

November 1, 2023  
6:46 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, PENTA, SNIFFEN

ABSENT: NONE

### **MAYOR TUCCI**

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

- i. Administrative Personnel
- ii. Payroll Services
- iii. 2024 Budget Items
- iv. Zoning Litigation
- v. Shared Services – Municipal Court

It was determined that the Mayor and Borough Council would go into executive session following the Council meeting.

Mayor Tucci reported that the EMS Squad requested that their swearings-in take place during the Reorganization meeting in January; the council had no opposition to this request.

### **COUNCILMAN NEYHART**

Councilman Neyhart reported that a batch of sewer bills had an error and various properties were affected.

### **COUNCILMAN GOMEZ**

Councilman Gomez reported that Public Works is going to fix the broken gate at Valenzano Park. Councilman Gomez asked Chief Botti if the police department would be participating in the DEA drug take-back; Chief Botti stated that the department would not be participating in the upcoming event but plans to participate in the following one.

### **BOROUGH ATTORNEY BAXTER**

The Borough Attorney elaborated on the details of the lead-paint ordinance that was on for introduction that evening; the ordinance establishes a fee schedule for State inspections.

November 1, 2023

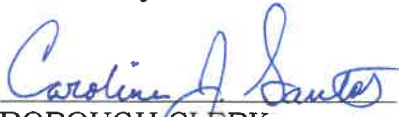
## **BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR GONTER**

The Borough Administrator stated that an updated Borough Directory and Police Department Table of Organization were ready and distributed copies of them to the mayor and council.

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

1. *Steve Schulz, 56 Summers Ave, West Long Branch* stated that he is impressed and pleased with how smoothly things run in town. Mr. Schulz inquired about a purchase order expending \$600 for hay bales that was approved at the previous meeting; Councilman Cioffi replied that those hay bales were not for general town decoration, but specifically for the Fall Festival. Mr. Schulz stated that he had investigated who was employed by the Borough at the time the tax record error was made at Dennis Place, for which the council forgave back-taxes on one of the lots at the previous council meeting; Mr. Schulz asked why none of the councilmembers, the attorney, or mayor would say whose mistake it was. In response to Mr. Schulz's question, the Borough Attorney replied that at the time that Mr. Schulz had originally asked who was responsible for the error, he, the council, and mayor did not know who had been working at the Borough ten years ago, and no one was trying to be misleading. Mr. Schulz proceeded to ask the Borough Attorney about his personal relationship with the Borough's Tax Assessor. Councilman Penta stated that the Borough has a straightforward and honest governing body, and that this level of accusation is very out of character. Councilman Neyhart advised Mr. Schulz that his allotted time to speak during the public portion had run out, and it was time to move on.

There being no one else wishing to speak, Councilman Neyhart moved Council adjourn Caucus Session at 7:05 PM. Seconded by Councilman Bray and carried unanimously.

  
BOROUGH CLERK