

**BOROUGH OF LONGPORT WORKSHOP COMMISSION MEETING
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 2305 ATLANTIC AVE
LONGPORT, NJ 08403
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 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 September 13, 2024. In addition, copies of notices were posted on the bulletin board, posted on the Borough of Longport website www.longportnj.gov, 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, and Municipal Clerk Kyle also present.

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

Commissioner Lawler administered the Oath of Office for Lieutenant to Longport Police Sergeants Ray Burgan and Nicholas Rettino.

Mayor Russo motioned for a five-minute recess from 4:17 to 4:22 pm so members of the public could take photographs with the newly promoted Lieutenants.

Administrator Porter:

Administrator Porter discussed a shade structure donated by a resident for the playground at 33rd Avenue. He explained that delivery has been delayed to October 25th. He added that the item was ordered in June. Administrator Porter explained that installation requires pouring concrete, making it weather dependent. Depending on the weather, he said that the installation might have to wait until spring.

Administrator Porter noted that he previously discussed a donor's interest in installing padel courts at the recreation complex on 33rd Avenue. He wanted to know if the Governing Body was interested in moving forward with installation. Mayor Russo suggested that the Borough conduct a survey, similar to one conducted in the winter, regarding adding additional pickleball courts and removing a tennis court.

Administrator Porter said that this would be the last weekend for beach lifeguard protection, although this would weather dependent.

Administrator Porter discussed McGee Park adding that he recently had a survey completed of the area. There was discussion about using a retired lifeguard boat as part of the landscaping. There was also discussion about replacing the lifeguard boat located in the park as you enter Longport from the John F. Kennedy Bridge. Commissioner Leeds added that the lifeguard boat at the Point also needed to be replaced.

Administrator Porter discussed if rules would need to be created for the new park area. Solicitor Affanato discussed that he anticipated the need for specific rules based on things such as if the park has lighting or not, but that they would be drafted closer to the opening.

Administrator Porter noted that the Borough was where it should be budget-wise for this time of year. He also discussed employee health benefit costs. He explained how costs had increased by 50% over the past three years. He discussed changing health benefit providers. He noted that the Borough's cost in 2025 would be \$814,000 with the State Health Benefits Program or \$788,000 if it decided to switch to the Southern Coastal Regional Employee Benefits Fund. There was further discussion as to how some municipalities have been opting out of the State Health Benefits Plan and how this has contributed to rates increasing. He said that he and CFO Kelly recommend that the Borough switch providers. He noted that there is a resolution on the agenda to join a new provider. He added that the resolution to terminate the Borough's participation with the State Health Benefits Plan would need to be added to the regular meeting agenda if the Borough decided to move forward with switching providers. Commissioner Lawler questioned if there were other municipalities that have switched to the proposed provider. Administrator Porter noted that several municipalities have switched including: Margate, Brigantine, Egg Harbor Township, and Absecon.

It was also noted that if after the Borough switches and it finds the new vendor dissatisfactory, it can return to the State program.

Borough Solicitor Affanato:

Borough Solicitor Affanato discussed the process to add a new resolution to the agenda during the regular meeting. He also noted that with any planned work or improvements to the McGee Park, the Borough would have to go through a public bidding process even if the funds are donated. He also added that there are grant funds for the park, too, which require certain processes and rules to be followed.

Borough Engineer Dennis:

Borough Engineer Dennis discussed two bid openings to be held on October 9th including: upgrades to the police department holding cells and a New Jersey Department of Transportation grant for Atlantic Avenue from 27th to 32nd avenues. He added that if the bids came in within budget, they could be considered for award at the October Board of Commissioners Meeting.

Mayor Russo:

Mayor Russo announced several upcoming events: including the Wounded Warrior Parade on September 24th; a Hazard Mitigation meeting on October 3rd; several upcoming flu vaccine clinics; a beach sweep on October 19th; and a paper shredding event on November 9th.

Commissioner Leeds:

Commissioner Leeds – nothing further to report.

Commissioner Lawler:

Commissioner Lawler – nothing further to report.

Municipal Clerk Kyle:

Municipal Clerk Kyle – nothing further to report.

Miscellaneous:

None.

Motion to Adjourn – Commissioner Leeds, seconded by Commissioner Lawler. All in Favor – Yes. None Opposed. Meeting adjourned at 4:42 pm.

**BOROUGH OF LONGPORT COMMISSION MEETING
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 2305 ATLANTIC AVE
LONGPORT, NJ 08403
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2024**

The meeting was called to order with the flag salute at 4:43 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 September 13, 2024. In addition, copies of notices were posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building, posted on the Borough website www.longportnj.gov, 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, and Municipal Clerk Kyle also present.

Mayor Russo noted that the emergency exit information had been previously announced and provided public comment opportunities.

Mayor Russo made a motion to add Resolution 2024-126 to the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Leeds. All in Favor – All Ayes, None Opposed.

Approval of Minutes:

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

Public Comment or questions on listed Consent Agenda Resolutions: R2024-111 through R2024-126:

Bob of English of Longport had questions on the resolution R2024-119 to switch to a new employee health benefits provider. He asked if it was a three-year commitment. It was noted that it was not. Mr. English did not recommend changing a long-term health insurance provider and the disruption involved for a three-percent difference in cost.

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

RESOLUTIONS – CONSENT AGENDA Resolution R2024-111 through R2024-126:

Number	Title
2024-111	Chapter 159 – Budget Insertion for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) MOTION – LAWLER, SECOND- RUSSO, All AYES- none opposed.

2024-112	Resolution of the Borough of Longport, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Cancellation of Grant Appropriated Reserves MOTION – LAWLER, SECOND- RUSSO, All AYES- none opposed.
2024-113	A Resolution Establishing an Emergency ‘No Parking’ Area During the 2024 Wounded Warrior Parade MOTION – LAWLER, SECOND- RUSSO, All AYES- none opposed.
2024-114	A Resolution Authorizing a Shared Services Agreement with the Atlantic County Utilities Authority to Perform Basin Clean Out Services MOTION – LAWLER, SECOND- RUSSO, All AYES- none opposed.
2024-115	Resolution Appointing SLEO II MOTION – LAWLER, SECOND- RUSSO, All AYES- none opposed.
2024-116	Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day, October 6, 2024 MOTION – LAWLER, SECOND- RUSSO, All AYES- none opposed.
2024-117	A Resolution Authorizing the Disposal of Surplus Property MOTION – LAWLER, SECOND- RUSSO, All AYES- none opposed.
2024-118	Resolution Awarding Professional Service Contract – Fire Department Medical Examinations MOTION – LAWLER, SECOND- RUSSO, All AYES- none opposed.
2024-119	Authorizing to Join Southern Coastal Regional Employee Benefits Fund MOTION – LAWLER, SECOND- RUSSO, All AYES- none opposed.
2024-120	A Resolution Authorizing the Establishment of an Emergency ‘No Parking’ Area Along Atlantic Avenue – Easterly Side of 11 th Avenue on the Southerly Side of Atlantic Avenue to the City of Margate – AC Marathon MOTION – LAWLER, SECOND- RUSSO, All AYES- none opposed.
2024-121	Authorizing Refund for a Construction Permit MOTION – LAWLER, SECOND- RUSSO, All AYES- none opposed.
2024-122	A Resolution Authorizing Contracts with Certain Approved Cooperative Pricing Agreements for Contracting Units Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12a and N.J.A.C 5:34-7.29(c) MOTION – LAWLER, SECOND- RUSSO, All AYES- none opposed.
2024-123	Resolution Authorizing the Promotion of Ray A. Burgan to Lieutenant in the Borough of Longport Police Department MOTION – LAWLER, SECOND- RUSSO, All AYES- none opposed.

2024-124	Resolution Authorizing the Promotion of Nicholas P. Rettino to Lieutenant in the Borough of Longport Police Department MOTION – LAWLER, SECOND- RUSSO, All AYES- none opposed.
2024-125	Resolution of the Borough of Longport, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey Authorizing Tax Interest Write Off MOTION – LAWLER, SECOND- RUSSO, All AYES- none opposed.
2024-126	Resolution to Terminate Participation in State Health Benefits Program MOTION – LAWLER, SECOND- RUSSO, All AYES- none opposed.

BILL LIST

Commissioner Leeds asked if there were any questions on the Bill List. There were none. MOTION – LEEDS, SECOND – LAWLER. 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 – RUSSO. 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

Nothing further to report.

COMMISSIONER LEEDS

Nothing further to report.

COMMISSIONER LAWLER

Nothing further to report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Fran Kenny of Longport discussed illegal parking on 36th Avenue. She requested that the curbs be painted yellow to help deter vehicles from parking illegally. She said that measures are needed to help protect the safety and health of the residents adding that with all the illegal parking in the area that it would not be possible for an emergency vehicle to drive through the road in the event of an emergency. After a brief discussion it was noted that there does not appear to be any engineering or legal concerns with the painting the curbs yellow.

Barry Stein of Longport discussed that in the space between the pickleball and basketball courts, many kids are leaving their bikes there, whereby blocking the entrance to the beach. He requested that a sign

be put up so bikes are not parked there to help keep the beach access clear. It was noted that it was not illegal to park bicycles there.

Bob English, Longport, commended the Borough on its fireworks display. He said it was one of the best he has seen. He discussed plantings in the Governor's Strip and wanted to know where the Borough was with amending its ordinance to allow certain plantings there. Solicitor Affanato explained that he spoke with Planning and Zoning Board Chairman Tom McAllister and that they are working on a recommendation including several topics for the Board of Commissioners to review.

Mr. English also questioned the rules for construction on Saturdays in the Borough. He noted that he was informed that construction was permitted, but that contractors could not be noisy. Solicitor Affanato noted that it is difficult to enforce noise level complaints, but added that there are limited Saturday hours based on the season. Mr. English suggested considering eliminating landscaping work on Saturdays during the summer to help alleviate parking pressure.

Mary Nugent of Longport questioned why when the City of Margate made Amherst Avenue one way for traffic, the traffic was filtered towards Longport and not towards Washington Avenue in Margate? Engineer Dennis explained that part of the process included the use of an engineering firm to conduct a traffic study. Solicitor Affanato explained that there was a great deal of discussion on this topic when the change was being proposed. Engineer Dennis explained that the Borough received a \$1 million grant to provide traffic calming measures in the area. Ms. Nugent discussed placing a flower bed in the area to redirect traffic. She also requested a reassessment on this issue. There was further discussion on how if the traffic was directed towards Margate that traffic safety laws would not permit it. Ms. Nugent suggested making the area that Ms. Kenny had previously discussed a 'tow-away zone.' She added that the illegal parking fine was not enough of a deterrent. Chief Culmone explained that it did not need to be designated a 'tow-away' zone as the Borough already has the ability to tow vehicles there.

Ms. Nugent discussed the end cap on the bulkhead at 36th Avenue and the bay. Solicitor Affanato explained that the Borough had to put an end cap its portion of the bulkhead after repair. He added that he recently received a phone call that the adjacent property owner was in the process of repairing their section of the bulkhead.

Ms. Nugent discussed the possibility of having a post office return to the Borough. Administrator Porter noted that he had received a phone call a couple of months ago about possibly relocating to Borough Hall. He said he sent an email approximately three or four weeks ago to see if there was any movement on this topic. He added that he received a response that the post office moves slowly. Ms. Nugent recommended putting a petition on the Borough website asking residents for feedback if they are for or against a post office to be relocated to the Borough.

Ms. Nugent discussed the Longport Public Library and commended it for helping bring the community together. She noted previous discussion regarding the possible expansion of the library. She noted that she was not interested in expansion if the need was not based on accommodating Longport residents.

Ms. Nugent discussed Ukrainian colored lights at the gazebo and questioned why the Borough has not changed the lighting in support of other countries? She cautioned against taking certain actions on public property.

Ms. Nugent noted that Mr. English discussed shared court services and questioned why no one from the Borough reached out to talk to the County. It was noted that the Borough was in contact with the

County and had figures for what it would cost to join them. Ms. Nugent stressed the need to get alternative options.

Ms. Nugent added that she requested that the Commission Meetings be video broadcasted approximately 10 to 14 years ago and that the Borough still does not livestream its meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION – COMMISSIONER LAWLER, SECOND – COMMISSIONER LEEDS. All AYES- none opposed.
Adjournment – 5:17 pm.