

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

AGENDA

MAY 19, 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

WORKSHOP DISCUSSION:

Mr. Kirschenbaum read highlights of the beach management plan. We have been receiving updates from the County and the State. Taking steps to manage social distancing. County has a website with all beach information, Know Before You Go. Mayor Walsifer stated it will be mandatory to wear masks in the bathrooms and is encouraged on the beach and boardwalk.

Councilman McCracken stated it was disappointing to see doctored photos of the beach by the media. It just creates hysteria. He stated the bathrooms are not open yet on the boardwalk and there is zero tolerance for public urination.

Mr. Kirschenbaum stated OEM is stressing to business owners to have employees outside to manage social distancing.

Councilman Brennan encouraged people to go to the Borough's official Facebook page for accurate information. He asked about doing beach badge daily sales online. Mr. Kirschenbaum stated we are looking into options to find what works for us.

Councilman Carvelli stated the Council has been fielding emails some with questions and positive feedback, others with suggestions and frustrations. We are doing our best. Mayor Walsifer explained the friendship force that will be assisting with social distancing.

Councilwoman Wann stated everyone is working day and night and things change daily. We currently have the best plan available and people just have to be responsible for themselves. We will get through this.

PETITIONS: none

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilman McCracken made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2020 meeting, which was seconded by Councilman Brennan and approved unanimously.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL:

Councilman McCracken stated the Shade Tree Commission is meeting tomorrow.

Councilman Carvelli suggested posting our social media accounts on the Route 35 sign. TDRC met and reviewed the plans for 900 Main Street. Planning Board met and reviewed a change of use in the Plaza.

Councilwoman Wann stated the community policing program is moving forward.

Councilman Brennan stated the Environmental Commission met and was concerned about storm water runoff at 900 Main Street. They are looking at vegetation around the lake. Wished Councilwoman Wann a happy birthday.

Mayor Walsifer thanked DPW for getting the beach ready. Thanked the police department, residents, and staff for working together during this time. We are working on plans for a Memorial Day ceremony.

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

Joan Corallo, A Street, asked how much money is in the storm recovery reserves. Mr. Kirschenbaum stated the \$25,000 for storm recovery has now been moved to a COVID-19 account. This allows us to file paperwork to be reimbursed by FEMA and the CARES Act.

Maria Rondinaro, 1246 Pinetree, asked if a technology app for beach badges would be reimbursable.

Mr. Kirschenbaum explained that anything that is done to prevent the spread of the virus can be reimbursed.

Mayor Walsifer stated it takes time to research a program and implement it.

Gerald Buccafusco, 409 5th Avenue, was concerned about the temporary budget exceeding the 26.25%. Mayor Walsifer stated the CFO was not present to answer his question however the Governor has been working with CFO's and we are authorized to do a temporary budget. We cannot introduce our budget until we get school, county and state numbers.

Mayor Walsifer made a motion to close the public session, which was seconded by Councilman Carvelli 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. 2020-111 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS

**No. 2020-112 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING USE OF STORM RECOVERY RESERVES
PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-62.1**

No. 2020-113 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUNDS

**No. 2020-114 RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE DATES FOR CLOSING THE BEACHFRONT
EXCEPT FOR PAYMENT OF CERTAIN FEES TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND
RESIDENTS OF THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR FOR 2020**

**No. 2020-115 RESOLUTION TO INCREASE AND/OR ESTABLISH CHANGE FUND(S) WITHIN
VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR**

**No. 2020-116 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT FOR CIVIL SERVICE CONSULTING
SERVICES**

No. 2020-117 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A 2020 TEMPORARY BUDGET

Seconded by Councilman Carvelli and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Brennan, Wann, Carvelli, McCracken and Walsifer

ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE 2020-24 *Second Reading & Public Hearing*

**ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF
BELMAR, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING AND
SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 19-16 OF THE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED "PARKING OF
CERTAIN TRUCKS, VEHICLES AND TRAILERS PROHIBITED**

Public Hearing: Katrina Clapsis, 1304 B Street, was thankful for the ordinance. The residents in her neighborhood have had issues in the past.

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

Mayor Walsifer offered Ordinance 2020-24 for adoption, which was seconded by Councilman Brennan and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Brennan, Wann, Carvelli, McCracken and Walsifer

ORDINANCE 2020-25 *First Reading & Introduction*

ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER XIX, TRAFFIC, SECTION 19-12, OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY

Councilman Carvelli made a motion to introduce Ordinance 2020-25, which was seconded by Mayor Walsifer and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Brennan, Wann, Carvelli, McCracken and Walsifer

PUBLIC SESSION:

Linda Sharkus, 4th Avenue, thanked the Mayor and Council, Mr. Kirschenbaum, DPW and Police for making things happen and having a great plan in place.

Leigh Kelsey O'Donnell, 19th Avenue, had questions and comments about the beach plan. She would not provide her address but emailed it to Ms. Claudio. She resides at 306 19th Avenue, Lake Como. She asked where it says we cannot prevent beach access. Councilman Brennan stated it has always been that way and comes from the State. He added we can restrict access if it gets too crowded. Ms. O'Donnell stated the Emergency Order permits limiting sales of badges and access and asked why we are not implementing that. Mayor Walsifer explained the EO was put in place in case we cannot manage social distancing. The Governor made it clear we cannot restrict nonresidents from coming to the beach. Ms. O'Donnell asked what the number is to reach to limit it. Mayor Walsifer stated there is no magic number but we will be using counters and monitoring in and determine it on the spot.

Councilman Carvelli stated we have to wait and see because we do not know how crowded it is going to be. Picking a number would just be an estimate.

Councilman Brennan stated we have a sense of what beaches could be more crowded than others and the counters will tell us which beaches are filling up faster and we will then know to watch them.

Mr. Kirschenbaum stated he plan changes every hour and we have a strong team in place to make it work.

Ms. O'Donnell asked if the police will be wearing masks in public. Mayor Walsifer stated all employees were issued PPE. Mr. Kirschenbaum stated the police will wear masks when they need to. He reiterated that wearing a mask outside is not mandated.

Sandra Caputo, 1705 Surf Avenue, asked about footballs on the beach. Mayor Walsifer stated there will be no ball playing of any kind. Ms. Caputo asked why the lifeguards cannot enforce this and why it has to be the police. The lifeguards used to enforce it. Mayor Walsifer stated it is important for the lifeguards to have their eyes on the water. Ms. Caputo asked about an additional brush pick up day. Mike Campbell, DPW, stated the next pickup is June 1st and will try to collect again if they can.

Cyrus Reitmeyer, 400 5th Avenue, stated more people get injured by umbrellas than footballs. He did not understand why the bicycle racks and benches were removed from the boardwalk. He asked if water meters were installed on the boardwalk. Mr. Kirschenbaum replied yes. He asked about new John Deere tractors. Mr. Campbell stated DPW does not have any new equipment, their equipment is actually very old.

Cheri Russo, 1218 Briarwood Road, asked how NY is allowed to restrict beach access. Mayor Walsifer replied we do not know. She asked if veterans get free beach access or veterans and their family. Mayor Walsifer stated it is just the veteran.

Debra Poley, Inlet Terrace, asked why we cannot limit parking and badges. Mayor Walsifer stated we will limit badges when cannot control social distancing. She asked how other towns are doing it and felt we are not doing enough.

Lara Powers, 104 5th Avenue, asked if the beach is closed because it is too crowded will people there be removed. Mayor Walsifer replied no.

Marie McNally, 506 9th Avenue, asked how it will be enforced who leaves the beach. Mayor Walsifer stated if you are on a beach then you can stay, and new people will be stopped from coming on. She asked it will be determined who needs to move. Mr. Kirschenbaum stated the task force will know who was there and there will be a continuous communication and we will all work together.

Karen Grau, 116 14th Avenue, felt the boardwalk plan is great and flexible.

Jocelyn Graney, 417 5th Avenue, asked who is responsible for monitoring patrons at businesses. Mayor Walsifer stated the businesses have to use employees outside to manage the lines. If they cannot manage it then the police will shut them down.

Angela Pfeifer, 5th Avenue, stated the new parking app is great. Asked if their fee is on top of the \$1 rate. Mayor Walsifer replied yes. She asked about paid parking at the marina. Mayor Walsifer stated we are putting a plan in place for that.

Kelly Lang, 301 19th Avenue, asked how group rentals will be enforced. Mayor Walsifer stated the Police Department has a plan. Mr. Kirschenbaum added that Code Enforcement has warned the owners and realtors about social distancing and occupancy enforcement.

Mr. Reitmeyer asked about commercial vehicles parking in municipal lots overnight. Mayor Walsifer stated they cannot park overnight.

Linda Sharkus, 4th Avenue, was concerned about alcohol being allowed in to go cups and creating more litter. Mayor Walsifer stated it is still illegal to drink in public and litter and the police will enforce.

Mark Fitzgerald, Surf Avenue, thanked everyone for their time and effort. People need to stay calm, have patience, and use common sense.

Mike Campbell stated we are seeking bathroom attendances and beach badge checkers.

Alexis Finch, 18th Avenue, was thankful to hear how the lifeguards will be protected and able to do rescues. Thankful for the social distancing header on the Facebook page. Thankful for all the hard work being done by the employees. She suggested striping lines on the boardwalk. Mayor Walsifer stated there will be some markers on the boardwalk. Mr. Campbell stated there will be signage as well.

Gerald Buccafusco, 5th Avenue, stated the Governor should be telling people not to go to the beach. He suggested using social media to tell people to stay away.

Jerome Beckman, 1605 Ocean Avenue, asked how strict the no ball playing is because he just ordered a lot of footballs and frisbees for his business. Mayor Walsifer stated we have a no ordinance about no ball playing and the Governor also said its not permitted.

Jacob Rogers, 18th Avenue, asked about projections on infection rates. Mayor Walsifer stated if it goes up the Governor will shut us down.

Ms. O'Donnell asked Mr. Dasti if we can prohibit who goes on the beach or limit the number. Mr. Dasti stated it is illegal to prohibit the number of badges. She asked if we could restrict the number sold. Mr. Dasti stated yes through the Executive Order. Councilman Carvelli questioned Ms. O'Donnell's questions. He felt she was trying to figure out if we are breaking the law. Ms. O'Donnell stated she just wants to know if it is legal to limit badges.

Mr. Kirschenbaum stated our plan has been revised by legal counsel and the Governor. He has explained to Ms. O'Donnell previously how Executive Orders work.

Rebecca Herbert, 407 3rd Avenue, asked about garbage cans on Ocean Avenue. Mr. Campbell stated they are being put out this week.

Jessica Jones, 412 11th Avenue, thanked the Mayor and Council and Mr. Kirschenbaum for doing a good job. Appreciated their hard work and their efforts have not gone unnoticed.

Ms. Pfeifer asked about online badge sales. Mr. Campbell stated we are looking into. We had used Vibly before but had issues with it.

Ms. Russo asked what the age is to work on the beach. Mr. Campbell replied 18.

Councilman Brennan 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