

April 14, 2020

**BOROUGH OF BRADLEY BEACH, MONMOUTH COUNTY**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-**

**RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO HOLD FOSSIL FUEL COMPANIES ACCOUNTABLE FOR DAMAGES AND MITIGATION COSTS ARISING FROM CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA-LEVEL RISE**

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**Mayor Engelstad** offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Bradley Beach is located in Monmouth County, New Jersey with approximately 5,000 residents along the Atlantic Ocean; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Bradley Beach is greatly impacted by severe weather, flooding and related costs; and

**WHEREAS**, based on data from policy experts, economic analysts, energy modelers, data engineers, and environmental scientists, the 2019 Rhodium Report indicates that the sea surface temperature in the Northeast United States has warmed faster than 99% of the global ocean since 2004, with New Jersey sea levels rising by more than twice the global average; and

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that Hurricane Sandy caused more than \$30 billion in damages within the State of New Jersey, destroying 72,000 homes statewide, and causing damage and destruction within the Borough of Bradley Beach; and

**WHEREAS**, in alignment with the need for the Borough of Bradley Beach to protect itself against future super storms, in October 2019, Executive Order No. 89 outlined a statewide resiliency plan to address the state's vulnerability to severe weather events, precipitation, and wind damage that cause disastrous consequences for public health and safety; and

**WHEREAS**, it is known that, in the United States, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from burning fossil fuels amounted to 76% of total human-caused greenhouse gases (GHGs) and NASA explains the "greenhouse effect" as when carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxides trap heat in the atmosphere and cause temperatures to rise, known as "global warming;" and

**WHEREAS**, fossil fuel companies have knowingly produced, marketed, promoted, and sold fossil fuels over the last 50 years despite their contribution to global warming, without protecting or warning consumers about the dangers, and have spent millions of dollars on campaigns to obscure the truth to protect their own assets; and

**WHEREAS**, several major fossil fuel companies are advocating for immunity from lawsuits over climate change-related costs and damages and trying to eliminate municipalities' power to bring suit or assert specific causes of action;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor & Council of the Borough of Bradley Beach, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, do hereby urge Governor Murphy to hold the fossil fuel industry financially accountable for their role in creating and perpetuating the climate crisis to ensure that the cost of adaptation and mitigation does not fall solely on the shoulders of taxpayers; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this Resolution shall be forwarded to our representatives in Congress, the members of the New Jersey General Assembly and the State Senate, the Lieutenant Governor, the Governor of the State of New Jersey, and to the Attorney General of the State of New Jersey.

Seconded by Councilman \_\_\_\_\_ and adopted upon the following vote:

	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mr. Bonnell				
Mr. Gubitosi				
Mr. Sexsmith				
Mr. Weber				
Mayor Engelstad				

**CERTIFICATION**

I, Erica Kostyz, Deputy Municipal Clerk, Borough of Bradley Beach, Monmouth County, New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Mayor and Council at the April 14, 2020 meeting.

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ERICA KOSTYZ, RMC, CMR  
Deputy Municipal Clerk