

**BOROUGH OF BARRINGTON  
MINUTES OF MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING  
APRIL 14, 2015 at 6:00 P.M.  
COUNCIL ROOM AT MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A regular monthly Council Meeting of the Borough of Barrington was held on April 14, 2015, at 6:00 pm in the Council Room at the Barrington Municipal Building, with Mayor Klaus presiding.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Klaus called the meeting to order and made the following statement: "This meeting is held in compliance with Chapter 231 of the open public meetings act of 1975 and appropriate notice has been given. Notice of the meeting was filed with the Retrospect and Courier Post and also in the main office of the Borough Clerk where notices are currently kept. He then led the salute to the flag of our country and thanked all for coming out tonight.

**ROLL CALL:** The Municipal Clerk called roll of Council and reports the following:

Ludwig	- yes	Popiolek	- yes
Nicholson	- yes	Bergeron	- yes
Robenolt	- yes	Rink	- yes

Also on dais: Municipal Clerk Terry Shannon and Solicitor Timothy Higgins, Esq.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mayor Klaus noted that Council was provided with a copy of the printed minutes of the March 10, 2015, Council meeting and asked if there were any corrections. Seeing no corrections, on a Motion by NICHOLSON and ROBENOLT, the printed Council minutes were approved as submitted by all members of Council present. Council was provided with a copy of the printed minutes of the February 3, 2015, Caucus meeting and asked if there were any corrections. Seeing no corrections, on a Motion by ROBENOLT and NICHOLSON, the Caucus minutes were approved as submitted by all members of Council present.

**MOTION IS CARRIED**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** The Municipal Clerk read a summary of the March 2015, monthly reports as submitted by Chief Dave Roberts for Police; Deputy Chief Baus for Chief C. Jason Houck for Fire Company; Chief Barbara Willson for Ambulance/EMS; Superintendent Michael J. Ciocco for Department of Public Works; Fire Official Steve DePierri for Regional Fire Prevention; Construction Official John Szczerbinski for Construction; Tax Collector Kristy Emmett for Tax and Sewer Collections; and Court Administrator Catherine Lawson for Court.

On a Motion by POPIOLEK and RINK, the monthly reports were approved as submitted by all members of Council present.

**MOTION IS CARRIED**

**RESOLUTION OF PROMOTION:**

**RESOLUTION 4-2015-47: PROMOTING MICHAEL DRUMM TO THE POSITION OF DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT**

On a Motion by ROBENOLT and NICHOLSON, the Resolution as read were approved with the following poll vote:

Ludwig	- yes	Popiolek	- yes
Nicholson	- yes	Bergeron	- yes
Robenolt	- yes	Rink	- yes

**RESOLUTION APPROVED**

At this time Deputy Chief Drumm was administered the Oath of Office by Mayor Klaus with Councilman Robenolt and the Deputy Chief’s children, Matthew, Michael, Mason and Meredith at his side.

**OLD BUSINESS-ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING, PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION:** The Municipal Clerk stated that the following ordinances are for public hearing and adoption:

**ORDINANCE NO. 1035: AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ARTICLE III IN CHAPTER 48, ANIMALS**

On a Motion by LUDWIG and NICHOLSON the second reading of the ordinances was approved with the following poll vote:

Ludwig	- yes	Popiolek	- yes
Nicholson	- yes	Bergeron	- yes
Robenolt	- yes	Rink	- yes

On a Motion by POPIOLEK and LUDWIG the public hearing on the above Ordinance was opened.

PATTI PAWLING, 122 Lawrence Ave, understands Council’s thought that by releasing the limit of the number of animals permitted that maybe more pet owners will come in and register their pets. Mrs. Pawling thinks that if you won’t come in and register three pets why would you come in and register eight pets? Animal lovers who take care of their pets think they can have more and that its ok. Unfortunately, it’s the neighbors around them who may not be happy, not her neighbors though, they are responsible neighbors. Mrs. Pawling doesn’t see anything positive coming from this ordinance being repealed; we need to enforce the ordinance that is in place now.

CHARLES DRUMM, 217 So. Moore Ave., agrees with Mrs. Pawling’s comments. He did live across someone with five pets and the place was a mess. People should live with what they are allowed to have; they won’t come in and register if they have more pets.

DIANE SHRYER, 212 Nassau Dr., does not have problem with any neighbors, they take good care of their pets. On a personal note her dear friend wants to move to Barrington but she has sixteen cats, she is downsizing but wants to keep the cats; she would register them. This is an example of the extreme that some people go to but if we have a pet limit, she is pretty sure her friend won’t move herre.

MAYOR KLAUS said Council was very interested in the public response, we are going to reconsider the ordinance but we have not decided yet and will look into it further before we come up with an ordinance.

COUNCILMAN LUDWIG advised that his concern is the government telling people what they can and cannot do. There are other ordinances in town that we can use when people don’t do what they are supposed to. If they don’t follow the rules we have other things we can use.

COUNCILWOMAN BERGERON added that we were considering this ordinance because of sustainability. There are other ordinances, such as property maintenance, that we can enforce. We really discussed this and we wanted your input. We also have a noise ordinance.

PHYLICIA ROBENOLT, 114 E. Williams Ave, loves animals and is in the middle of the road about this ordinance. People who don’t have children love their pets. Has council thought about getting a grant to use towards putting money into hiring, or having the TNR group or someone else volunteer to go door to door and check on the animals. Dogs are easy to know about, not cats. They can look at the property to see if it is being kept up, give

them a license; take a proactive step to have this taken care of. Mayor said this is a great idea and we will look into a grant, we appreciate your idea.

COUNCILWOMAN BERGERON asked Terry Shannon, Municipal Clerk, to explain what sustainability is. Ms. Shannon explained that Barrington is signed up as part of Sustainable New Jersey to get bronze certified. One aspect is managing animals in the community and they encourage municipalities if you have pet limits to change that because limits stop people from coming in to license. If you have five pets you won't come in to license the limit of three. Information is available if anyone wants to see it. License fees don't come close to covering animal control costs, our taxes must go towards it.

Mrs. Robenolt advised that the Green team meets immediately after the council meeting if anyone is interested.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT POPIOLEK agrees with the ordinance and says it is government's role to impose rules and regulations to keep the community harmonious as former Councilwoman Pawling said. But in a certain sense, having a moratorium on how many animals a responsible homeowner can have and if they are coming in to license the animals, he gives them a lot of credit in taking the first step of being responsible. He assumes they would be responsible the rest of the way. It punishes people who try to do the right thing.

Seeing no more comments from the public, on a Motion by BERGERON and POPIOLEK, the public hearing on the above Ordinance was closed.

**ORDINANCE 1035 WAS TABLED** until the June meeting so Council can get more input from the community. Mayor Klaus said your comments have helped us. Terry Shannon said there will be a survey in the next Barrington on Track for more public response.

**NEW BUSINESS-ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION ON FIRST READING:** The Municipal Clerk stated that the following ordinance is for introduction on first reading:

**ORDINANCE NO. 1036: ARTICLE VII., CHICKENS, TO CHAPTER 48, ANIMALS, IN THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF BARRINGTON**

On a Motion by BERGERON and NICHOLSON the Ordinance as read was approved with the following poll vote:

Ludwig	- yes	Popiolek	- yes
Nicholson	- yes	Bergeron	- yes
Robenolt	- yes	Rink	- yes

Mayor Klaus announced that this ordinance will be considered for adoption after proper advertisement and a public hearing to be held during the May 12 Council meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS-RESOLUTIONS:** The Municipal Clerk advised that she would read the following Resolutions by title, one after another, and Council will have the opportunity to vote as a Consent Agenda at the end of the reading:

**RESOLUTION NO. 4-2015-48: RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE 2013 AUDIT CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN**

**RESOLUTION 4-2015-49: ADDING 2014 & 2015 TAX EXEMPTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 4-2015-50: AWARDED CONTRACT TO VERIZON FIOS FOR INTERNET AND PHONE SERVICES**

**RESOLUTION NO. 4-2015-51: AWARDED CONTRACT TO PHONE AMERICA FOR PURCHASE OF A TELEPHONE SYSTEM**

**RESOLUTION NO. 4-2015-52: AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FOR 2014 RECYCLING TONNAGE GRANT**

**RESOLUTION NO. 4-2015-53: AMENDING THE DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY IN THE PERSONNEL POLICY HANDBOOK OF THE BOROUGH OF BARRINGTON**

**RESOLUTION NO. 4-2015-54: CHANGE ORDER NO. 1, FUEL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

**RESOLUTION NO. 4-2015-55: SUPPORTING THE TRANSPARENT TAX ACT OF 2015**

**RESOLUTION NO. 4-2015-56: APPROVING THE JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER PROGRAM FROM THE BARRINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**RESOLUTION 4-2015-57: INTRODUCTION OF THE 2015 MUNICIPAL BUDGET OF THE BOROUGH OF BARRINGTON**

**RESOLUTION 4-2015-58: APPROVING THE APRIL BILL LIST – TOTAL \$ 1,015,005.99**

On a Motion by POPIOLEK and BERGERON the Resolutions as read were approved with the following poll vote:

Ludwig	- yes	Popiolek	- yes
Nicholson	- yes	Bergeron	- yes
Robenolt	- yes	Rink	- yes

**RESOLUTIONS APPROVED**

**COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BODY:**

**COUNCILMAN RINK** – welcomed all to the meeting. Advised that he is the liaison for the Barrington Business Association. Could not attend the first meeting but spoke with the secretary Amanda Hunt and they discussed large scale events, farmers market, having a food truck and sponsoring a 5K run. They are looking for people in Barrington to help with this, not necessary to be a member of the Business Association, just be a volunteer. The next meeting is the end of this month and he will follow up with them since he can't attend.

**COUNCILWOMAN BERGERON** – the rabies clinic was a success, approximately sixty animals were licensed and vaccinated. The Councilwoman is working with the schools for Government Day. It will be held the end of May or the beginning of June; it will be a half day program since in the past that was the most successful.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT POPIOLEK** – **welcome** and thank you for taking time to attend tonight's meeting. It has been a busy month, budget season; it's hard to make cuts in a budget that is very thin to begin with; thanks to our CFO for putting forward the effort. We have a respectable budget, the Governing Body will discuss it a little more but I think it is as tight as we can comfortably be. Hats off to our department heads for really working hard within their department to propose a budget to the finance committee that was not the wish list but the realistic list. We are continuing to work hard on the White Horse Pike Redevelopment. The storm sewer has been installed and more paving was done. We are anticipating the beginning of next month to start the DOT roadwork depending on the April weather. Enjoy April and the beginning of spring.

Mayor Klaus added that Council will sit down once again after we receive the county and school board numbers to determine if we need to do anything additional. We work very hard every year with the budget, it's our job and we will do our best to keep the numbers down.

**COUNCILMAN LUDWIG** – thanks for coming out tonight. With the pet issue we appreciate you giving your opinion. Hearing your voices matters and gives us a better perspective on what residents want. Working with

Mike Ciocco that last few weeks has been fun and interesting and I feel like we are on the right track with how things are going. Also, recognized Dave Roberts, lots going on in the department, top notch management.

**COUNCILWOMAN NICHOLSON** – thank you all for coming to talk about the pets, if it was up to me we would have “0”. Opening day for baseball was this past Saturday, a really nice day. Go see them play all week, good food. Softball opening day is this Saturday at 10 am; please come by if you can. April 25 at Avon School will be Earth Day setup, get trash bags, gloves and rakes. If you still need a location to clean call Eileen at the Mayor’s Office; there are still lots of spots available; if you can’t clean Saturday you can do any day you want; we appreciate it. Barrington Day is May 16 at Little League from 11am – 4pm. We have lots of exciting things going on that day too. Being on council and going to the budget with Kirk, Denise and everybody, they really do put a lot of effort into it, department heads know we question everything; I respect how much work they put into it. Nobody is asking for anything that isn’t realistic. I call Terry a lot and I asked her after we come up with a budget to break down the budget so everyone understands that the school board has a budget, the county has a budget and we have a budget. What you get for what you pay the municipality, trash service, fire, police, tax office and public works services, it’s like pennies on the dollar for what they do and the service provided; if we had to cut those services you would really have a problem. Keep that in mind, we really do question every penny.

**COUNCILMAN ROBENOLT** – welcome everyone. Chief please pass along our congratulations to now Deputy Chief Drumm. After the meeting we will have a brief Green Team meeting. Unfortunately, we will have to cancel our Green Fair on the 25<sup>th</sup> at Woodland School. There were logistical problems with the school and the work load for the students; we were not going to impose another major project on them. We will look at having a Green Section at the Harvest Festival and get vendors to increase awareness for sustainability at that event; we will discuss that further. In our resolutions is a letter from Mayor & Council supporting the Transparent Tax Act which allows us to break down and show the public how taxes are spent and how they are allocated. If you want more information on that bill and want to support its passing we can get it to you.

Clerk Shannon advised that we need to add one more resolution appointing Eileen Holcombe as Registrar of Vital Statistics. MAYOR KLAUS advised that as we have one more resolution, it will be approved individually. Clerk Shannon stated the resolution will be as follows:

**RESOLUTION NO. 4-2015-59: APPOINTING EILEEN C. HOLCOMBE AS REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS**

This resolution was approved with the following poll vote:

Ludwig	- yes	Popiolek	- yes
Nicholson	- yes	Bergeron	- yes
Robenolt	- yes	Rink	- yes

**RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED**

**MAYOR KLAUS** – Mayor Klaus said as far as taxes, we have 1100 apartments in town; we are working diligently to make them all accountable for the taxes they impose that we need to recoup, please keep that in mind. The Borough of Barrington has a Barrington Transit, a bus for the senior citizens; we hope to have it in circulation in the next thirty days, if not give us another fifteen. We do need to approach some people for a driver and come up with a route and a specific plan as to who and how the bus will be used. Senior and handicapped from the Mews and Willows, they will need to apply for it; it will all be worked out. Good job working on the bus to Mike Ciocco and DPW. Thanks to all departments for their help during the winter months, it wasn’t easy but we got through. Please check the Barrington on Track for future events. It will be coming out in mid- May with all of our scheduled events.

**PUBLIC PORTION:** On a motion by ROBENOLT and RINK the public portion of the meeting was opened. PATTI PAWLING, 122 Lawrence Ave., with reference to chicken ordinance; if the other ordinance faces complaints how will this work. Solicitor timothy Higgins advised that there is a limit on the chickens, four, and

they do not need to be registered. Mrs. Pawling asked if this was outside of the other ordinance and was advised yes it is; she was also advised that there are no roosters permitted. Mrs. Pawling asked if the resolution on the Jr. Firefighters was different than the Explorers program and Municipal Clerk Terry Shannon advised that they will not have the Explorers program anymore, this will replace it. Councilman Robenolt advised that that is mostly due to insurance reasons and issues with the Boy Scouts sponsoring the program.

HOLLY DECOVNY, 503 Tavistock Blvd, said she is a fan of chickens. It is beneficial on a number of levels; to be sustainable; we live in a time when it is hard for families to have healthy food, she drives far to get farm eggs. She grew up on a farm and is an animal lover. Chickens won't be noisy; a lawn service is noisier and more bothersome than four chickens and it will help with insects in a positive way. She objects to her neighbors spraying roundup and other products that do not help with sustainability. It can also help to build the community as kids should see where their food comes from. Why should we discriminate against chickens when people have cats and dogs and others have birds?

With no further comments from the public, on a motion by NICHOLSON and BERGERON the public portion of the meeting was closed.

With no further business to be transacted, on a motion by BERGERON and POPIOLEK the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

ATTEST: *Terry Shannon*  
Terry Shannon, Municipal Clerk