JANUARY 4, 2023
REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK HELD ON JANUARY 4, 2023 AT 5:30 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Please be advised that the notice requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act have been complied with and satisfied in that the annual notice, which gave sufficient notice of the time and place, and conduct of all public meetings of the Municipal Council of the City of New Brunswick, has been filed with the City Clerk, has been placed on an appropriate bulletin board and posted in the back vestibule of City Hall visible to the public through the windows in the lobby of City Hall, New Brunswick, N.J. and has been transmitted to the official newspaper for the City of New Brunswick, namely The Home News Tribune.

The City Council met with all voting members of the City Council present.

Salute to the Flag..... Leslie R. Zeledón
Pause for a moment to honor those American, Iraqis, and Afghanis who have lost their lives in this current conflict.

Staff in attendance:

Public Information Officer Bert Baron
Deputy Clerk Shalon T. Bennett
Planning Director Daniel Dominguez
City Administrator Michael Drulis
Social Services Director Melanie Ford
Assistant City Attorney Charly Gayden
Assistant City Administrator Brandon Goldberg
Police Officer Jamal James
Purchasing Agent Marie James
Deputy Director JT Miller
Finance Director Richard Mulrine
City Attorney TK Shamy
Fire Department Staff Cheryl Smith
Executive Director of City Market Pamela Stefanek
Director of Engineering and Public Works Thomas Valenti
Director of Water Department Alexei Walus
City Clerk Leslie R. Zeledón

On motion of Council Member Egan, seconded by Council Member Fleming and carried, the minutes of the previous Council Meetings held on November 26, 2022 were approved and adopted as engrossed.

Meeting called to order by Council President Sicora Ludwig with Council Members Anderson, Castaneda, Egan, Escobar, Fleming and Gaskins present.

REPORT OF BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT

None.

REORGANIZATION MATTERS

ELECTION OF TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON:
TK SHAMY.

On a motion of Council Member Egan, seconded by Council Member Fleming, and carried, TK Shamy was elected temporary chairperson.

Roll Call:
Aye: Anderson, Castaneda, Egan, Escobar, Fleming, Gaskins, Sicora Ludwig
Nay:
Abstain:
Motion carried.

CHAIRPERSON CALLS FOR NOMINATION FOR COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOR 2023-2024

Chairperson TK Shamy spoke of the historic time with the expansion of the members of the Council, from 5 Council Members to 7 Council Members.

On a motion of Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Egan, and carried, Rebecca Escobar was elected Council President.

Roll Call:
Aye: Anderson, Castaneda, Egan, Fleming, Gaskins, Sicora Ludwig
Nay:
Abstain: Escobar
Motion carried

City Clerk Leslie R. Zeledón administered the oath of office to Council President Rebecca Escobar.

CP Escobar thanked everyone and stated she is looking forward to the continuation in working together.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CALLS FOR NOMINATION FOR COUNCIL VICE-PRESIDENT FOR 2023-2024

On a motion of Council Member Sicora Ludwig, seconded by Council Member Fleming, and carried, Kevin Egan was elected Council Vice President.

CVP thanked everyone and the members of council for their continued support, welcomed the new members, wishing them luck and success. He also thanked all city employees for their handwork and welcomed residents to attend for any concerns.

Roll Call:
Aye: Anderson, Castaneda, Egan, Fleming, Gaskins, Sicora Ludwig, Escobar
Nay:
Abstain:
Motion carried.

City Clerk Leslie R. Zeledón administered the oath of office to Council Vice-President Kevin Egan.

Council President Escobar addressed the public and welcomed the two new Council Members.

PUBLIC HEARING

None.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

O-012301	AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK, TITLE 17, ZONING, CHAPTER 17.02 – DEFINITIONS AND CHAPTER 17.04 – ZONING DISTRICTS

On a motion of Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Sicora Ludwig, and carried, the above ordinance was adopted on first reading and held over for Public Hearing on January 18, 2023 at 5:30P.M. in the Council Chambers in City Hall.

Roll Call:

Aye: Anderson, Castaneda, Fleming, Gaskins, Sicora Ludwig, Egan, Escobar
Nay:
Abstain:
Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. A letter from State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection regarding SUSPECTED HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE DISCHARGE NOTIFICATION NJDEP CASE NUMBER: 23-01-03-1514-35.
2. A letter from ARCO Design/Build Industrial, Inc. requesting a final inspection to release their funds for 501 Jersey Avenue.
3. A Public Notice from Township of Franklin Planning Board Public Hearing: regarding Master Plan Update: Warehouse Development.
4. A letter from Holland Company Inc. regarding invitation to bid on Water Treatment Chemical needs for the City of New Brunswick.
5. A letter from TRC regarding Colonial Pipeline Company applying for a Freshwater Wetlands General Permit #2.
6. A letter from Riker Danzig regarding Ordinance No. O-112202 (the "Ordinance")
7. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Site Remediation and Waste Management Program Receptor Evaluation (RE) Form for Greenway Products & Services, LLC.
8. A Transmittal letter from ARCADIS regarding Remedial Action Protectiveness/Biennial Certification Form – Soil.

RESOLUTIONS

Council President inquired on R-012330 and R-012332, Mr. Dominguez provided an explanation.

Public Comment: Mr. Kratovil inquired on R-012303 and R-012330. Council Member Anderson and Council President Escobar responded. Ms. Moore inquired on R-012303, R-012322 and R-012330. Council President Escobar responded. Mr. Middle inquired on R-012330. Mr. Dominguez responded.
Resolutions R-012301 through R-012334 except R-012325, moved by Council Vice-President Egan seconded by Council Member Fleming and carried were adopted, on consent, by the Municipal Council.

Roll Call:

Aye:	Anderson, Castaneda, Fleming, Gaskins, Sicora Ludwig, Egan, Escobar
Nay:	
Abstain:	

Motion carried.

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NEW BUSINESS

Council President Escobar asked City Administrator to provide an update on the Code Blue Site. Mr. Drulis provided an update on the site and stated administration will continue monitoring the site. Mr. Kratovil commented on the Rent Control ordinance and the Middlesex County Joint Insurance Fund, including a suit. Mr. Shamy responded. Owen from Highland Park spoke about the Code Blue program and protocol of the program. Mia Lynn of Milltown spoke of concerns with the Code Blue program and the homelessness. McKensie of Highland Park, Eric Middle of Old Bridge, Polly of Highland Park, Felix, Doug of Highland Park, Riva of Highbridge, Jeremey of Edison and Luke all spoke on Code Blue concerns, affordable housing and suggestions for the Code Blue program. Brtney Richardson of New Brunswick and DPW employee spoke about accountability and wellness checks for employees. Ms. Moore spoke of a facebook posting, drunk driving, illegal residents and racism. Mr. Dustin Young of 67 Jones Avenue suggested allocation of funds from the passed budget, parking tickets and increased water rates. Anna Barchi of New Labor spoke in support of DPW employees.
On a motion regularly made, seconded and carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:03 P.M.

Leslie R. Zeledón
City Clerk

Rebecca Escobar
Council President