OCTOBER 16, 2024
REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK HELD ON OCTOBER 16, 2024 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 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:

Library Director Robert Belvin
Public Information Officer Bert Baron
Deputy Clerk Shalon T. Bennett
Planning Director Daniel Dominguez
City Administrator Michael Drulis
Water Utility Superintendent Erick Ekoue
Assistant City Attorney Charly Gayden
Assistant City Administrator Brandon Goldberg
Deputy Chief of Fire Department Hasahya Hirya
NBPD Captain James Hoover
Police Officer Jamal James
Utility Business Manager Michael Licameli
Dial-A-Ride Office Supervisor Melissa Mantuano
Finance Director Richard Mulrine
Fire Official Victor Ortiz
City Attorney TK Shamy
Fire Department Staff Cheryl Smith
Executive 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
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 September 4, 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

O-102402	**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK, TITLE 10, VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, CHAPTER 10.12 – TRAFFIC CONTROL REGULATIONS, SECTION 10.12.240, SCHEDULE 23, "SCHOOL ZONES"** **ADD:** 15 MPH – LIVINGSTON SCHOOL AND CHESTER REDSHAW SCHOOL

Council President Escobar opened the Public Hearing on the above ordinance.
Public Comment: Ms. Moore inquired on the above ordinance. Mr. Valenti 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 October 16, 2024

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

O-102403	**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** RE: UPDATES

Council President Escobar asked Mr. Jahr for an overview on the above ordinance. Council President Escobar then opened the Public Hearing on the same.
Public Comment: Mr. Kratovil and Ms. Moore inquired on the above ordinance. Mr. Jahr and Council President 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 October 16, 2024.

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

O-102404	**BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE 2024 GENERAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BY AND IN THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK**

Council President Escobar asked Mr. Drulis for an overview on the above ordinance. Council President Escobar 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 October 16, 2024.

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

O-102405	**BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WATER SYSTEM BY AND IN THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK**

Council President Escobar asked Mr. Drulis for an overview on the above ordinance. Council President Escobar then opened the Public Hearing on the same.
Public Comment: Ms. Moore inquired on the above ordinance.
On a motion of Council Member Sicora Ludwig, seconded by Council Member Gaskins, and carried, the above ordinance was adopted on Final Reading on October 16, 2024.

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

O-102406	**ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SEWER SYSTEM BY AND IN THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK**

Council President Escobar opened the Public Hearing on the above ordinance.
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 October 16, 2024.

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

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

O-102407	**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> 21 MAPLE STREET 10 HIGH STREET 254 REDMOND STREET 8 PROSPECT STREET 219 POWERS STREET

On a motion of Council Member Gaskins, seconded by Council Member Castaneda, and carried, the above ordinance was adopted on first reading and held over for Public Hearing on November 6, 2024 at 5:30P.M. in the Council Chambers in City Hall.

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

O-102408	**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK, TITLE 10, "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC", CHAPTER 10.12 – TRAFFIC CONTROL REGULATIONS, SCHEDULE 22– TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNALS** **DELETE:** ALBANY STREET AND NEILSON STREET; COLLEGE AVENUE AND HUNTINGTON STREET; EASTON AVENUE AND ALBANY STREET/FRENCH STREET; EASTON AVENUE AND HAMILTON STREET; EASTON AVENUE AND SOMERSET STREET; FRENCH STREET AND BAYARD STREET; FRENCH STREET AND PATERSON STREET; PATERSON STREET AND JOYCE KILMER AVENUE **ADD:** ALBANY STREET AND NEILSON STREET TRAFFIC SIGNAL PLAN; COLLEGE AVENUE AND HUNTINGTON STREET TRAFFIC SIGNAL PLAN; EASTON AVENUE AND ALBANY STREET/FRENCH STREET TRAFFIC SIGNAL PLAN; EASTON AVENUE AND HAMILTON STREET TRAFFIC SIGNAL PLAN; EASTON AVENUE AND SOMERSET STREET TRAFFIC SIGNAL PLAN; PATERSON STREET AND JOYCE KILMER AVENUE TRAFFIC SIGNAL PLAN

On a motion of Council Member Gaskins, seconded by Council Member Castaneda, and carried, the above ordinance was adopted on first reading and held over for Public Hearing on November 6, 2024 at 5:30P.M. in the Council Chambers in City Hall.

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

O-102409	**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK, TITLE 8, HEALTH AND SAFETY** **ADD NEW CHAPTER: 8.33 "SMOKING IN PUBLIC"**

On a motion of Council Member Gaskins, seconded by Council Member Castaneda, and carried, the above ordinance was adopted on first reading and held over for Public Hearing on November 6, 2024 at 5:30P.M. in the Council Chambers in City Hall.

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

O-102410	**AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE NEW BRUNSWICK NEW REDMOND II REDEVELOPMENT PLAN AREA IN THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK**

On a motion of Council Member Gaskins, seconded by Council Member Castaneda, and carried, the above ordinance was adopted on first reading and held over for Public Hearing on November 6, 2024 at 5:30P.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 State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Emergency Management Program Bureau of Communication & Response Services regarding Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notification NJDEP Case Numbers: 24-10-08-0700-39.
2. A Notice from City of New Brunswick Zoning Board of Adjustment that a public hearing to be held on October 28, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. regarding Manan Shah, Application # ZB-2024-09.
3. A letter from State of New Jersey Department of Community Affairs regarding the resolution submitted for approval in compliance with the requirements of the Municipal County and Authority Deferred Compensation Plans Rule.
4. A letter from The State of New Jersey Department of The Treasury Division of Taxation regarding Certification of the Table of Equalized Valuations.
5. A letter from The State of New Jersey Board of Utilities regarding I/M/O The Application of CSC TKR, LLC For the Renewal of Its System-Wide Cable Television Franchise.
6. A letter from the Borough of Highland Park regarding Ordinance No. 24-2097
7. A letter from Brach Eichler LLC regarding Proposed Resolution #7 R-102434 Authorizing Sale of City Undersized Vacant Property to NB Plaza Owner Urban Renewal LLC.

RESOLUTIONS

Council President Escobar asked Mr. Shamy, Mr. Goldberg and Mr. Dominguez to give an overview on R-102434, R-102445, R-102446, R102447 and R-102460.
Public Comment: Mr. Kratovil inquired on R-102434, R-102445 and R-102458. Mr. Dominguez, Mr. Valenti and Mr. Shamy responded. Ms. Nicklaus inquired on R-102460. Mr. Dominguez and Mr. Drulis responded. Ms. Moore inquired on R-102446 and R-102460. Council President responded.
Resolutions R-102428 through R-102466, 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-102447)
Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Council President spoke on an incident from October 2nd being rectified, information on an active investigation, the presence of the Police Chief during Council Meetings. CP also announced Mascot Day and the Harvest Festival. CM Fleming spoke on a case he is involved in from May 2020. CM Ferguson encourage the public to vote on November 5th. CM Gaskins concurred and encouraged residents to apply for state benefits related to seniors, homeowners and renters. Danielle Moore spoke in regards to a tracker, a request for Body Worn Cameras, thanked Mr. Valenti and CM Ferguson. Ms. Moore also mention EMS thanked her for saving lives. Tormel Pittman spoke about the opioid crisis, grant funds for the same and reparations. Charlie Kratovil spoke of the unveiling of the Paul Robeson statue, spoke about a recent incident, a complaint submitted by him to the Ethics Board and funds through the Middlesex County Joint Insurance Funds for a case involving CM Fleming. City Attorney Shamy responded. Chris Ryanhart stated he was really proud of the public employees, Police and Fire Department, Department of Public Works and the administrative staff for their work. Mr. Ryanhart also questioned an abstention on a resolution, commented on the remarks given by CM Fleming and his opinion of the same. April Nicklaus inquired on the potential repairs on the Henry Guest House. Dr. Belvin responded.
On a motion regularly made, seconded and carried, the meeting adjourned at 6:44 P.M.

Leslie R. Zeledón
City Clerk

Rebecca Escobar
Council President