

**BOROUGH OF LONGPORT WORKSHOP COMMISSION MEETING
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 2305 ATLANTIC AVE
LONGPORT, NJ 08403
WEDNESDAY, June 17, 2020 – 4:00 PM**

The meeting was called to order.

Municipal Clerk Kyle read the Opening Statement pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act. In addition, the following statement was included: a notice of this meeting to be held in person and via **teleconference** due to the Coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic, was emailed to the Press of Atlantic City and the Current, and posted on the bulletin board and on the Borough website on June 12, 2020 and updated with teleconference information on June 15, 2020.

ROLL CALL:	Nicholas Russo	present
	James P. Leeds, Sr.	present
	Daniel Lawler	present

Borough Solicitor Affanato, Administrator Porter, Engineer Carter, CFO Kelly and Municipal Clerk Kyle also present.

There Emergency Exit announced by Mayor Russo.

Mayor Russo:

Mayor Russo asked if there were any resolutions to be added to the agenda. Municipal Clerk Kyle explained that there are two potential resolutions for the Governing Body's consideration that either Administrator Porter or Borough Solicitor Affanato would discuss during their report. Mayor Russo stated that Borough Hall officially re-opened on Monday, June 15, 2020. He explained that there is only one entrance to Borough Hall near the parking lot in the back. He also discussed regulations including social distancing and wearing a face covering when entering.

Mayor Russo also discussed a recent COVID-19 Report from the County of Atlantic. He noted that the report listed information on a 7500-megawatt windmill project to be developed by NJ Wind Port in Alloway located in Salem County, NJ. He also said that the State will assign an assistant commissioner of health that will oversee long term care facilities. He discussed how there were a large number of cases and deaths at long term care facilities in the State.

He also discussed a sidewalk project that he has been working on with Municipal Administrator Porter.

Commissioner Leeds:

Nothing further to report.

Commissioner Lawler:

Nothing further to report.

Engineer:

Engineer Carter said that he provided a list of engineering items to the Municipal Administrator and that he could address any questions that the Governing Body might have. He discussed the sidewalk project and bidding it out at the same time as the Atlantic Avenue project to get a better price rather than bidding it on its own. He also discussed adding Beach Terrace to this project, too. Mayor Russo agreed that it made sense to bid them together for a cost savings to the Borough.

Mayor Russo said that there is a second report that will be adding more properties to the sidewalk project. Commissioner Lawler asked about adding a section near the gazebo on 35th Avenue. There was discussion that the area in question may not be borough owned land. Engineer Carter discussed a street end vacation that occurred in 1986. Solicitor Affanato discussed the need to research the vacation of the street end. Commissioner Lawler discussed an area there that cars historically park on that is part of Longport and discussed the right of way there. Engineer Carter discussed this topic further and researching the ordinances that allowed the vacation of the street end.

Solicitor:

Solicitor Affanato discussed the Municipal Public Access Plan and that he recently received an email from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection about this plan requesting clarification on two points. He explained that he responded via email with the requested clarification. He noted that once the plan is approved the Borough will need to submit its Beach Maintenance Plan that he is currently working on with the Borough Engineer.

Solicitor Affanato also discussed Well #1 and noted that Schultes was in the process of cleaning and inspecting the well and that he anticipated that Well #1 would be back online soon.

He also discussed two resolutions for the Governing Body's consideration at the regular meeting. One was for the award of the ice cream vending license. He noted that there was one bid and that it was the same vendor as the one selling ice cream in Margate. He discussed the need for background checks. He said that he was hoping everything would be ready for July 4th. Commissioner Lawler discussed the selling prices for the ice cream products and noted that Margate's prices were higher. Solicitor Affanato explained that the vendor would adjust the types of ice cream products sold in Longport. He said that pricing would be something to look into for the following season.

Mayor Russo discussed the Municipal Public Access Plan and how there were initially nine points that that the NJ DEP required clarification on, and that at this point there were only two and that these have been addressed.

Borough Solicitor Affanato also discussed a second resolution to temporarily allow two restaurants to expand outdoor dining space onto the sidewalk. It would eliminate six parking spaces in front of the restaurant area and allow for a barricaded walkway for pedestrians. Borough Solicitor Affanato noted that he did not believe a resolution was required by law, but that he drafted a resolution for the Governing Body's consideration.

Municipal Administrator:

Administrator Porter discussed beach tag sales and noted that approximately \$150,000 worth of beach tags have been sold. He noted that this is approximately \$28,000 less than this time last year. There was

discussion addressing reasons why tag sales were lower this year. He also stated that on June 20th beach tag prices would increase and that beach tag enforcement would begin on that same day.

He discussed the progress of the pickle ball courts. He explained that the line painting is complete, adding that they could still be used as tennis courts. He added that the Borough is waiting for the equipment to be delivered.

Administrator Porter discussed that everything is working out well with the new Recreation Supervisor and that the supervisor is making great progress and will have several recommendations for the Governing Body within the next two months regarding use of borough facilities.

Administrator Porter also discussed the Fish and Wildlife Plan component of the Beach Maintenance Plan. He explained that a section of the beach needs to be set aside for the natural growth of vegetation and wildlife. He noted that initial discussions for this area included sections of the beach from 11th to 13th avenues. He explained that there is now discussion to use the Point area to fulfill this requirement of the Beach Maintenance Plan.

Engineer Carter discussed that there are three levels of protection that need to be addressed in the Beach Maintenance Plan, including typical maintenance that did not include the dunes, other areas with less maintenance, and that the final level is prohibited. He discussed the Point area as being a prohibition zone.

Municipal Clerk:

Municipal Clerk Kyle discussed the beach tag design winner presentation and if the Governing Body wished to reschedule the presentation for the July 15, 2020, Commission Meeting. The Governing Body agreed to reschedule to this date if it was convenient for the families involved.

Miscellaneous:

None.

Motion to Adjourn – Commissioner Leeds, seconded by Commissioner Lawler. All in Favor – Yes. None Opposed. Meeting adjourned at 4:26 pm.

**BOROUGH OF LONGPORT COMMISSION MEETING
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 2305 ATLANTIC AVE
LONGPORT, NJ 08403
WEDNESDAY, June 17, 2020**

The meeting was called to order with the flag salute at 4:27 pm.

Municipal Clerk Kyle read the Opening Statement pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act. In addition, the following statement was included: a notice of this meeting to be held in person and via **teleconference** due to the Coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic, was emailed to the Press of Atlantic City and the Current, and posted on the bulletin board and on the Borough website on June 12, 2020 and updated with teleconference information on June 15, 2020.

ROLL CALL:	Nicholas Russo	present
	James P. Leeds, Sr.	present
	Daniel Lawler	present

Borough Solicitor Affanato, Administrator Porter, Engineer Carter, CFO Kelly, and Municipal Clerk Kyle also present via teleconference.

Public speaking announcement and Emergency Exits announcement – Mayor Russo.

Approval of minutes-

Municipal Clerk Kyle requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the June 3, 2020, Workshop and Regular Commission Meeting. Mayor Russo made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Leeds, to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2020, Workshop and Regular Commission Meeting. ALL AYES- none opposed.

Mayor Russo made a motion to add Resolution 2020-83 and Resolution 2020-84 to the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Lawler. All In Favor – All Ayes. None Opposed.

Ordinances- SECOND READING/ PUBLIC HEARING on Ordinance O2020-05 – An Ordinance Amending the Salaries, Wages and Compensation in Year 2020 for Employees not Covered by Previous Ordinance or Union Contract.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE 2020-05:

Ms. Marcia Walsh of 4 N. 32nd Avenue discussed Ordinance 2020-05 and questioned Mayor Russo about an email that she received from him saying that there was only one change in the ordinance and that was regarding a stipend for members of the Longport Volunteer Fire Department. Borough Solicitor Affanato also addressed Ms. Walsh's question. He explained that the amendment included determining what the maximum stipend amount could be for members of the department. It established the maximum amount a volunteer member could receive, but it did not mean that it was the amount that

volunteers were receiving. CFO Kelly explained that the \$17,235 was a total amount that could not be exceeded.

Ms. Walsh asked about the sidewalk project and questioned how it would affect the environment and said that it could negatively affect the borough’s Sustainable New Jersey status. She asked if the project was discussed with the Borough’s green team for input. She explained that adding more cement (for the sidewalks) in the Borough, would increase flooding in the Borough as it would increase the amount of impervious surface in the Borough. Mayor Russo said that adding the sidewalks, was not an environmental issue, but a public safety issue. Ms. Walsh asked what the cost of the project was. Mayor Russo explained that the project would be going out to bid for pricing. Mayor Russo discussed what the Borough has done to increase public safety in the Borough. Ms. Walsh wanted to know why the Borough was putting down more cement and also discussed using a different type of surface to increase the Borough’s sustainability.

No one else wished to speak.

Number	Title
05	An Ordinance Amending the Salaries, Wages and Compensation in Year 2020 for Employees not Covered by Previous Ordinance or Union Contract.
Purpose	This Ordinance amends the salaries, wages and compensation for certain employees not Covered by Previous Ordinance or Union Contract.
Motion	Motion – Commissioner Lawler, seconded by Commissioner Leeds to adopt Ordinance #O2020-05.
Roll Call Vote	Mayor Russo – Yes. Commissioner Leeds – Yes. Commissioner Lawler – Yes. ALL AYES. None opposed.

Public Comment or questions on listed resolutions:

There was no comment on the listed resolutions.

RESOLUTIONS

Number	Title
2020-81	A Resolution Authorizing Work to GE Mechanical for Pump Replacement at 34 th Avenue Pump Station MOTION – RUSSO, SECOND- LAWLER, All AYES- none opposed.
2020-82	A Resolution Authorizing the Filing of an Application for Funding Under the NJDOT Transportation Trust Fund FY 2021 MOTION – RUSSO, SECOND- LEEDS All AYES- none opposed.
2020-83*	A Resolution Approving the Award of a License to Conduct Beach Vending Pursuant to the Terms and Conditions of Licensure and the Sealed Bid Established by Resolution 2020-80. <i>*This resolution was added to the agenda at the meeting.</i>

2020-84*	<p>MOTION – RUSSO, SECOND- LAWLER, All AYES- none opposed.</p> <p>A Resolution Granting Extended Use of Borough Sidewalk in Front and Next to the Restaurants on Atlantic Avenue. <i>*This resolution was added to the agenda at the meeting.</i></p> <p>MOTION – LEEDS, SECOND- LAWLER, All AYES- none opposed.</p>
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FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORT

Commissioner of Finance and Revenue, Jim Leeds, Sr., asked if there were any questions on the Financial Summary Report. There were none. MOTION – LEEDS, SECOND – LAWLER. ALL IN FAVOR - ALL AYES. NONE OPPOSED.

BILL PAY LIST

Commissioner of Finance and Revenue, Jim Leeds, Sr., asked if there were any questions on the Bill Pay List of June 17, 2020. There were none. MOTION – LEEDS, SECOND – LAWLER. ALL IN FAVOR - ALL AYES. NONE OPPOSED.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:

MAYOR RUSSO

Nothing further to report.

COMMISSIONER LEEDS

Nothing further to report.

COMMISSIONER LAWLER

Nothing further to report.

ENGINEER’S REPORT

Nothing further to report unless the Governing Body had questions.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Nothing further to report.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

Nothing further to report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Trish English of 130 N. 32nd Avenue came to discuss two items. She noted that at the bay end of 32nd Avenue there were two trees planted that blocked the sidewalk at the bulkhead. She noted that this is a spot that many go to view the sunset. She said that one tree is planted in a planter that is Borough property. Mayor Russo requested that Engineer Carter look into the matter.

Ms. English also discussed her concern about the beaches. She said that on the beach at 32nd Avenue there have been large crowds of kids that are not social distancing, who are using foul language, drinking, and playing loud music. She expressed her concern for the beach tag checkers trying to enforce the use of beach badges with large crowds on the beach.

Mayor Russo noted that beach tag enforcement has not started yet. He agreed with Ms. English that there are large groups on the beach and said the drinking is a police issue. He noted that regarding people not practicing social distancing, he explained that you cannot mandate common sense. He discussed the guidelines regarding social distancing and how it was different for family members and those living in the same house.

Commissioner Lawler discussed the hiring of a Recreation Supervisor who oversees the beach tag checkers and also noted that the borough will look into tag checkers starting earlier in the day and that there would be two people positioned at certain beaches throughout the Borough. Commissioner Leeds also discussed that the supervisor would be going back and forth sweeping beaches and that the checkers and supervisor would be in communication with each other via mobile devices.

Mr. Bob English of 130 N. 32nd Avenue said that he heard that the City of Margate was considering changing the direction of traffic on Amherst Avenue to be one way. He was concerned that if this should happen what impact would it have upon Sunset Avenue and Amherst Avenue in Longport. Engineer Carter explained that part of the process of changing the direction of traffic on Amherst Avenue would include contacting the Borough of Longport as part of Amherst Avenue is in Longport.

Mr. English noted that a previous meeting he had asked the Governing Body about the possibility of having a recycling drop off center available to residents when recycling collection is every other week at the Longport Public Works garage. Mayor Russo said that he did not think the Public Works facility could handle a drop off area right now. He discussed the possibility of working out an arrangement with the City of Margate.

Mr. English said that his daughter and grandson, ran into Officer Mariano and that Officer Mariano took time to speak with his grandson and that it was very nice of the officer and that it made his grandson very happy. He noted that Officer Mariano should be recognized for his effort and that these types of gestures have a positive impact upon the community.

Mr. English asked about the resolution regarding the use of the sidewalk and several parking spots for extended outdoor dining for two restaurants. It was noted that there will be no parallel parking in front of the restaurants; however, patrons would be able to park in the lot located behind Borough Hall.

Mr. English asked if police would be increasing patrols on the beach with the increased number of beach goers. Commissioner Lawler noted that there would be an increased police presence on the beach.

Mr. Al Messina of 110 N. Colgate Avenue noted that when it rains, on the corner of Winchester and Colgate avenues, there is an unsightly scum line collection in the street. He added that the crown of the street appears to be off and slopes more towards Ocean City. He wanted to know if something could be done to correct this. Engineer Carter noted that he would look into the issue and follow up with Mr. Messina. Mr. Messina asked if the sewer drain at the corner of Winchester and Colgate avenues could be blown out. Engineer Carter explained that they are cleaned out once a year. Mr. Messina asked if there is anything more the Borough could do to address his concerns. Engineer Carter discussed the topic further and it was noted that the Administrator and Public Works would look into addressing his concerns.

Ms. Marcia Walsh of 4 N. 32nd Avenue noted that she had a similar problem with the storm drains and debris as Mr. Messina on 32nd Avenue. She stated that it could be a public health issue.

Ms. Walsh questioned what streets were included in the proposed sidewalk project. Mayor Russo noted that some of the streets included Evergreen, Colgate, and 34th avenues. Mayor Russo noted that many bungalows have been replaced with much larger homes and that there are more people in the Borough. He noted his concerns with having baby carriages or beach wagons go into the street because they cannot cross over the grass areas. It was noted that the grass sidewalk areas were located in some residents' back yards. Engineer Carter discussed that there were some areas where the sidewalks were piecemeal and that this should be addressed. Ms. Walsh had questions where the sidewalk areas were on 32nd Avenue. Mayor Russo also said that there were ADA concerns for those with wheelchairs who could not travel over the grass. It was noted that Ms. Walsh could have a copy of the finalized list of properties. Engineer Carter also discussed how adding the proposed sidewalk areas would have a minimal impact on run off in the Borough. He said that lot coverage changes have a greater impact upon storm water runoff. Ms. Walsh discussed possibly limiting lot coverages. Ms. Walsh asked what initiatives would the Borough pursue to re-certify for its Sustainable Jersey Certification. Ms. Walsh expressed the need to be as green as possible in the Borough of Longport. She discussed planting more trees and asked why residents could not plant trees in certain areas in the Borough. Commissioner Lawler suggested that Ms. Walsh become a member of the green team. Municipal Clerk noted that the Borough's certification has lapsed and that it would be a good idea to have the green team start up again to work on re-certification.

Mr. Tony Falasino of 130 N. 36th Avenue asked what is being done to address the rabbit infestation in the Borough. Mayor Russo noted that most of the natural predators were gone. He explained that when the Borough tried to relocate the rabbits there was a great deal of concern expressed by local children. CFO Kelly noted that the Borough does have a contract with an animal control service and that traps could be placed to remove the rabbits. There was further discussion on this topic and the need to revisit this issue. Mr. Falasino was advised to contact the Municipal Clerk's office for Animal Control's phone number.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION – COMMISSIONER LAWLER, SECOND – MAYOR RUSSO. All AYES- none opposed.

(5:14 pm)