

April 12, 2023
7:04 PM

A regular 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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Bray moved the approval of the minutes of the March 15, 2023, caucus meeting. Seconded by Councilman Sniffen and carried upon the following roll call vote:

AYES: BRAY, CIOFFI, GOMEZ, NEYHART, PENTA, SNIFFEN
NAYS: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

Councilman Bray moved the approval of the minutes of the March 15, 2023, executive session meeting, and approved the release of all pages, except pages 4, 6, 9, and 10. Seconded by Councilman Sniffen and carried upon the following roll call vote:

AYES: BRAY, CIOFFI, GOMEZ, NEYHART, PENTA, SNIFFEN
NAYS: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

Councilman Bray moved the approval of the minutes of the March 15, 2023, council meeting. Seconded by Councilman Sniffen and carried upon the following roll call vote:

AYES: BRAY, CIOFFI, GOMEZ, NEYHART, PENTA, SNIFFEN
NAYS: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Mayor Tucci reported that six West Long Branch residents will be inducted into the Shore Regional Hall of Fame on April 27th.

Councilman Bray reported that the municipal budget was on for introduction that evening, and the adoption date is set for May 24th.

Councilman Cioffi thanked Councilman Sniffen as well as the members of the Recreation Commission for their hard work and a job well done with the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Councilman Cioffi reported that Councilman Sniffen has also been helping Ellen Whitford from the Shade Tree Commission with identifying trees that will need to be removed/replaced around Franklin Lake.

Councilman Gomez went over the Fire and EMS Captain's Report for March 2023. Councilman Gomez reported that the new ambulance for EMS was delivered but is not yet in service.

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Councilman Neyhart went over the following police report for March 2023:

Motor Vehicle Stops	104	Municipal Code Violations	0	Fire Calls (Structure)	0
Motor Vehicle Crash	45	Alarms (Burglary)	27	EMS Calls	51
Traffic Citations – Non-Parking	70	Alarms (Fire)	7	Arrest Total	4
Traffic Citations - Parking	13	School Details – BME, FAS, SRHS	167	Crimes & Offenses to include:	
Drunk Driving Arrests	1	<i>School Details include - Walk throughs, Bus escorts, building security checks/contacts</i>		Violation – Possession of a weapon, Violation of Restraining Order, DWI, Shoplifting	
Assist Motorists	11				

February - Total Calls for Service – 1,786

Busiest Day of Week – Wednesday

Busiest Time of Day – 10:00 – 11:00

Year	Burglaries Residential	Burglaries Business	Burglaries Automobiles	Hold Up & Robberies	Motor Vehicle Crashes
2023	0	0	0	0	45
2022	0	2	2	0	35

Councilman Penta reported that FIOS has already started to be installed in town, despite the original start date projected for May.

Councilman Sniffen reported the library is temporarily closed due to issues with the septic system. Councilman Sniffen reported that the two most dangerous trees at Franklin Lake have been removed. Councilman Sniffen reported that the electric panel has been installed at Ronan Shirvanian Park.

The Borough Administrator had nothing to report.

The Acting Borough Clerk had nothing to report.

The Borough Attorney had nothing to report.

The Borough Engineer was absent.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Tax Collector's Monthly Report – March 2023
2. Code Enforcement Monthly Report – March 2023
3. Zoning Monthly Report – March 2023
4. Fire Department Membership Application (Active) – Randy Thorne
5. Fire Department Membership Application (Active) – Ryan Wells
6. EMS Membership Application (Auxiliary) – Aiden Debiasi

Councilman Bray moved to approve the above Fire and EMS membership applications. Seconded by Councilman Gomez and carried upon the following roll call vote:

AYES: BRAY, CIOFFI, GOMEZ, NEYHART, PENTA, SNIFFEN
NAYS: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

All applicants had a favorable background check.

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ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE NO. O-23-7

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS ROAD AND SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS, BY AND IN THE BOROUGH OF WEST LONG BRANCH, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING \$1,056,850 THEREFOR (INCLUDING A GRANT FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION) AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$810,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

Ordinance No. O-23-7 was read on its **second reading** by title only.

Councilman Penta moved the ordinance be passed on **second reading** by title only. Seconded by Councilman Bray, and carried upon the following roll call vote:

AYES: BRAY, CIOFFI, GOMEZ, NEYHART, PENTA, SNIFFEN
NAYS: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

Ordinance No. O-23-7 was published in the Asbury Park Press in the issue of March 22, 2023, and proof of publication stating that a public hearing on said ordinance would be held at this time is on file.

Mayor Tucci declared the public hearing open.

There being no one wishing to speak, Councilman Neyhart moved the public hearing be closed. Seconded by Councilman Bray and carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. O-23-7

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS ROAD AND SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS, BY AND IN THE BOROUGH OF WEST LONG BRANCH, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING \$1,056,850 THEREFOR (INCLUDING A GRANT FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION) AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$810,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

Ordinance No. O-23-7 was read on its **third and final reading** by title only.

Councilman Penta moved the ordinance be adopted on **third and final reading** by title only. Seconded by Councilman Bray, and carried upon the following roll call vote:

AYES: BRAY, CIOFFI, GOMEZ, NEYHART, PENTA, SNIFFEN
NAYS: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

ORDINANCE NO. O-23-8

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. O-23-1 REGARDING THE SALARIES OF VARIOUS MUNICIPAL OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES AND APPOINTEES

Ordinance No. O-23-8 was read on its **first reading** by title only.

Councilman Cioffi moved the ordinance be passed on **introduction** and to set the public hearing for April 26, 2023, at 6:30 PM. Seconded by Councilman Bray, and carried upon the following roll call vote:

AYES: BRAY, CIOFFI, GOMEZ, NEYHART, PENTA, SNIFFEN
NAYS: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

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ORDINANCE NO. O-23-9

**CALENDAR YEAR 2023
ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO
ESTABLISH A CAP BANK
(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)**

Ordinance No. O-23-9 was read on its **first reading** by title only.

Councilman Sniffen moved the ordinance be passed on **introduction** and to set the public hearing for April 26, 2023, at 6:30 PM. Seconded by Councilman Bray, and carried upon the following roll call vote:

AYES: BRAY, CIOFFI, GOMEZ, NEYHART, PENTA, SNIFFEN
NAYS: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

RESOLUTIONS:

Councilmember BRAY offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND RATIFYING
THE FILING OF COUNTERCLAIMS
IN STATE TAX COURT APPEALS**

WHEREAS, property owners in the Borough have filed, or are anticipated to file, State Tax Court appeals with the New Jersey State Tax Court for calendar year 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Tax Assessor has requested that the governing body authorize the filing of counterclaims to certain of the appeals, and ratify the filing of counterclaims for those appeals in which counterclaims have already been filed for 2023;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of West Long Branch that the Borough Attorney is hereby authorized to file counterclaims in all of the tax court cases as recommended and requested by the Borough Tax Assessor and, to the extent any counterclaims have already been filed by counsel for the Borough, such counterclaim authority is hereby ratified.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution shall be provided to both the Borough Tax Assessor and Borough Attorney.

Seconded by Councilmember NEYHART and carried upon the following roll call vote:

AYES: BRAY, CIOFFI, GOMEZ, NEYHART, PENTA, SNIFFEN
NAYS: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

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Councilmember BRAY offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION HIRING SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM DIRECTOR

WHEREAS, there is a need to fill the position of Summer Recreation Program Director; and

WHEREAS, ARIANNA F. MINAIDIS has expressed the desire to return to the position again this year; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Borough Administrator that ARIANNA F. MINAIDIS be hired to fill the position of Summer Recreation Program Director since she meets the qualifications;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of West Long Branch that ARIANNA F. MINAIDIS be hired as the Summer Recreation Program Director at a salary of \$1,500.00 for 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that her continued employment is conditioned upon the favorable completion of her fingerprint check.

Seconded by Councilmember NEYHART and carried upon the following roll call vote:

AYES:	BRAY, CIOFFI, GOMEZ, NEYHART, PENTA, SNIFFEN
NAYS:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE

Councilmember BRAY offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION HIRING SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM INTERIM DIRECTOR

WHEREAS, there is a need to fill the position of Summer Recreation Program Interim Director for a period of time during the Summer Recreation Program; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Borough Administrator that KIM ANDREWS be hired to fill the position of Summer Recreation Program Interim Director since she meets the qualifications;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of West Long Branch that KIM ANDREWS be hired as the Summer Recreation Program Interim Director at a salary of \$6,000.00 for 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that her continued employment is conditioned upon the favorable completion of her fingerprint check.

Seconded by Councilmember NEYHART and carried upon the following roll call vote:

AYES:	BRAY, CIOFFI, GOMEZ, NEYHART, PENTA, SNIFFEN
NAYS:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE

April 12, 2023

Councilmember BRAY offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION HIRING SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

WHEREAS, there is a need to fill the position of Summer Recreation Program Assistant Director; and

WHEREAS, CHRISTINA RONAN has expressed her desire to fill this position for 2023; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Borough Administrator that CHRISTINA RONAN be hired to the position of Summer Recreation Program Assistant Director since she meets the qualifications;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of West Long Branch that CHRISTINA RONAN be hired as the Summer Recreation Program Assistant Director at a salary of \$4,090.00 for 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that her continued employment is conditioned upon the favorable completion of her fingerprint check.

Seconded by Councilmember NEYHART and carried upon the following roll call vote:

AYES:	BRAY, CIOFFI, GOMEZ, NEYHART, PENTA, SNIFFEN
NAYS:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE

Councilmember BRAY offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDER AND PAYMENT
CERTIFICATE OF PRECISE CONSTRUCTION**

WHEREAS, PRECISE CONSTRUCTION, 1016 Highway 33, Freehold, NJ 07728, has completed work in connection with the FY 2021 Park Improvements Program; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Engineer has reported that Payment Certificate No. 4 in the amount of \$38,940.30, and Change Order No. 1, which shows a net increase of \$236,463.00, are in proper form and that the stated work has been completed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of West Long Branch that Payment Certificate No. 4, in the amount of \$38,940.30, is hereby approved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor is hereby authorized to sign Change Order No. 1, which shows a net increase of \$236,463.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the appropriate Borough Officials are hereby authorized to make payment in accordance with this resolution.

Seconded by Councilmember NEYHART and carried upon the following roll call vote:

AYES:	BRAY, CIOFFI, GOMEZ, NEYHART, PENTA, SNIFFEN
NAYS:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE

April 12, 2023

Councilmember BRAY offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION HIRING SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM EMPLOYEES

WHEREAS, there is a need to hire the Summer Recreation Program employees for 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Administrator has reviewed the applications submitted for the various positions and recommends hiring the following individuals;

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Counselor	Larissa Smilios	\$14.50/Hour
Counselor	Victoria Dunn	\$14.50/Hour
Counselor	Gavin Murray	\$15.00/Hour
Counselor	Skylar Murray	\$14.50/Hour
Counselor	Trinity Murray	\$14.13/Hour
Counselor	Mason Paris	\$14.50/Hour
Counselor	Ashley Reis	\$14.50/Hour
Counselor	Shane Farley	\$14.50/Hour
Counselor	Ty Brenner	\$14.13/Hour
Counselor	Michael Marotta	\$14.13/Hour
Counselor	Andrew Scanlon	\$15.00/Hour
Counselor	Sierra Andrews	\$14.13/Hour

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of West Long Branch that the above-listed individuals be hired as the staff for the 2023 Summer Recreation Program at the salaries listed.

Seconded by Councilmember NEYHART and carried upon the following roll call vote:

AYES: BRAY, CIOFFI, GOMEZ, NEYHART, PENTA, SNIFFEN
NAYS: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

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Councilmember BRAY offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION
AND CONTRACT EXECUTION WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE LAIF-2023 OAKWOOD AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS
PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Borough of West Long Branch desires to submit a grant application and execute a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Oakwood Avenue Improvements project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of West Long Branch formally approves the grant application for the above-stated project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as **LAIF-2023 OAKWOOD AVE IMPROVEMENTS – 00043** to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Borough of West Long Branch; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the Borough of West Long Branch and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as the centerline of Oakwood Ave delineates the border between West Long Branch and Long branch, the Borough of West Long Branch intends to work in cooperation with the City of Long Branch to complete the Oakwood Ave Improvements Project. The Borough of West Long Branch will be the lead municipality for the project during the design and construction phases of the project.

Seconded by Councilmember NEYHART and carried upon the following roll call vote:

AYES:	BRAY, CIOFFI, GOMEZ, NEYHART, PENTA, SNIFFEN
NAYS:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE

April 12, 2023

Councilmember BRAY offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION AWARDING CONTRACT – FY 2022 ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Borough advertised for the receipt of bids for the FY 2022 Road Improvement Program, and accepted said bids on March 29, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Borough received the following bids:

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>PROPOSAL A</u>	<u>PROPOSAL B</u>	<u>ADD ALT A1</u>	<u>TOTAL BID</u>
Lancha Construction Corp.	\$282,691.08	\$638,326.20	\$52,500.00	\$973,517.28
Capital Paving & Contracting, LLC.	\$353,066.65	\$769,730.10	\$36,000.00	\$1,158,796.75
Meco, INC.	\$366,639.25	\$806,448.50	\$31,500.00	\$1,204,587.75
L&L Paving Co., Inc.	\$398,571.30	\$850,181.30	\$24,375.00	\$1,273,127.60
Fiore Paving Co., Inc.	\$400,097.33	\$870,048.90	\$25,500.00	\$1,295,646.23
Seacoast Construction, Inc.	\$428,913.08	\$871,938.70	\$31,500.00	\$1,332,351.78
Black Rock Enterprises, LLC.	\$389,467.46	\$830,532.54	\$33,750.00*	\$34,970,000.00*
<i>Engineers Estimate</i>	<i>\$346,595.00</i>	<i>\$753,530.00</i>	<i>\$37,500.00</i>	<i>\$1,137,652.00</i>

** Corrected amount*

WHEREAS, the lowest responsible bidder is Lancha Construction Corp. in the total amount of \$973,517.28; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Engineer recommends that the contract be awarded to Lancha Construction Corp. in the total amount of \$973,517.28; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of West Long Branch that a contract be awarded to Lancha Construction Corp., 107 Vanover Dr, Old Bridge, NJ 08857, in the total amount of \$973,517.28, for the FY 2022 Road Improvements Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to execute the contract; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all other bids be rejected, and the bid bonds of those bidders be returned.

Seconded by Councilmember NEYHART and carried upon the following roll call vote:

AYES:	BRAY, CIOFFI, GOMEZ, NEYHART, PENTA, SNIFFEN
NAYS:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE

April 12, 2023

Councilmember BRAY offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION REFUNDING CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY FEE

WHEREAS, Rich Shirvanian, filed an Application for Certificate of Occupancy for 27 Victor Avenue and paid the Inspection fee of \$100.00 and the Smoke/CO Fee of \$45.00 on January 30, 2023; and

WHEREAS, it was subsequently discovered that a certificate of occupancy inspection was not needed in this instance as the homeowners conducted an “as-is sale”; and

WHEREAS, Rich Shirvanian requested that the Inspection fee of \$100.00 and the Smoke/CO fee of \$45.00 be refunded; and

WHEREAS, the Housing Inspector has confirmed that a refund is in order;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of West Long Branch that the sum of \$145.00, which represents the Inspection Fee of \$100.00 and the Smoke/CO Fee of \$45.00, be refunded to Rich Shirvanian, 964 Broadway, West Long Branch, NJ 07764; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the appropriate Borough officials are hereby authorized to take action consistent with this resolution.

Seconded by Councilmember NEYHART and carried upon the following roll call vote:

AYES:	BRAY, CIOFFI, GOMEZ, NEYHART, PENTA, SNIFFEN
NAYS:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE

April 12, 2023

Councilmember BRAY offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

WHEREAS, the Borough of West Long Branch is the owner of certain surplus property which is no longer needed for public use; and

WHEREAS, the Borough is desirous of selling said surplus property in an “as is” condition without express or implied warranties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of West Long Branch as follows:

(1) The sale of the surplus property shall be conducted through GovDeals pursuant to State Contract A-83453/T2581 in accordance with the terms and conditions of the State Contract. The terms and conditions of the agreement entered into with GovDeals is available online at govdeals.com.

(2) The sale will be conducted online, and the address of the auction site is govdeals.com.

(3) The sale is being conducted pursuant to Local Finance Notice 2008-9.

(4) A list of the surplus property to be sold is as follows:

NEW HOLLAND BUSH HOG TS115A – VIN ACP266530 ;

2005 CHEVROLET 2500 – VIN 1GCHK24U35E280299;

2002 FORD F550 MASON DUMP – VIN 1FDAF56F82EC06468;

2004 FORD F350 DUALY – VIN 1FTWW33P35EB51055;

(5) The surplus property as identified shall be sold in an “as-is” condition without express or implied warranties with the successful bidder required to execute a Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement concerning use of said surplus property.

(6) The Borough of West Long Branch reserves the right to accept or reject any bid submitted.

Seconded by Councilmember NEYHART and carried upon the following roll call vote:

AYES:	BRAY, CIOFFI, GOMEZ, NEYHART, PENTA, SNIFFEN
NAYS:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE

April 12, 2023

Councilmember BRAY offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION CERTIFYING COMPLIANCE WITH THE
UNITED STATES EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION’S
“ENFORCEMENT GUIDANCE ON THE CONSIDERATION OF ARREST AND
CONVICTION RECORDS IN EMPLOYMENT DECISIONS UNDER TITLE VII
OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964”**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5 as amended by P.L. 2017, c.183 requires the governing body of each municipality and county to certify that their local unit’s hiring practices comply with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission’s “Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964,” *as amended*, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e *et seq.*, (April 25, 2012) before submitting its approved annual budget to the Division of Local Government Services in the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs; and

WHEREAS, the members of the governing body have familiarized themselves with the contents of the above-referenced enforcement guidance and with their local unit’s hiring practices as they pertain to the consideration of an individual’s criminal history, as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body attached hereto.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough Council of the Borough of West Long Branch hereby states that it has complied with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5, as amended by P.L. 2017, c.183, by certifying that the local unit’s hiring practices comply with the above-referenced enforcement guidance and hereby directs the Clerk to cause to be maintained and available for inspection a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to show evidence of said compliance.

Seconded by Councilmember NEYHART and carried upon the following roll call vote:

AYES:	BRAY, CIOFFI, GOMEZ, NEYHART, PENTA, SNIFFEN
NAYS:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE

April 12, 2023

Mayor Tucci's 2023 Budget Message

"The 2023 budget that we are introducing tonight is the result of budget hearings with individual council committees, as well as numerous meetings with the Finance Committee, Council and our CFO, Michael Martin. I would like to thank all parties involved, especially Finance Chairman, Councilman Stephen Bray, for the hard work and cooperation that went into the development of this budget. The total 2023 budget of \$13,522,284.35 has been decreased by \$52,801.01, over the 2022 budget of \$13,575,085.36. This budget provides funding to maintain staffing and equipment for important public safety functions. It maintains the ability to keep our public facilities and roads in a state of good repair. We also continue to invest in our facilities and roadways through capital improvement projects. An annual inspection is made of all Borough roadways to prioritize those most in need of attention.

TAX RATE

The 2023 tax levy, which is the entire amount of money to be raised by direct taxation, provides a municipal tax rate of 45.35 cents. This represents a reduction of 6.74 cents in the tax rate from 2022. The tax rate is the rate per \$100 of assessed value to arrive at the levy. Our Borough did experience an increase in Property Valuations of 17.70% over the 2022 Property Valuations. Taxes on an average home in West Long Branch assessed at \$872,479 for municipal purposes will be \$3,956.65. This is only a \$150.48 increase over last year. The balance of taxes is for the local and regional schools and the county.

REVENUES

Revenues for the Borough have remained stable throughout the 2022 budget year, and we have anticipated similar amounts for the 2023 Budget. The amount of State Aid anticipated from the State of New Jersey increased for 2023 by \$47,034.26 to a total of \$843,203.26. The amount of Surplus utilized is the same as the 2022 amount of \$947,600.

APPROPRIATIONS

The Finance Committee has worked very diligently to control expenditure within the departments. Most of the departments were held at the same appropriation levels as in 2022. This year the Borough plans to appropriate over \$1,100,000.00 for Road Paving and Sidewalk Projects partially funded by NJ Department of Transportation Grants. A note of appreciation is due to both our taxpayers and our tax collector, Laura Amada, for achieving a tax collection rate of 98.76% The public hearing on the 2023 Municipal Budget is set for May 24, 2023."

April 12, 2023

Councilmember BRAY offered the following resolution and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilmember SNIFFEN.

MUNICIPAL BUDGET NOTICE

Section 1.

Municipal Budget of the Borough of West Long Branch, County of Monmouth for the Fiscal Year 2023;

BE IT RESOLVED that the following statements of revenues and appropriations shall constitute the Municipal Budget for the year 2023;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said Budget be published in the Asbury Park Press in the issue of April 19, 2023.

The Governing Body of the Borough of West Long Branch does hereby approve the following as the Budget for the year 2023:

AYES:	BRAY, CIOFFI, GOMEZ, NEYHART, PENTA, SNIFFEN
NAYS:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE

Notice is hereby given that the Budget and Tax Resolution was approved by the COUNCIL MEMBERS of the BOROUGH OF WEST LONG BRANCH, County of MONMOUTH, on April 12, 2023.

A Hearing on the Budget and Tax Resolution will be held at Borough of West Long Branch on May 24, 2023, at 6:30 o'clock PM at which time and place objections to said Budget and Tax Resolution for the year 2023 may be presented by taxpayers or other interested persons.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The Borough Attorney informed that an ordinance establishing fees for health permit registrations and renewals is being finished and should be on the agenda for introduction at the April 26th Council Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilman Neyhart informed that bocci games will begin on Tuesday, April 18th at 5:30 PM. Councilman Neyhart suggested that a request be submitted to the school board that the track and tennis courts remain open on the weekends.

BILLS AND CLAIMS:

Councilman Bray moved to approve the bill list. Seconded by Councilmen Gomez and carried upon the following roll call vote:

AYES:	BRAY, CIOFFI, GOMEZ, NEYHART, PENTA
NAYS:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	SNIFFEN

PUBLIC HEARING:

There being no one wishing to speak, Councilman Neyhart moved to adjourn the Council meeting and to enter Executive Session. Seconded by Councilman Bray and carried unanimously.

April 12, 2023

EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the following portion of this meeting dealing with the following generally described matters shall not be open to the public:

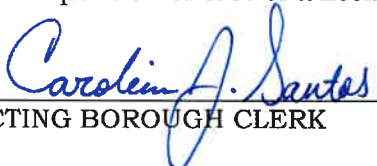
Contract Negotiations; Fire Department Contracts; Police Personnel; Administrative Personnel; Owen Property; Road Program Claims; Tax Appeals; Security Contracts

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is anticipated that the matters to be considered in private may be disclosed to the public at a later date under the following circumstances:

When the need for privacy as to each item no longer exists.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the private consideration is deemed required and is permitted because of the following noted exceptions set forth in the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12):

- | | |
|------------|---|
| _____ | 1. Rendered confidential by Federal law or that if disclosed would impair receipt of Federal funds. |
| _____ | 2. Rendered confidential by State Statute or Court Rule. |
| _____ | 3. Would constitute an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy. |
| X
_____ | 4. Deals with collective bargaining or any employment agreement, including negotiations positions. |
| X
_____ | 5. Deals with purchase, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds. |
| _____ | 6. Related to setting of bank rates or the investment of public funds and disclosure could adversely affect the public interest. |
| _____ | 7. Related to tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public and disclosure may adversely affect the public. |
| X
_____ | 8. Related to investigation of violations or possible violations of the law. |
| X
_____ | 9. Related to pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiations in which the public body is or may be a party. |
| X
_____ | 10. Falls within the attorney-client privilege and confidentiality is required. |
| X
_____ | 11. Deals with personnel matters involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, performance evaluation or discipline of any public officers or employees, either current or prospective, and all of the employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected have not requested that the matter be discussed publicly. |
| _____ | 12. Quasi-judicial deliberations after public hearing that may result in imposition of a civil penalty or suspension or loss of a license or permit. |



ACTING BOROUGH CLERK