JULY 3, 2024
REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK HELD ON JULY 3, 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:

Public Information Officer Bert Baron
Deputy Clerk Shalon T. Bennett
Library Directo Robert Belvin
Deputy Director Human Services Edmund DeVeaux
Planning Director Daniel Dominguez
City Administrator Michael Drulis
Superintendent Of Water Department Eric Ekoue
Social Services Director Melanie Ford
Assistant City Attorney Charly Gayden
Assistant City Administrator Brandon Goldberg
Deputy Chief of Fire Department Hasahya Hirya
Captain James Hoover (NBPD)
Finance Director Richard Mulrine
Administration Staff Salvatore Ruggeri
City Attorney TK Shamy
Fire Department Staff Cheryl Smith
Director of Engineering and Public Works Thomas Valenti
Director of Water Department Alexei Walus
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 Meetings held on May 15, 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

R-072400A	RESOLUTION TO READ 2024 NEW BRUNSWICK MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Council President Escobar asked City Clerk Zeledón to read R-072400A by title only.
Clerk Zeledón read Resolution R-072400A by title only.

Council President Escobar opened the Public Hearing on the budget being read by title only
Public Comment: Mr. Kratovil inquired on R-072400A.

On a motion of Council Member Gaskins, seconded by Council Member Sicora Ludwig, and carried, the above resolution to read the Budget by title only was adopted.

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

	PUBLIC HEARING

Before opening the Public Hearing on the 2024 Municipal Budget Council President Escobar explained the procedure. CP reminded the Public to address all questions to the chair and when necessary, they will be referred to individual members of the Governing Body or Municipal Officials.

Council President Escobar asked Mr. Drulis to provide an overview on the Municipal Budget.
City Administrator Drulis proceeded to read a letter from the Mayor regarding the 2024 Municipal Budget.

CP opened the Public Hearing on the 2024 Municipal Budget.
Public Comment: Mr. Kratovil commented on the Water Utility, PILOT agreements, salaries, including the Mayor's. Mr. Drulis and Mr. Mulrine responded. Ms. Moore commented on a street services salary. Mr. Drulis responded. Ms. McClous commented on the Storm Water Utility. Mr. Drulis responded.

Council Member Escobar closes the public hearing on the 2024 Municipal Budget.
On a motion of Council Member Gaskins, seconded by Council Member Sicora Ludwig, and carried, the Budget Hearing was closed.

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

R-072400B	APPROVE AMENDMENTS OF CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK 2024 BUDGET

Council President Escobar asked City Clerk Zeledón to read R-072400B to approve amendments of the City of New Brunswick 2024 Budget.

Council President Escobar opened the Public Hearing on R-072400B.
Public Comment: None
On a motion of Council Member Gaskins, seconded by Council Member Sicora Ludwig, and carried, the above resolution was adopted.

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

R-072400C	**CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK RESOLUTION TO ADOPT 2024 BUDGET**

Council President Escobar asked City Clerk Zeledón to read Section 2 of R-072400C to approve the City of New Brunswick 2024 Budget.

On a motion of Council Member Gaskins, seconded by Council Member Sicora Ludwig, and carried, the above resolution was adopted.

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

R-072400D	**RESOLUTION TO SET THE TAX LEVY FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR 2024**

Council President Escobar opened the Public Hearing on the above resolution.
Public Comment: None
On a motion of Council Member Gaskins, seconded by Council Member Sicora Ludwig, and carried, the above resolution was adopted.

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

PUBLIC HEARING

O-062404	**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK, TITLE 15, BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION**

Council President asked Mr. Dominguez to give an overview of the ordinance. CP opened the Public Hearing on the above ordinance.
Public Comment: Mr. Kratovil and Ms. Moore inquired on the above ordinance. Mr. Dominguez responded.
On a motion of Council Member Sicora Ludwig, seconded by Council Member Gaskins, and carried, the above ordinance was adopted on Final Reading on July 3, 2024.

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

O-062405	**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK, TITLE 10, VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, SCHEDULE 29, TIME LIMIT PARKING** RE: PARKING METER EXPANSION - UNION STREET & EASTON AVENUE

Council President asked Mr. Dominguez to give an overview of the ordinance. CP opened the Public Hearing on the above ordinance.
Public Comment: Mr. Kratovil inquired on the above ordinance. Mr. Dominguez responded.
On a motion of Council Member Sicora Ludwig, seconded by Council Member Gaskins, and carried, the above ordinance was adopted on Final Reading on July 3, 2024.

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

O-062406	**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK, TITLE 8, HEALTH AND SAFETY, CHAPTER 8.48, TREE REPLACEMENT REQUIREMENTS** RE: TREE PRESERVATION

Council President asked Mr. Dominguez to give an overview of the ordinance. CP opened the Public Hearing on the above ordinance.
Public Comment: Ms. Moore and Mr. Kratovil inquired on the above ordinance. Mr. Dominguez responded.
On a motion of Council Member Sicora Ludwig, seconded by Council Member Gaskins, and carried, the above ordinance was adopted on Final Reading on July 3, 2024.

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

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. A letter from borough of Highland Park regarding Ordinance No. 24-2087 Amending Chapter 230, Land Development concerning Signage Regulations and other design standards (attached).
2. A letter of transmittal regarding area of concern at Rutgers Cook Student Center on 59 Biel Road, New Brunswick, block: 700 Lot 4.02.
3. A letter from Ann Marie McCarthy of Franklin Township regarding Ordinance No. 4436-24 – Amendments to Zoning Ordinance.
4. A letter from Maselli Mills & Fornal, P.C. Attorney at Law regarding Connect One Bank v. Middlesex Future LLC and the State of New Jersey Docket No: F-005585-24.
5. A letter from Michael Sencindiver regarding Escrow for Lower George Street University.
6. A letter from State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Emergency Management Program regarding Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notification NJDEP Case Number: 24-05-07-1423-33.
7. A letter from Dubois & Associates regarding Freshwater Wetlands Letter of Interpretation Presence/Absence Determination. Applicant: Deugen Forterra New Brunswick, LLC.
8. A letter from SOS88, LLC regarding 108 Hamilton Street – Site Performance Bond.
9. A letter from Terraphase Engineering regarding General Information Notice Kamps Inc. 14 Home News Row New Brunswick NJ Block 597.06, Lots 11.01 and 11.02.
10. A letter from Law Offices of Proetta, Oliver & Fay regarding Rhythm Hospitality Group LLC t/a The Social Room Bar License No. 1214-33-079-008.
11. A letter from State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Emergency Management Program regarding Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notification NJDEP Case Number: 24-06-18-2033-10.
12. A letter from Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC Law Offices regarding mortgage foreclosure of 209 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Lot: 3 Block: 261.

RESOLUTIONS

Council President asked Captain Hoover, Mr. Valenti and Mr. Licameli to give an overview of R-072415, R-072421 and R-072438.
Public Comment: Ms. Moore inquired on R-072414 and R-072424. Mr. Valenti and Council President responded. Mr. Kratovil inquired on R-072412, R-072422, R-072425, R-072435 and R-072438. Mr. Goldberg, Mr. Belvin, Mr. Licameli and Ms. Zeledón responded. Ms. McClous inquired on R-072422. Mr. Belvin responded.
Resolutions R-072401 through R-072440 except R-072432 pulled at the request of the City Council, moved by Council Member Sicora Ludwig seconded by Council Member Gaskins 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-072419)

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. DeVeaux gave an update on Community resources for homelessness outreach with non-profit organizations, churches and Coming Home of Middlesex County. Ms. Moore spoke about racism within the police department. Mr. Kratovil thanked everyone involved with the Juneteenth Celebration, inquired about possible department heads retiring, including Director Rawls, water utility violations and a potential proposal of an ordinance regulating fireworks. Ms. McClous spoke on updates regarding code red and air quality concerns. Ms. McClous also spoke about the drug crisis in New Brunswick and inquired on an update for the George Street Redevelopment Plan. Council President mentioned the Community Research Fair being held at Pittman Park on July 10, 2024. Mr. Ramirez thanked Leslie, the City Clerk for easy accessibility to receive OPRA responses, talked about public safety at the public meetings and protection items. Council President responded to Mr. Ramirez's comments and stated discussions are to be made, CP then wished everyone a Happy 4th of July.

On a motion regularly made, seconded and carried, the meeting adjourned at 6:31 P.M.

Leslie R. Zeledón
City Clerk

Rebecca Escobar
Council President