NOVEMBER 6, 2024
REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK HELD ON NOVEMBER 6, 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 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
NBPA Director of Operations and Security Harry Delgado
Planning Director Daniel Dominguez
City Administrator Michael Drulis
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
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 Engineering and Public Works Thomas Valenti
Director of Water Department Alexei Walus
Law Department Staff Sarah Walus
City Clerk Leslie R. Zeledón

On motion of Council Member Gaskins, seconded by Council Member Fleming and carried, the minutes of the previous Council Meeting held on September 18, 2024 were approved and adopted as engrossed.

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

PUBLIC HEARING

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"** ADD: 21 MAPLE STREET 10 HIGH STREET 254 REDMOND STREET 8 PROSPECT STREET 219 POWERS STREET

Council President Escobar opened the Public Hearing on the above ordinance.
Public Comment: None
On a motion of Council Member Gaskins, seconded by Council Member Castaneda, and carried, the above ordinance was adopted on Final Reading on November 6, 2024.

Roll Call:
Aye: Castaneda, Ferguson, Fleming, Gaskins, 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

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 Gaskins, seconded by Council Member Castaneda, and carried, the above ordinance was adopted on Final Reading on November 6, 2024.

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

O-102409	**<u>TABLED AT THE REQUEST OF THE CITY COUNCIL</u> AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK, TITLE 8, HEALTH AND SAFETY <u>ADD</u> NEW CHAPTER: 8.33 "SMOKING IN PUBLIC"**

Council President Escobar asked for a motion to table the above ordinance.
On a motion of Council Member Castaneda, seconded by Council Member Ferguson, and carried, the above ordinance was tabled on November 6, 2024.

Roll Call:
Aye: Castaneda, Ferguson, Fleming, Gaskins, Anderson, Escobar
Nay:
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**

Council President Escobar asked Mr. Dominguez to give an overview on the above ordinance.
She then opened the Public Hearing on the same.
Public Comment: Mr. Kratovil and Ms. Moore inquired on the above ordinance. Mr. Dominguez responded.
On a motion of Council Member Gaskins, seconded by Council Member Castaneda, and carried, the above ordinance was adopted on Final Reading on November 6, 2024.

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

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. A letter from State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Contaminated Site Remediation & Redevelopment Bureau of Groundwater Pollution Abatement regarding Discharge to Ground Water Authorization Garry Manufacturing Company at 1010 Jersey Avenue.
2. A letter from New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Contaminated Site Remediation and Redevelopment regarding Rhodia, Inc.; Solvay New Brunswick at 289 Jersey Avenue, Remedial Action Permit (RAP) Number: RAP230002.
3. A letter from 3M Investors LLC regarding Completion of construction work at 42 Joyce Kilmer Avenue and refund of the Escrow funds.
4. A letter from Middlesex County Department of Public Safety & Health regarding a shared service agreement with Middlesex County providing for the City's participation in one or more of the County's solid waste/recycling programs.
5. A letter from Middlesex County Utilities Authority regarding New Brunswick 2024 Quarter 3 Flow and Loadings Services Charges.
6. A letter from Delaware and Raritan (D&R) Canal Commission regarding DRCC #:24-6184 at 271 Remsen Avenue – Mixed-Use Development.
7. A letter from Delaware and Raritan (D&R) Canal Commission regarding DRCC #:24-6187 at 345 Livingston Avenue -- Apartment Building Redevelopment.
8. A certified letter from RM Engineering, Inc. regarding application submitted by Middlesex County Utilities Authority Landing Lane System Improvements application for Flood Hazard Area Individual and Freshwater Wetlands General Permit.
9. A letter from Recon Services, LLC regarding Courtland Plaza 44 Courtlandt Street City Escrow Accounts.
10. A letter from Debra Johnson of 18 Delevan Court regarding Violation Form Correction.
11. A letter from State of New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of Governor Philip Murphy regarding application for New Jersey Department of Transportation's Fiscal Year 2025 Local Freight Impact Fund.
12. A letter from EACR, Inc. regarding a service agreement to handle the Municipality's electronic and freon appliance recycling.

RESOLUTIONS

Council President Escobar asked Mr. Valenti, Mr. Goldberg and Mr. Dominguez to give an overview of R-112406, R-112407, R-112408, R-112415 and R-112416.
Public Comment: Ms. Moore inquired on R-112408 and R-112417. Council President Escobar, Mr. Goldberg and Captain Hoover responded. Mr. Kratovil inquired on R-112415. Mr. Dominguez responded.
Resolutions R-112401 through R-112433, moved by Council Member Gaskins, seconded by Council Member Castaneda and carried were adopted, on consent, by the Municipal Council.

Roll Call:

Aye:	Castaneda, Ferguson, Fleming, Gaskins, Anderson, Escobar
Nay:	
Abstain:	

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Council President gave an update regarding the Ethics Board and the case involving Council Member Fleming. Mr. Shamy explained the process of standard practices with the Middlesex County Joint Insurance Fund for cases with alleged actions. The council also discussed the meeting schedule for 2025 and the Best Practices worksheet. Mr. Mulrine gave an explanation of the Best Practices Worksheet. Council President Escobar also congratulated all the council members whom were re-elected to office. Amir Codero spoke on safety concerns on the French Street Corridor. Ricarda Garcia spoke on her duties for the French Street area but has concerns on safety and has experienced robbery. Fidelia Franco spoke of a fatal accident that occurred on or near Florence and French Street and voiced her opinion on the need for a guard at the same location for crossing the children for school, since there speeding in the area. Christobal Bautista stated he works at the corridor of French Street and witnessed illegal dumping from a business on Jersey Avenue throwing garbage at the Walgreens location, soon after he was threatened. Amanda Alvarado stated there are illegal peddlers on French Street close to the War Memorial Park, causing concern for the children, especially during late hours. Ms. Alvarado also stated War Memorial Park is beautiful but unfortunately there are drunks who are surrounding the area and urinate in the open. Ms. Moore stated she's glad cameras are on, spoke of Mr. Dean's living situation, assistance, a situation with an officer, body worn cameras request and CM Fleming. A concerned citizen spoke on the bus shelters with no benches. Carissa Cunningham stated she has a concern on the smoking policy since there is a large homeless population and asked to invest in housing. Charlie Kratovil spoke on the need for more seating, democracy, remarks from CM Fleming, questioned practices with the Middlesex County Joint Insurance Fund, spoke on CM Sicora Ludwig's case and questioned on an investigation of a fire fighter. April Nicklaus asked about Department heads representatives during Council meetings, updates from the Police Chief, updates on pedestrian safety and drug crisis. CM Escobar and City Administrator responded, stating Department Heads/ representatives are present during the Council Meetings.

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