

# MAYOR AND COUNCIL

## MINUTES

FEBRUARY 2, 2021

6:00 PM

Mayor Mark Walsifer, Councilman Thomas Brennan, Councilman James McCracken, Councilman Thomas Carvelli, Council President 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 2, 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 first responders

### **WORKSHOP DISCUSSION:**

Mayor Walsifer stated Cruz Bay Café has succumb to the pandemic and is going to vacate their lease. It will go out to bid to see if we can get a new tenant for the summer.

Councilman Carvelli would like to discuss the Zoning Board's annual report. Mayor Walsifer suggested they all review it and discuss it at the next meeting.

**PETITIONS:** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Councilman Brennan offered a motion to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2021 meeting, which was seconded by Councilman Carvelli and approved unanimously.

### **REPORTS OF COUNCIL:**

Councilman Carvelli: Planning Board met and swore in new members. Finance Committee met and is looking at the Borough's infrastructure and costs to maintain it. The letters to and from the First Aid are posted on the Borough's website. Encouraged residents to read the letters and contact the Mayor and Council with their thoughts.

Councilman McCracken: Housing Authority met last night. They are at full occupancy. Shade Tree Commission meets on the 17<sup>th</sup> and will discuss the completed tree inventory. Would like to check on the status of the invasive species ordinance. Thanked Zoning Board members for volunteering. They prepared a great report. Thanked DPW for storm response.

Councilman Brennan: Thanked DPW for storm response. Still hopeful some form of the First Aid Squad will exist.

Councilwoman Wann: ADA Committee met last night. Working on a welcome packet for new residents. Mobi mats will be at all beaches this summer. Discussing free daily beach badges for disabled persons. Tennis courts will be resurfaced at Maclearie Park and pickleball courts will be added. Working on a community information site through the Community Policing Program.

Mayor Walsifer stated the free disabled badges are still being discussed and we will follow the state statute and figure out the logistics.

Mayor Walsifer thanked DPW for storm response.

**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, 409 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, asked for clarification on the EMS RFP resolution. Mr. Dasti stated it allows us to keep all our options open.

Cheri Russo, 1218 Briarwood Road, asked if it is illegal to ask for ID for disabled badges. Mr. Kirschenbaum stated we will follow the state statute. Mayor Walsifer advised her this public comment section is only on resolutions. Ms. Russo was concerned about the First Aid. She felt that price was the issue. Mayor Walsifer explained the Borough tried to sit down with the First Aid to see how we could help them with their costs so

they could save money. He felt they cannot ask the Borough to give \$70,000 without justification to the taxpayers. It is sad they will be leaving.

Linda Sharkus, 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, suggested a copay for Belmar residents who have insurance to help with EMS costs.

Fran Hines, Neptune City, stated the facts the Mayor is giving out about the First Aid are not true. Mayor Walsifer disagreed and stated the Borough has to move forward with a plan since the First Aid has chosen to leave. Mr. Hines felt it would be impossible for them to keep going with only receiving \$33,000 from the Borough. Mayor Walsifer disagreed on the dollar amount. Borough professionals prepared a report showing approximately \$80,000 was given to the First Aid. Mayor Walsifer would like to keep the First Aid going.

Councilman Brennan 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 Carvelli offered the following resolutions for adoption:

**No. 2021-45 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS**

**No. 2021-46 RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE MONMOUTH COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

**No. 2021-47 PROVIDING FOR THE TRANSFER OF SURPLUS FUNDS**

**No. 2021-48 RESOLUTION INCREASING THE BID THRESHOLD FOR CONTACTS SUBJECT TO PUBLIC BIDDING UNDER THE LOCAL PUBLIC CONTRACTS LAW**

**No. 2021-49 RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR A TEMPORARY BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2021 PURSUANT TO N.J.S. 40A:4-19**

**No. 2021-50 RESOLUTION APPOINTING COORDINATOR AND MEMBERS TO THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES (ADA) FOR THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR**

**No. 2021-51 RESOLUTION CONSENTING TO APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEE TO THE BELMAR FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY AS PERMITTED BY N.J.S.A.40:54-9**

**No. 2021-52 RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ACCEPTING AND AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING PROCESS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

**No. 2021-53 RESOLUTION RELEASING THE TENANT FROM THE LEASE FOR THE 5<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE PAVILION CONCESSION**

**No. 2021-54 RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO N.J.A.C. 5:30-14.4 ET SEQ. CHANGE ORDER NUMBER ONE FOR THE 8<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE AND MAIN STREET INTERSECTION REPAIR**

**No. 2021-55 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING NOTICE TO BIDDERS FOR FIFTH AVENUE CONCESSION/RESTAURANT ON BELMAR BOARDWALK**

Seconded by Councilman Brennan and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Brennan, Wann, McCracken, Carvelli and Walsifer

**ORDINANCES:**

**ORDINANCE 2021-01 *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 4-4 OF THE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED "DIVISION OF TREASURY; FUNCTIONS."**

Public Hearing: None

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

Councilman Carvelli made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-01, which was seconded by Councilwoman Wann and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Brennan, Wann, McCracken, Carvelli and Walsifer

**ORDINANCE 2021-02** *Second Reading & Public Hearing*

**BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING IN PART BOND ORDINANCE NO. 2020-42 ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 1, 2020, PROVIDING FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF A WATER MAIN LOCATED ALONG FIFTEENTH AVENUE FROM EAST RAILROAD AVENUE TO D STREET, IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE APPROPRIATION THEREFOR BY \$100,000 FOR A TOTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$400,000, TO INCREASE THE AUTHORIZED BONDS AND NOTES TO BE ISSUED TO FINANCE A PORTION OF THE COSTS THEREOF BY \$100,000 FOR A TOTAL DEBT AUTHORIZATION OF \$400,000, AND TO INCREASE COSTS PERMITTED UNDER N.J.S.A. 40A:2-20, IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY**

Public Hearing: None

Councilman Carvelli 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 2021-02, which was seconded by Councilman Carvelli and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Brennan, Wann, McCracken, Carvelli and Walsifer

**PUBLIC SESSION:**

John Walsh, 1101 B Street, would like to see storm drains shoveled out. John Maguire, DPW, stated it will be done tomorrow. Mr. Walsh was concerned about the new process for disabled badges.

Laine Happel, Lake Como, asked about summer camp and recreation programs for kids. Mayor Walsifer stated there will be no programs during the pandemic and until the number of people that can gather increase. He added we are looking into some possible organized sports for the summer.

Linda Sharkus, 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, congratulated DPW for a job well done on clearing the streets. She would like to see a badge given out rather than a wristband for disabled persons.

Gerald Buccafusco, 409 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, stated a comment was made at the last meeting about the painting of the water tank which is being investigated. He did his own investigation and did not find a bond ordinance for it. He did find through the minutes that a lawsuit was settled in 2017 with Metra. Felt the comments that were made make the town look bad. He suggested that developers who want to build in town donate to the First Aid Squad.

Mr. Dasti stated he has advised the Mayor and Council not to discuss the water tank issue in public anymore because of attorney-client-privilege. The matter is still being investigated. Once all facts have been completed a full analysis will be made public.

Cheri Russo, 1218 Briarwood Road, asked Mayor Walsifer why he did question the Metra lawsuit in 2017. Mayor Walsifer stated the attorney advised the Council should settle the lawsuit. Ms. Russo was concerned about the headlines that are in the newspapers without any evidence. She was upset that Mike Campbell was appointed to the Planning Board. Mr. Dasti stated he is reviewing his appointment.

Sharon Fowler, 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, announced new library programs.

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Councilman Brennan offered the following resolution for adoption:

**No. 2021-56 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Seconded by Mayor Walsifer and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Brennan, Wann, McCracken, Carvelli and Walsifer

Mayor Walsifer announced there would be no further public action taken. Meeting Adjourned.

Respectively,

April Claudio  
Municipal Clerk