JUNE 5, 2024
REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK HELD ON JUNE 5, 2024 AT 5:00 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 all 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:

YSS Director Melanie Arent
Public Information Officer Bert Baron
Deputy Clerk Shalon T. Bennett
Asst. City Attorney Joseph Catanese
Parking Authority Harry Delgado
Det. Ryan Degraw
Deputy Director of Human Services Edmund DeVeaux
Planning Director Daniel Dominguez
City Administrator Michael Drulis
Superintendent of the Water Utility Eric Ekoue
Asst. City Administrator Brandon Goldberg
Capt. James Hoover
Police Officer Jamaal James
Finance Department Staff Michael Licameli
Dial a Ride Melissa Mantuano
Finance Director Richard Mulrine
Fire Official Victor Ortiz
Finance Staff Angel Roman
City Attorney TK Shamy
Fire Department Staff Cheryl Smith
Director of City Market Pamela Stefanek
Senior Citizen Resource Center Staff Lisa Troulis
Director of International Programs Michael Tublin
Director of Engineering and Public Works Thomas Valenti
City Clerk Leslie R. Zeledón

On motion of Council Member Sicora Ludwig, seconded by Council Member Gaskins and carried, the minutes of the previous Council Meeting held on April 17, 2024 were approved and adopted as engrossed.

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

PUBLIC HEARING

1. CONTINUATION/TERMINATION OF CONDITIONS ON ABC LICENSE – **RHYTHM HOSPITALITY GROUP, LLC T/A SOCIAL ROOM BAR, LIQUOR LICENSE #1214-33-079-008**

Council President opened the public hearing. TK Shamy read the existing special conditions listed on

the proposed resolution as prepared by the law department to be adopted at the time of their renewal.
Public Comment: None
On a motion of Council Member Gaskins, seconded by Council Member Sicora Ludwig, and carried, the hearing was closed.

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

1. CONTINUATION/TERMINATION OF CONDITIONS ON ABC LICENSE – **THE VINE OF NEW BRUNSWICK, LLC T/A THE VINE, LIQUOR LICENSE #1214-33-028-006**

Council President opened the public hearing. TK Shamy read the existing special conditions listed on the proposed resolution.
Public Comment: None
On a motion of Council Member Gaskins, seconded by Council Member Sicora Ludwig, and carried, the continuation of the special conditions on the license were adopted by Resolution R-062481.

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

3. CONTINUATION/TERMINATION OF CONDITIONS ON ABC LICENSE – **LA FAMOSA, INC. T/A LA FAMOSA, LIQUOR LICENSE #1214-33-045-003**

Council President opened the public hearing. TK Shamy read the existing special conditions listed on the proposed resolution.
Public Comment: None.
On a motion of Council Member Gaskins, seconded by Council Member Sicora Ludwig, and carried, the continuation of the special conditions on the license were adopted by Resolution R-062488.

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

4. CONTINUATION/TERMINATION OF CONDITIONS ON ABC LICENSE – **D'GALA CAFÉ & RESTAURANT, INC. T/A D'GALA CAFE & RESTAURANT, LIQUOR LICENSE #1214-33-007-003**

Council President opened the public hearing. TK Shamy read the existing special conditions listed on the proposed resolution as prepared by the law department to be adopted at the time of their renewal.
Public Comment: None
On a motion of Council Member Gaskins, seconded by Council Member Sicora Ludwig, and carried, the hearing wad closed.

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

PUBLIC HEARING

O-052405	**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK, TITLE 3, "REVENUE AND FINANCE", CHAPTER 3.28, FEE SCHEDULE** RE: SECTION 3.28.090 - FEES FOR LAND USE PROCEDURES

Council President Escobar asked Mr. Dominguez to give an overview on the above ordinance, then opened the Public Hearing on the same.
Public Comment: None
On a motion of Council Member Sicora Ludwig, seconded by Council Member Gaskins, and carried, the above ordinance was adopted on Final Reading on June 5, 2024.

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

O-052406	**AN ORDINANCE FOR THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF GEORGE STREET BETWEEN ALBANY STREET AND BAYARD STREET FROM THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2024 THROUGH SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2024**

Council President Escobar asked Ms. Stefanek to give an overview on the above ordinance, then opened the Public Hearing on the same.
Public Comment: Mr. Drulis, Council Member Ferguson and Council member Anderson also commented on the ordinance.
Ms. Burton, Ms. Moore, Ms. McClous and Mr. Kratovil all inquired on the above ordinance. Ms. Stefanek and Mr. Shamy responded.
On a motion of Council Member Sicora Ludwig, seconded by Council Member Ferguson, and carried, the above ordinance was adopted on Final Reading on June 5, 2024.

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

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

O-062401	**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"** ADD: 108 CHESTER CIRCLE – APT. 1A 56 CHESTER CIRCLE – APT. 2A 50B HASSART 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 June 19, 2024 at 5:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers in City Hall.

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

O-062402	**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK, TITLE 16, LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, CHAPTER 16.24 – SITE PLAN REVIEW, SECTION 16.24.270A – STORMWATER CONTROL ORDINANCE**

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 June 19, 2024 at 5:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers in City Hall.

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

O-062403	**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK, TITLE 10, VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC** RE: VARIOUS CHANGES

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 June 19, 2024 at 5:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers in City Hall.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

1. A letter from Brock & Scott, PLLC regarding filing action to foreclose on a mortgage property address: 9 Halstead Road, New Brunswick, NJ Lot: 7 / Block: 740.
2. A request for Residential Permit Parking from residents of Comstock Street between Remsen and Throop Avenue.
3. A letter from DCA regarding DCA Awards of $25 million in local recreation improvement grants to 372 local governments across the state.
4. A letter from State of New Jersey Department of Transportation regarding Maintenance Roadway Contract C120 which may require nighttime construction.
5. A letter from Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC regarding Filing of Summons and Complaint in Mortgage Foreclosure for property at 135 Lee Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ Lot: 2.01 f/k/a lot 2.3 & 4 Block: 228.
6. A letter from Stern & Eisenberg, PC regarding notice of filing of summons and complaint in Foreclosure of property at 31 Joyce Kilmer Avenue A/K/A 31 Joyce Kilmer Ave, New Brunswick NJ 08901 Block: 144 Lot: 12.
7. A letter from Langan Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc. regarding New Brunswick School – Bond Release, Jersey Avenue Redevelopment Associates LLC Property: Block 205.01, Lot 1.05, Langan Project Number: 130058501.

RESOLUTIONS

Council President asked Mr. Dominguez, Mr. Drulis, Mr. DeVeaux and Mr. Shamy to give a brief overview of R-062405, R-062406, R-062409, R-062410, R-062426 and R-062436.
Public Comment: Mr. Kratovil and Ms. Moore inquired on R-062405, R-062409, R-062431, R-062434 and R-062438. Mr. Dominguez, Council Member Fleming, Mr. Shamy, Mr. Valenti and Council President Escobar responded.
Resolutions R-062401 through R-062442, moved by Council Member Sicora Ludwig, seconded by Council Member Ferguson and carried were adopted, on consent, by the Municipal Council.

Roll Call:

Aye: Castaneda, Ferguson, Fleming, Gaskins, Sicora Ludwig, Anderson, Escobar
Nay:
Abstain: Castaneda R-062415, R-062417, R-062426 and R-062431
Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Council President Escobar gave an update from the last meeting regarding the Climate Action Plan and Stormwater Utility. Mr. Drulis spoke on the Stormwater Utility Ordinance, stating we are in the beginning of the implementation stage. CP Escobar asked Capt. Hoover about a recent acquisition. Council Member Sicora Ludwig read a statement in regards to her recent accident on March 8th. Council President also gave a statement regarding Council Member Sicora Ludwig and informed the public that no other comments or statements will be made regarding the matter.
Ms. Moore stated she has a tracker on her phone and is being followed, she mentioned she submitted a second lawsuit and her case is with the prosecutor's office. Ms. Teresa Vivar brought city residents who stated they sell foods and were asked to apply for licenses. CP Escobar asked the City Clerk to provide the residents with the regulations and procedure for the sale of food from home. City Attorney Shamy explained the definition of a peddler business. April McClous inquired on homelessness, the George Street closure and park restrooms. Mike Tublin commended the council on the closing of George Street. Carlos Ramirez thanked CP for speaking in Spanish to the resident who stopped in, mentioned the Mexican Consulate had an election and a burglary on Suydam Street. Barbara Burton spoke in regards to the business establishment, the Social Room, Mr. Shamy responded.

On a motion regularly made, seconded and carried, the meeting adjourned at 6:29 P.M.

Leslie R. Zeledón
City Clerk

Rebecca Escobar
Council President