

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
HELD MAY 16, 2023**

A meeting of the City Council of the City of Long Beach was held on Tuesday May 16, 2023.

Present were Council Pres. Bendo and Council Members, Lester, McInnis, Posterli and Treston.

Corporation Counsel Dennis Cohen and Acting City Manager Ronald Walsh were also present.

Acting City Manager began his report with announcing that the draft Comprehensive Plan was currently up on the city's website. He also announced that there be an educational forum on May 24th starting at 7:00pm by the Citizens Campaign for the Environment regarding wind farms. Mr. Walsh also added that they would be bringing in experts to discuss different topics of concern.

The Acting City Manager then responded to the questions presented at the last city council meeting held on re:

- Cost to the City regarding outside consultants
- How much was spent on the claw back lawsuit and other related matters
- Revenue to the city for the JCC Day Care Program
- Youth and Family Services Programming
- Veteran Services
- Total expenditures for the MLK Community Center
- Business and Occupation fees
- Cost for Snowfall conditions
- NYSERDA meetings
- Vehicle and Traffic Law enforcement

Council President Bendo added to a few of the questions asked.

Council Member Posterli thanked Ms. Patti Bourne, Director of Economic Development and those who worked on moving the draft Comprehensive Plan forward.

The public hearings were held

PUBLIC HEARING: Local Law Amending Subpart C of Related Acts Relating to the Charter of the City of Long Beach Re: A Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law § 3-c.

Mr. Bendo spoke to the public hearing regarding piercing the tax cap.

Council Member Lester asked Mr. Dennis Cohen, Corporation Counsel, to provide more information regarding this item so that the public had a better understanding.

Mr. Cohen then provided more information on the item.

Sheryl Merles – spoke on the wrong item

Lisa Spar (840 Shore Rd) – asked what the ramifications were to the city by exceeding the tax cap.

Council President Bendo explained the NYS law regarding exceeding the tax cap.

PUBLIC HEARING: For the purpose of giving citizens an adequate opportunity to publicly present their views on the General Summary of the Capital Improvement Program for the Five-Year Period from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2028.

Mr. Bendo gave a brief explanation of a capital plan.

Commissioner of Public Works, Mr. Joseph Febrizio then began the presentation on this item. (See attached)

Council Vice President Treston thanked Commissioner Febrizio for his hard work.

Council Member Lester asked about the Water Tower project.

Mr. Febrizio and Mr. Walsh responded to Mr. Lester's question.

Council Member McInnis asked about speaking to other officials and asking for help in funding this project.

Acting City Manager, Walsh replied that the city was in contact with Senator Schumer's office as well as Congressman D'Esposito's office to try and get funding to put toward the water tower project.

A discussion continued regarding the total cost and funding for the capital improvement plan.

Council Member McInnis thanked Commissioner Febrizio for creating a working document that was helpful to the council. She then spoke about the Auditors' recommendation in purchasing a capital asset tracking system module to track assets and other purchases for the accounting department. Ms. McInnis encouraged the implementation of this tracking system.

City Comptroller, Inna Reznik noted that this was one of the items included in the capital improvement plan and the city received a grant from the FRB (Financial Review Board) and will hopefully get the approval to allow the city to move forward. She also added that the cost for this project was fully reimbursable.

Council President Bendo then spoke about the importance of having a new water tower.

Tim Kramer (361 E Broadway) – asked about the time management software system and his concern about the current procedure.

Ms. Reznik and Mr. Walsh responded to Mr. Kramer's questions.

Lynn Criss (Olive St) – asked about the water main line replacement in the “Walks” area between New York Avenue and Grand Blvd.

Commissioner Febrizio noted that this project was 100% designed and approved by the health department but is still waiting for funding. He added that if the capital plan is approved, then it could go out to bid and potentially begin as early as next Spring. Mr. Febrizio then gave a description of the project.

Joseph Naham (700 Shore Rd) – asked about several projects that would be taking place including roadwork.

Mr. Febrizio responded to Mr. Naham’s questions.

Crystal Lake (206 E Market St) – spoke about the Sherman Brown park and asked that money be provided to upgrade some portions of the park. She also spoke about several other projects and expressed her concern about how the cost was pricing out the majority of Long Beach residents.

Christina Kramer (361 E Broadway) – commended the Magnolia Park project. She asked about considering adding a bathroom to the park. Ms. Kramer then asked about the purchase of the new water meters and the drinking water. She also asked about the overspending at the Central Garage and the installation of the gas rings.

Commissioner Febrizio replied to Ms. Kramer’s questions.

Mr. Walsh addressed the overspending at the Central Garage and gas rings.

Pam Banks (W Bay Dr) – asked about the flooding on West Bay Drive and the street lights on the red path. She also commended the street maintenance staff for keeping the street well groomed.

Mr. Febrizio replied to Ms. Bank’s questions.

James Hodge (95 E Fulton St) – questioned the funding that was used and spent on the projects at the MLK Center.

Mr. Febrizio replied to Mr. Hodge’s questions.

Ron Paganini (62 Harmon St) – spoke about the amount of brass contained in the old water meters and suggested they be sold as scrap metal to benefit the city.

Mr. Febrizio explained the procedure how the procedure would work with the old water meters.

Eileen Hession (516 W Beech St) – commended the purchase of the time management system. She also commented on how happy her neighbors were about the work that was done in her area and how pleased she was to hear that this work was fully funded by grants.

Matthew Eriscish – suggested other areas to explore for funding the upcoming projects.

PUBLIC HEARING: For the purpose of giving citizens an adequate opportunity to publicly present their views on the General Summary of the Proposed Budget for the year July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

Brendan Finn (114 Grand Blvd) – commended Mr. Febrizio on his presentation. He also spoke about his concern about the increase in taxes and certain salary raises.

Council Member Lester noted that there would be no vote on the budget at this time. He also added that the City Council was not done looking at the budget.

Denise Ford (36 Ohio Ave) – asked for clarification on the amount of money paid to outside counsel. She also asked about what steps have been taken so far to address the overtime in the Fire Department and the Paramedic situation.

Mr. Walsh replied that the city was in active negotiations with the fire department to try and come to some type of a resolution. He also added that there are contractual obligations to consider.

Ms. Ford then made some other suggestions to help reduce costs.

Ron Paganini (62 Harmon St) – shared ideas on reducing the budget.

Crystal Lake (206 E Market St) – asked for clarification on specific items in the budget. She also questioned the water/sewer billing process. Ms. Lake also asked about the boundaries for North Park.

Acting City Manager, Ron Walsh and City Comptroller, Inna Reznik responded to Ms. Lake's questions.

James Hodge (95 E Fulton St) – expressed his concerns regarding the budget/tax increase. He continued to question the funding used for the MLK Center.

Council President Bendo added that the Council would continue to aggressively seek grants for the MLK center building.

Nate Epstein (Blackheath Road) – expressed his concern about people being priced out of Long Beach due to tax increases. He made some suggestions on how to bring revenue into the city.

Sheryl Merels – (Long Beach) – expressed her concern regarding the new buildings adding to the parking issues in the city.

Council President Bendo noted that the new buildings will be providing parking as a requirement by the city.

The calendar items were read by the City Clerk

#1 – Local Law Amending Subpart C of Related Acts Relating to the Charter of the City of Long Beach Re: A Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law § 3-c

A hearing had been held on this item already.

#2 – Resolution Authorizing the Adoption of a Capital Improvement Program for Five Years from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2028, Inclusive

A hearing had been held on this item already

#3 – Resolution Authorizing the Adoption of the Operating Budget for the Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2023 and Ending June 30, 2024, Appropriating Sums Set Forth Therein and Determining and Fixing the Real Estate Tax Levy

Council Member Treston made a motion to table this item to a special meeting to be held on May 23, 2023 at 7pm. It was seconded by Mr. Lester and was carried unanimously.

#4 – Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year

Items #4 and #5 were called together.

#5 – Resolution Authorizing the Acting City Manager to Furnish and Install a Gas-boy System, Gas and Diesel Fuel Pumps and an Automatic Tank Gauge Under Nassau County Contract

Council Member McInnis asked about the useful life of the Gas-boy System.

Mr. Walsh replied approximately 10 years and described the function of the system.

#6 – Resolution Authorizing the Acting City Manager to Purchase Various Chemicals on an “As Needed Basis” for the Water Purification Plant from the Lowest Responsible Bidders

Commissioner Febrizio explained the purpose and reason for this resolution.

#7 – Resolution Authorizing the Acting City Manager to Purchase a Dri-Prime Dewatering Pump from the Sole Responsible Bidder

Commissioner Febrizio explained the bid process that took place for this item and described the use of the equipment. He also added that there was a warranty attached to this purchase.

#8 – Resolution Authorizing the Acting City Manager to Purchase a Vehicle for the City’s Building Department Under Monroe County Contract

Mr. Walsh explained the reason for the purchase of this vehicle.

#9 – Resolution. Authorizing Publication of a Notice of Public Hearing of an Application to Waive the Off-Street Parking Requirements for Premises: Re: 880 West Beech Street (street floor), Long Beach, New York

Council Pres. Bendo made a motion to change the wording “cannabidiol (“CBD”) and retail store” to “Mortgage Banker Office”. It was seconded by Ms. Treston and was carried by four affirmative votes. Council Member Lester voted no.

A Public Hearing will be held at City Hall, 1 West Chester Street, Long Beach, New York, on June 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

#10 – A “Resolution Authorizing Publication for Hearing of a Local Law Amending the Charter of the City of Long Beach Re: Assessment; Levy; Collection of Taxes” was taken off the calendar

#11 – Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting of May 2, 2023

Council Member Treston made a motion to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Ms. Posterli and was approved unanimously.

The voting portion of the meeting was then begun.

Council Member Treston introduced and moved the adoption of the following local law, seconded by Pres. Bendo, and it was duly adopted, all five council members present voting in the affirmative.

(L.L. #II/23)

Local Law Amending Subpart C of Related Acts Relating to the Charter of the City of Long Beach Re: A Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law § 3-c

Council Member Treston introduced and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Pres. Bendo, and it was duly adopted, all five council members present voting in the affirmative.

(RES. #91/23)

Resolution Authorizing the Adoption of a Capital Improvement Program for Five Years from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2028, Inclusive

Council Member Lester introduced and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Posterli, and it was duly adopted, all five council members present voting in the affirmative.

(RES. #92/23)

Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year

Council Member Lester introduced and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Treston, and it was duly adopted, all five council members present voting in the affirmative.

(RES. #93/23)

Resolution Authorizing the Acting City Manager to Furnish and Install a Gasboy System, Gas and Diesel Fuel Pumps and an Automatic Tank Gauge Under Nassau County Contract

Council Pres. Bendo introduced and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Ms. McInnis, and it was duly adopted, all five council members present voting in the affirmative.

(RES. #94/23)

Resolution Authorizing the Acting City Manager to Purchase Various Chemicals on an “As Needed Basis” for the Water Purification Plant from the Lowest Responsible Bidders

Council Member Treston introduced and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Lester, and it was duly adopted, all five council members present voting in the affirmative.

(RES. #95/23)

Resolution Authorizing the Acting City Manager to Purchase a Dri-Prime Dewatering Pump from the Sole Responsible Bidder

Council Member Treston introduced and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Lester, and it was duly adopted adopted by four affirmative votes. Council Member McInnis voted no.

(RES. #96/23)

Resolution Authorizing the Acting City Manager to Purchase a Vehicle for the City’s Building Department Under Monroe County Contract.

Council Pres. Bendo introduced and moved the adoption of the following resolution (as amended), seconded by Ms. Treston, and it was duly adopted by four affirmative votes. Council Member Lester voted no.

(RES. #97/23)

Resolution Authorizing Publication of a Notice of Public Hearing of an Application to Waive the Off-Street Parking Requirements for Premises: Re: 880 West Beech Street (street floor), Long Beach, New York

There being no further business before the Council, Council Pres. Bendo made a motion to close the meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Lester and was duly closed, all five council members present voting in the affirmative.

Dated: May 17, 2023

David W. Fraser
City Clerk

Good and Welfare

Crystal Lake – 206 E Market St	Spoke about the Wind Farm project
Ron Paganini – 62 Harmon St	Spoke about the budget
Matthew Moran – 25 Franklin Blvd	Spoke about the Wind Farm project
Christina Kramer – 361 E Broadway	Spoke about the Wind Farm project
Tim Kramer – 361 E Broadway	Spoke about the Wind Farm project
Ryan Stanton – 390 Rabro Dr, Hauppauge, NY (LI Federation of Labor)	Spoke about the Wind Farm project
Joseph Naham	Spoke about the Wind Farm project and opting in to allow retail sale of cannabis
Mike Norwood – 65 W Broadway	Spoke about the Wind Farm project
James Hodge – 95 E Fulton St	Spoke about the city utilizing NYCLASS, gun violence and about union workers