DECEMBER 18, 2024
REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK HELD ON DECEMBER 18, 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 five (5) 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
NBPA Director of Operations Harry Delgado
Personnel Staff Nicolette Devish
Planning Director Daniel Dominguez
City Administrator Michael Drulis
Assistant City Attorney Charly Gayden
Deputy Chief of Fire Department Hasahya Hirya
NBPD Captain James Hoover
Police Officer Jamaal James
Utility Business Manager Michael Licameli
Finance Director Richard Mulrine
City Attorney TK Shamy
Fire Department Staff Cheryl Smith
Director of Engineering and Public Works Thomas Valenti
Director of Water Department Alexei Walus
Law Department Sarah Walus
City Clerk Leslie R. Zeledón
Administration Department Intern Michelle Zhu

On motion of Council Member Sicora Ludwig, seconded by Council Member Gaskins and carried, the minutes of the previous Council Meeting held on November 6, 2024 was approved and adopted as engrossed.

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

PUBLIC HEARING

DISTANCE WAIVER APPLICATION FOR: RAJAY BAR LLC., t/a 30 BURGERS & BREWS 37 EASTON AVENUE
LIQUOR LICENSE NO.: 1214-33-029-012

Mr. Shamy explained the distance waiver for the above-mentioned liquor license. Mr. Shah gave an overview of his business plan. Council President then opened the public hearing. Mr. Kratovil inquired on the above distance waiver. Mr. Shah and Ms. Zeledón responded.

On a motion of Council Member Sicora Ludwig, seconded by Council Member Gaskins, and carried, the above was closed for public hearing.

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

O-122401	**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"**

Council President Escobar asked Mr. Shamy to give an overview of the above ordinance. Council Member Castaneda mentioned the current state regulations in place related to smoking. Council President then opened the Public Hearing on the same.
Public Comment: Ms. Cunningham expressed her concerns of the fining homeless for smoking. Ms. Moore inquired on the above ordinance asking for the form of smoking and designated areas to be detailed in the ordinance. Ms. Herrera, Ms. Garcia and Ms. Esther expressed concerns with the allowance of smoking in public spaces/parks around the presence of children.
On a motion of Council Member Castaneda, seconded by Council Member Gaskins, and carried, the above ordinance was adopted on Final Reading on December 18, 2024.

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

O-122402	**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK, TITLE 10, VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, CHAPTER 10.04 – GENERAL PROVISIONS, ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT, SECTION 110. - PENALTIES**

Council President Escobar opened the Public Hearing on the above ordinance.
Public Comment: Mr. Kratovil and Ms. Moore inquired on the above ordinance. Mr. Drulis, Mr. Delgado and Council President Escobar 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 December 18, 2024.

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

O-122403	**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK, TITLE 10, VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, CHAPTER 10.16 - STOPPING, STANDING OR PARKING, SECTION 10.16.210 – SCHEDULE 38, "TIME LIMIT PARKING AREAS" AND SECTION 10.16.050 – SCHEDULE 29, "TIME LIMIT PARKING – PARKING METERS"** RE: GEORGE STREET

Council President Escobar asked Mr. Delgado to give an overview on the above ordinance. Council President then opened the Public Hearing on the same.
Public Comment: Mr. Gilabil and 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 December 18, 2024.

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

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

O-122404	**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> 236 GEORGE STREET 56 DELAVAN STREET 258 HALE 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 30, 2024 at 4:00P.M. in the Council Chambers in City Hall.

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

O-122405	**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"** DELETE: 28 JULIET STREET ADD: 28 JULIET 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 30, 2024 at 4:00P.M. in the Council Chambers in City Hall.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

1. A letter from NJILGA regarding proposals to amend the Fair Housing Act.
2. A letter from Grotto Engineering Associates, LLC regarding 30 Charles Street Block 454, Lot 32.01, Project No.: PR-0284.
3. A letter from 90 Beacon LLC regarding completion of construction work at 263 Delavan Street and refund of the Escrow funds.
4. A letter from Gannett regarding net paid for the period of October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024 and the rate to be charged by the Home News Tribune for official advertising, as circulated in accordance with N.J.S.A. 35:2-1, shall be $0.39 per line.
5. A letter from EACR regarding recycling.
6. A letter from State of New Jersey Department of Transportation regarding Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program Request for Applications.

RESOLUTIONS

Council President asked Mr. Drulis to give an overview on R-122479.
Public Comment: Ms. Moore inquired on R-122456 and R-122466. Mr. Walus and Mr. Valenti responded. Mr. Kratovil inquired on R-122457, R-122458, R-122463, R-122467 and R-122471. Mr. Walus, Mr. Valenti, and Mr. Dominguez responded. Ms. Cunningham inquired on R-122474 and R-122475. Captain Hoover and Council President Escobar responded.
Resolutions R-122447 through R-122481 except R-122481, pulled at the request of the City Attorney, 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, Gaskins, Sicora Ludwig, Anderson, Escobar
Nay:
Abstain:
Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Sicora Ludwig highlighted New Brunswick was picked as the "Top Destination in the State", by Jersey Best Magazine, mentioned the Gingerbread contest winners- Roosevelt School for the competition between the schools and Earth and Ivy as the best business. CM Sicora Ludwig also wished everyone Happy Holidays. Council Members Castaneda and Council Vice President Anderson wished everyone Happy Holidays as well. Council Member Gaskins mentioned the Kwanzaa event to be held at NBPAC. Council President Escobar gave updates on Code Blue and addressed the concerns from the public regarding homelessness with providing the differences between the Code Blue program, which is a warming center and the emergency rotating shelter. CP Escobar stated there is no pre-screening with Code Blue, where in the rotating shelters there is a process of pre-screening and allowing the same individuals to attend, opposed to being available for everyone. CP Escobar also mentioned the Kwanzaa event and the Christmas celebration to be held at the Suydam Reformed Church with the help of the Robert Wood Johnson Hospital, New Brunswick Police Department, New Brunswick Latino Firemen Association for the Stephen Jones Christmas Celebration for children, last year 950 gifts were handed out. Ms. Danielle Moore explained she has special visions, thanked Fire Deputy Chief Hirya for listening to her concerns for Mr. Dean, mentioned animal control and respect. Carrisa Cunningham spoke in reference to code blue stating there is a need of a full-time warming shelter, stated police do not treat people like humans and spoke about elected officials. April Nicklaus suggested conversations between the community and requested police representation. CP Escobar and Capt. Hoover responded. Charlie Kratovil mentioned he was grateful for his 1st Amendment rights, spoke about accountability, and crime statistics. Capt. Hoover and CM Gaskins responded. Brandon Gilbo of Harvey Street stated he appreciates the changes in the smoking ordinance.

On a motion regularly made, seconded and carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:24 P.M.

Leslie R. Zeledón
City Clerk

Rebecca Escobar
Council President