

# MAYOR AND COUNCIL

## MINUTES

DECEMBER 1, 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, healthcare workers, first responders, William Goss and Michael Long

### **WORKSHOP DISCUSSION:**

Mayor Walsifer explained a meeting was held in September with the First Aid where they requested \$70,000 more from the Borough over what is already paid to them. Last year they had an issue with money and the Borough saved them money by bringing them under the Borough's insurance umbrella. He asked them to submit their business model and financials so the Borough's financial team could review and look on ways to cut costs. The Borough Attorney will be sending a letter to them because we have not received their financials yet. Councilman McCracken asked if they have given any reason why they aren't supplying their financials. Mayor Walsifer replied no adding that he wasn't aware of any issues until they had the letter in the Coast Star.

Mayor Walsifer stated the pirate ships are being removed from the beach playgrounds because they are deteriorating and are a liability. We will look into options to replace. They only lasted eight years so we need something that will last longer.

Ms. Claudio explained the Borough is now offering online filing of dumpster permit and mercantile applications through GovPilot. Online applications for winter, summer, yearly and title transfer applications will be coming soon. Also coming soon will be a credit card payment option.

**PETITIONS:** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Councilman Brennan made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2020 meeting, which was seconded by Mayor Walsifer and approved unanimously.

### **REPORTS OF COUNCIL:**

Councilman Carvelli: Congratulated Councilman Brennan on winning the election. Harbor Commission working on reviewing rates. Veteran's Day ceremony was well attended and properly socially distanced. Planning Board meets on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman McCracken: Congratulated Councilman Brennan. Shade Tree Commission has been active. Working on a tree study and arbor day plans. Housing Authority meets on Monday.

Councilwoman Wann: ADA Committee working on a welcome wagon to go with the Mayor's welcome newsletter he's working on.

Councilman Brennan: Beach planting was successful. Thrilled with the number of volunteers that attended. Thanked Mr. Kirschenbaum, Bridget Dudas, DPW, Lou Fierro, Joe McEvoy and Will Heyniger for their assistance. He is quarantining at home because a friend of a friend tested positive for COVID-19.

Mayor Walsifer: Congratulated Councilman Brennan. Chief Scott explained Santa is doing a toy delivery on the 16<sup>th</sup>. December 10<sup>th</sup> there will be free COVID-19 tests and flu shots in the marina. Thanked DPW for installing Christmas lights. Virtual tree lighting will be on Friday at 6 pm. Thanked April Claudio, Bridget Dudas and John Sabia for getting the new beach badge system up and running.

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

Gerald Buccafusco, 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, felt the \$10 mailing fee for beach badges is excessive. He felt the Maser

settlement should have been posted online with the resolution. Mayor Walsifer explained it has to be approved by the Mayor and Council first.

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. 2020-206 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS**

**No. 2020-207 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT FOR ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES FOR 2021**

**No. 2020-208 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BONDS AGGREGATING THE PRINCIPAL SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$1,314,000 AUTHORIZED BY FOUR BOND ORDINANCES HERETOFORE ADOPTED TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST OF VARIOUS GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY INTO ONE CONSOLIDATED ISSUE OF BONDS AND PROVIDING FOR THE FORM, MATURITIES, SALE AND OTHER DETAILS OF SAID CONSOLIDATED ISSUE**

**No. 2020-209 RESOLUTION SETTING 2021 MEETING DATES**

**No. 2020-210 RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING FEE FOR MAILING OF SEASONAL BEACH BADGES**

**No. 2020-211 RESOLUTION AWARDED CONTRACT FOR MID-GRADE ULTRA LOW NO LEAD GASOLINE AND ULTRA LOW SULFUR PREMIUM DIESEL**

**No. 2020-212 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TAX REFUNDS**

**No. 2020-213 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZATION TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS**

**No. 2020-214 RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT MASER CONSULTING INC.**

Seconded by Councilman Carvelli and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Brennan, Carvelli, McCracken, Wann and Walsifer

**ORDINANCES:**

**ORDINANCE 2020-33 (AMENDED) 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**

Public Hearing: Gerald Buccafusco, 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, asked if Andrew Huisman as the title of Municipal Department Head. Mayor Walsifer explained this ordinance is for adding a title and salary in the salary guide only. This ordinance is in compliance with the Civil Service changes being made. Mr. Buccafusco felt the hiring procedures were not followed for Andrew Huisman and that the Council did not give advice and consent. Mayor Walsifer and Mr. Kirschenbaum explained the Council did give verbal consent to hiring him. They further explained Mr. Huisman's contract will be presented to the Council to vote on once completed.

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

Mayor Walsifer offered Ordinance 2020-33 for adoption, which was seconded by Councilman Brennan, and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Brennan, Carvelli, McCracken, Wann and Walsifer

**ORDINANCE NO. 2020-40 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 29 OF THE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED “WATER/SEWER”**

Public Hearing: None

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

Councilwoman Wann offered Ordinance 2020-40 for adoption, which was seconded by Councilman Carvelli, and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Brennan, Carvelli, McCracken, Wann and Walsifer

**ORDINANCE NO. 2020-41 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 XVIII OF THE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED “BEACH FRONT AND MARINE REGULATIONS”, IN PARTICULAR SECTION 18-2.5 (FEES AND CHARGES)**

Public Hearing: Gerald Buccafusco, 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, asked for clarification on the ordinance.

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

Councilwoman Wann offered Ordinance 2020-41 for adoption, which was seconded by Councilman Brennan, and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Brennan, Carvelli, McCracken, Wann and Walsifer

**ORDINANCE NO. 2020-42 SECOND READING & PUBLIC HEARING  
BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF A WATER MAIN LOCATED ALONG FIFTEENTH AVENUE FROM EAST RAILROAD AVENUE TO D STREET, APPROPRIATING \$300,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$300,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE A PORTION OF THE COSTS THEREOF, AUTHORIZED IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY**

Public Hearing: None

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

Councilman Carvelli offered Ordinance 2020-42 for adoption, which was seconded by Councilwoman Wann and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Brennan, Carvelli, McCracken, Wann and Walsifer

**PUBLIC SESSION:**

Caitlin Donovan, 513 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, was alarmed by the Coast Star articles on the First Aid. She works in healthcare finances and has seen the costs being billed to those who use an ambulance. Hopes they can come to a resolution.

Mark Pfeifer, 319 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, stated he will miss the pirate ships but applauds the Council on being proactive and keeping kids safe. Appreciates Mr. Buccafusco and Gene Creamer’s comments when they speak at Council meetings. Asked for the status on the pickleball courts.

Mayor Walsifer is hoping to have the pickleball courts done by the spring. He is working on the funding.

Cheri Russo, 1218 Briarwood Road, hopes the Council will do more than thinking about replacing the pirate ships. Movies on the beach were also thought about but nothing happened. She suggested using beach money to pay for the playgrounds.

Mayor Walsifer stated the pirate ships are expensive and we want to have something nice that will last. Mr.

Kirschenbaum stated they cost \$130,000 each and there's no guarantee how long they will last. We also need to replace two bathrooms on the boardwalk using beach money.

Councilman McCracken stated there was a plan for the movies on the beach but that didn't happen this year due to COVID-19.

Steve Garrison, 220 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, asked if the 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue flooding will be addressed in the road improvements. Mayor Walsifer replied yes.

Clare Hayner, 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue, asked if like the animal house list a list of property with code violations could be posted on the website.

Sharon Russell, 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, asked for more details on the Santa toy delivery. Asked about clearing leaves out of the storm drains. Reminded everyone to use the Library.

Douglas Mende, 605 Ocean Avenue, stated the moves on the beach are an extreme inconvenience for the residents that live near them. Suggested alternating locations of the movies on various beaches.

John Walsh, 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, felt it was a shame the movies on the beach didn't come back. His father, also John Walsh, asked about more signage regarding dogs on the boardwalk. Mayor Walsifer stated signs were ordered. Mr. Walsh also stated the traffic light at 12<sup>th</sup> and Main Street needs to be adjusted.

Maria Rondinaro, 1246 Pinetree Way, asked the Council to do anything they can to support the First Aid. Would like to see more code red alerts or emails about COVID updates.

Sandra Caputo, 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, hoped we will be proactive about football playing on the beach next year.

Cheri Russo, 1218 Briarwood Road, stated she hopes something goes back on the beach playgrounds.

Cyrus Reitmeyer, 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, liked the idea of alternate locations of the movies on the beach. Asked if the pirate ships and bathrooms could be restored rather than replaced. Mr. Kirschenbaum replied no. Mr. Reitmeyer asked Councilman McCracken questions regarding the tree study.

Gerald Buccafusco, 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, did some research after reading the letters about the First Aid. The town paid them \$33,000 in 2019 and has paid \$16,500 in 2020. Mayor Walsifer stated the additional \$16,500 is on tonight's bill list and that the issue was they wanted another \$70,000 above what they already get.

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