

February 15, 2023
Brigantine, New Jersey

A Council meeting was held this date in Council Chambers at 5:00 P.M. with Mayor Sera presiding.

Present: Bew, Lettieri, Haney, DeLucry, Kane, Riordan, Sera.
Absent: None.

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Mayor Sera led the flag salute and Councilwoman Bew offered a prayer. Councilwoman Bew asked for a moment of silence for Michael Houdart, father of Board of Education Business Administrator Jonathan.

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Swearing In Ceremony for Police Officers Fernando Garcia-Ibarra, Benjamin Springer and Michael Waszen.

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Councilman Kane moved, seconded by Councilman Riordan to adopt the following resolution.

CITY OF BRIGANTINE

RESOLUTION 2023-34
EXECUTIVE SESSION

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIGANTINE RESOLVES THAT:

WHEREAS, the Open Publics Meeting Act of the State of New Jersey permits the discussion of certain matters within an Executive Session, as an exception to certain provisions of said laws; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Brigantine wishes to discuss certain matters which qualify as exceptions in Executive Session.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIGANTINE THAT:

1. There is hereby authorized an Executive Session of the City Council of the City of Brigantine, for the purpose of discussing certain matters which qualify under said Open Public Meetings Act. No action binding upon the City Council will be disclosed to the public when legally permitted and when the public interest will no longer be served by keeping such matters confidential.
2. This resolution shall take place immediately.

Roll Call: Bew, Lettieri, Haney, DeLucry, Kane, Riordan, Sera: "Yes".

Motion Carried.

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City Clerk, Lynn Sweeney, RMC read the statement pertaining to the Open Public Meeting Act, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231, excluding the public from a meeting in certain circumstances.

Council retired to executive session at 5:16 P.M.

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Council returned from executive session at 6:19 P.M.

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Mayor Sera reported that Council discussed the following topic in executive session: one pending contract negotiations and one matter of personnel.

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Councilman Lettieri moved, seconded by Councilman Haney approve the 2/1/2023 Council and Executive Session Minutes.

Roll Call: Bew, Lettieri, Haney, DeLucry, Kane, Riordan, Sera: “Yes”.

Motion Carried.

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Councilman Lettieri moved, seconded by Councilman DeLucry to approve the Payroll, Requisition List and Operating Expenses.

Roll Call: Bew, Lettieri, Haney, DeLucry, Kane, Riordan, Sera: “Yes”.

Motion Carried.

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Public Comment on Agenda Items Only.

Tom Repici speaking as the President of the Baseball and Softball Association invited Mayor and Council to participate in the Opening Day Parade and to be a part of the ceremony.

Close of Public Comment.

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Mayor Sera introduced Resolution 2023-35a, Execution of a Separation Agreement and Release Agreement with James C. Bennett.

Councilman Lettieri moved, seconded by Councilman Haney to adopt the following resolution.

CITY OF BRIGANTINE
RESOLUTION 2023-35a

SEPARATION AGREEMENT AND RELEASE AGREEMENT WITH JAMES C. BENNETT.

Mayor Sera spoke about Mr. Bennett’s many accomplishments while working for the City and thanked him for his unwavering commitment to Brigantine. Mayor Sera further stated that he has spent the last two years studying the operations of the City and he sees how Brigantine continues to evolve and change and that he, along with council believe that the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead will benefit from new ideas and fresh leadership.

Roll Call: Bew, Lettieri, Haney, DeLucry, Kane, Riordan, Sera. “Yes”.

Motion Carried.

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By voice resolution, Councilman Lettieri moved, seconded by Councilman Haney to appoint Ryan Hurst Acting City Manager as of March 1, 2023.

Mayor Sera stated that Ryan’s heart and soul is Brigantine and there is no other person he trusts more in that position.

Roll Call: Bew, Lettieri, Haney, DeLucry, Kane, Riordan, Sera. “Yes”.

Motion Carried.

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By voice resolution, Councilman Haney moved, seconded by Councilman Riordan to appoint the following to the Bipartisan Committee to Search for a New City Manager: Councilwoman Bew, Councilman DeLucry & Mayor Sera.

Roll Call: Bew, Lettieri, Haney, DeLucry, Kane, Riordan, Sera. “Yes”.

Motion Carried.

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Councilwoman Bew moved, seconded by Councilman Lettieri to introduce the following ordinance.

CITY OF BRIGANTINE
ORDINANCE NO. 3 OF 2023

AMENDMENT TO FEE ORDINANCE

No public comments were made.

Mayor Sera commented that this ordinance is in regards to changes being made at the Community Center, such as setting up a season pass for both tennis & pickleball, further stating that City is moving toward digitizing which will allow people to use a program called “court reserve” to book their court times.

Roll Call: Bew, Lettieri, Haney, DeLucry, Kane, Riordan, Sera: “Yes”.

Motion Carried.

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Councilman Haney moved, seconded by Councilman Lettieri to adopt the following resolution.

CITY OF BRIGANTINE
RESOLUTION 2023-35

AUTHORIZING SIGNING OF MUNICIPALLY SPONSORED AFFORDABLE HOUSING
AGREEMENT

Mayor Sera stated that this is a project that the City has been working on for a few years that will create affordable housing for veterans.

Roll Call: Bew, Lettieri, Haney, DeLucry, Kane, Riordan, Sera. “Yes”.

Motion Carried.

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Councilman Haney moved, seconded by Councilman Kane to adopt the following resolution.

CITY OF BRIGANTINE
RESOLUTION 2022-36

APPOINTING EDWARD P. STINSON AS COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM PROGRAM
COORDINATOR FOR 2023

Mayor Sera commented that Mr. Stinson is outstanding when it comes to Brigantine's CRS system and that Brigantine receives a 25% reduction on flood insurance due to the efforts of Mr. Stinson, Superintendent of Public Works, John Doring and City Engineer Matt Doran.

Roll Call: Bew, Lettieri, Haney, DeLucry, Kane, Riordan, Sera. "Yes".

Motion Carried.

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CITY OF BRIGANTINE
RESOLUTION 2023-37

AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR EMERGENCY REPAIRS TO
GENERATOR

This resolution was adopted by title, but at the time of the meeting the body of the resolution went to another resolution, so it was decided to strike the vote & comments from the minutes. Upon further review, it was discovered that "Authorizing Award of Contract for Emergency Repairs to Generator" was previously adopted at the meeting held on January 18, 2023 as Resolution 2023-19.

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Councilwoman Bew moved, seconded by Councilman Riordan to adopt the following resolution.

CITY OF BRIGANTINE
RESOLUTION 2023-38

AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Mayor Sera commented that this was for the reconstruction of 44th Street and 44 Street Cove.

Roll Call: Bew, Lettieri, Haney, DeLucry, Kane, Riordan, Sera. "Yes".

Motion Carried.

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Councilwoman Bew moved, seconded by Councilman Riordan to adopt the following resolution.

CITY OF BRIGANTINE
RESOLUTION 2023-39

AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER #1 TO THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF
BRIGANTINE AND C. ABBONIZIO CONTRACTORS FOR THE NEW STORM WATER
PUMP STATION LOCATED AT 12TH STREET NORTH AND EAST EVANS BLVD.

Mayor Sera stated that it was requested that a permanent lift crane be installed at the pump site and in the generator building.

Roll Call: Bew, Lettieri, Haney, DeLucry, Kane, Riordan, Sera. "Yes".

Motion Carried.

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Councilwoman Bew moved, seconded by Councilman Kane to adopt the following resolution.

CITY OF BRIGANTINE
RESOLUTION 2023-40

AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT OF THE
DRIVE-UP WINDOW AND DEAL DRAWER TO DIEBOLD INCORPORATED

Mayor Sera commented that this will add a level of convenience for the taxpayers.

Roll Call: Bew, Lettieri, Haney, DeLucry, Kane, Riordan, Sera: “Yes”.

Motion Carried.

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Councilman Kane moved, seconded by Councilman Haney to adopt the following resolution.

CITY OF BRIGANTINE
RESOLUTION 2023-41

CANCELLATION OF OUTSTANDING CHECKS

Roll Call: Bew, Lettieri, Haney, DeLucry, Kane, Riordan, Sera: “Yes”.

Motion Carried.

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Councilman Haney moved, seconded by Councilwoman Bew to adopt the following resolution.

CITY OF BRIGANTINE
RESOLUTION 2023-42

CANCELLATION OF OUTSTANDING CHECKS

Roll Call: Bew, Lettieri, Haney, DeLucry, Kane, Riordan, Sera: “Yes”.

Motion Carried.

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Councilman Riordan moved, seconded by Councilman DeLucry to adopt the following resolution.

CITY OF BRIGANTINE
RESOLUTION 2023-43

REJECT AND REBID FOOD AND BEVERAGE CONCESSION FOR BRIGANTINE GOLD
LINKS

Roll Call: Bew, Lettieri, Haney, DeLucry, Kane, Riordan, Sera: “Yes”.

Motion Carried.

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Councilman Kane moved, seconded by Councilwoman Bew to approve the following requests:

- A. Brigantine Elks Raffle License #993

- B. Riptide Spring Fishing Derby Request
- C. St. Andrew by the Sea Lutheran Church Beach Services Request
- D. Brigantine Baseball and Softball Association and Chamber of Commerce Opening Ceremony and Easter Egg Hunt Request

Roll Call: Bew, Lettieri, Haney, DeLucry, Kane, Riordan, Sera: “Yes”.

Motion Carried.

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Council/Manager Discussion: Councilwoman Bew asked when the fire truck would be in and Fire Chief Paul Fuller stated that it is expected by the end of the month. Councilwoman Bew thanked Mayor Sera for the success of the Windmill presentation and thanked him for all he is doing for Brigantine, gave a Recreation Commission Meeting update, announced that the Beach Fee Office hours are Thursday, Friday & Saturday from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm, commented that Reach Across America is March 1st, gave a Green Team Meeting update, announced that the first annual Cherry Blossom Festival will be held on Saturday, April 15th and stated that the permit free Yard Sale weekend is scheduled for June 9, 10 & 11th and reminded people to not leave the left over yard sale merchandise on the curb until their designated trash day. Councilman Lettieri thanked Mayor Sera for the Windmill presentation saying it was very informative, congratulated the newly sworn in Police Officers and stated he was sad to hear of the departure of City Manager, James Bennett. Councilman Haney wished Mr. Bennett well, commented on the Recreation Commission meeting activities, congratulated the new Police Officers and praised Mayor Sera for the success of the Windmill presentation. Councilman DeLucry congratulated the new Police Officers and wished his best to Mr. Bennett. Councilman Kane gave his condolences to the family of Helen Kolen a lifelong resident who recently passed away, spoke highly of Mr. Bennett thanking him for all he has done in the past for the City and congratulated the new Police Officers. Councilman Riordan thanked Mr. Bennett for all he has done for the City, thanked Mayor Sera for the success of the Windmill presentation stating that it was very informative and thanked Superintendent of Public Works, John Doring for all his efforts for all he does, gave a Cultural Arts Commission meeting update, stated the Economic Development Commission will meet next week and reminded everyone of the third annual St. Patrick’s Day parade that is taking place on Saturday, March 11th and spoke about the many festivities planned for the weekend. Mayor Sera thanked Councilman Riordan for the opportunity to serve as one of the Grand Marshalls of the parade, commented on the partnership between the City, the Chamber of Commerce and the local businesses has been very positive and through the Economic Development Commission they have done great things to extend the tourism season, praised Police Chief Rich Casamento on the new Police Officers commenting on their accomplishments in the academy and thanked him for the job he and the other officers do for the community, spoke about an email he received from County Executive Dennis Levinson regarding a county wide dispatch system that is being discussed, commented on the Windmill presentation thanking everyone for the kind comments but stated that it is a team effort and thanked Congressman Jeff Van Drew and Senator Vince Polistina for their leadership and stated that there will be another presentation regarding Ocean Wind that will be held late spring or early summer.

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Public Comments.

Anne Phillips of 308 27th Street spoke about the Windmill project asking about a moratorium, questioned what city councils’ position will be regarding the moratorium and asked if council will be present at the County meeting. Mayor Sera responded that he is in contact with Commissioners Rich Dase and Frank Balles and he believes they will be introducing a resolution calling for a moratorium at the county level and if this will be placed on the agenda for that meeting, he will be attending.

Henry Waldron of 314 20th Street spoke about the Windmill presentation stating that his opinion was not accepted at the meeting, further stating that he is pro windmill on a scientific basis.

Marjorie Preston of 37th Street spoke about the vegetation on the beach paths.

Close of Public Comment.

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Mayor Sera commented that he and all of Council support the Marine Mammal Stranding Center 100% and praised all the work they do.

Councilman Haney spoke about the Baseball Association.

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Councilman Haney moved, seconded by Councilwoman Bew to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: All “Yes”.

Motion Carried.

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There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:21 P.M.

Mayor Vince Sera

City Clerk, Lynn Sweeney, RMC