#### **BOROUGH OF BRADLEY BEACH**

#### COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

# MAY 24, 2022 AT 6:00 P.M.

A Council Business 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 Fox opened the meeting with a salute to the flag.

Sunshine Law was read.

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 in the Borough Office.

#### **ROLL CALL AT 6: P.M.**

Present at the May 10, 2022 Council Business Meeting:

Councilman Randy Bonnell Councilman Al Gubitosi

**Councilman Tim Sexsmith** 

Councilman John Weber

**Mayor Larry Fox** 

**Municipal Clerk: Erica Kostyz** 

Borough Attorney, Gregory Cannon (arrived at 6:10 p.m.)

**Labor Attorney, Eric Bernstein (present for Workshop Discussions)** 

Public Relations Consultant, Mairin Bellack (present for Workshop Discussion)

# **Mayor Fox:**

Requested a moment of silence for the victims of the recent school shooting in Texas.

ON MOTION by Fox/Weber to switch the order of Agenda item numbers five and six.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

AYES: Bonnell, Gubitosi, Sexsmith, Weber, Mayor Fox

NAYS: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

#### **APPROVED**

# PRESENTATIONS & BIDS:

Recognition for Library Board Members Vicky Johnson and Theresa Rosenberg.

Mayor Fox thanked Ms. Johnson and Ms. Rosenberg for their many years of dedication to the Library Board of Trustees and presented each with a plaque in honor of their service.

# **WORKSHOP DISCUSSION(S):**

# **Amendments to Chapter 5 Rules of Administration**

Councilman Gubitosi began the workshop stated the purpose of this workshop is to discuss ambiguities within this ordinance and to encourage more shared accountability between the Council and the Mayor.

Borough Attorney Greg Cannon mentioned various aspects of Chapter 5 to include appointment of powers, agenda procedures and which laws are applicable to change, and which are not.

Councilman Sexsmith stated agrees with the archaic changes in grammar, electronic mail and agenda procedures.

Councilman Bonnell stated the changes to this ordinance are aimed at a more balanced Governing Body.

Mayor Fox mentioned the Faulkner Act regulations and questioned the motivation for these recommended changes.

Discussions ensued amongst Borough Attorney, Greg Cannon, Labor Attorney, Eric Bernstein and the Governing Body regarding the following:

- The Faulkner Act form of Government
- Chapters 5-3D, 5-4, 5-8 E-2A, 5-9B, 5-9 C, 5-9H, 5-11 and, 5-13, 5-14H and 5-14I.
- Codifying an ordinance versus passing a resolution waive certain issues.
- Allowance for more input and approval from Council regarding the agenda items.
- Setting the Agenda in a timely manner and placing the onus on the Council versus the Clerk.
- More public input on ordinance introductions.
- Several Statutory references involving employee/officer appointments and the budget.

Mr. Bernstein advised adding additional language to the ordinance or by way of resolution is not going to expand the powers of the Council relative to nomination of the Mayor.

Mr. Bernstein and Mr. Cannon will discuss these change requests and advise the Governing Body.

Councilman Gubitosi mentioned a special service charge regarding fees for large OPRA requests that will require time and fees to fulfil.

Mr. Bernstein advised this is not a good idea as it is a very limited situation on what would require a special service charge.

Councilman Gubitosi withdrew the request for a special service charge ordinance.

# Amendments to Chapter 286 Solid Waste and Recycling

This discussion involved the inquiry if the pick-up schedule is an administrative responsibility versus Governing Body responsibility.

Mr. Bernstein stated the Public Works Supervisor is responsible for setting the pick-up schedule and running the day-to-day operations for the Department. Mr. Bernstein suggested discussing with the

Governing Body on a periodic basis to discuss the pick-up schedule and make the decision based on their opinions.

Mayor Fox stated the following two workshops are in response to getting conformance and limiting liability by informing employees and volunteers the rules of posting on social media.

### **Employee Handbook-Social Media Policy**

Due to the materials needing more review by Council, this discussion was tabled.

ON MOTION by Sexsmith/Bonnell to table this Workshop.

**ROLL CALL:** 

AYES: Bonnell, Gubitosi, Sexsmith, Weber, Mayor Fox

NAYS: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

#### **TABLED**

# **Volunteer Social Media Policy**

Councilman Gubitosi stated concern the wording is to stern and may discourage residents from volunteering and requested wording regarding first amendment rights.

Councilman Bonnell stated his concern is the wording interprets Local Government's control over personal social media.

Mairin Bellack, Public Relations Consultant, stated it is not the intention to sound harsh, however there are laws regarding government social media policies and posting and gave examples. Ms. Bellack continued the intention is to educate residents and volunteers of the social media rules to avoid potential litigations and not violate first amendment rights.

# **Beach Yoga**

Councilman Sexsmith explained an application submitted by the Safe Way Out Non-Profit Organization for Beach Yoga was denied due to the substantial number of dates. As per Borough ordinance, the applicant has the right to appeal to the Council.

Cara Turich, a representative of "A Safe Way Out," spoke on behalf of the non-profit organizations to include, Friends of the Bradley Beach Library, the Bradley Beach Food Pantry, and the Bradley Beach PTO. Ms. Turich stated she approached other non-profit organizations to organize a central location for Beach Yoga and allow other non-profit organizations to join.

Ms. Turich explained more dates were added this year to accommodate for rain dates and to accommodate tourists and visitors who may want to participate. Ms. Turich explained there is no fee to attend and the organization runs on cash donations.

Ms. Turich continued the Beach Yoga occurs in the morning before badges or payment is required to enter the beach and at sunset after badges are required.

Discussion ensued regarding the volume of activity, the times, and days the Beach Yoga would take place, resident concerns and parking.

The Governing Body decided to discuss the application further and provide Ms. Turich with a decision as soon as possible.

# **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

ON MOTION by Fox/Sexsmith to approve the Council Business Meeting Minutes of May 10, 2022.

# **ROLL CALL:**

AYES: Bonnell, Gubitosi, Sexsmith, Weber, Mayor Fox

NAYS: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

#### **APPROVED**

ON MOTION by Fox/Sexsmith to approve the Executive Session Minutes of May 10, 2022.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

AYES: Bonnell, Gubitosi, Sexsmith, Weber, Mayor Fox

NAYS: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

#### **APPROVED**

# **Public Comments and Ouestions on Agenda Items:**

Nancy Meadow, 805 Beach Avenue, feels the After-School Care Director should be a Board of Education expense and expressed concerns with several items on the bill list.

Don Greenberg, 302 Park Place Avenue, suggested making the list of workshop items for 2022 viewable to the public and inquired about hybrid meetings.

Councilman Sexsmith addressed the inquiry regarding Hybrid meetings.

Discussion ensued regarding the time it takes for the permit process for recreation events.

Brigitte McGuire, 610 Brinley Avenue, expressed her opinions regarding the Volunteer Social Media Policy.

Thomas J. Coan, 612 Third Avenue, had inquiries on the Executive Session Resolution, 319 LaReine Avenue, and the Resignation/Full Time Communications Memo.

Mr. Cannon addressed the Executive Session resolution inquiry and the Communications Employee Memo.

Mayor Fox addressed the inquiry regarding 319 LaReine Avenue.

Mr. Coan commented on the Workshops regarding Chapter 286 and Chapter 5.

Public Comment on Agenda Items through email: None

# **ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION(S):**

#### **ORDINANCE 2022-3**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BOROUGH'S REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES TO REPEAL CHAPTER 217: "FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION" AND REPLACE WITH NEW CHAPTER 217: "FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION" TO ADOPT FLOOD HAZARD MAPS AND TO CREATE THE POSITION OF FLOODPLAIN ADMNISTRATOR AND TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ON MOTION by Fox/Sexsmith to introduce Ordinance 2022-3.

**ROLL CALL:** 

AYES: Bonnell, Gubitosi, Sexsmith, Weber, Mayor Fox

NAYS: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

#### **INTRODUCED**

# **ORDINANCE ADOPTION(S):**

# **ORDINANCE 2022-04**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 450: "ZONING" OF THE BOROUGH'S REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES TO PERMIT THE BOROUGH'S ZONING OFFICER TO REQUIRE THE SUBMISSION OF AS-BUILT SURVEYS FOR CERTAIN COMPLIANCE INSPECTIONS.

Councilman Gubitosi suggested changing verbiage from the Zoning Officer may request As Built Surveys to As Built Surveys are required as part of the building process.

Mayor Fox stated this has been noted with the Borough Engineer and can be changed later.

Councilman Gubitosi inquired if the Ordinance was given to the Land Use Board for a consistency determination prior to adoption.

Mr. Cannon confirmed it was.

ON MOTION by Fox/Sexsmith to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2022-4.

**ROLL CALL:** 

AYES: Bonnell, Gubitosi, Sexsmith, Weber, Mayor Fox

NAYS: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

#### **Public Comments:**

# Thomas J. Coan, 612 Third Avenue, suggested adding a Location Foundation Survey as a requirement to this ordinance.

ON MOTION by Fox/Sexsmith to close the public hearing and adopt Ordinance 2022-4.

**ROLL CALL:** 

AYES: Bonnell, Gubitosi, Sexsmith, Weber, Mayor Fox

NAYS: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

#### **ADOPTED**

#### ORDINANCE 2022-05

# AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 9: "TRAFFIC" OF THE BOROUGH'S REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES TO CLARIFY THE ANNUAL APPLICATION FEE FOR SPECIAL PARKING PERMITS WITHIN THE BOROUGH

ON MOTION by Fox/Sexsmith to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2022-5.

**ROLL CALL:** 

AYES: Bonnell, Gubitosi, Sexsmith, Weber, Mayor Fox

NAYS: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

#### **Public Comments:**

# Thomas J. Coan, 612 Third Avenue, stated this ordinance is not good utilization of public parking.

ON MOTION by Fox/Sexsmith to close the public hearing and adopt Ordinance 2022-5.

**ROLL CALL:** 

AYES: Bonnell, Gubitosi, Sexsmith, Weber, Mayor Fox

NAYS: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

#### **ADOPTED**

# **COMMUNICATIONS:**

- 2022 Summer Cashiers and Gate Guards Employee/Salary Memo.
- 2022 Summer Lifeguards Employee/Salary Memo.
- 2022 Seasonal DPW Laborers Employee/Salary Memo.
- 2022 Class I and Class II Special Law Enforcement Officers Salary Memo.
- Employee resignations for DPW and Recreation/Grants Coordinator and After School Care Director Full-Time Employee Memo.

Councilman Weber inquired if the After School Care Director will be handling grants.

Mayor Fox responded no.

# **CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:**

2022-142 Bill List for May 24, 2022

- 2022-143 Approval for United Engine and Truck Company to conduct their 5K Race on Saturday, August 20 from 6:360 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- 2022-144 Authorizing a Special Parking Permit Refund in the amount of \$50.00.
- 2022-145 Appointment of Special Class I Officer.
- 2022-146 Approval of Annual Renewal Alcoholic Beverage Liquor License for D'Arcy, LLC T/A/ D'Arcy's Tavern.
- 2022-147 Approval of Annual Renewal Alcoholic Beverage Liquor License for Gladys and Carlotta, Inc. T/A Bradley Liquors.
- 2022-148 Approval of Annual Renewal Alcoholic Beverage Liquor License for KDK of Bradley, LLC T/A Bradley Beach Bowl.
- 2022-149 Approval of Annual Alcoholic Beverage Liquor License for UVA on Main, LLC T/A Pagano's UVA Restaurant and Wine Bar.
- 2022-150 Approval of Annual Renewal Alcoholic Beverage Liquor License for Swami Charan, Inc. T/A Shore Wines & Liquors.
- 2022-151 Approval of Annual Renewal of Alcoholic Beverage Liquor License for Vic's Bar & Restaurant, Inc.
- 202-152 Approval for The Tears Foundation to conduct their Fundraiser Walk for Child Loss Support on Sunday, May 22, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The application was not received with the payment submitted by the Tears Foundation Corporate Headquarters. The resolution is to memorialize the Special Event.

ON MOTION by Fox/Weber to approve the Consent Agenda.

**ROLL CALL:** 

AYES: Bonnell, Gubitosi, Weber, Mayor Fox

NAYS: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: Sexsmith

Councilman Sexsmith abstained due to a conflict of interest with the Liquor License renewals.

#### **APPROVED**

#### **INDIVIDUAL RESOLUTIONS:**

2022-153 Recognizing and supporting LGBTQ+ Pride Month.

ON MOTION by Fox/Weber to recognize and support LGBTQ+ Pride Month.

**ROLL CALL:** 

AYES: Bonnell, Gubitosi, Sexsmith, Weber, Mayor Fox

NAYS: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

#### **APPROVED**

# 2022-154 Authorizing the purchase of a 2022 Chevrolet Silverado via State Cooperative Contract for the Police Department.

ON MOTION by Fox/Sexsmith to authorize to the purchase of a 2022 Chevrolet Silverado via State Cooperative Contract for the Police Department.

**ROLL CALL:** 

AYES: Bonnell, Gubitosi, Sexsmith, Weber, Mayor Fox

NAYS: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

#### **APPROVED**

# 2022-155 Authorizing a renewal agreement for an Employee Assistance Program with Employee Network Program, Inc. (ENI).

ON MOTION by Fox/Sexsmith to Authorize a renewal agreement for an Employee Assistance Program with Employee Network Program, Inc. (ENI).

**ROLL CALL:** 

AYES: Bonnell, Gubitosi, Sexsmith, Weber, Mayor Fox

NAYS:

ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

#### **APPROVED**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS: None**

#### MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS:

# **Councilman Bonnell**

Gave the weekly Fire and First Aid Department weekly activity reports.

# Councilman Gubitosi

Almost three years ago, I ran for Council on a campaign promise of "Transparency." For my two-plus years on the Council, I have tried to honor that commitment, however, I have found that it is not always as easy as it might seem. As a member of the Council, I must honor the confidential nature of information shared with me. Of course, there are times when I have tried to respect differing opinions than mine, sometimes to the point of simply not sharing those differences with the public.

My commitment is to our residents. As your Council person, I can do more to be transparent. Beginning this evening, I will change the focus of my Council Report to a more resident-focused report. Going forward, I will reference my Council Report under a new title "I want people to know." With that said, I have five categories of updates to share with the public this evening.

First, updates about our two Lake Commissions: Sylvan Lake and Fletcher Lake Commissions;

The Sylvan Lake Commission is eagerly awaiting feedback from the Federal Government about potentially significant grant funding that might allow dredging and restoration of the Lake. A team of environmentalists applied for this funding on behalf of both Bradley Beach and Avon by the Sea. The Fletcher Lake Commission has redrafted their Charter, updating the original charter that was over 20 years old. The proposed, new Charter language is under attorney review for both Bradley and Neptune.

Next, the Council is continuing to make progress towards honoring my pledge which was made on February 8, 2022 to address seven key issues. As was noted in our May 10, 2022 Council meeting, this Council voted four to one that the Borough would commit to implementing Zoom for in person Council meetings, no later than June 30<sup>th</sup> of this year. This "Hybrid Zoom" technology will allow our residents to choose between attending our meetings in person or attending "virtually" via Zoom. I had also pledged to push for a formal review of the true costs of our Sewers. This is important because the Strategic Task Force, which focused upon this subject over a year ago, has stated that our Sewer Utility margins are actually a mirage. Once we account for future borrowing that is needed to upgrade our sewer infrastructure, our current rate structure will likely prove inadequate. I want people to know what the true cost of our sewers will be. The good news is that Council President Sexsmith has scheduled workshops on both of these topics for our next Council meeting on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Also, earlier tonight we workshopped our Solid Waste and Recycling Ordinance. After our next Council meeting on June 14<sup>th</sup>, we should have completed six of the seven key issues workshops that I pledged our Council would cover. On February 8<sup>th</sup> of this year. For those of you who remember my "Baseball" analogy to having a poor batting average just two weeks ago, I am now feeling much better about our prospects for delivering upon our commitments to our residents.

Also, I met with a few of the Leaders of our First Aid two weeks ago. On May 11, a group of our First Aid Department's leaders asked me if I could meet with them to listen to concerns they have expressed regarding the Shared Services Agreement that has been proposed between Bradley Beach and Neptune. In this agreement, we would pay a fee to utilize Neptune's EMS resources for primary First Aid coverage on weekdays, and our own Volunteer First Aid for evenings and weekends. As a Council person serving all of Bradley Beach, I felt it was my responsibility to meet with the leadership of this volunteer organization that has served Bradley for over eighty-five years. The discussion brought to light numerous aspects of our EMS operations that I did not

previously understand or appreciate. I am encouraging our First Aid group to continue to work with Council President Sexsmith to make sure that the full Council understands all of the data that is available relative to call volume, responsiveness, etc. to assure we can make an educated decision as to next steps.

Importantly, Bradley Beach has a serial OPRA requestor. As we discussed in our Workshop today, the Open Public Records Act (OPRA) allows the public to access Public Records by simply filling out a form and making a request for documents (emails, hand-written notes, text messages, etc.) on virtually any topic related to the public. This provides a critical right for the public. There are clear rules that all of the Council must follow to respond to these requests. Unfortunately, there are individuals that from time to time, try to manipulate the process. Sometimes, these individuals, often referred to as "Serial OPRA Requesters," systematically file OPRA requests, spanning many municipalities, typically looking for opportunities to sue municipalities for noncompliance with laws or for errors made. Any given request could include all emails related to a specific topic, potentially spanning multiple years and many requests can be made in a day or over a few weeks. What is important to note for our residents is that Bradley Beach has an active "Serial OPRA" requestor to contend with. This person is:

- 1) Anonymous, using a fake Gmail account through which to submit OPRA requests. This is allowable under the law, but I would have much greater respect for someone who is not hiding behind an alias, burdening the Council Members and Municipal Clerk, by making requests from at least four of our Council members (I know this because I submitted and OPRA request on the OPRA requestor. These requests consume many hours to gather and compile documentation; I personally have spent close to four hours compiling information from earlier requests and I have three more requests to which I must still respond.
- 2) This is costing the Borough a lot of money. We respond to an OPRA request by sending all documents to the Municipal Clerk. The Clerk must then share this documentation with the Borough's OPRA Attorney who reviews each document for possible redactions of confidential information. Each review by our Attorney could span hundreds of pages. The Borough has already received twelve OPRA requests over the last six months. It is likely that legal fees for reviewing the Borough's responses total thousands of dollars.
- 3) This is not very nice. This Serial OPRA requestor has already chastised our Clerk for tardiness in providing Responses, the delays for which were my fault, and implied potential legal action against the Borough by naming an OPRA attorney that they have contacted. This person(s) also filed a harassing OPRA request against Councilman Bonnell, trying to determine what Councilman Bonnell knew about the fake Gmail account being utilized, and finally this person(s) filed an OPRA request against me to learn about my communications with our First Aid Department leaders, literally within three hours of completing my meeting with our EMS.

I was told that there is a risk in calling out this Serial OPRA requester. Perhaps this Gmail account will continue to bombard me and our Clerk with new OPRA requests. Perhaps they will cost the Borough thousands of dollars more as we move forward with Attorney reviews. What is important to me is one thing, I want people to know. As a "P.S." to this story, I also want people to know that in the most recent version of our Borough's 2022 Budget, our budget for Legal Fees is increasing from \$100,000 to \$250,000.

Finally, I want people to know, that we fired the Auditor who completed our 2020 Audit. Many of our residents may have missed the fact that during our last Council meeting on May 10, 2022, we fired the Auditing Firm that completed our 2020 audit. This vote occurred very late, after the Council returned from a multiple hour Executive session. That night, Council voted to hire a new Auditor to conduct the 2022 Annual Audit. We also voted to hire this same new Auditor to conduct the 2021 Audit. What most people may not realize is that our Council had already made a commitment to hire the Audit Firm of Weilkotz, LLC to conduct the 2021 Audit, which we documented in a Resolution that we passed in January of 2021. In my opinion, the Borough of

Bradley Beach reneged on this commitment. During the weeks leading up to our May 10<sup>th</sup> Executive Session, I asked repeatedly that this Audit Firm be allowed to respond to criticisms made of their work. I wanted to hear both sides of the story, so to speak. This opportunity was never provided to allow the Weilkotz Firm to address any concerns raised about their work. Interestingly, Weilkotz, LLC is the same firm that delivered our 2020 Audit with numerous Audit comments or recommendations for improvement. These comments were particularly noteworthy given that our previous auditor presented no comments for three consecutive years. This was also the same firm that cleaned up poor prior recordkeeping by the Borough, and finally, the same firm that identified over \$600,000 of new surplus funds that the Borough had not recognized for over ten years. There is much more that I feel was "wrong" about this decision that I would like to share with the public. Unfortunately, much of what is discussed in Executive Session should remain confidential between Council members. Suffice it to say, this was an extremely disappointing Council experience, and an unprofessional way to treat a very professional Audit Firm. As one of my fellow Council members stated at the end of our Executive Session, "This is a terrible way to run a government."

# **Councilman Sexsmith**

- Mentioned a recent meeting with the First Aid Squad to discuss the Shared Service Agreement, actions the Squad can take to strengthen their organization and commended the Squad for the great job they have been doing recently.
- Mentioned an issue with the Memorial Drive intersection. Councilman Sexsmith stated he will be reaching
  out to the Monmouth County Commissioners to discuss how to address this problem to avoid potential
  motor vehicle accidents.
- The Memorial Day Parade will be on Saturday, May 28th at 10:00 a.m. on Ocean Avenue.
- The Memorial Day Service will be held on Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 a.m.in Riley Park.
- The Board of Education is conducting a meeting this evening to vote on an interim Superintendent.
- The striping on Newark Avenue is scheduled to begin on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Notifications will be going out shortly
- Councilman Sexsmith stated he appreciates Councilman Gubitosi's efforts towards amendments to Chapter 5, however feels a more effective outcome would have been to discuss the shortfalls the Governing Body is currently experiencing.

# Councilman Weber

- The Chapter 5 amendments workshopped this evening are intended to give more power to the public and the Governing Body as a whole.
- Read aloud Resolution 2022-153 recognizing LGBTQ+ Pride Month.
- Announced Summertime Surf will be offering free Surfing Clinics in honor of Local Hero's Week to individuals and their families who work in Municipal Government the week of June 13<sup>th</sup>.
- The Environmental Commission has submitted their Sustainable Jersey Application for certification.
- Undated the public on the Energy Aggregation Program.
- The Elementary School recently honored their National Honor Society Members.
- Mentioned the Executive Session regarding the 2022 Auditor that took place on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Mayor Fox**

The Summer of 2022 is upon us. After a rough Spring in terms of weather and pollen counts, I think we may have turned the corner; and we are completing all the necessary preparations for our summer visitors. Our Public Works and our Public Safety Teams are ready. One slight change in our beach badge sales is that we are selling weekly badges for \$45.00. We hope this is a good option for multi-day or weekly renters.

This past Monday Commissioner Arnone and the Monmouth County Commissioners held a press conference to kick off the Summer at the Jersey Shore. Bradley Beach was mentioned for its restaurants and beaches.

Our annual Memorial Day festivities are in the final planning stages. I believe the weather will cooperate. It is nice to see some "normalcy" back in our town after two challenging pandemic years.

You may notice some new signs on the east side of our dunes. Last week, Jessica Ray, Staff Scientist for Ecological Research and Restoration at Raritan Valley Community College, had a team visit our beach and work through improvements in our dune protection program; These improvements are not not only to protect the dunes, but aim to protect at least 10-15% of the beach space in front of the dunes to allow for the plant habitats to be fostered and grow without being stepped on and disturbed. This also allows for the dunes to form more naturally and build up sand gradually, therefore creating extremely durable dune structures which are more compacted than artificial dunes and have been shown to work better in protecting the communities behind them during hurricanes.

Thanks to Councilman Weber for recommending this group.

Thanks for those who participated in the Bike Rodeo at the Recreation Center on Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Last, mark your calendars for Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. for The Mayors Wellness Walk. You will be seeing ads on this soon. We are expanding. Register for the walk on the Website at bradleybeachnj.gov.

Thank you for your patience around the sewer infrastructure project. We are listening to your input and addressing issues as they come out. We are progressing.

We are planning to adopt the budget on June 14<sup>th</sup> with an amendment to the budget. The amendment will be published in the newspaper three days prior to the public hearing on June 14<sup>th</sup> and the amendment will be read in full during the same meeting as per Local Budget Law N.J.S.A. 40A:4-9.

# **In person Public Comment:**

Don Greenberg, 302 Park Place Avenue, inquired if the Borough will go back to weekly recycling pick-up.

Mayor Fox stated recycling pick-up will begin the week of June 29th.

Mr. Greenberg suggested a bike safety education program.

Rick Bartolomei, 116 Newark Avenue, confirmed there will be fireworks this year and mentioned benches in the Beach Gazebos.

Jack Gentempo, 103 Fourth Avenue, mentioned 319 LaReine Avenue has recently been recognized as one of the top ten most endangered historic landmarks by the group Preservation New Jersey in Trenton on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

Nancy Meadow, 805 Beach Avenue, commented on the following:

- Clarified with the Clerk there were no public emails for this meeting.
- Public commentary being allowed during workshops.
- Not in favor of Beach Yoga.
- Tickets should be issued to bicycle riders that are going the wrong way.
- Expressed several beach complaints concerning law enforcement.
- Suggested posting the materials that are being workshopped for the public to view.

Jim Shissias, 112 Fourth Avenue, thanked Councilman Gubitosi for his commentary this evening and is in favor of changing the form of government and asked what the next step would be.

Mr. Cannon and Councilman Weber addressed this inquiry.

Eileen Shissias, inquired about the history of government in the Borough and forms of government in surrounding towns.

Mr. Cannon addressed Ms. Shissias's inquiry.

John Naples, 1009 Ocean Avenue, suggested there be less workshop topics placed on the agenda due to time constraints.

Kathy Martin, 410 Bradley Boulevard, expressed safety concerns in reference to the sinkhole and inquired if there is any progress.

Mayor Fox addressed Ms. Martin's inquiry.

Paula Gentempo, 103 Fourth Avenue, stated 319 LaReine Avenue has been recognized as one of the top ten places in New Jersey to be preserved.

Thomas McGuire, 610 Brinley Avenue, suggested posting the Council Meeting legal notice published in newspapers on social media venues and expressed concerns with the road condition on Sixth Avenue.

Brigette McGuire, 610 Brinley Avenue, read a prepared statement regarding the budget and change in form of government.

Thomas J. Coan, 612 Third Avenue, stated his opinions on the number of workshops in every meeting, requested a status on the budget adoption, requested listing of Land Use Board Meetings on the website, requested electric bike signage on the boardwalk, and mentioned the serial OPRA requestor mentioned by Councilman Gubitosi.

Julie Nutaitis, 605 Newark Avenue, thanked Councilman Gubitosi and Councilman Weber for their council report commentary and expressed concern regarding the serial OPRA requestor mentioned by Councilman Gubitosi.

Ms. Nutaitis also expressed concerns regarding the cost to taxpayers to fulfil these OPRA requests and suggested an accounting of the costs being incrued for the public.

Mary Backstrom, 218 Fourth Avenue, made several inquiries regarding recycling and social media policies.

Mayor Fox and Mr. Cannon addressed Ms. Backstrom's inquiries.

# **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Resolution 2022-156 Retire into Executive Session to discuss a Contractual Matter and a Litigation Matter.

ON MOTION by Fox/Sexsmith to retire into Executive Session at 9:55 to discuss a Contractual Matter and a Litigation Matter.

**ROLL CALL:** 

AYES: Bonnell, Gubitosi, Sexsmith, Weber, Mayor Fox

NAYS: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

# **APPROVED**

ON MOTION by Fox/Sexsmith to return from Executive Session at 10:10 p.m. to adjourn the Council Business Meeting.

**ROLL CALL:** 

AYES: Gubitosi, Sexsmith, Weber, Mayor Fox

NAYS: None ABSENT: Bonnell ABSTAIN: None

Fox/Sexsmith motioned to Adjourn the Council Business Meeting.

THE COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:15 P.M.

Erica Kostyz Erica Kostyz, RMC, CMR

Municipal Clerk