

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

AGENDA

AUGUST 11, 2020

6:00 PM

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

ASBSENT: Councilman James McCracken

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 August 6, 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 and Frank Russo-Alessi

WORKSHOP DISCUSSION:

- CDBG grant application hearing:
 - o Mayor Walsifer stated we are applying for a grant through Monmouth County. It was suggested by DPW Director Mike Campbell to have a bridge to the Silver Lake island and make it a beautiful sanctuary. Mr. Kirschenbaum stated we are just in the application phase for a highly competitive grant. Currently DPW has to take a boat to the island to maintain it. Mr. Campbell stated his idea was to remove the dead plants and plan indigenous plants. He spoke to the State about getting their assistance to maintain a bird sanctuary. We could keep the bridge closed during nesting season. Mr. Kirschenbaum explained if we were to get the grant we still have to work with DEP and seek public information on how to beautify it.
 - o Councilwoman Wann stated a member of the Parks and Recreation Committee had suggested it once as well. It was suggested that it could be a beautiful area and used for environmental education.
 - o Mayor Walsifer stated he is trying to look at the downside of doing this and cannot find one. The island needs something done. The plants were under salt water after Hurricane Sandy.
 - o Mark Pfeifer, 319 5th Avenue, suggested looking into applying for Monmouth County Open Space Grants.
 - o Cheri Russo, 1218 Briarwood, submitted a petition of hundreds of signatures in opposition to the footbridge. Felt Silver Lake is good on its own and should be left alone. Suggested repairing streets instead.
 - o Gerald Buccafusco, 409 5th Avenue, questioned why the application was not posted on the website for the public to review. Felt if it were posted would have solved a lot of the misunderstandings. He questioned the cost. Mr. Kirschenbaum stated it is just an estimate. We would have to figure out the actual cost once it is designed and that would be if we got the grant. Mayor Walsifer stated if we get the grant and cannot build it for the amount of the grant then we will not do it. Mr. Buccafusco stated he is against it. He does not see how you could have people on the island as well as a bird sanctuary. Suggested improving the perimeter of the lake instead by adding more trees and benches.
 - o Brett Lomas, 9th Avenue, stated maintenance of the island will cost the town money. Asked what the point is. Felt we do not need to ruin the island with benches when there are other areas around the lake to improve.
 - o Elaine Giordano, 605 9th Avenue, stated as a former teacher she would have safety concerns about bringing children on the island. She said it cannot be a place for people to sit and a bird sanctuary. The birds' nest in the Spring and summer months when people would want to use it. Would like to hear the thoughts of the Environmental Commission. Councilman Brennan stated they are against it.
 - o Brian Magovern, 207 South Lake Drive, stated it is a 100-year-old manmade island that was made for the purpose of keeping people away from the swans and ducks. There is no need for people to walk there. He was also concerned about dogs and other wildlife now having access to the island and attacking the birds. He agreed the island needs to be improved however the bridge is not needed.
 - o Mayor Walsifer stated we cannot apply for the grant and then decide later on the bridge.
 - o Cyrus Reitmeyer, 400 5th Avenue, stated he could care less if there is a bridge or not. But asked if the grant could be applied to other areas. Mayor Walsifer stated it is a beautification grant and cannot be used to pave roads. Mr. Reitmeyer suggested beautifying another part of town.

- Mr. Campbell stated he was just trying to beautify the island and thought a bridge would make it more accessible for DPW and for education purposes.
- Gene Creamer, 4th Avenue, felt the engineer did a good job on preparing the application. Suggested the address listed on the application state 501 Ocean Avenue so it shows it is on a County road.
- Maria Rondinaro, 1246 Pinetree Way, would like to see a more detailed proposal. Suggested asking the public what they would want to apply for a grant for. She suggested beautifying Maclearie Park.
- Linda Sharkus, 400 4th Avenue, stated she has a group willing to teach people what types of plants and birds are on the island and suggested signage could be added as an educational opportunity.

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

Councilman Brennan read a statement from the Environmental Commission which stated they oppose the footbridge. Felt it would disrupt the plants and wildlife. Suggested it would be better to stabilize the perimeter.

Mayor Walsifer made a motion to amend the Consent Agenda to remove Resolution 2020-154 so it could be voted on separately, which was seconded by Councilman Brennan and approved unanimously.

Councilman Carvelli felt the resolution is to simply apply for the grant. There is a long road ahead before any bridge is even built. Councilwoman Wann agreed. She added that maybe we will not build the bridge but can still clean up the island. Councilman Brennan stated he would have to vote no on this based on the public comments.

Mayor Walsifer offered the following resolution for adoption:

No. 2020-154 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A CDBG APPLICATION TO THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH AND BOROUGH OF BELMAR'S CONTRIBUTION TOWARD THE PROJECT KNOWN AS SILVER LAKE PEDESTRIAN FOOTBRIDGE

Seconded by Councilman Carvelli and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Walsifer, Carvelli and Wann

NAYS: Brennan

- Continuation of the Workshop meeting:
 - Mayor Walsifer stated the Council received a letter from Mr. Buccafusco regarding concerns on Ordinance 2020-33. He stated we have verbal approval from Civil Service, but we will wait to do the ordinance when we have written approval.
 - Mr. Kirschenbaum stated we are launching a new website that is more user friendly. Mobile site will now match desktop site and also be more user friendly. John Sabia, Multimedia Director, will be posting a tutorial on how to navigate the website.

PETITIONS:

- 8th Avenue speed humps & optical illusion walkway
- Silver Lake footbridge

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilman Brennan made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2020 meeting, which was seconded by Mayor Walsifer and approved unanimously.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL:

Councilman Carvelli: DPW did a great job cleaning up after last week's storm. Mr. Kirschenbaum and Mr. Campbell did a great job managing the storm with what they could.

Councilwoman Wann: Thanked DPW for the cleanup. Mr. Kirschenbaum and the Mayor did what they could, but they have no control over JCP&L. ADA Committee is having a meeting next week.

Councilman Brennan: DPW really did shine during the storm, especially when compared to the disappointing response by JCP&L. Beach is going more smoothly every weekend thanks to increased communication about closures.

Mayor Walsifer: JCP&L was not prepared for the storm. Thanked Mr. Kirschenbaum for being relentless in trying to get them to come into town. However, there is only so much the Mayor and Council can do. The staff did a great job cleaning up the sand off the boardwalk. Police did a great job patrolling to keep everyone safe during the outages. DPW did a great job cutting down trees. Fire and First Aid did a great job rescuing the kid who had a tree fall on him. Thanked all the employees for doing an unbelievable job in taking care of the town.

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

No comments.

Councilman Brennan 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.

Mayor Walsifer offered the following resolutions for adoption:

No. 2020-153 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS

No. 2020-155 RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEMS OF REVENUE IN THE BUDGET OF THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948)

No. 2020-156 RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A FOURTH AMENDMENT TO THE REDEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH LOKO CO., LLC

No. 2020-157 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUNDS

No. 2020-159 RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO N.J.A.C. 5:30-14.4 ET SEQ. CHANGE ORDER NUMBER TWO FOR THE FIFTH AND TENTH AVENUE PAVILIONS

Seconded by Councilwoman Wann and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Wann, Brennan, Carvelli and Walsifer

RESOLUTIONS:

Councilman Carvelli offered the following resolution for adoption:

No. 2020-158 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF A RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSE TO THE IRISH CURSE, LLC DBA 10TH AVENUE BURRITO LICENSE NO. 1306-33-007-006, FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 2021

Seconded by Mayor Walsifer and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Wann, Carvelli, and Walsifer

ABSTAIN: Brennan

ORDINANCES:

Mayor Walsifer made a motion to table Ordinance 2020-33, which was seconded by Councilman Brennan and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Wann, Carvelli, Brennan and Walsifer

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-33 *Second Reading & Public Hearing*

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-32 *Second Reading & Public Hearing*

ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR AMENDING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCE CHAPTER 44 STORMWATER CONTROL

Public Hearing: none

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

Councilman Brennan made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-32 which was seconded by Mayor Walsifer and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Wann, Carvelli, Brennan and Walsifer

PUBLIC SESSION:

Mary Ann Furey, 601 8th Avenue, submitted the petition for the 8th Avenue speed humps because there is a traffic problem and there needs to be a solution. Suggested putting back the portable stop signs.

Mayor Walsifer stated the traffic division of the Police Department will review the petition.

Krista Sperber, 512 ½ 8th Avenue, stated enforcement is an issue and the area needs to be made safer for pedestrians.

Mike Dolce, 5th Avenue, was concerned about people smoking and vaping on Main Street and creating secondhand smoke.

Sharon Mahone, 800 Main Street, stated it is a struggle to get out of the lot for her building on 8th Avenue. She would like to see an open discussion to get public input on how to solve the problem. She suggested painting the speed limit on the street. Mayor Walsifer suggested that they email suggestions to the Chief and to let the professionals handle it. She asked about bike sharrows. Mayor Walsifer stated we hope to have them for next summer.

Mark Swenarton, 412 11th Avenue, stated the town is upset because the Council was not communicating about the power outages. Mayor Walsifer stated we had the same information that JCP&L was giving them. Mr. Swenarton stated he would have appreciated a Code Red phone call. They just want to know the Council is fighting on their behalf. Mayor Walsifer stated we posted information to the website and social media; there was nothing to say on a Code Red.

Brian Magovern, 207 South Lake Drive, asked that the grant application be amended to remove the bridge. Mayor Walsifer stated we are not amending it. He added that there is a lot of process that needs to happen before we even talk about building a bridge.

Mark Pfeifer, 319 5th Avenue, suggested we look into applying for an Open Space Grant to turn the tennis courts at Maclearie Park into pickleball courts. Mr. Kirschenbaum stated we had a grant for the park, but the previous administration did not meet deadlines, so we did not receive all the money.

John Walsh, 11th Avenue, is thankful for the beach texts. Suggest we tell people not to come to the beach after 2 pm. Asked about extending the parking times. Mayor Walsifer stated we will look into it for next summer.

Brett Lomas, 9th Avenue, asked if we got the grant for the lake and decided not to build the bridge, would we get to keep the money. Mayor Walsifer stated we will wait and see what happens. Mr. Lomas asked who on the Council supports the footbridge. Mayor Walsifer stated three of them voted in favor of the resolution.

Carole Moore, 1206 Oakwood Road, suggested even non emergencies could be communicated through Code Reds when power is out.

Sharon Mahone, 800 Main Street, suggested doing phone call alerts instead of text and emails. Councilman Carvelli stated that is what Code Red does.

Cyrus Reitmeyer, 5th Avenue, asked Mr. Dasti about the easement between the town and homeowner for the area between the sidewalk and curb. Mr. Reitmeyer was questioning why he has to maintain the street trees. Councilman Carvelli suggested he contact his own attorney if he has concerns.

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

Respectively submitted,

April Claudio
Municipal Clerk