

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MINUTES**

JUNE 21, 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

ABSENT:

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, first responders, Fernando Perez

WORKSHOP DISCUSSION:

- Woman's Club presentation \$150 donations to the Belmar Library, Fire Department, Police Department and Historical Society.
- Mayor Walsifer discussed the hearing held last week for the sidewalk assessment program. Peter Avakian, Borough Engineer, stated those that participated received an initial assessment back in 2016 and 2017, then received a final bill after construction, and then got a notice that the final bill will also include engineering costs. Most of the people who attended the hearing were not aware of the engineering costs being included. He stated that the engineering costs for 30% of the project which he felt was disproportionate. It should be more like 15%. Mayor Walsifer explained the previous engineer had submitted a proposal for phase one of the project but didn't submit one for phase two so the costs were just doubled. Mr. Avakian stated the billing should have been done in 2017 or 2018 but it was not done. This Administration was ready to do it in 2020 but then Covid hit, and they couldn't hold the public hearing. It was his and CFO Lorraine Carafa's recommendation that the Mayor and Council waive the engineering fee part of the assessment. The Mayor and Council thought it would be appropriate to waive the fees. Mr. Varga will read a resolution into the record for the Mayor and Council to vote on later on the agenda.

2022 BUDGET HEARING:

- Public hearing on introduced budget
 - o CFO Lorraine Carafa gave a PowerPoint presentation. Auditor Bob Allison was present to answer questions as well.
 - o There will be slight decrease in the tax rate. Surplus was replaced in 2021 so she was able to use some for 2022. The budget is stable, and debt is being paid down.
 - o Councilman McCracken asked about inflation. Ms. Carafa stated that has been taken into consideration.
 - o Councilman Carvelli asked for more information on the surplus. Ms. Carafa stated it is appropriate to use surplus in the budget, but you try not to use more than what was replaced in the prior year.
 - o Mr. Allison stated three years ago the surplus was at 13/14% and is now at 23% which is healthy.
 - o Councilman Brennan thanked Ms. Carafa and Mr. Allison for their hard work on creating a conservative budget. Councilwoman Kinney agreed.
 - o Mr. Allison talked about how the shared service revenues affect the budget positively.
 - o Katrina Clapsis, B Street, was excited to hear the principal debt and interest are being paid down.
 - o Ellen Zavian, 9th Avenue, asked about the recreation budget. Ms. Carafa explained to her the recreation budget.
 - o Sandra Caputo, Surf Avenue, asked who did the engineering for the sidewalk project. Ms. Carafa stated it was Maser Consulting.
 - o Jerry Buccafusco, 409 5th Avenue, stated surplus is great but the 2019 tax increase was 20% and then never went down. If there is more than is needed taxes should be going down but instead there is more spending. He asked questions about EMS salaries in the budget, which Ms. Carafa explained. He felt it was great to pay down debt, but the overall debt isn't going down.
 - o Ms. Carafa stated there is not a lot fat in the budget and it is very responsible and allowing the

Mayor and Council to provide services to the residents.

- Mr. Allison stating debt is being paid down while not increasing it. He felt the surplus should actually be more.
- Tom Dilberger, 1000 River Road, spoke about inflation and the school budget. Felt the school should go away. He thought there were more Borough vehicles in town. Mayor Walsifer explained vehicles were replaced but there is the same amount as before.
- Bob Lynch, 316 9th Avenue, spoke about shared service revenue, PILOT payments and concession rent decrease.
- George Komitas, 111 3rd Avenue, spoke about the importance of the school.

- **No. 2022-107 RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

- Public hearing for amended budget to be held July 12, 2022

PETITIONS: Ms. Claudio stated she received a petition from Linda Sharkus and John Walsh regarding over development in town.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilwoman Kinney made a motion to approve the June 8, 2022 minutes, which was seconded by Councilman Carvelli and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Brennan, McCracken, Kinney and Walsifer

ABSTAIN: Carvelli

REPORTS OF COUNCIL:

Councilman Carvelli: Planning Board met June 1st and approved a change of use application. Harbor Commission met and discussed repairs to the fuel dock. Finance Committee met and is waiting on some reports for water/sewer.

Councilman McCracken: Juneteenth event last night was well attended. Thanked the Library and Recreation for putting on the event. Congratulated the successful candidates of the Primary election. Hoped everyone had a good Father's Day weekend.

Councilwoman Kinney: ADA Committee met last week. Baseball day is back on for this Saturday. Juneteenth event was very nice. Gave updates on school activities for Belmar, St. Rose Grammar and High School.

Councilman Brennan: No report.

Mayor Walsifer: Congratulated Luis Pulido for putting together the Juneteenth program. The Library always does a great job recognizing all the cultures in Belmar. Attended the Belmar Elementary graduation. It was nice to see the work done to the school auditorium. There will be a laser light show at Taylor Pavilion before the fireworks on July 1st. There are two new fountains in Silver Lake that light up. DPW is working on refurbishing one to be put in Lake Como. Commended their first responders for their efforts in rescuing nine swimmers.

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

Gene Creamer, 4th Avenue, discussed the broad package language in the Flames resolution with Mr. Varga.

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

CONSENT AGENDA #1 - 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. 2022-108 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS

No. 2022-109 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUNDS

No. 2022-110 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE BELMAR FIRE DEPARTMENT

No. 2022-115 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT TO THE 2022 TEMPORARY BUDGET

Seconded by Councilwoman Kinney and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Brennan, Kinney, McCracken, Carvelli and Walsifer

CONSENT AGENDA #2 - 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 McCracken offered the following resolutions for adoption:

No. 2022-111 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF SEASONAL RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSE TO D’JAIS LLC, T/A D’JAIS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 2023

No. 2022-112 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE WITH “BROAD PACKAGE PRIVILEGE” FOR 1000 MAIN LIQUOR LICENSE LLC (FLAMES) FOR PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 2023

No. 2022-113 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF PLENARY RETAIL DISTRIBUTION LICENSE TO ARPADO, INC. T/A HANLEY’S LIQUORS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 2023

No. 2022-114 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSE NO. 1306-34-011-011 TO 1000 MAIN LIQUOR LICENSE LLC T/A JACKS BY THE TRACKS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 2023

Seconded by Mayor Walsifer and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Kinney, McCracken, Carvelli and Walsifer

ABSTAIN: Brennan

Mr. Varga read Resolution 2022-116, Resolution to waive the engineering costs for the sidewalk assessment program.

Councilwoman Kinney made a motion to amend the agenda to include Resolution 2022-116, which was seconded by Councilman Carvelli and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Kinney, McCracken, Carvelli and Walsifer

ABSTAIN: Brennan

Public Session on Resolution 2022-116: None

Councilman Carvelli made a motion to close the public session, which was seconded by Councilwoman Kinney and approved unanimously.

Councilwoman Kinney made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-116, which was seconded by Mayor Walsifer and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Kinney, McCracken, Carvelli and Walsifer

ABSTAIN: Brennan

Councilman Brennan abstained because he participated in the sidewalk assessment program.

ORDINANCES: None

PUBLIC SESSION:

Linda Sharkus, 4th Avenue and John Walsh, B Street, read the description of their online petition regarding overdevelopment. The consensus of the residents who signed the petition is to keep the small-town feel.

Mr. Varga explained how the Mayor and Council cannot discuss development applications before the Planning Board and Zoning Board.

Randi Brazel, 11th Avenue, stated it is intimidating for residents to go before the Zoning Board.

John Walsh, B Street, thanked the Mayor for getting the chin up bar back at the beach and fixing the pothole he spoke about. He felt there will be issues he and the Mayor will disagree on, and everyone should be civilized.

Luis Pulido, Belmar Library, spoke about upcoming Library events.

Tom Dilberger, 1000 River Road, spoke about the school budget again. He wanted the skatepark reopened.

Jane Salmon, Wall Township, spoke about how she wanted to create a donation fund for the skate park and a committee to review plans for it. She questioned why they were not able to find any lawsuits at the skatepark.

Mr. Varga explained there was an incident in 2019 where a minor had a severe broken leg. The lawsuit was thrown out by the court on a technicality. Their lawyer did not file paperwork timely. This is the incident that led to the insurance company investigating the skatepark and ultimately shutting it down.

Ms. Salmon asked when the public will hear proposals on the skatepark. Mr. Kirschenbaum stated he is still working on getting information and talking to other towns. He also explained that she has mentioned fundraising but has done any so far.

Councilman McCracken asked Ms. Salmon if her group has talked other towns about contributing to the skatepark since so many people from other towns come to use it.

Joe McEvoy, 700 Main Street, addressed Mr. Sabia's comment from the last meeting. Spoke about lights at the monuments at 12th and Main Street. Spoke about the electric leaf blowers Councilman Brennan spoke about previously.

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

Respectively submitted,

April Claudio
Municipal Clerk