mayor Walsifer: Borough Hall exterior was cleaned up. It is nice to see people using the ballot box outside.

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

Sal Circelli, Neptune, sent an email to the Mayor and Council regarding his case. Feels cheated in a town he grew up in and loves.

Gerald Buccafusco, 5th Avenue, felt resolution 2020-183 should not be on the consent agenda.

Cheri Russo, 1218 Briarwood, felt the way Sal Circelli is being treated is unfair. Asked the Council to do the right thing and bring him back.

Linda Sharkus, 4th Avenue, asked the Council to elaborate on the hearing process in which Sal was evaluated.

Mr. Dasti stated that pursuant to Civil Service and Borough code Mr. Circelli was entitled to a hearing by an independent hearing officer. This gentleman prepared a report of recommendations after a full hearing was held.

Ms. Sharkus thought Mr. Circelli was out on disability and felt it was a shame to lose a good employee. She asked the Council to not vote on the resolution until the public has had a chance to read the report.

Mr. Dasti felt that since the employee has made his case public that someone could OPRA request the report.

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

Councilman Brennan offered the following resolutions for adoption:

No. 2020-181 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS

No. 2020-182 RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING PETTY CASH FUNDS

No. 2020-183 RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HEARING OFFICER INVOLVING THE DISCIPLINARY ACTION OF EMPLOYEE ID #100663

Seconded by Mayor Walsifer and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Wann, Brennan, McCracken, Carvelli and Walsifer

ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE 2020-35 FIRST READING & INTRODUCTION

ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR AMENDING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCE CHAPTER 31 ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES ADDING SECTION 7 INVASIVE PLANTS

Councilman McCracken offered Ordinance 2020-35 for first reading and introduction, which was seconded by Councilman Brennan and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Wann, Brennan, McCracken, Carvelli and Walsifer

Councilman Carvelli asked about adding the tree of heaven as an invasive species. Councilman McCracken and Mr. Dasti explained it would be impossible to list all species so there is a catch all for others. Councilman McCracken added that the Shade Tree Commission will also review the ordinance prior to adoption.

ORDINANCE 2020-36 FIRST READING & INTRODUCTION

ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 26-11 OF THE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED "ARTICLE III RENTAL PROPERTY"

Councilman Brennan offered Ordinance 2020-36 for first reading and introduction, which was seconded by Councilman Carvelli and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Wann, Brennan, McCracken, Carvelli and Walsifer

ORDINANCE 2020-37 FIRST READING & INTRODUCTION

ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER XL, DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, SECTION 40-3.14 FEES, OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY

Mayor Walsifer offered Ordinance 2020-37 for first reading and introduction, which was seconded by Councilman Brennan and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Wann, Brennan, McCracken, Carvelli and Walsifer

PUBLIC SESSION:

Kathleen Brady, 511 7th Avenue, was concerned about her outrageous water bill. Mayor Walsifer suggested she meet with Mr. Kirschenbaum and the water department to review.

Fran Sonneborn, 509 6th Avenue, would like to see a mobi mat at the Third Avenue beach. She would also like to see the surf camp moved to Second Avenue.

Jen DeBlasio, 307 9th Avenue, stated benches are dedicated to loved ones and a lot of people want to see them put back.

Gerald Buccafusco, 5th Avenue, requested some language to be clarified in Ordinance 2020-36. Mr. Dasti will review.

Cherri Russo, 1218 Briarwood, felt the Mayor and Council need to explain the outrageous water bills.

Linda Sharkus, 4th Avenue, the League of Women Voters is having a candidate forum tomorrow night.

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

Respectively submitted,

April Claudio
Municipal Clerk