

**BOROUGH OF LONGPORT WORKSHOP COMMISSION MEETING
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 2305 ATLANTIC AVE
LONGPORT, NJ 08403
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024 – 4:00 PM**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm.

Municipal Clerk Kyle read the Opening Statement pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act. A notice of this meeting was emailed to the Press of Atlantic City, The Ocean City Sentinel, the Star Ledger, and Courier Post on March 15, 2024. In addition, copies of notices were posted on the bulletin board and filed in the office of the municipal clerk. Notices on the bulletin board have remained continuously posted.

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

Borough Solicitor Affanato, Administrator Porter, CFO Kelly, Engineer Dennis, Chief Culmone, Zoning Officer Funk, Library Director Gerhardt, and Municipal Clerk Kyle also present.

Mayor Russo stated the location of the emergency exits and discussed opportunities for public comment.

Administrator Porter:

Administrator Porter discussed a Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) meeting he attended at the Mayor's request. He said the meeting was approximately three hours long and discussed the Atlantic Shores Section 106 offshore wind farm. He said that there will be an estimated 200 – 169 wind turbine generators, with an approximate maximum height of 932 feet, and that the closest turbine would be approximately nine miles out in the ocean. He noted that a question was asked at the meeting, if the turbines could be moved out further in the ocean, but that an answer was not provided. He explained that there is an online visual demonstration of what the offshore wind farm would like during different weather conditions and during the night and day light. He added that he can provide the information on the Borough's website for the public.

He explained that the BOEM looks at historic sites for potential impairments by the wind farm. The old Coast Guard building, currently home to the Longport Historical Museum, was identified as an area impacted by the project. He explained that because of this the Borough may be eligible for funding. He said there was a meeting on March 14th to discuss potential funding amounts. He noted that there are some projects that are being considered for funding. He said there will be another meeting in April, with a final decision to take place in July.

Administrator Porter also discussed the library holding a 'kick off event' on June 22nd behind Borough Hall, a bonfire on June 29th and August 17th.

He also discussed a beach nourishment project from three years ago that the Borough was waiting to be billed for. He noted that the bill was recently received and the amount is zero. CFO Kelly explained that the Borough had enough credits to cover the cost. Administrator Porter added that there might be a potential beach renourishment project in the fall.

He also announced that the Public Works Department will be flushing fire hydrants from April 1st through the 6th.

Borough Solicitor Affanato:

Borough Solicitor Affanato noted that a few years ago, the Governing Body adopted a resolution to authorize a law firm to represent Longport in a class action lawsuit against streaming media companies such as Netflix and Hulu for franchising fees. He noted that the law firm had lost the case in two courts and was not going to pursue it further, but it did not cost the Borough any money to participate.

He also discussed a resolution to refund taxes to the McGee Estate since the Borough has taken possession of the property.

He said he will meet with Chief Clayton to discuss a junior firefighters program in the Borough.

Borough Engineer Dennis:

Borough Engineer Dennis discussed a change order resolution on the agenda for a credit of \$12,000. He noted that there are a number of projects slated for the Borough's capital budget, but that they have to wait until the funding is in place. Solicitor Affanato discussed the upcoming beach nourishment project for Absecon Island, adding that the Borough is currently not included in the project. He noted that the State said they would reach out if they had additional funding to include Longport. Commissioner Leeds asked if renourishment would include the replanting of dune grass in some areas that need it. Engineer Dennis noted that he would follow up on the dune grass. Commissioner Leeds also asked if the angle of the parking stripes would be changed near Borough Hall. Engineer Dennis was given direction to change the angle of the parking stripes. Administrator Porter added that he would like the stripes to be repainted before May.

Mayor Russo:

Mayor Russo discussed a recent poll regarding pickle ball courts in the Borough. He said that the results of that survey showed that 35% of residents wish to keep the courts as they are and that 64% would like to change it to add additional pickleball courts. He also asked if there is a way to design the courts so that they could be used both ways, for tennis and pickleball. Engineer Dennis said that there is a way. Solicitor Affanato explained that temporary nets would be needed. There was further discussion on this topic. Engineer Dennis also explained that a previous conversion of the court had cost an estimated \$125,000. The Mayor noted that a decision did not have to be made at this time/meeting.

Mayor Russo also noted that the Borough's water report is now available on its website. He also discussed the Longport American Legion possibly changing its meeting location to the historical museum building. He added that other American Legions have done something similar. Solicitor Affanato noted that the Legion would have to reach out to the Longport Public Library. There was further discussion on this topic. Library Director Gerhardt noted that there has been preliminary discussion with the Legion.

Commissioner Leeds:

Commissioner Leeds discussed the capital improvement budget. He noted that when he met with the Administrator approximately a week ago, there was a new fire truck for the Longport Volunteer Fire Department included in the capital improvement budget. He added that he had been informed that the new fire truck had been removed from the bond ordinance and wanted to know who had removed it and why. Commissioner Lawler explained that as the Commissioner of Public Safety and Public Affairs he had removed it from the capital budget as he felt it was not necessary for this year. He also noted that he spoke with Margate about its fire truck and that they are having issues with it. He added that it costs approximately \$2 million and that he wasn't sure how much of a need there was for it, and that it was a

lot of money, explaining that he did not think it was not necessary to purchase this year. He also did not know what the status of the fire department would be several years from now. He added that he felt that a tanker truck was needed more than a ladder truck at this time. Commissioner Leeds explained that the truck the fire department currently has is very old and needs to be replaced. He added that the Borough has been able to save a great deal of money with a volunteer fire department. He suggested that if there are issues with the brand/model of truck that a different make/model could be purchased. Mayor Russo explained that Longport has a mutual aid agreement with the City of Margate City and that its ladder truck can be in Longport within 36 seconds from Washington Avenue. Commissioner Lawler explained that he would like to revisit the purchase of the truck in next year's budget. Commissioner Leeds expressed his disappointment that the truck was removed from the budget and that he is concerned about the safety of the volunteer firefighters. He was also concerned with losing the volunteer department and what it would cost if the Borough had to switch to a full-time paid department. He added that the Borough could be saving \$2 million a year because of the volunteers. He expressed his disappointment with the removal of the fire truck. He thanked CFO Kelly, Administrator Porter, and Auditor Garcia for their work on the municipal budget. CFO Kelly added that there would be a 2.9 cent increase this year.

Commissioner Lawler:

Commissioner Lawler asked where the Borough was with construction of the McGee Estate park? Solicitor Affanato explained that he would soon reach out to Mr. Plackter as several neighbors expressed interest in helping to fund the park. He added that he believed construction on the park would begin next spring.

Municipal Clerk Kyle:

Municipal Clerk Kyle questioned if the Governing Body would be interested in holding a yard sale this year. It was noted that they would like to hold a yard sale the same day as Margate. She also questioned if the Governing Body had a date in mind for the fireworks display. The date of August 24th was selected with a wind/rain date of August 25th. The upcoming Clean Ocean Action Beach Sweep was announced on April 13th as well as a paper shredding event on April 27th at the Margate Public Works Yard.

Miscellaneous:

None.

Motion to Adjourn – Commissioner Lawler, seconded by Commissioner Leeds. All in Favor – Yes. None Opposed. Meeting adjourned at 4:32 pm.

**BOROUGH OF LONGPORT COMMISSION MEETING
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 2305 ATLANTIC AVE
LONGPORT, NJ 08403
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024**

The meeting was called to order with the flag salute at 4:33 pm.

Municipal Clerk Kyle read the Opening Statement pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act. A notice of this meeting was emailed to the Press of Atlantic City, The Ocean City Sentinel, the Star Ledger and Courier Post on March 15, 2024. In addition, copies of notices were posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building and filed in the office of the municipal clerk. Notices on the bulletin board have remained continuously posted. Official action may be taken at this meeting.

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

Borough Solicitor Affanato, Administrator Porter, CFO Kelly, Engineer Dennis, Chief Culmone, Chief Clayton, and Municipal Clerk Kyle also present.

Mayor Russo provided public comment information and noted that the emergency exit information had been provided at the workshop meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

Municipal Clerk Kyle requested a motion to approve the minutes from the February 21, 2024, Workshop and Regular Commission Meeting. Commissioner Leeds made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lawler, to approve the minutes. All in Favor - ALL AYES. None opposed.

The following ordinances had a second reading and public hearing:

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING/ PUBLIC HEARING: O2024-05 – An Ordinance Authorizing the Salaries, Wages and Compensation in Year 2024 for Employees Not Covered by Previous Ordinance or Union Contracts

No one wished to speak on this ordinance.

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING/ PUBLIC HEARING: O2024-06 – An Ordinance Amending Part II Chapter 75-5 Fees

No one wished to speak on this ordinance.

ORDINANCES:

Number	Title
2024-05	An Ordinance Authorizing the Salaries, Wages and Compensation in Year 2024 for Employees Not Covered by Previous Ordinance or Union Contracts

Purpose	The purpose of this ordinance is to establish the salaries, wages and compensation for employees who are not covered by previous ordinances or union contracts for the year 2024.
Motion	Motion – Mayor Russo seconded by Commissioner Lawler to adopt Ordinance #O2024-05.
Roll Call Vote	Mayor Russo – YES. Commissioner Leeds – YES. Commissioner Lawler – YES. ALL AYES. None opposed.
2024-06	An Ordinance Amending Part II Chapter 75-5 Fees
Purpose	The purpose of this ordinance is to amend the fees pertaining to Uniform Construction Code permits.
Motion	Motion – Commissioner Leeds, seconded by Commissioner Lawler to adopt Ordinance #O2024-06.
Roll Call Vote	Mayor Russo – YES. Commissioner Leeds – YES. Commissioner Lawler – YES. ALL AYES. None opposed.

ORDINANCES:

The following ordinances were introduced for a first reading/ introduction:

First Reading/ Introduction of the following Ordinances: O2024-07 – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 167 Section 25, Ordinance O2024-08- An Ordinance Amending the Salaries, Wages and Compensation in Year 2024 for Seasonal Employees and Certain Temporary Employees and Ordinance 2024-09 – An Ordinance to Exceed Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14. *A second reading and public hearing will be held at the April 17, 2024, Regular Commission Meeting that will follow the 4 pm workshop meeting.*

ORDINANCES:

Number	Title
2024-07	An Ordinance Amending Chapter 167 Section 25
Purpose	The purpose of this ordinance is to amend when political signs can be placed prior to an election.
Motion	Motion – Mayor Russo, seconded by Commissioner Leeds to Introduce Ordinance #O2024-07.
All in Favor	ALL AYES. None opposed.
2024-08	An Ordinance Amending the Salaries, Wages and Compensation in Year 2024 for Seasonal Employees and Certain Temporary Employees

Purpose	The purpose of this ordinance is to amend the salaries, wages, and compensation in year 2024 for seasonal employees and certain temporary employees.
Motion	Motion – Mayor Russo, seconded by Commissioner Lawler to Introduce Ordinance #O2024-08.
All in Favor	ALL AYES. None opposed.
2024-09	An Ordinance to Exceed Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14
Purpose	The purpose of this ordinance is to exceed municipal budget appropriation limits and to establish a CAP Bank in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14
Motion	Motion – Commissioner Leeds, seconded by Mayor Russo to Introduce Ordinance #O2024-09.
All in Favor	ALL AYES. None opposed

Public Comment or questions on listed resolution R 2024-25 – A Resolution to Authorize Introduction of Year 2024 Municipal Budget:

A second reading and public hearing will be held on the Municipal Budget at the April 17, 2024, Regular Commission Meeting that will follow the 4 pm workshop meeting.

There were no comments or questions from the public.

Commissioner Leeds made a motion to adopt **R2024-25**, seconded by Mayor Russo. Roll Call Vote: Mayor Russo – YES. Commissioner Leeds – YES. Commissioner Lawler – YES. All in Favor – All Ayes. None Opposed.

Public Comment or questions on listed resolutions: R2024-26 through R2024-34:

There were no comments or questions from the public.

A motion was made by Mayor Russo, seconded by Commissioner Lawler, to adopt the Consent Agenda. All in Favor - All Ayes. None Opposed.

RESOLUTIONS – CONSENT AGENDA Resolution R2024-26 through R2024-34:

Number	Title
2024-26	Authorizing a Water/Sewer Refund Due to Overpayment MOTION – RUSSO, SECOND- LAWLER, All AYES- none opposed.
2024-27	A Resolution Appointing Officers of the Borough of Longport Volunteer Fire Department and Establishing Lines of Authority MOTION – RUSSO, SECOND- LAWLER, All AYES- none opposed.

2024-28	Resolution of the Borough of Longport, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey, Authorizing a Property Tax Refund MOTION – RUSSO, SECOND- LAWLER, All AYES- none opposed.
2024-29	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 2023-26 MOTION – RUSSO, SECOND- LAWLER, All AYES- none opposed.
2024-30	Approval of Change Order Number 1 Reconstruction of Monmouth Avenue MOTION – RUSSO, SECOND- LAWLER, All AYES- none opposed.
2024-31	Authorizing a Water/Sewer Refund Due to Overpayment MOTION – RUSSO, SECOND- LAWLER, All AYES- none opposed.
2024-32	A Resolution Revising the Terms and Conditions of Resolution 2022-151 – Authorizing Execution of Interlocal Services Agreement with the City of Ventnor for Sharing of Construction Code Officials MOTION – RUSSO, SECOND- LAWLER, All AYES- none opposed.
2024-33	Emergency Temporary Appropriation 2024 MOTION – RUSSO, SECOND- LAWLER, All AYES- none opposed.
2024-34	Establishing Depository Funds 2024 MOTION – RUSSO, SECOND- LAWLER, All AYES- none opposed.

BILL LIST

Commissioner Leeds asked if there were any questions on the Bill List. There were none. MOTION – LEEDS, SECOND – RUSSO. ALL IN FAVOR - ALL AYES. NONE OPPOSED.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORT

Commissioner Leeds 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.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

Nothing further to report.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT:

Nothing further to report.

ENGINEER’S REPORT:

Nothing further to report.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:

MAYOR RUSSO

Mayor Russo asked if Mr. Fusco would like to speak at this time. Jeff Fusco, a retired Longport mail carrier spoke on behalf of former mail carrier Gunn Lee, who was unable to attend the meeting, to discuss Mr. Lee’s wish to donate an original piece of artwork to the Borough for display at the Historical Museum. The artwork is of the former Longport Post Office. The building housing the post office was

recently demolished. Solicitor Affanato explained that he would prepare a resolution to accept the artwork. Mr. Fusco explained that Mr. Lee had attended art school in South Korea and that his artwork also won a competition where it was featured in a postal calendar that went on a nationwide tour. Commissioner Leeds suggested that the May meeting might be a better fit for the presentation rather than the April meeting, which would have a second reading and public hearing on the municipal budget and can make for a busier meeting. Mayor Russo suggested the Mr. Fusco make arrangements for the presentation with Clerk Kyle.

COMMISSIONER LEEDS

Commissioner Leeds expressed his disappointment with the fire truck being withdrawn from the capital budget.

COMMISSIONER LAWLER

Commissioner Lawler – nothing further to report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Phil Geary discussed three lots located between 14th and 16th avenues that are owned by the Borough. He suggested developing this park area in conjunction with the development of the Dorothy S. McGee Park. Solicitor Affanato noted that the condo complex had discussed putting together a board for the park development on Beach Terrace. He noted that the Borough needed an entity for legal purposes and that the Borough is waiting to hear from the Seaview regarding the creation of a board. There was further discussion on this topic. Mr. Geary also asked about beach tag sales and thanked the library for all the work it has done and wonderful programming throughout the year.

Ricky Gerhardt, Library Director, discussed that the library has had preliminary discussions with the American Legion regarding the Legion meeting at the historical museum. Although, he added that no one has approached the library's Board of Trustees, yet.

Mr. Gerhardt also noted that he has met with Borough Engineer Dennis to discuss a library project.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Adjournment – 4:54 pm.