

BOROUGH OF BRADLEY BEACH
COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 12, 2023 AT 6:30 P.M.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT, PUBLIC MEETINGS MAY BE HELD IN PERSON OR BY MEANS OF COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT TO INCLUDE STREAMING SERVICES AND OTHER ONLINE MEETING PLATFORMS (N.J.S.A. 10:4-8b).

THIS MEETING WAS HELD IN-PERSON AND THROUGH THE ZOOM MEETING PLATFORM, BEING BROADCAST FROM BOROUGH HALL, 701 MAIN STREET, BRADLEY BEACH, NJ 07720. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR THIS COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING OF APRIL 12, 2023 WAS AVAILABLE IN PERSON OR THROUGH THE ZOOM LINK POSTED TO THE WEBSITE. THE REMAINDER OF COUNCIL MEETINGS (RESOLUTION 2022-265 ADOPTED DECEMBER 13, 2022) FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2023 WAS ADVERTISED IN THE COAST STAR AND THE NEW COASTER ON DECEMBER 15, 2022 AND THE ASBURY PARK PRESS ON DECEMBER 17, 2022.

WITH ADEQUATE NOTICE HAVING BEEN GIVEN, THE MUNICIPAL CLERK IS DIRECTED TO INCLUDE THIS STATEMENT IN THE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING.

A Council Business Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bradley Beach was held in the Meeting Room, 701 Main Street, Bradley Beach, New Jersey on the above date.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fox opened the meeting with a salute to the flag.

Sunshine Law was read.

The meeting has been noticed publicly according to the Open Public Meetings Act requirement for the “Annual Notice” and posted on the official bulletin board in the Borough Office.

ROLL CALL AT 6:30 P.M.

Present at the April 12, 2023 Council Business Meeting:

**Councilwoman DeMarco, Councilwoman DeNoble, Councilman Gubitosi, Councilman Weber,
Mayor Fox**

Municipal Clerk, Erica Kostyz

Borough Attorney: Gregory Cannon, Esq.

Borough Engineer, Bennett Matlack

Deputy Municipal Clerk: Michele Whille (ZOOM operator)

Administrative Assistant Alison Gavin (Assisted with Administrative notes and public questions)

Mayor Fox:

WORKSHOP DISCUSSIONS:

1) Borough Facilities Strategic Plan: 30 Minutes

Started: 6:35 p.m.

Ended: 7:05 p.m.

Mayor Fox presented this via PowerPoint to include:

Key functions and questions:

- **Public Works**
- **Public Safety**
- **Municipal Administration**
- **Zoning, Code, and Construction**
- **Fire Department**
- **First Aid**
- **Court**
- **Recreation**
- **Beach Management**
- **School**
- **Library**
- **Historical Society**
- **Opportunity, feasibility, execution**
- **Assessment, planning, portfolio management, and project execution**
- **Speak to other Municipalities.**
- **Confer with County resources.**
- **Appoint Borough team members.**

Council input:

Councilwoman DeMarco stated she is glad the Council is speaking about the Borough assets more holistically.

Councilman Gubitosi thanked Mayor Fox for starting this process and gave additional suggestions to include:

- **More hands-on involvement and a series of public workshops.**
- **Engagement from professionals.**
- **Investigate finding opportunities.**
- **Property acquisition (revenue for the Borough).**

Councilwoman DeNoble asked who the Borough team members would consist of and who would select the members and funding.

Mayor Fox stated all of this would have to be discussed and determined.

Councilman Weber agrees a professional planner should be involved with this project and if residents are going to be involved, the Council should have a say in the selection.

Mayor Fox spoke about the ideation process and potential maintenance plan for these sites.

Public Comment:

In Person:

Thomas J. Coan, 612 Third Avenue, suggested adding shared services to this asset plan, volunteered to on the group for this project and mentioned usage of buildings.

Mike Moss, 429 Monmouth Avenue, mentioned several opinions regarding the location of municipal buildings and parking.

Nancy Meadow, 805 Beach Avenue, stated the Council should select any resident volunteers.

Linda Duffy, 312 Brinley Avenue, mentioned shared services and suggested the Governing Body decide what the next step is for this project.

ZOOM: None

2) Chapter 450 Amendments Recommendations:

Mayor Fox gave an overview and the timeline of this process.

Borough Engineer Bennett Matlack gave a PowerPoint presentation including the following:

- Master Plans – Maintain consistency with the MLUL, continue to update Ordinances, evaluate parking standards, and review definitions.
- Announced and thanked the participants involved with the Zoning Ordinance Review Team.
- Zoning Ordinance Changes – Clarify/Clear definitions, add definitions, merged boards, codifications, ground mounted equipment, updated section for site triangles, parking lots and garages, flagpoles, private irrigation.
- Updates requiring discussion.
- Next steps involved.

Items discussed between Mr. Matlack and the Governing Body:

- Shed requirements - impervious and building coverage.
- Previous ordinances that were not codified properly.
- Penalizing people for construction for undersized lots.
- Pergolas, gazebos, patios, elevated decks, and balconies.
- Garage Apartments – lot size, height, permitted on corner lots.

Public Comment:

Don Greenberg, 610 Park Place Avenue, asked about Home Offices.

It was decided to discuss this at the next meeting due to time constraints for this workshop.

PRESENTATIONS:

319 LaReine Avenue Update:

Mayor Fox presented this via Powerpoint to address the following:

- **Sale of the Property**
- **Appraisal**
- **Net Valuation**
- **Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association interest in items in the building**
- **Providing salvage leads – DIG Architects, T&M**
- **Next Steps**

The Governing Body asked about a park on the property, the appraisal value, auctioning the lots and razing the site, being respectful of valuable items on site, and flipping the lots.

Proclamations:

Earth Day – Read by Council President DeMarco

WHEREAS, we continue to live through the COVID-19 pandemic, we are reminded of the extraordinary importance of maintaining a clean and healthy environment; and

WHEREAS, the global community faces challenges such as health issues, food and water shortages, and economic struggles; and

WHEREAS, all people, regardless of race, gender, income, or geography, have a right to a healthy, sustainable environment with economic growth and opportunity; and

WHEREAS, we are all caretakers of our planet and have an obligation to combat climate change and environmental degradation to preserve the earth’s beauty and resources; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to broaden and diversify this global movement to achieve maximum success; and

WHEREAS, this year marks the 51st Anniversary of the Earth Day Movement. Let it be known that the Borough of Bradley Beach, State of New Jersey, encourages all businesses, institutions, and individuals to celebrate the Earth and commit to caring for the planet and its resources.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bradley Beach, hereby proclaim April 22, 2023, as “**Earth Day**,” and encourage people in the Borough to support green economy initiatives, and to encourage others to undertake similar actions.

Autism Awareness Day – Read by Councilwoman Jane DeNoble

WHEREAS, Autism Awareness Month is observed annually in April and each year people across the globe take the time to recognize the millions of people living with Autism and Autism Spectrum Disorder; and

WHEREAS, Autism, or Autism Spectrum Disorder is a pervasive developmental disorder affecting communication and behavioral skills of those affected by it; and

WHEREAS, while there is no known cure for autism, it is well-documented that if individuals with autism receive early and intensive treatment, they lead significantly improved lives; and

WHEREAS, individuals with autism often require a lifetime of specialized and community support services to ensure their health and safety and to support families’ resilience as they manage the psychological and financial burdens autism; and

WHEREAS, Autism Awareness Month promotes acceptance and celebration of autistic people who are our family members, friends, classmates, co-workers, and community members and the valuable contributions they make to our world; and

WHEREAS, Autism is a natural variation of the human experience, and we can all create a world which values includes and celebrates all kinds of minds.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bradley Beach recognizes and proclaims the month of April as:

“Autism Awareness Month”

And encourages all citizens to be better informed, more empathetic, and supportive towards people with autism.

Child Abuse Prevention Month – Read by Mayor Fox

WHEREAS, children are vital to our state’s future success, prosperity and quality of life as well as being our most vulnerable assets; and

WHEREAS, all children deserve to have safe, stable, nurturing homes and communities they need to foster their healthy growth and development; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect is a community responsibility affecting both the current and future quality of life of a community; and

WHEREAS, communities that provide parents with the social support, knowledge of parenting and child development and concrete resources they need to cope with stress and nurture their children ensure all children grow to their full potential; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention strategies succeed because of partnerships created among citizens, human service agencies, schools, faith agencies, and the business community; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, I do hereby proclaim **April** as **Child Abuse Prevention Month** and call upon all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, elected leaders, and businesses to increase their participation in our efforts to support families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the communities in which we live.

MINUTES APPROVAL

ON MOTION by Fox/Gubitosi to approve the Council Business Meeting Minutes of March 22, 2023.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: DeMarco, DeNoble, Gubitosi, Mayor Fox
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: Weber

APPROVED

ON MOTION by Fox/Gubitosi to approve the Executive Session Minutes of March 22, 2023.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: DeMarco, DeNoble, Gubitosi, Mayor Fox
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: Weber

Public Comments on Agenda Items:

In Person:

Don Greenberg, 302 Park Place Avenue, mentioned Ordinance 2023-4 was not posted to the website, requested the workshop PowerPoint materials be posted to the website, and gave his suggestion regarding storage sheds.

Thomas J. Coan, 612 Third Avenue, gave his suggestion regarding storage sheds, inquired about usage for Resolution 2023-124, requested the Mayor recuse himself for Resolution 2023-131 and requested no more Non-Fair and Open agreements.

Paul Neshamkin, 411 ½ LaReine Avenue, stated he will continue to advocate to save 319 LaReine. Mr. Neshamkin also asked for a status on the Biase Center Roof to which Mayor Fox addressed. (2:30)

Michael Moss, 429 Monmouth Avenue, gave his opinions regarding what to do with 319 LaReine Avenue.

Mayor Fox addressed this inquiry.

Eileen Shissias, 112 Fourth Avenue, gave several suggestions regarding the Mobi Mats and showers.

Thomas McGuire, 610 Brinley Avenue, asked several questions pertaining to the Communications Memo regarding QPA services.

Mayor Fox addressed all inquiries.

Jeanne Leahy, Park Place Avenue, requested storage space and more activities for Senior Citizens.

Nancy Meadow, 805 Beach Avenue, expressed her opinion regarding the Communications Memo.

Anne Politi, 512 Bradley Boulevard, spoke on behalf of herself and the Sylvan Lake Commission regarding Resolution 2023-124 involving a Grant submission for various potential projects for Sylvan Lake.

Mayor Fox explained there is flexibility with how the grant money can be used in relation to Sylvan Lake.

Councilman Gubitosi clarified the Sylvan Lake Commission is not interested in using the funds for a walkway.

ZOOM:

Shana Greenblatt-Janoff, 414 Monmouth Avenue, stated she is glad Chapter 450 is being properly amended and spoke at length about garage apartments and pools.

Julia Rand, 1 Atlantic Avenue, gave her opinions regarding the Biase Center.

Mea Molin, 302 Fourth Avenue, gave her opinions regarding a pocket park for 319 LaReine Avenue, purchase of additional Mobi Mats. Ms. Molin advocated for Mr. Coan's suggestions and inquired about Resolution 2023-123.

Randy Bonnell, 506 Third Avenue, gave his input on back/garage apartments and sewer replacement.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION(S):

ORDINANCE 2023-4

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN PORTIONS OF CHAPTER 5: "ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT" OF THE BOROUGH'S REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES TO MODIFY AND CLARIFY CERTAIN MEETING RULES, AGENDA GUIDELINES, APPOINTMENT POWERS, AND PURCHASING PROCEDURES.

Mayor Fox stated there are parts of this ordinance that need to be clarified and feels the movement of several positions into the idea of advice and consent is shifting the intent of the Borough's form of Government and Charter. Mayor Fox continued he feels this needs more discussion before moving forward with introduction.

Councilman Gubitosi stated this ordinance has had plenty of discussion and feels this has been thoroughly vetted and feels these ordinance changes are legal.

Discussion ensued between the Mayor, Mr. Cannon, Councilman Gubitosi and Councilman Weber regarding existing paragraphs that are superfluous and not applicable to the current operations in the Borough.

ON MOTION by Councilman Gubitosi/Councilman Weber to introduce Ordinance 2023-4.

Councilwoman DeMarco stated there are elements of this ordinance that address some concerns that are shared with Council colleagues, however she is unable to support this ordinance as introduced and is hesitant to support any ordinance that conflicts with State statutes and has potential to put undo constraints on Municipal Staff and can be done through Administrative policy rather than by ordinance and voted no.

Mayor Fox voted no and feels this is not productive and voted no.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: DeNoble, Gubitosi, Weber
NAYS: DeMarco, Mayor Fox
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

INTRODUCED

ORDINANCE 2023-6

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CERTAIN SALARIES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF BRADLEY BEACH, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, AND THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY AND REPEALING ANY AND ALL OTHER ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT HEREWITH.

Councilman Gubitosi explained this ordinance is to update the existing Salary ordinance for the recently negotiated PBA Contract.

ON MOTION by Fox/Gubitosi to introduce Ordinance 2023-6.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: DeMarco, DeNoble, Gubitosi, Weber, Mayor Fox
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

INTRODUCED

ORDINANCE 2023-7

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 123-8: “RULES AND REGULATIONS” OF CHAPTER 123: “BEACHFRONT AREAS AND ADJACENT WATERS” OF THE BOROUGH’S REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES TO REDUCE THE HOURS THAT BICYCLES ARE PERMITTED ON THE PROMENADE.

Mayor Fox explained the purpose of this ordinance is for safety purposes.

Councilman Gubitosi feels this ordinance makes a lot of sense from a safety standpoint for the Borough and the residents.

ON MOTION by Fox/Gubitosi to introduce Ordinance 2023-7.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: DeMarco, DeNoble, Gubitosi, Weber, Mayor Fox
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

INTRODUCED

ORDINANCE ADOPTION(S): None

COMMUNICATIONS:

- **Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA) Memo - Kimberly M. Humphrey will continue to serve as the Borough QPA for an annual salary of \$17,000.00 for this function.**

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

2023-117 Approval of a Lien Redemption Refund for 812 Main Street in the amount of \$50,211.30.

2023-118 Authorizing a refund in the amount of \$100.00 for the Junior Lifeguard Summer Program.

2023-119 Approval for the National MS Society to conduct their 5K Walk on Sunday, May 7, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (pass through only).

2023-120 Approval for Clean Ocean Action to reschedule their Spring Beach Sweep from Saturday April 1, 2023 to Saturday, April 15, 2023.

ON MOTION by Fox/Gubitosi to adopt the Consent Agenda Resolutions.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: DeMarco, DeNoble, Gubitosi, Weber, Mayor Fox

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

INDIVIUAL RESOLUTIONS:

2023-121 Bill List for April 12, 2023.

Councilwoman Demarco had an inquiry regarding the line the COAH Attorney is being charged to.

Mayor Fox explained there is not a sub account to charge the COAH Attorney fees to.

Councilwoman DeNoble inquired about an amount charged to the General Legal line item.

Due to an issue of the format in which the bill list was printed, this inquiry was explained this inquiry would be looked into and answered offline.

ON MOTION by Fox/to adopt Resolution 2023-121.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: DeMarco, DeNoble, Gubitosi, Weber, Mayor Fox

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

ADOPTED

2023-122 Authorizing the purchase of Beach Access Mats and Connectors via State Cooperative Contract.

Councilwoman DeNoble inquired where the mats are being placed.

Mayor Fox responded that the mats would go in front of all lockers.

Councilwoman DeNoble expressed concerns pertaining to price, maintenance, and storage of these mats and suggested starting with a smaller amount or doing a pilot program for this.

Councilman Weber suggested Council Liaisons for the Beach and expressed concerns with maintenance which involves the use of leaf blowers and suggested withdrawing this resolution to lower the number of mats and price.

Councilman Gubitosi feels this is an extravagant purchase and suggested a smaller purchase or doing a pilot program to acknowledge the beaches that have wheelchair access.

Discussion ensued amongst the Governing Body to table this resolution for the next meeting.

ON MOTION by Gubitosi/DeMarco to table Resolution 2023-122.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: DeMarco, DeNoble, Gubitosi, Weber, Mayor Fox

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

TABLED

2023-123 Authorizing Change Order and Agreement Number 5 for the Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project – Phase II increasing the project amount by \$125,000.00.

Councilman Weber asked what the purpose of this Change Order is for.

Mayor Fox responded it is for curbs and aprons for Second Avenue.

ON MOTION by Fox/Weber to adopt Resolution 2023-123.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: DeMarco, DeNoble, Gubitotsi, Weber, Mayor Fox

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

ADOPTED

2023-124 Approval to submit a Grant Application and execute a Grant Contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Sylvan Lake Improvements Project.

Councilman Gubitosi requested the Borough Engineer to consider using the Grant funds for the bulkhead, tree removal, or safety improvements for Sylvan Lake.

ON MOTION by Fox/Gubitosi to adopt Resolution 2023-124.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: DeMarco, DeNoble, Gubitosi, Weber, Mayor Fox
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

ADOPTED

2023-125 Authorizing the Award of General Engineering Services with CME Associates for General Engineering Services.

Councilman Gubitosi requested more specificity for future resolutions.

ON MOTION by Fox/Weber to adopt Resolution 2023-125.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: DeMarco, DeNoble, Gubitosi, Weber, Mayor Fox
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

ADOPTED

2023-126 Authorizing Amendments to the Temporary Budget.

ON MOTION by Fox/Gubitosi to adopt Resolution 2023-126.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: DeMarco, DeNoble, Gubitosi, Weber, Mayor Fox
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

ADOPTED

2023-127 Authorizing the Borough Administrator to purchase a New Roofing System and retain a Certified Contractor from a New Jersey State Purchasing Cooperative for the Biase Center in an amount not to exceed \$145,000.00.

Expected quotes were not received, the Governing Body agreed to table this resolution. Mayor Fox requested to table this resolution.

Councilwoman DeNoble requested to have the resolution amount lessened to \$100,000.00 when next presented.

ON MOTION by Fox/DeMarco to table Resolution 2023-127.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: DeMarco, DeNoble, Gubitosi, Weber, Mayor Fox
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

TABLED

2023-128 Awarding a Non-Fair and Open Professional Services Contract to Settembrino Architects to perform Architectural Services for proposed Renovations/Additions to the Biase Center.

Councilman Gubitosi thanked Mr. Settembrino for his presentation suggested not going through with the adoption of this resolution and stated after much thought and given the state of the budget affairs, feels this is not a purchase to consider at this time.

Discussion ensued amongst the Governing Body regarding the reason for not moving forward with this resolution and moving forward with Biase Center roof repair.

RESOLUTION FAILED

2023-129 Authorizing Advertisement for Open Public Auction for a Concession License at Oceanfront and Newark Avenue.

ON MOTION by Fox/Weber to adopt Resolution 2023-129.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: DeMarco, DeNoble, Gubitosi, Weber, Mayor Fox
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

ADOPTED

2023-130 Authorizing Advertisement for Open Public Auction for a Concession License to place ATM Machines on the Beachfront Promenade.

Councilman Gubitosi clarified the company would be paying the Borough to place their ATM machines in certain locations within the Borough.

ON MOTION by Fox/Gubitosi to adopt Resolution 2023-130.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: DeMarco, DeNoble, Gubitosi, Weber, Mayor Fox
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

ADOPTED

2023-131 Authorizing the Minor Encroachment of one stair of the entry stairway for 414 McCabe Avenue, AKA Block 29, Lot 21 to be located within the Municipal Right-of-Way.

Mayor Fox recused himself upon vote of this resolution.

ON MOTION by DeNoble/Weber to adopt Resolution 2023-131.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: DeMarco, DeNoble, Gubitosi, Weber
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: Mayor Fox

ADOPTED

2023-113 Authorizing the Mayor to execute a Professional Services Agreement with Government Management Advisors, LLC, for Acting Borough Administrator Services. (Previously tabled 3/22/23 pending receipt of agreement)

ON MOTION by Fox/Gubitosi to adopt Resolution 2023-113.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: DeMarco, DeNoble, Gubitosi, Weber, Mayor Fox
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

ADOPTED

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilwoman DeNoble:

- **The Green Fair will be held on April 22nd in Riley Park. This event will include the Shade Tree and Environmental Commissions and the BBES will host a table.**
- **The BBES Safety Patrol has a new Lieutenant, Nora Weber.**
- **The BBES Nurse gave a presentation on helmets.**
- **The Preschool students took a field trip to Vic's Restaurant to learn about pizza making.**

- The next Board of Education meeting will be held on April 25th at 7:00 p.m.
- The Shade Tree Commission met on March 29th and will be planting trees at the end of the month.
- The Shade Tree Commission will be doing a dedication to the Eight Grade class of 2023.
- The Arbor Day Celebration will take place on April 28th, time to be determined.

Councilwoman DeMarco:

- The Environmental Commission met earlier this month to discuss the upcoming Beach Sweep reschedule for Saturday April 15th and discussed their plans for the Green Fair.

Councilman Gubitosi:

- Gave the weekly Police Department activity report.
- Expressed concerns regarding the Communications Memo regarding the salary amount for QPA services.
- Mr. Gubitosi stated he hopes to continue having discussions regarding ADA Beach access opportunities.

Councilman Gubitosi gave the following prepared statement to be entered into the 4/12/23 Minutes:

To be clear to the public, every year, the Mayor is tasked with developing our Municipal Budget. He works with the Business Administrator and the Borough Chief Financial Officer to develop a budget for the Borough's spending. The Council is not involved. However, ultimately, the Council must approve this final budget.

Initially, per Ordinance, the Mayor was supposed to deliver the Administration's preliminary budget to the Council by January 31, 2023. The Council agreed to extend this deadline to February 27, 2023. This deadline was also not met.

Then, on March 8th, without Council participation or awareness, the Mayor and Business Administrator presented a "Workshop" identifying a preliminary budget that included a 20% municipal tax increase. This would represent an annual increase of almost \$1,000 for an "average" appraised house in Bradley Beach.

Since that date, for over one month, I have asked many budget questions, but received few responses. Generally, I am told that research is being conducted to provide answers. We, the Council, are sitting here one month after a 20% municipal tax increase was shared with the public, during a Workshop on March 8th. Unless I am mistaken, I believe that not one of our Council members, sitting here tonight, understands the budgeted costs that are driving this increase, or what can be done to reduce this projected spending. Again, one month later we have few answers!

And now, we are told that a special "Budget Workshop" is to be scheduled on April 21st in order to share a new budget with the Public. Judging by our history, it is unlikely that the Council will be given much time, if any, to review this new budget. The Mayor then plans to introduce this revised budget on April 26th our next Scheduled Council meeting.

I want to state for the record that this is a tremendous waste of everyone's time. This Administration, and this Council should not share a budget with the public; especially one with a massive Municipal Tax increase that no one understands. The Council does not understand the cost drivers, and it is highly

unlikely that the public will understand these cost drivers. The only reason to hold this workshop and then to introduce the budget on April 26th, is to satisfy timing requirements for New Jersey State filings.

I want the public to understand that I will vote no for any budget introduction that has not been fully vetted, first with this Council, and then with the public. The public expects this Council to represent them with integrity and transparency. If we do not fully understand the reasons for a massive Municipal tax increase, this Council better have at least four “NO” votes ready when this “new” budget is introduced.

Councilman Weber:

- Mentioned not being in attendance for the last two Council Meetings due to the meeting day change and unavoidable schedule conflicts.
- Commented about ADA compliance for the Borough buildings.
- Gave the Fire Department and First Aid Squad bi-weekly activity reports.
- Suggested recognizing the historic trees in town as part of the 130th town celebration.
- The Community Tree Planting event will take place on April 29th, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The Shade Tree Commission are looking for volunteers.
- Stated opinions regarding the Budget.

Mayor Fox:

I will continue to highlight the infrastructure projects. Our Outfall Pipe on Ocean Park/McCabe Avenue beaches. This outfall pipe delivers stormwater to the ocean. The replacement project will start next Monday, April 17th and conclude before July 1st. We may have to intermittently close the Promenade for short periods of time when we are moving equipment and replacement pipes onto the beach. Our Professional partners are working with OEM and DPW to absolutely minimize disruption. We ask for your patience and understanding.

Next, completing Phase II of the Sewer project. We met with the engineering team last week to review the schedule for completion. We have curbing, driveway aprons, and of course, paving on Third and Fourth Avenues. We are pushing to complete it as soon as possible. We are starting back up next week and our Engineers are dovetailing the concrete and paving to the extent we can. We are trying to be done pre-Memorial Day.

We are holding a workshop next Friday , April 21st from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. As it relates to our progress on the budget, we have been working diligently on opportunities and verifying salary related costs/variances. We have asked departments to make cuts that would not hurt us too much programmatically. We have made good progress and we should be able to finalize the reports by Monday, April 17th for distribution.

Our plan is to introduce the Budget on April 26th and hold the budget hearing and adoption on May 24th.

Just a reminder, we are starting the joint project with Ocean Grove, our partners on the Fletcher Lake Commission. The walking bridge between our two towns needs a facelift. Start-up will begin next week. The Bradley Beach Fire Department held its annual fish fry Friday on March 31st. This is one of the most unifying events of the year and is enjoyed by hundreds of residents and the event did not disappoint! Thanks to Roy Christenson, Board of Trustees President, for his leadership in this event and much more!

In addition, the rain-date for the Egg Hunt at the Promenade Horseshoe did not deter our egg-hunting families. The Fire Department and First-Aid Squad serve the community in so many ways. Thanks to Chiefs Kelly Hagerman and John Zech. Special thanks to Walter Wilson, the Easter Bunny's right hand man!

On Sunday, March 26th, the Borough sponsored our first Mediterranean Festival. The event was a big success. There was a combination of local Mediterranean foods, various vendors, and great entertainment for the community to enjoy! Many thanks to Michele Whille, Amy Hall, and Courtney Pappas for their leadership, and to Father Erin Brown and his team for working with us to use their great space at the Parish Center at St. Teresa's!

The Bradley Beach Arts Council, led by Julia Rand, is excited to announce their Spring Program, Cats, Cats, and More Cats. It will be a great show. It is this Friday at 7:00 p.m., Saturday at 7:00 p.m., and Sunday at 3:00 p.m. Please try to attend!

Our annual Earth Day Festival & Green Fair, sponsored by the Borough, will be held at Riley Park on Saturday, April 22nd from 10:00 a.m. to-3:00 p.m. Please come and enjoy the park, the warm weather, and the many exhibits!

We are also happy to share our 130th Anniversary Plan , celebrating Bradley Beach since 1893 . The Borough, Bradley Beach Business & Community Alliance, and the Bradley Beach Historical Society will recognize our 130th Anniversary and our great town with:

- Celebrating Bradley Beach 1893 Flags on Main Street
- Memorial Day Parade - Saturday 5/27
- 130th Dinner and Music Celebration - Saturday 6/10 by the Gazebo
- Mapping Main Street Historical Exhibit
- Alliance Week 6/24-6/30

This should be a great opportunity to celebrate as a community.

The Library in partnership with the BBBCA and BYCC invites the Bradley Beach Community to participate in this year's One Beach, One Year. This year's book is *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri. The book is about the Ganguli family's experiences as immigrants in America and how they deal with living in a new country while trying to hold on to their heritage.

The library will host two screenings of the film on Tuesday, May 2nd and Thursday, May 5th at 5:30 p.m.

On Tuesday, May 16th, a book discussion and potluck will be held beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Bradley Beach Firehouse. Participates are encouraged to bring a dish that is meaningful to you or your family to share for the event.

Copies of the book are available to borrow from the library in multiple formats. Print copies of the book in Spanish are also available to borrow. Various BBBCA businesses will also be selling copies of the book.

We are also compiling stories of residents' family histories and ancestry to share with the community. Stop by the library to learn how to share your family's story.

The middle school One Beach, One Read will take place on Friday, May 19th at the Bradley Beach Elementary school at 1:45 p.m. to discuss *New Kid* and *Class Act* by Jerry Craft. After discussing the book, students will attend a comic book workshop.

In partnership with the Mayor's Wellness Committee, the Library continues its virtual Nutrition, Fitness, and Wellness series with registered dietitian Jill Patterson. All sessions are via Zoom and registration is required. For April will cover the following topics:

Thursday, April 13th at 6:00 p.m. – Tips & Tricks for Weight Management

Tuesday, April 18th at 2:00 p.m. – Indoor Walk & Tone

Thursday, April 20th at 6:00 p.m. – Office Workout

The Library has activities every week for kids of all ages including playing Switch games, drop-in crafts, read to a dog, and music classes for babies, toddlers, and Pre-K kids. Check the Library's website or stop in to grab an event calendar to see everything happening this month.

On Tuesday, April 25th at 5:30 p.m., Bugs from Insectropolis will bring a variety of live and pinned bus to the library. Ages four and up. Registration required.

Spring English Language Classes - Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. Intermediate English classes for Spanish speakers. Registration required.

One-on-One Technology Assistance - Do you need help with finding a job or updating your resume? Are you looking to transition to a new career? Do you need help learning new technologies or do you need help navigating the technology you encounter on a day-to-day basis? Contact the library for help. The library has a One-on-One Technology Assistance program that can help with all of the above.

Photography Contest - The Library's photography contests run through May 31st. This year's theme is "New". Entries will be displayed in the library in June.

Recreation

Bocce sign ups started online today for residents through community pass. It will be open to non-residents starting Saturday April 15th for a \$15 fee.

Games will start May 1 and run until June 27th. People can sign up for Mondays at 4pm , 630 pm and Tuesdays at 630 pm.

Summer camp will be here before we know it. Online registration will begin for residents on April 24th and for non-residents May 1st. Also, through community pass.

Crosswords and Coffee will end April 25th but will pick back up in the fall.

Saturday Zumba will end April 29th, Tuesday Zumba will continue until June 13th.

There will be a Senior Card Game on April 20th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Recreation Center.

The Senior Meeting is April 26th at the Banquet Hall with a guest speaker discussing emergency preparedness.

Memorial Day planning is ongoing.

Last meeting, I announced our 130-Year Anniversary Celebration will be on June 10th.

We have a lot to be thankful for here in Bradley Beach, and much to celebrate. We will continue to focus on Service and Progress as a Municipal Team.

In Person:

Note: questions were recorded by Alison Gavin and will be answered independently via email.

Jim Shissias, 112 Fourth Avenue, requested an update on the RFP for the Sewer Analysis Study.

Julie Nutaitis, 605 Newark Avenue, expressed complaint the Budget Workshop is being held on a Friday evening.

An intense and lengthy discussion ensued regarding questions versus comments and Council Member availability for the Budget Workshop Meeting.

Brigitte McGuire, 610 Brinley Avenue, asked several questions regarding the budget process and procedures.

Thomas J. Coan, 612 Third Avenue, commented on Land Use meetings, Mobi Mats, and Resolution 2023-126.

Thomas McGuire, 610 Brinley Avenue, inquired and commented about the Mercantile refunds.

Nancy Meadow, 805 Beach Avenue, commented on the Community Pass and Freedom of Speech and privacy.

Rich Despina, 600 Third Avenue, mentioned damage done to his lawn and property and requested someone get back to him.

Michael Moss, 429 Monmouth Avenue, commented on bicycles on the boardwalk, trees on private property, and the Biase Center roof repair.

ZOOM:

Anita Nazario, 116 Newark Avenue, commented about bicycles on the boardwalk and cell phone enforcement.

Kristen Mahoney, 200 LaReine Avenue, commented on the PBA contract amounts, green space for 319 LaReine Avenue, and dogs on the boardwalk.

Mary Backstrom, 218 Fourth Avenue, commented on form of government and Council involvement.

Randy Bonnell, 506 Third Avenue, commented on the cost for Mobi mats, form of Government, management of the length of meetings.

EXECUTIVE SESSION :

Resolution 2023-132 Retire into Executive Session to discuss an Employment/Personnel Matter.

- **Business Administrator Search**

ON MOTION by Fox/Gubitosi retire into Executive Session at 10:40 p.m. to discuss an Employment Personnel Matter.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: DeMarco, DeNoble, Gubitosi, Weber, Mayor Fox
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

ON MOTION by Fox/Gubitosi to return from Executive Session at 10:50 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: DeMarco, DeNoble, Gubitosi, Weber, Mayor Fox
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

ADJOURNMENT:

ON MOTION by Fox/Gubitosi to adjourn at 10:52 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: DeMarco, DeNoble, Gubitosi, Weber, Mayor Fox
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

THE COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:52 P.M.


Erica Kostyz, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk

4/12/23 Resident Questions during Public Comment and Answers provided offline.

James Shissias, 112 Fourth Avenue,

Q: Status on the RFP for Sewer Infrastructure Study?

A: Mr. Shissias - We have received no response to the RFP. It was sent on March 10th and closes May 9th.

Juliann Nutaitis, 609 Newark Avenue,

Q: How was the date for the public budget meeting decided?

Was each council member given ample notice and input of dates that work for them?

A: Ms. Nutaitis- We had a few tries at scheduling the Budget Workshop. We thought we would meet on Thursday, April 20th, but one of the Council Members had a conflict. We also needed our Financial Professionals available. Friday the 21st was the best date we could schedule. We are introducing the budget on April 26th; and there is then a month to answer additional questions.

Dr. Thomas McGuire & Brigitte McGuire, 610 Brinley Avenue,

Q: Status on refund for mercantile license for last five years, did letter that goes out get amended to be more clear?

Can we reach out to all business about the professional license and issue a refund to those that need to be refunded?

A: The letter is being reviewed for changes. The analysis indicated less than a dozen refunds are due over the last 5 years. Being reviewed with the BA this week.

Rich Despina, 600 THIRD Avenue,

Q: Please get back to him with who he needs to contact about his lawn damage when handicap corner was changed.

A: Mr. Despen, Greg Fehrenbach will contact you. DPW may have grass seed.

Mea Molin, 302 Fourth Avenue,

Q: Consider to have mobi mats only on beaches that currently have handicap access.

Would like an update on the street project and the dangerous conditions created by it.

What is the additional money for in the sewer replacement project-was this not part of the project that was already budgeted for?

**A: Ms. Molin- 1) We are working on options to enhance handicap access and potentially Locker renters.
2) Paving and concrete**