

BOROUGH OF BARRINGTON
CAUCUS MINUTES, MONDAY, JULY 1, 2014

Mayor Klaus called the meeting to order at 6:00pm with the reading of the Sunshine Statement. He then led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Clerk called roll with the following present: Council President Popiolek, Councilwoman Bergeron, Councilman Robenolt. Councilman DelVecchio arrived at 6:13pm, Councilman Ludwig arrived at 6:35pm and Councilwoman Nicholson was absent. Also present were CFO Denise Moules, Eileen Holcombe, Secretary to Mayor and Council, Municipal Clerk Terry Shannon, Solicitor Tim Higgins and Engineer Greg Evans.

First Public Portion—on a motion by Council President Popiolek, second by Councilwoman Bergeron, the public portion of the meeting was opened.

Seeing no public comment, on a motion by Councilwoman Bergeron, second by Councilman Robenolt, the public portion of the meeting was closed.

Engineer: Greg Evans reported on the following

Action items--

We have to award or reject the Shreve Avenue Guide Rail project. We will receive bids on Thursday and make a recommendation.

Page Avenue parking restriction—resident surveys are due back on July 7 and we will present the results.

You need to approve the resolution for policies and procedures for the Streetscape Federal Aid Project. Terry said the resolution is in the packets.

2014 Municipal Aid—we are preparing construction plans for Kent and will bid along with Commerce Drive for receipt this month. We are doing as proposal A and B so we only have one contractor.

Hidden Ponds pump station—contractor installed new trash basket so everything is now done. Mayor Klaus asked that a letter be sent to the residents letting them know the work is now done. Greg Evans will draft the letter.

Clark Drive—Mayor got a request from nine residents for a sound barrier along the NJ Turnpike. We will be sending them a letter letting them know we will be sending a letter to the Turnpike Authority on their behalf.

Traffic investigation at Moore and Austin—we are reviewing the counts we got from the Chief and we will make a recommendation. The police had the counters out there for about seven days.

Beaver Brook drainage—we are preparing a pre-application package for USDA and anticipate submitting this month.

USDA Sanitary Sewer project—you awarded a contract to RTW and pre-construction meeting is tomorrow. Contractor is anxious to start and we anticipate them commencing July 8 on Kingston. Mayor Klaus asked if residents will be notified and Greg said yes. After Kingston he will do Thomas and then the Willows pump station.

Mayor Klaus asked if there were any questions for Greg. Clerk Terry Shannon had a question about the one-way restriction on Trenton Avenue in the block that goes out to Gloucester Pike. It was one-way because of the ice cream parlor that was at the corner and because of St. Francis school. Now that both are gone, can it now be two-way? The Mayor agreed and asked Greg to take a look at it to see if it can be changed to two-way. Councilwoman Bergeron suggested we check with the Chief as well.

Seeing no questions for Greg, this concluded the engineer's report and Greg left the meeting.

*Councilman DelVecchio arrived at 6:13pm.

Administration: Clerk Terry Shannon reported on the following

Page Avenue surveys—are due back from the residents by this coming Monday. So far, three have been returned and all three are in favor of the parking restriction.

Fireworks—all of the paperwork is complete including approval from the Board of Ed and the necessary certificates of insurance and hold harmless agreement. We have to make a final decision by noon on July 3 about the rain date to avoid any additional charges. Mayor Klaus said there will be a meeting of all department heads on Thursday at 10am and the decision will be made then. He asked Terry to remind all the department heads about the meeting.

Part time replacement for tax office—Lorraine has permanently retired and we need part-time help in the tax office. What we are proposing is a 20-hour per week employee to handle three areas: assist tax office as needed; handle special events to help Patti; start to learn the duties of the planning board secretary to plan for Pat's retirement. Because of the breakage in Lorraine's hourly rate, the funds are available in the budget using 20 hours per week at \$12.00 per hour to start. We would have to post internally for five days but we would then like to contact one of the candidates we interviewed last time to see if she is interested. If not, we would advertise locally. The governing body wanted to think about this for a bit and will discuss again later.

Camden County Mosquito Spraying—I forwarded an email this afternoon from Camden County that they will be spraying in town this evening.

League Convention—scheduled for November 18, 19 and 20 this year. Need to know who will be attending so I can register you for the conference. As in prior years, any accommodations will need to be made by you directly as we do not cover those costs. Councilwoman Bergeron said she will attend and Council President Popiolek said he will attend along with Mayor Klaus.

Barrington on Track—just a reminder that the deadline for submissions of articles is July 14.

2013 Audit Report—you all received a copy of the audit report. The resolution to accept the audit will be on the agenda for approval and I will need you to sign the certification form. It is another exceptional audit report.

County OEM meeting—has been set for July 14 at 5pm. The meeting will be here and is with the County engineers as they are updating their hazard mitigation plan on a town-by-town basis.

Letter from Board of Elections regarding polling location for District 2 and 5—I received a letter from the BOE regarding moving the polling locations out of Avon School. The two suggestions they made as alternatives are not acceptable and one of them does not even exist. I sent them a letter back stating that the polling locations need to stay where they are. The set-up at Avon is voters enter directly into

the polling place—not into the school. There is no other alternative in those districts. We are waiting for a response from the County.

Council Agenda Review: Terry reviewed the following items that will be on the agenda

Ordinances for public hearing and adoption—

- Ord. 1022 Ordinance of the Borough of Barrington Amending Chapter 95, Property Maintenance, in the Borough Code
- Ord. 1023 Accepting the Grant of a Temporary Easement Relative to Block 8, Lot 2.09, on the Official Tax Map of the Borough of Barrington and Authorizing the Execution of all Documents Necessary to Implement Said Temporary Easement

Ordinances for introduction on first reading—

- Ord. 1024 Approving Purchase of an Easement from Medford Village East
- Ord. 1025 Amending Chapter 120, Vehicles and Traffic (Page Ave parking)

Resolutions—

- Permanent appointment for Jose Rosado
- Petty Cash Funds
- Rider for Police Outside Services
- Rider for Tax Sale Premiums
- Chapter 159 for DWI Funds
- To Adopt the Policies and Procedures
- July bill list
- To Accept the 2013 Audit

Finance: CFO Denise Moules reported on the following items

Denise reviewed the standard monthly reports including budget status and bank balances. The police overtime is provided as of June 27 payroll. The overtime incurred for the DWI checkpoint will be removed as it was covered by the grant. Revenues are trending nicely but the interest from deposits is very low. Terry and I had a phone conference with Standard and Poor's to discuss our financial health in preparation for the bond sale. That conference went well and we should know tomorrow morning what our rating is. Joe Hoffmann thinks it will be higher or stay the same. That information will be included in the preliminary official statement and the bond sale will be on the 10th and by the end of the month everything should be final.

Councilman DeVecchio asked why overtime was so high in May and June. The Lieutenant's overtime is through the roof. Denise said he is still part of the contract so he is eligible for overtime. There was an MIT on June 27 and the DWI took place the week of June 13 so \$1500 will be removed and posted to the grant. There was another MIT in May as well. Councilwoman Bergeron said our Chief thinks we need another police officer. We have a couple of officers that are out and he is trying to cover the shifts. He thinks it would be less expensive to hire a 15th officer. Councilman DeVecchio said we approved him hiring Class II officers. Maureen said the Chief said you cannot cover shifts with Class II's. Councilman DeVecchio said that is wrong. Maureen said we need to meet with Tim to discuss because the Chief says we are wrong. Tim said just let him know when the meeting is scheduled.

Mayor Klaus asked if there are any other questions for Denise and seeing none, thanked her for the great job on the Audit report.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Council President Popiolek commended the finance office staff for the outstanding audit again this year. The auditor could not find any area that needed improvement. We are working with Senator Norcross' office on the PSE&G estimate to move the poles. They are estimating a cost of \$300,000 to move seven poles and install a few decorative poles on the jughandle. Numbers like that can have an adverse effect on the whole project so we hope to get better results with the help of his office. I will be meeting with Phil Norcross of Parker McCay to discuss the municipality possibly funding the construction of the roadway and then we would incorporate it into the PILOT for payment of the bond. This may be our best option to get the project moving. Wawa is anxious to get the store built. We (the developer) had contracted with Pennoni as the LSRP and there is an underground storage tank at the BokBok site and they are going to remove. They are anticipating some contamination but all of that will be deducted from the sale price to Duckery. As soon as the tank is removed, they will apply for the demolition permit. The project is moving along nicely.

Councilman Ludwig arrived at 6:35pm.

Regarding the Rich Hill project, there was confusion between the developer and Bach Associates. There was a small invoice that was holding up Steve Bach approving the lighting plans. I spoke to Steve myself and he made it clear he will not do any work until he is paid. I would like to discuss this further because I am frustrated with the attitude towards redevelopers. Rich was waiting for the end of school to finish up because he has a road opening that has to be done on Third Avenue. He plans to have that portion done before the beginning of school. He has a third-party investor and all three units will be constructed at the same time.

Councilman Robenolt asked if PSE&G realizes this project is for construction of a Wawa. They have to be a large consumer of electricity or is it possible they are buying their electricity from a third-party vendor? Kirk said it would not matter because PSE&G makes their money from the distribution.

Councilwoman Bergeron reported on the following—

The County has fans available for seniors. The income guidelines are \$24,000 and below and be a Camden County resident. I also have 100 vouchers for seniors for use at the farmer's markets. The FoodBank was running the voucher program but there were complaints because they were at locations it was difficult for many seniors to get to. If you know of any seniors who are in need, let me know. They are also subject to the low-income guidelines.

I have a question about something that has been brought to my attention by residents. There are people saying that residents are abandoning their homes and are not doing short sales because of the difficulty of our CO program. Is it possible to just require CO's for people who rent? If people are walking away because of the CO program, we need to look at that. Mayor Klaus said they are not walking away because of the CO, they are walking away because of the debt. The seller does not have to make the repairs—the buyer can and that can be addressed in the sales agreement. All they have to do is ask. Wayne said there are a lot of ways around that and for someone to walk away because of that does not make any sense. Mayor Klaus said once people hear something they don't want to hear, they stop communicating. Wayne said that having just gone through the process, it is not that bad. Terry said the CO program ensures that the house is safe. Mayor Klaus said when people find out that work was done without permits and now they have to pull the permits, they get angry. Maureen asked what if the work was done by a prior owner and the Mayor responded that John will work with them. We get more thank-you's than we do complaints.

Regarding the police department--I met with the Chief and would like to set-up a meeting to discuss the Class II's. We have an overtime and the most efficient way to help is to hire the Class II's. Tim told Maureen to go ahead and set-up the meeting and let him know when it is. Wayne and Shawn said they want to attend as well.

I went to all three sites that have been designated by the County as shelters for large-scale emergencies and we were the only town that had representation at the site visit. Our regional shelter is Audubon High School. There are also alternative sites designated if needed. Camden City has seven designated sites themselves. The County will have transportation services to the shelters.

Maureen asked Terry to report on the TNR Program and she reported that we took two cats to the last clinic. One had to be euthanized as it was ill and the other turned out to be someone's pet from Magnolia. We are accepting donations for food. We will be sending a letter to the Willows that someone is interfering with the program. We have dedicated people who are volunteering their services and they need to support the program, especially since their residents created the problem in the first place.

Councilman Ludwig reported on the following—

Councilman Hagarty from Bellmawr contacted me and said they are providing an officer to help with coverage during the fireworks. However he said that the Chief said he does not need the help. Councilman DeVecchio asked how many officers are working the fireworks and Maureen said it was 13 but now three are out. We asked Runnemedede for ambulance support. Councilman DeVecchio said we should get police support from both of the other two towns for security purposes.

Councilman Robenolt report on the following—

The Green Team is suspending for the summer. We picked up one new member and will resume in September and be doing a joint venture with the schools.

Judicial—in front of you is a draft of the proposed shared service agreement with Oaklyn. We are looking at a shared service involving Oaklyn, Mt. Ephraim, Haddon Heights and Barrington. Also provided is a letter from Karen and Cindy that was received today. What we are proposing to do is merge our court in with Oaklyn and Mt. Ephraim. Our cases will be merged in with the Oaklyn and Mt. Ephraim's court sessions. Oaklyn just lost their judge so they are in the process of interviewing. Our judge's term is up August 26 and he is one of the judges being considered. Oaklyn will handle security. Karen and Cindy would both become Oaklyn employees. Karen would get an increase of about \$3000. Haddon Height's administrator would be the court administrator for the whole shared court. No one loses their job. Our current costs to operate court are about \$150,000 but our revenue is only \$80,000. We stand to save about fifty to sixty thousand dollars. Maureen asked if we can keep our own professionals. Wayne said we could but it would reduce our savings. Tim said it would require separate court sessions. Maureen then said she is concerned that if this does not work, we will never get court back. For instance, we take property maintenance very seriously here. Do they? Tim said they do but Terry said it does not matter—they will still be enforcing our Code. Tim asked how it has been working between Oaklyn and Mt. Ephraim and Terry responded it works very well. Kirk said that for the past few years, our court has cost us money. It should be self-sustaining but it is costing the taxpayers money. Shawn said that in looking at the court results, it is his understanding that we are losing \$60,000 running court. Denise said that the net costs last year to operate court were about \$132,000 and the revenue was \$81,000 so it cost the borough \$51,000. Shawn asked if this has been consistent every year and Wayne said it has been getting worse each year. Wayne said the numbers are not 100% firm yet. Oaklyn is still working on finalizing the numbers. Karen and Cindy went down there yesterday and met with the rest of the personnel. I have apologized to Karen and Cindy numerous times about it being leaked. That was not supposed to happen but it was leaked at the

Heights council meeting. After more discussion back and forth, it was determined we will wait for the final numbers and will discuss this further before making a final decision. We also have to meet more with Cindy and Karen and the PD. The tentative start date was going to be September 1 but that can be changed if we are not ready. Councilman DeVecchio commended Wayne on a good job. Mayor Klaus asked Wayne to set-up the additional meetings and let everyone know the consensus is this will probably be approved. Terry suggested that if this happens, we convert the court office to the ABLE pantry.

Mayor Klaus asked if anyone went to the Hobby Fest last week at Deere Field. AAA Hobbies ran the event and it was really great.

He then reiterated that the department heads will meet on Thursday to finalize the fireworks and parade. The rain date is Sunday. Shawn asked how we will communicate to the residents. Terry responded we will post it on the website, Channels 19 and 33, the borough sign, we will record an incoming message and Eileen suggested we get the schools to do a Global Connect message. The information will get out there quickly.

Seeing no further business to be discussed, on a motion by Councilwoman Nicholson, second by Councilwoman Bergeron, the public meeting was adjourned at 7:42pm.

Approved: *Terry Shannon*
Terry Shannon, Clerk/RMC