

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

MINUTES

MARCH 1, 2022

6:30 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Mark Walsifer, Council President James McCracken, Councilman Thomas Brennan, Councilman Thomas Carvelli, Councilwoman Jodi Kinney, Borough Attorney Patrick Varga, 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 22, 2021 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.

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Our troops and their families, Cy Reitmayer and Mike Raspa

WORKSHOP DISCUSSION: None

PETITIONS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilman Brennan made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2022 meeting, which was seconded by Councilman McCracken and approved by the following vote:

AYES: McCracken, Kinney, Brennan and Walsifer

ABSTAIN: Carvelli

REPORTS OF COUNCIL:

Councilman Carvelli: Planning Board met and reviewed Ordinance 2022-02 and approved a subdivision application.

Councilman McCracken: Shade Tree Commission meets the 4th Tuesday now. Housing Authority meets next week. Shade Tree Commission working on Arbor Day plans. St. Patrick's Day parade is this weekend. Everyone enjoy and be safe.

Councilman Brennan: Working on Environmental Commission podcast. Wished everyone a happy Mardi Gras.

Councilwoman Kinney: Newsletter will be coming out later this month. New banners on Main Street look great. ADA Committee meets on the 17th. Parks and Recreation will be meeting soon. Excited for the return of the parade.

Mayor Walsifer: Thanked DPW for putting up the banners. DPW and Police are doing a great job getting ready for the parade. Crag Calle and Amanda Cregan are the Grand Marshals.

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

Councilman Brennan made a motion to close the public session, which was seconded by Councilwoman Kinney 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.

Councilwoman Kinney offered the following resolutions for adoption:

No. 2022-56

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS

- No. 2022-57 RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR ESTABLISHING RECREATION FEES**
- No. 2022-58 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUNDS**
- No. 2022-59 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT TO THE 2022 TEMPORARY BUDGET**

Seconded by Councilman Brennan and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Brennan, Carvelli, McCracken, Kinney and Walsifer

ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-02 *Second Reading & Public Hearing*

AN ORDINANCE BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING THE SEAPORT REDEVELOPMENT ZONE

Public Hearing: Ms. Claudio received several emails of comments to be read into the record from people who were unable to attend the meeting.

Karen Carew, 110 4th Avenue, felt it would be a big mistake and harmful to the town to increase the building height and it will set a negative precedent.

Natalie Prudenti, 1232 Pinetree Way, felt a huge building does not fit in with Belmar. Belmar is a beach town not a city. There are already overcrowding and parking issues. Adding large buildings with a dense population will burden the infrastructure.

Merry Brennan, 404 11th Avenue, asked what the master plan is to fix the Borough's aging infrastructure in a timely and cost-effective manner. Asked what studies have been done to ensure that any plan isn't a burden on the water/sewer system. She was concerned about the future aesthetic and culture of the town. Also concerned about light, sky and sunsets being blocked in Pyanoe Plaza.

Dianne Veilleux, 214 2nd Avenue, asked the Council to vote against the ordinance. It would strain the infrastructure and compromise quality of life. High density development is not a sustainable model.

Gene Creamer, 4th Avenue, felt the map attached to the plan should be amended because it only mentions Maclearie Park as a rehab area and not the entire Borough. Ms. Beahm explained the map is correct as it pertains to the ordinance and the plan amendment. Mr. Creamer stated public parking is a permitted use in the plan and asked if it will fall under the Borough's parking utility. Ms. Beahm and Mayor Walsifer explained that would be addressed in a developer's agreement.

Gerald Buccafusco, 409 5th Avenue, felt the ordinance is not in the best interest of Belmar and hasn't heard any support for it.

Mark Levis, 904 13th Avenue, is against the ordinance. Felt it is not beneficial to the town and the Council is making a mistake.

Cheri Russo, 1218 Briarwood Road, asked why everything always has to get bigger.

Katrina Clapsis, 1304 B Street, stated that while they aren't here to speak there are many residents who are not opposed to this plan.

Joe McEvoy, 700 Main St., sought clarification on height measurements.

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

Councilman Carvelli made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-02, which was seconded by Mayor Walsifer and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Kinney, Carvelli and Walsifer

NAYS: Brennan and McCracken

Councilman Brennan stated he agrees with the infrastructure concerns and density, which is why he voted no. Councilwoman Kinney stated she also spoke to people who are not against it and she is for progress. Mayor Walsifer stated they are only approving the height and setback changes, everything else is already in the plan. Councilman McCracken stated the owner has the right to develop the property, but we need to make sure the project is right for Belmar.

ORDINANCE 2022-06 *Second Reading & Public Hearing*

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER III TOURISM DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY, SECTION 3-6.69, TOURISM FEE ASSESSMENT

Public Hearing: Joe McEvoy, 700 Main Street, suggested instead of raising fees that affect the businesses that court and traffic fines be raised so it affects the tourists. Mayor Walsifer and Mr. Varga explained there are rules regarding how much can be charged for fines.

Cheri Russo, 1218 Briarwood Road, felt a meeting should have been held with the landlords to let them know about the fee increase. Mayor Walsifer stated the Realtors were notified.

Gerald Buccafusco, 409 5th Avenue, asked how much revenue is anticipated. Mayor Walsifer stated between 150,000-170,000.

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

Mayor Walsifer offered Ordinance 2022-06 for adoption, which was seconded by Councilwoman Kinney and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Brennan, Kinney, Carvelli, McCracken and Walsifer

PUBLIC SESSION:

Linda Sharkus, 4th Avenue, asked about community policing. Mayor Walsifer stated it was discussed two meetings ago that Chief Scott is working on enhancing the program.

Joe McEvoy, 700 Main Street, asked about dunes. Billy Musto, DPW, and Mayor Walsifer explained the state rules that must be followed regarding the dunes.

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

RESOLUTIONS:

Councilman Brennan offered the following resolution for adoption:

Res 2022-60 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION

Seconded by Councilwoman Kinney and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Brennan, Kinney, Walsifer, Carvelli and McCracken

The Mayor and Council returned to public session after approximately one hour. Councilman Brennan made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Councilman Carvelli and approved unanimously.

Respectively submitted,

April Claudio
Municipal Clerk