NOVEMBER 15, 2023
REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK HELD ON NOVEMBER 15, 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 in City Hall and has been transmitted to the official newspaper for the City of New Brunswick, namely The Home News Tribune.

The City Council met with six (6) voting members of the City Council present.

Salute to the Flag..... Leslie R. Zeledón
Pause for a moment of reflection and silence.

Staff in attendance:

Public Information Officer Bert Baron
Deputy Clerk Shalon T. Bennett
Assistant City Attorney Joseph Catanese
Planning Director Daniel Dominguez
City Administrator Michael Drulis
Director of Social Services Melanie Ford
Assistant City Administrator Brandon Goldberg
Deputy Fire Chief of Administration Hasahya Hirya
Lieutenant James Hoover
Police Officer Jamal James
Finance Staff Michael Licameli
Finance Staff Angel Roman
City Attorney TK Shamy
Director of Engineering and Public Works Thomas Valenti
Director of Water Department Alexei Walus
City Clerk Leslie R. Zeledón

On motion of Council Vice President Egan, seconded by Council Member Sicora Ludwig and carried, the minutes of the previous Council Meetings held on October 4, 2023 were approved and adopted as engrossed.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

Council President Escobar requested a closed session to discuss personnel matters concerning the Council at 6:07pm.
On a motion of Council Member Sicora Ludwig, seconded by Council Member Egan and carried, the Council went into closed session to discuss personnel matters concerning the Council.
Roll Call:

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

On a motion of Council Member Sicora Ludwig, seconded by Council Member Egan, the session was reopened at 6:34pm.
Roll Call:

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

The City Council went into a closed session to engage in Attorney-Client discussions relative to the law governing the procedure of replacing a council member as a result of a vacancy and the legal processes, timeframes and considerations relative to same. The discussion also involved the City Council compensation and benefits and the legal procedures and processes in connection with any modifications to same. The City Attorney discussed these issues and explained the above.

PUBLIC HEARING

O-102306 AMENDED BY R-O-102306-1	**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK, TITLE 5, BUSINESS LICENSES AND REGULATIONS** CHAPTER 5.09 – "CANNABIS LICENSING AND REGULATION"

Council President Escobar opened the Public Hearing on the above ordinance.
Public Comment: Council President asked Mr. Shamy to give an overview of the ordinance. No comments from the public.
On a motion of Council Vice President Egan, seconded by Council Member Sicora Ludwig, and carried, the above ordinance was adopted on Final Reading on November 15, 2023.

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

O-112301	**AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE NEW BRUNSWICK LOWER GEORGE II PLAN AREA IN THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK**

Council President Escobar opened the Public Hearing on the above ordinance.
Public Comment: Council President asked Mr. Dominguez to give an overview of the above ordinance. Council Member Anderson inquired on the above ordinance. Mr. Dominguez responded. Ms. Moore, Mr. Kratovil and a member of the public inquired on the above ordinance. Mr. Dominguez and Council President responded.
On a motion of Council Vice President Egan, seconded by Council Member Sicora Ludwig, and carried, the above ordinance was adopted on Final Reading on November 15, 2023.

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

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

O-112302	**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK, TITLE 10, VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, CHAPTER 10.20 – HANDICAPPED PARKING, SECTION 10.20.010 – SCHEDULE 39 – "PARKING ZONES FOR HANDICAPPED PERSONS"** <u>ADD:</u> 28 JULIET STREET 62 LEE AVENUE, APT. #1 143 REDMOND STREET

On a motion of Council Member Gaskins, seconded by Council Member Sicora Ludwig, and carried, the above ordinance was adopted on first reading and held over for Public Hearing on

December 6, 2023 at 5:30P.M. in the Council Chambers in City Hall.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

1. A letter from Terraphase Engineering regarding Response Action Outcome for 14 Home News Row (Block: 597.06 Lot: 11.01 & 11.02)
2. A notice from the Planning Board regarding public hearing on November 13 at 7:00 p.m. in Courtroom 101 located at 25 Kirkpatrick Street, New Brunswick, NJ.
3. A NJ Transit Informational Public Hearing Notice regarding senior citizens & disabled residents transportation assistance program.

RESOLUTIONS

Public Comment: Council President asked Mr. Drulis to provide an overview of R-112338, Mr. Shamy to provide an overview of R-112345 and Lt. Hoover an overview of R-112355. Ms. Moore inquired on R-112342 Council President responded. Mr. Kratovil inquired on R-112335, R-112338, R-112346, R-112350, R-112351 and R-112361. Mr. Licameli, Mr. Drulis, Mr. Goldberg, Mr. Dominguez, City Clerk and Mr. Shamy responded.
Resolutions R-112332 through R-112364, moved by Council Vice President Egan, seconded by Council Member Sicora Ludwig and carried were adopted, on consent, by the Municipal Council.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Council President provided an update to the public regarding Code Blue, the arrest of a Public Works employee, the number of bilingual police officers employed by the police department, a possible resolution in support of the nurses and a grant given from St. Peter's Hospital.

Danielle Moore thanked the sanitation workers, spoke about racism, sexual assault and violence in the city. Jessica Aquino, Carol Tanzi and John Shi spoke about the nurses' strike and asked the council to support the S304 bill. Mr. Kratovil commented on the closed session not being on the agenda and the rehiring of JT Miller. Mr. Shamy clarified to the public, closed sessions are not required to be on the agenda prior to taking place. Mr. Drulis commented on the rehire of JT Miller. Daniel Alexander spoke about Native American Heritage month and the New Jersey Commission Native American Affairs. April McClous spoke about the safe staffing legislation, plans for George Street and affordable housing. A few other members of the public spoke about supporting the nurses and safe staffing at the hospital. Jess Marigot inquired on R-112342, asking if there was a requirement for a bilingual candidate. Ms. Marigot also spoke in support of the nurses.
On a motion regularly made, seconded and carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:09 P.M.

Leslie R. Zeledón
City Clerk

Rebecca Escobar
Council President