

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 28, 2019 at 6:30 pm

A regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bradley Beach was held in the Meeting Room, 701 Main Street, Bradley Beach, New Jersey on the above date.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gary Engelstad opened the meeting with a salute to the flag.

Sunshine Law

The meeting has been noticed publicly according to the Open Public Meetings Act requirement for the “Annual Notice”, and posted on the official bulletin board.

ROLL CALL 6:30 pm

Present: Council: Weber, Goldfarb, Bonnell, Cotler
Mayor Engelstad
Borough Attorney Marguerite Schaffer
Borough Auditor, Gerard Stankiewicz
Municipal Clerk/Administrator Kelly Barrett
Chief Financial Officer, Gail Krzyzczuk
Deputy Municipal Clerk, Erica Kostyz

WORKSHOP DISCUSSION: 2019-2023 Strategic Plan

Paula Gavin Volunteer Strategic Plan Facilitator presented the following overview and timeline of the Strategic Plan process:

- November, 2018 – Ms. Gavin contacted Mayor Engelstad and offered her expertise/services in Strategic Planning.
- January, 2019 - Met with the Council individually and department heads to gain input on the makings of the plan. A planning guide was posted on the borough website for businesses and residents to review.
- February, 2019 – A special public meeting was held for the Council to discuss and comment on the strategic plan framework.
- March, 2019 - A survey for residents and businesses was prepared with questions pertaining to the borough’s vision, mission and an assessment of the town.
- April, 2019 - The public survey was analyzed and the results presented.
- May, 2019 – Final version of the Strategic Plan presented to the governing body for adoption.

Ms. Gavin stated that the next step in Strategic Planning requires further study of the vision, goals, etc. and implementing task forces which will be made up of resident volunteers. The task force information will be posted on the website.

Mayor Engelstad read the ten (10) goals and strategies of the strategic plan. The Council thanked Ms. Gavin for her hard work and volunteerism.

ON MOTION by Engelstad/Goldfarb to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 14, 2019

ROLL CALL AYES: Weber, Goldfarb, Bonnell, Cotler, Engelstad
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

APPROVED

PUBLIC COMMENT

Thomas Coan, 612 Third Avenue, questioned if a public hearing would be held on the budget. He expressed concerns regarding the use of surplus in the beach budget and suggested raising beach badge fees.

Mayor Engelstad responded that the public hearing on the budget was held at the last meeting.

Mr. Stankiewicz stated that the borough is similar to other beach communities as we are heavily dependent on the weather for beach revenue. The surplus in the beach budget is utilized to balance the budget.

Al Gubitosi, 615 Fourth Avenue, expressed various concerns regarding the budget. He stated that there was a lack of transparency with the sewer and beach budget by the few budget documents made available to the public. He was concerned that the borough will run out of money by using significant amounts of surplus to balance the budget.

Councilman Cotler stated that surplus has been regenerated year after year by the prudent management of expenses and funds. He continued that surplus is tax payer's money and surplus is utilized to balance the budget rather than raising taxes.

Mr. Stankiewicz stated that the borough was utilizing less than 50% of the surplus and some towns utilize 100% of surplus to balance their budgets. The detailed budget documents are available to the public upon request. The introduction to the budget was posted on the borough's website.

Henry Machos, 209 Third Avenue, expressed concerns regarding funds being expended for the implementation of a Strategic Plan. He commented that a plan is not needed as the governing body is currently accomplishing the goals the borough wishes to achieve.

Mayor Engelstad stated that we have not committed funds for the plan, the approval is for the strategic plan which will require additional studies prior to implementation and funding.

ORDINANCE 2019-15

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF BRADLEY BEACH, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, CHAPTER 365, ENTITLED "RENTAL PROPERTY,"

ON MOTION by Engelstad/Weber to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-15
ROLL CALL AYES: Weber, Goldfarb, Bonnell, Cotler, Engelstad
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

Mayor Engelstad stated that Ordinance 2019-15 is a recommendation from the Code Office as the “Summer Rental License” conflicts with the Certificate of Occupancy Ordinance along with public safety concerns.

Councilman Cotler suggested the borough include dog regulations within the rental ordinance(s).

Ms. Schaffer stated that she would review the current dog regulation ordinance to confirm that it is sufficient and covers rentals.

Thomas Coan, 612 Third Avenue, expressed concerns that Ordinance 2019-15 was not workshopped and requested more time be given to review the Ordinance.

Richard Despina, 600 Third Avenue, commented that he had neighbors who had rented their property as an Air Bnb.

Julie Nutaitis, 615 Newark Avenue, commented that the message needs to get out to the residents that Bradley Beach is taking rentals very seriously.

Jim Sheridan, Central Avenue, thanked the Mayor and Council for a wonderful Memorial Day event

ON MOTION by Engelstad/Cotler to close the public hearing and adopt Ordinance 2019-15 subject to the Borough Attorney’s report that the current ordinance covers the requirement of animals being properly licensed

ROLL CALL AYES: Weber, Goldfarb, Bonnell, Cotler, Engelstad
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

Communications

ON MOTION by Engelstad/Goldfarb to move the request from Dave Sky Surfboards to the Consent Agenda

ROLL CALL AYES: Weber, Goldfarb, Bonnell, Cotler, Engelstad
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

ON MOTION by Engelstad/Weber to approve the consent agenda
ROLL CALL AYES: Weber, Goldfarb, Bonnell, Cotler, Engelstad
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

CONSENT AGENDA

- Resolution 2019-111 Authorized a sewer payment refund in the amount of \$140.62 for 103 Park Place Avenue (Block 25 Lot 8)
- Resolution 2019-112 Authorized a disabled veteran’s exemption for Michal LaMorte, 314 McCabe Avenue (Block 28 Lot 27)
- Resolution 2019-113 Authorized a tax payment refund in the amount of \$3,588.14 for 314 McCabe Avenue (Block 28 Lot 27)
- Resolution 2019-114 Authorized a tax title lien redemption in the amount of \$51,314. 501 Park Place Avenue (Block 21 Lot 10)
- Resolution 2019-115 BILL LIST
- Resolution 2019-116 Authorizing Gerald Freda, Borough Engineer to conduct engineering services for Phase II of the Improvements to Ocean Park Avenue at a fee not to exceed \$40,500.
- Resolution 2019-117 Authorized the appointment of Michele Whille as ADA Coordinator through December 31, 2019
- Resolution 2019-118 Authorized an Outdoor Café license for “Fin’s Restaurant”, 120 Main St.
- Resolution 2019-119 Authorized a Liquor License renewal for “Bradley Liquors”, 618 Main St.
- Resolution 2019-120 Authorized a Liquor License renewal for “Shore Wine & Liquors”, 810 Main Street with conditions
- Resolution 2019-121 Authorized a Liquor License renewal for “Pagano’s UVA Restaurant”, 800-808 Main Street
- Resolution 2019-122 Authorized a Liquor License renewal for “Bradley Beach Bowl”, 1217 Main Street with conditions
- Resolution 2019-123 Authorized a Liquor License renewal for “Portuguese Shamrock LLC T/A Elbow Room Bar and Restaurant”, 416 Main Street
- Resolution 2019-124. Authorized the adoption of the Strategic Plan

APPROVED

Authorized Dave Kaminsky (Dave SKY Surfboards) to conduct surfboard demos with the use of a 10’ X 10’ tent at the Third Avenue beach for ten (10) different dates in June through August.

ON MOTION by Engelstad/Goldfarb to adopt the 2019 Municipal Budget
ROLL CALL AYES: Goldfarb, Cotler, Engelstad
NAYS: Weber, Bonnell
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

Councilman Weber stated that he was voting No for the budget because he was concerned with the utilization of surplus in the budget. He would rather the surplus be used to purchase vehicles, equipment, etc. and we are putting the surplus back into the current fund. We are not raising taxes but we are using the taxes that were collected last year for this year's budget. He continued that we are heading in the right direction but could do better.

Councilman Bonnell stated he was voting no for the budget. I am not comfortable with the way surplus is utilized in the budget. The borough needs to identify surplus and use it for larger purchases. We need to first look at appropriations. There was a significant amount of debt service that came off and it was put right back into the budget without a specific use. We were heading in the right direction last year by cutting appropriation and now we are veering away from that.

Councilman Cotler stated that if surplus is used to purchase items, the borough will not have surplus to stabilize taxes and we will need to raise taxes. We have consistently utilized surplus judiciously. I was part of the past administration and we recognized the excessive bonding in the past and addressed the issue in a fiscally responsible manner. I think the budget is a good budget and the municipal portion of the budget is not increasing.

Mayor Engelstad stated that the Auditor and CFO have worked hard on this budget with the department heads and the municipal taxes will remain flat. There are contractual increases in the budget without an increase in the municipal taxes. The Council made a radical move last year by making significant changes to the police contract which addressed the highest paid employees. The borough's assessments have increased and we reduced the tax rate to avoid an increase in municipal taxes. The property owners will see an increase in their overall tax bill, however the increase represents portions of the tax bill that is out of our control (county, school & library).

Councilman Goldfarb commented that the borough is replacing a portion of the sewer system that has not been done for a long time. Once the debt is retired the funds will be utilized for additional projects.

Resolution 2019-125 Authorized the adoption of the 2019 Municipal Budget

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Weber mentioned several successful events that were held on May 18th. He announced that there was new signage at the Maritime Forest and that the borough received a certificate of appreciation from US Fish and Wildlife. He thanked Capt. Al and Jim Shissas for all of their help and offered a special thanks to John Bauer who has been maintaining the Maritime Forest for year. He commented that the Memorial Day Ceremony and Event was great and the dedicating the lane to John McLoughlin was well deserved. He thanked the Police Department for doing a fine job when the Governor was in town. He stated that the Rec Center is being worked on in time for the school's extravaganza in June. He suggested in the future charging a daily rate to the event coordinators of the festivals.

Councilman Goldfarb stated that the Memorial Day parade was a great success. He thanked all of the volunteers and committee members and a special thanks to Michele Whille for all their hard work.

Councilman Bonnell mentioned that the DPW cleaned up the area where the Memorial Day Festival was held in record time. He expressed concerns regarding the grass that was damaged during the festival and suggested that the repairs be outsourced. He recommended notifying the Passion Group prior to the Labor Day Festival of their responsibility to repair any damages.

Councilman Cotler expressed concerns regarding individuals placing private household trash in the public trash receptacles along the lakes. He suggested the violators dumping the trash be fined. He thanked the Memorial Day Committee and everyone who had participated in the event for one of best parades the borough has ever had.

Mayor Engelstad recognized his predecessor Mayor Julie Shrek for establishing the beautiful Maritime Forest. He commented on the New York Post article recognizing Bradley Beach as one of the best beaches on the east coast. He stated that the borough had a wonderful holiday weekend and thanked the entire Borough Staff for their hard work. He was pleased to announce that we started off the season very well with a significant increase in beach sales from last year. The "Showroom" theater is scheduled to open on Friday and thanked Mike Sodano for investing in our town. The borough was blessed to have John Tarrantino, WWII veteran, as the speaker at the Memorial Day Ceremony. An alley was dedicated and named "John McLoughlin Way" for one of the borough's longtime volunteers that we lost last year.

Terry Wright, 406 Madison Avenue, stated that he was pleased with the budget and was confused by the opposition. He agreed with the use of surplus to stabilize taxes and stated surplus is a good thing.

Eileen Shissas, 112 Fourth Avenue, mentioned that an email was received from JCP&L commenting on how pleased they were with the Maritime Forest and it would be mentioned in their newsletter.

Sharon Nan, Evergreen Avenue expressed concerns regarding a serious public safety issue. Her neighbors have 100 lb. vicious dogs that have attacked people and other dogs. The dog's continuously bark and jump on her fence and she and her family are frightened as they have been attacked in the past. She was seeking assistance from the governing body as she was concerned for future attacks where a child could be killed.

Mayor Engelstad responded that he was sorry for the frightening experience. He was unable to comment other than that he was aware that the case was before the court. The case had been transferred out of town as the dog's owner is a borough employee.

Tim Sexsmith, 500 LaReine Avenue, expressed concerns regarding the over flowing trash dumpster at the Quick Check parking lot.

Eileen Shissas, Fourth Avenue, stated that it is dangerous to allow the dogs free on the beach.

Julie Nutaitis, Newark Avenue expressed concerns regarding the over flowing trash containers and how the trash ends up in private yards. She commented that Main Street is being neglected and there are overgrown weeds in the tree beds.

Rich Despina, 600 Third Avenue, requested that the five minute time limit on the public comments be removed.

Councilman Goldfarb mentioned that he, Ms. Barrett and Mr. Cofone reviewed the placement of the Empanada Food Truck at the beachfront and are discussing options to improve the appearance around the food truck area.

Sue Monroe, 500 LaReine Avenue, announced that the school budget was passed and mentioned that the school is mandated to raise the cap. She reminded everyone of the School Extravaganza held at the Rec Center on June 7th.

Mike McCarthy, 604 ½ McCabe Avenue commented that the trash dumpster at Quick Check was piled high with trash and Quick Check should have had the trash dumped sooner.

Al Gubitosi, 615 Fourth Avenue, commented on the fine job the Police Department and the Department of Public Works on handling of the 1,000's of tourists over the holiday weekend. He was in agreement with the strategic plan and offered suggestions do the plan and the budget.

Councilman Goldfarb stated that there are grants available for Main Street businesses for façade improvements.

Thomas Coan 612 Third Avenue, complimented the Memorial Day speaker John Tarrantino, WWII Vet. He mentioned that the school is handling their budget very well. He recommended the borough hold Saturday Budget Workshop Meetings next year allowing the public more time to view the budget. He expressed concerns regarding additional parking issues that result from the newly renovated the movie theater.

Engelstad/Goldfarb moved to adjourn

ADJOURN 8:25 PM

KELLY BARRETT RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk/Administrator