

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
HELD JULY 2, 2024**

A meeting of the City Council of the City of Long Beach was held on Tuesday July 2, 2024.

Present were Council Pres. Finn and Council Members Bendo, Fiumara, Lester, and Reinhart.

Corporation Counsel Frank Dikranis and City Manager Daniel Creighton were also present.

Council President Finn recognized the proclamations that were presented to the police officers who responded so bravely and performed their duties so well during the incident that took place on June 13, 2024. He continued to speak about the importance of respect for our law enforcement.

The City Manager, Daniel Creighton began his report by commending the police officers who received proclamations and all the officers who were at the scene the night of June 13, 2024, including Nassau County, the MTA and the Long Beach Fire Department. He proceeded to inform everyone of another beach gathering that was being planned for June 19th and how in coordination with the State and County, the City of Long Beach took strong actions to prevent this gathering from happening. Mr. Creighton also added that the organizers are being sued by the city for all the overtime costs and related expenses that were incurred to deal with the planning of the unauthorized gathering. The City Manager made it very clear that he hopes that this will serve as a deterrent to anyone else who thinks about trying to bring chaos to the Long Beach community.

Mr. Creighton also thanked the Long Beach Lifeguards for the excellent job they have been doing. He spoke about the “Night Line” segment that featured Lifeguard Chief Rich Borawski and the Rookie Lifeguards who informed the audience about water safety and the dangerous rip currents that were taking place up and down the coast forcing the city to make the difficult decision to close the beach to swimming that past Friday. Mr. Creighton added that this decision was not taken lightly and was made with everyone’s safety in mind.

The City Manager continued with the following updates:

- Summer Concert kick-off at Grand Blvd. Beach
- The closure of City Hall, Magnolia Center & Ice Arena on Thursday, 7/4/2024
- The Fabulous 4th of July 4K Race
- Fireworks display scheduled for Friday, 7/12/2024 (rain date – Saturday,7/13/2024)
- 100th Anniversary celebration of the American Legion Victor Mertha Post 972

The calendar items were read by the City Clerk

#1 – Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Accept a Grant

The City Manager explained that this resolution would allow the city to accept a \$70,000.00 grant for the development of a parking study that would build upon previous studies and be guided by a newly formed parking committee that is currently being developed. He also noted that this study was supported by the Acting President of the Westholme and Walks Civic

Association and was also a major component of the city's comprehensive plan which was adopted unanimously by the previous city council.

Economic Development Director, Patti Bourne then gave a thorough background on the parking study portion in the comprehensive plan and the importance of the study.

Council Member Reinhart asked about the structure and mission of the parking committee.

Mr. Creighton replied that the purpose of this committee, consisting of both residents and business owners, will be to guide the consultants on what the needs of the community are when it comes to the parking issues in all areas throughout the city.

Council Member Lester asked about the cost of the 2 existing consultants.

Ms. Bourne replied that the total cost of the Comprehensive Plan was \$90,000.00. She added that recognizing the cost of the different plans, the city staff assisted by helping to organize meetings, writing reports, etc., which saved the city a substantial amount of money.

A discussion continued regarding the contents, timeframe and cost of the study.

Council Member Bendo asked about the state proposal that expired May 6.

Ms. Bourne explained that the state had original dates based upon their schedule, and since they could not keep to their schedule, the city received an extension.

Mr. Bendo spoke about the comprehensive parking study that was done last year and how nothing was accomplished, specifically the idea of an angle parking on Edwards Blvd. He also suggested being cautious about the cost of another study.

Council President Finn asked Mr. Bendo about the suggestions and decisions made from the previous study.

Ms. Bourne then described the state requirements, which included going to every house around the area to speak with those who would be directly impacted by the decisions.

Mr. Bendo then suggested that the city do something as a result of this new study.

Council President Finn recognized Mr. Bendo's suggestion and noted that most people do not want angle parking in their neighborhood. He spoke about the past when he was growing up in Long Beach and there was angle parking and how it was removed because the residents didn't like it. Mr. Finn continued by adding that there are a lot of reasons for this crisis and the planning committee will need to hit the ground running which will hopefully address the zoning and parking requirements including the population of the city. He also agreed that there will be hard decisions to make.

Council Vice President Fiumara agreed with what everyone was saying and added that like any town or city, there will be a group of people that are not going to be happy with certain decisions. He added that he believed this council has the political will to make those hard decisions that will be accepted by most of the residents and mentioned a few good options that might be available.

Linda Giles – was opposed to spending more money for another study and agreed with angle parking. She also mentioned using the Long Island Railroad parking lot for beach goers to park during the summer months with free Trolley transportation to and from the beach.

Director of Public Relations, John McNally replied that the LIRR parking lot idea had been tried several times and failed.

Ms. Bourne added that this was another reason for hiring consultants who come with expertise in these such areas.

Caren Riskin – suggested the money would be better spent putting it in reserve for other things. She didn't think that the parking in the west end was that critical. Ms. Riskin also questioned the parking spaces/codes for the new building on the superblock and suggested that this be investigated. She was also interested in being part of the committee.

Ms. Bourne replied that as far as she knew the superblock development met the current zoning code requirements for parking.

Council President Finn suggested Ms. Riskin send her application to the City Manager for consideration to be on the committee.

Mr. Creighton replied that there were 8 out of 11 spots filled with 3 other people waiting but will continue to take applications from anyone willing to apply.

Mr. Bendo spoke about the importance of hiring Consultants.

James Hodge (95 E Fulton St) – suggested that the city reach out to other communities for ideas and recognized that there was a critical issue regarding parking in the West End. He also suggested using some of the other studies that had been carried out in the past and engaging the West End Neighbors association who are familiar with the needs of the West End.

The City Manager appreciated Mr. Hodges' remarks and noted that the studies that had been carried out in the past were not very comprehensive. He added that the last study that was done was on parking meters. Mr. Creighton continued to speak about the implementation of the comprehensive study and that he looked forward to coming up with a plan that will respond to all areas of the community.

Council Vice President Fiumara added that data is an important component when it comes to these studies, and how current data will include the many changes that have taken place over the last few years.

Mr. Lester commented, intimating that the parking issue has been around for the past 40 years and remains basically the same.

President Finn disagreed with Mr. Lester's comment noting that angle parking did not exist 40 years ago and how it changes the complexion of the community.

Vice President Fiumara stated that there was a need for a more accurate grasp on the subject that will give the council direction that may or may not be accepted by everyone, but at least it will allow for some improvement.

Christina Kramer (361 E Broadway) – spoke about the pros and cons of angle parking in the East End. She added that if the city was going to implement parking meters, residents should be issued stickers and not be burdened with any more taxes. Ms. Kramer also mentioned that there is technology available that could help with locating parking spots, etc.

Council Member Reinhart mentioned that Montauk had just passed a resolution for East Hampton Village where they are utilizing an app and for the most part, all residents would park for free, and all of this should be taken into consideration.

Jen Sarafin – agreed with the idea of not charging residents to park and asked about the meters being placed in the center of town. She also questioned the spending of money on more parking studies.

President Finn replied that Ms. Sarafin's questions were very valid and the reason for hiring the consultants who are in the business of performing these studies.

#2 – Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Purchase Fire Department Software

The City Manager explained that this resolution would allow for the purchase of dispatching and paging services for the Fire Department and for general storage and maintenance.

Fire Commissioner Joe Miller noted that Island Tech was the company that was chosen and described the type of services that will be provided. He also noted that the city had been with Island Tech for the past 15 years.

Mr. Creighton asked Commissioner Miller why the city should remain with Island Tech and not look for other companies.

Commissioner Miller responded that they were under a state contract and therefore it was the best price available. He added that putting it out for bid would only increase the prices and would require them to install a whole new program.

Council Member Lester asked if this would mean having to maintain a new server.

City Clerk, David Fraser replied that it would also involve replacing the firewalls and new software as well.

Mr. Bendo asked if this item was just for renewal and if the same service would continue.

Commissioner Miller replied yes, and the addition of some new email addresses will be included.

Vice President Fiumara asked for the reason the price went up \$6,000.00.

Commissioner Miller replied that it was for overall costs, program update and additional emails needed due to the increase of manpower.

James Hodge (95 E Fulton St) – Spoke in favor of the item

#3 – Resolution Authorizing the Corporation Counsel to Execute a Settlement Agreement and Release

Mr. Creighton explained that this resolution addressed the settlement of an on-duty disability retirement claim against the city.

#4 – Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to purchase two John Deere Gators Under a Sourcewell Contract and Authorizing Budget Amendment to the General Fund Budget

The City Manager explained that this resolution allows the city to purchase two vehicles for the Lifeguard Patrol that was being funded through the remaining generous donation made by John Carbona specifically earmarked for lifeguard operations only.

Council Member Lester asked how many vehicles the Lifeguards presently had.

Commissioner Scott Kemins replied to Mr. Lester's question – 4 pick-up trucks, 4 quads and now 4 John Deere's.

Mr. Lester asked if a pickup truck or an enclosed cab would serve the same purpose as a John Deere.

Commissioner Kemins replied that he did not believe so since the John Deere's have been proven to be much safer to operate on the beach when it comes to visibility and EMT usage for emergency and transporting patients. He also believed that one of the new vehicles was enclosed.

Vice President Fiumara confirmed that both were enclosed, heated and all-wheel drive.

Mr. Lester asked if they would be able to be used during the winter.

Mr. Fiumara replied that they could since they have heat and are enclosed with all-wheel drive.

Council Member Bendo asked why the vehicles were purchased from two different dealers and questioned the purchase of a gator with a 4,000lb towing capacity.

Mr. Creighton explained that the purchase was made through a source well contract and one had a lower price than the other for the different models.

Commissioner Kemins explained that he believed the purpose of the gator with a 4,000lb towing capacity would allow for the towing of the jet skis with the trailer and that the John Deere would probably not be able to carry that payload.

Mr. Bendo questioned the cost of the vehicles.

Vice President Fiumara reminded Mr. Bendo that this purchase was being made through the donation of Mr. Carbona and not the city and agreed that it was costly.

A discussion continued regarding the purchase and other needs for Lifeguard headquarters.

President Finn brought up the fact that if they don't vote on this item, it is most likely the lifeguards would not have the vehicles for this summer.

Mr. Fiumara asked if there was a present need to have the vehicles on the beach this summer.

Commissioner Kemins replied that the pickup trucks were purchased immediately after Superstorm Sandy and are in poor shape. He continued to say that the Lifeguards need dependable vehicles that will allow them to assist the thousands of people who come to the beach every day.

Mr. Bendo questioned the purpose of adding a cab heater to one of the vehicles if they are only used in the summer.

Mr. Kemins referenced Mr. Lester's question about utilizing them in the winter as well.

Christina Kramer (361 E Broadway) – questioned the Carbona Family's donation and if there was a quid pro quo attached.

Commissioner Kemins responded that the only request made by the Carbona Family was that they have their name on the Lifeguard Headquarters building. He continued to speak about the dedication of service to the City of Long Beach by Mr. Eugene Carbona who served as Chief of Lifeguards for many years.

#5 – Resolution Authorizing Publication for Hearing of an Ordinance to Amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Long Beach Re: Ocean Beach Park

A Public Hearing will be held at City Hall, 1 West Chester Street, Long Beach, New York, on July 16, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

#6 – Resolution Authorizing Publication for Hearing of an Ordinance to Amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Long Beach Re: Personnel Code

A Public Hearing will be held at City Hall, 1 West Chester Street, Long Beach, New York, on July 16, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

#7 – Resolution Authorizing Publication for Hearing of an Ordinance to Amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Long Beach Re: Motor Vehicles and Traffic

A Public Hearing will be held at City Hall, 1 West Chester Street, Long Beach, New York, on July 16, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

#8 – Resolution Authorizing Publication for Hearing of a Local Law Amending the Charter of the City of Long Beach Re: City Officers; Their General Powers and Duties

A Public Hearing will be held at City Hall, 1 West Chester Street, Long Beach, New York, on July 16, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

#9 – Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting of June 18

Council Member Bendo made a motion to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Mr. Reinhart and was carried unanimously.

The voting portion of the meeting was then begun.

Council Pres. Finn introduced and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Reinhart, and it was duly adopted by four affirmative votes. Council Member Lester voted No.

(RES. #99/24)

Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Accept a Grant

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

(RES. #100/24)

Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Purchase Fire Department Software

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

(RES. #101/24)

Resolution Authorizing the Corporation Counsel to Execute a Settlement Agreement and Release

Council Member Reinhart introduced and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Pres. Finn, and it was duly adopted by three affirmative votes. Council Members Bendo and Lester voted No.

(RES. #102/24)

Resolution Authorizing the City Manager Two John Deere Gators Under a Sourcewell Contract and Authorizing Budget Amendment to the General Fund Budget.

Council Pres. Finn introduced and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Reinhart, and it was duly adopted by three affirmative votes. Council Members Bendo and Lester voted No.

(RES. #103/24)

Resolution Authorizing Publication for Hearing of an Ordinance to Amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Long Beach Re: Ocean Beach Park

Council Member Reinhart introduced and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Pres. Finn, and it was duly adopted by three affirmative votes. Council Members Bendo and Lester voted No.

(RES. #104/24)

Resolution Authorizing Publication for Hearing of an Ordinance to Amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Long Beach Re: Personnel Code.

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

(RES. #105/24)

Resolution Authorizing Publication for Hearing of an Ordinance to Amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Long Beach Re: Motor Vehicles and Traffic

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

(RES. #106/24)

Resolution Authorizing Publication for Hearing of a Local Law Amending the Charter of the City of Long Beach Re: City Officers; Their General Powers and Duties

There being no further business before the Council, Council Member Reinhart 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: July 3, 2024

David W. Fraser
City Clerk

Good and Welfare

Ron Paganini – 62 Harmon St	Spoke about the Long Beach Housing Authority and the proposed off shore wind farm and fireworks
Russell – 92 Wisconsin	Spoke about irresponsible pet owners and construction debris
Eileen Hession – 516 W Beech St	Spoke about City Council meeting prep, vehicle purchases, and the grass strips in the canals
Caren Riskin	Spoke about the proposed off shore wind farm
Christina Kramer	Spoke about the proposed off shore wind farm, nuclear power, bicycles and a meeting of the Protect our Coast group
Jen Sarafin	Spoke about Battery Storage Plants
Linda Giles – 505 Neptune Blvd	Spoke about grants
Jennifer Rubin-Smith – 447 E Chester	Spoke about the paving over of lawns and about skateboards and ebikes on the boardwalk
James Hodge- 95 E Fulton St	Spoke about Scott Kemins 40 th anniversary of working for the City, the Surf for All event, dogs and the civil rights act of 1964