

August 2, 2023  
6:04 PM

A caucus meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of West Long Branch was held on the above date and time in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, 965 Broadway, West Long Branch, N.J.

Mayor Janet W. Tucci presided.

Mayor Tucci reported that in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 adequate notice of this meeting of the Mayor and Council has been provided.

PRESENT: BRAY, CIOFFI, GOMEZ, NEYHART, SNIFFEN  
ABSENT: PENTA

### **MAYOR TUCCI**

The mayor listed the items on for discussion in Executive Session, which included the following:

- i. Police Personnel
- ii. Administrative Personnel
- iii. Zoning Violations

It was determined that the Mayor and Borough Council would go into executive session twice, one session following the Council meeting and one session during caucus.

Councilman Bray moved to go into the first executive session at 6:06 PM. Seconded by Councilman Sniffen and carried unanimously.

Regular Caucus resumed at 6:20 PM.

Mayor Tucci requested that the Ordinance Committee meet as soon as possible to discuss the topic of elevation.

### **COUNCILMAN NEYHART**

Councilman Neyhart asked if anyone opposed having the curbs painted 50ft from a few stop signs in town, specifically at intersections where there have been issues with illegal parking; no one opposed this idea.

### **COUNCILMAN BRAY**

Councilman Bray reported that the Finance Committee and Public Works Committee had met to discuss the public works garage renovation; a capital ordinance is set to be introduced at the first September meeting, which will allow the Borough to solicit bids for the project.

### **COUNCILMAN SNIFFEN**

Councilman Sniffen stated that National Night Out had been the evening before, and it was very successful and well done.

August 2, 2023

## **BOROUGH ATTORNEY BAXTER**

The Borough Attorney updated the Mayor and Council on the recent Kaja Application Hearing; the Borough won the case. The Borough Attorney stated that a memo from the State DEP was received regarding the illegality of adopting ordinances to prohibit beekeeping in town; the Borough has never adopted anything of the sort. The Borough Attorney stated that the Planning Board forwarded two ordinances for the Council's consideration and that both ordinances will be introduced at the first meeting in September.

## **OPPORTUNITY FOR ANY PERSON TO BE HEARD:**

1. *John Levy, 102 Whalepond Rd, Eatontown* inquired about the impervious coverage regulations in West Long Branch and commented that the current percentages are very limiting. Councilman Bray stated that this topic is currently an item of discussion amongst the Planning Board and Borough Planner and is under review. Mr. Levy added that many residents will not apply for a variance and go in front of the board because what they are asking for doesn't typically present itself with hardship, however, he believes that there are better ways to assess what the demographic in town wants.
2. *Jennifer Walk, Charles Court, Ocean Township* expressed her concerns with the abandoned cemetery on Wall Street; her great-grandmother has a plot there and she has concerns about how to arrange the burial when the time comes. Miss Walk noted that she understands the neighboring church does not own the cemetery and that the Borough has no jurisdiction over it. The Borough Attorney stated that the Council is aware of the issue and has been actively working on finding a solution.
3. *Rachel Creighton, 7 Lawrence Ave, West Long Branch* commented on the cemetery discussion and stated that she thinks that it may be of some benefit to preserve the cemetery as a historical site and petition for funding. The Borough Administrator stated that this issue is shared by many municipalities in New Jersey, and it is very difficult for the State to release funds due to the prevalence of the issue. Miss Creighton asked Councilman Neyhart how the curb painting would work on streets that have no curbing, like the one she lives on. Councilman Neyhart stated that the curb-painting initiative is only for a few areas of concern at this time.
4. *Abe Hedaya, 11 Nolan Drive, West Long Branch* commented that there are areas on Wall Street where there are no sidewalks; Mr. Hedaya stated that the area is a zone with high pedestrian traffic and asked if the Borough had any plans to revisit the master plan or to make the town more walkable. Councilman Neyhart stated that the subject area is on the Council's radar.
5. *Chris Raddatz, 13 Mitchell Terrace, West Long Branch* asked when/if his street could be re-paved. Mayor Tucci stated that the Borough Engineer and the head of the roads department meet yearly to prioritize what roads in town need attention and the order in which they will be attended to; she was not sure where Mitchell Terrace fell on that list.

August 2, 2023

6. *Richard Warshak, 17 Bridle Drive, West Long Branch*, expressed his concern with break-ins and car robberies that have been occurring in town. Mr. Warshak stated that he understands this is an issue that is not unique to only West Long Branch and is larger than the efforts of local law enforcement but wants to know if there are any ideas or initiatives in process to manage the issue and prevent it from worsening. Councilman Cioffi stated that vigilance is key – if you see something, say something, don't hesitate to call the police, and make sure all your doors are locked. Police Chief Habermann added that the Borough police department and those of neighboring towns have robust action plans in place for such an issue.

There being no one else wishing to speak, Councilman Neyhart moved Council adjourn Caucus Session at 7:28 PM. Seconded by Councilman Bray and carried unanimously.

  
BOROUGH CLERK