

BOROUGH OF BARRINGTON
CAUCUS MINUTES (Synopsis), Tuesday, August 5, 2015

Council President Klaus called the meeting to order at 6:00pm with the reading of the Sunshine Statement. He announced the Mayor would not be present as he had a death in the family. He then led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Clerk called roll with the following present: Council President Popiolek, Councilman Rink, Councilman Robenolt and Councilman Ludwig. Councilwoman Bergeron and Councilwoman Nicholson were both away on vacation. Also present were CFO Denise Moules, Municipal Clerk Terry Shannon, Eileen Holcombe, Secretary to Mayor and Council, Solicitor Tim Higgins and Engineer Greg Evans.

First Public Portion—on a motion by Council President Popiolek, second by Councilman Ludwig, the public portion of the meeting was opened. Present was John Hennessey of 138 Woodland Avenue. He is concerned about vacant properties that are not being maintained. 140 Woodland has a giant tree in the backyard that is close enough to his property that when the limbs come down it will damage his property. He believes the insurer will tell him that the tree was an obvious hazard and should have been removed. He wants to know who would be responsible. After some discussion, Council President Popiolek asked Councilman Ludwig to reach out to John Z and Mike Ciocco to ask them to take a look at the problem from a property maintenance standpoint. Councilman Ludwig said he would call Mike and John tomorrow and we will get back to him. Mr. Hennessey then said the he believes there are trees on the school property that appear to be dead. Also, the drop-off boxes on the school property are blocking a handicapped parking spot and he wanted to know if they comply with zoning. He also wanted to know if anyone investigated who it is that gets the proceeds. Council President Popiolek responded that the proceeds go to the Drug Alliance. After more discussion, it was determined that we will follow-up with Officer Kelly who spearheaded the project to make sure the Drug Alliance is getting the proceeds. If they are blocking the handicapped spot, we will have them moved. Then Mr. Hennessey stated that at the end of the parking lot at the school, when soccer season is in full blast, vehicles are parked on the grass and it creates a blind corner that he believes is dangerous for the kids. Council President Popiolek said we will have Councilman Robenolt speak to Chief Roberts about the problem and have the police department look into it. Greg Evans said to be enforceable we will have to add the area to the parking ordinance and post a “No Parking” sign.

Seeing no further public comment, on a motion by Councilman Ludwig, second by Councilman Rink, the public portion of the meeting was closed.

Engineer: Greg Evans reported on the following items from the monthly report.

Action items—Voucher No. 11 and Change Order No. 8 for RTW Construction are both on for approval. We also approved draw No. 6 for Delco Development. We may have a voucher for Pierson for the Kent Avenue project and will let Denise know for sure tomorrow.

Greg then reviewed the monthly engineer’s report and provided updates on the following projects:

- ◆Kent Avenue project—concrete work is done and Pierson will be starting roadwork tomorrow. Should be done within the next two weeks.
- ◆Streetscape Improvements—bids due August 27. We have not heard anything from the County but they were anticipating receiving bids in September.
- ◆USDA Program—Thomas Ave is base paved. In two weeks it will be topped and then they will move over to the Willows.

◆Shreve Avenue parking lot—we found out today the Bellmawr is booked and cannot do this job for us this summer. It is a large lot and will have to be done in phases. Estimate for first phase is about \$50,000. We may be able to piggyback on the Kent Avenue project and I will be discussing with the contractor on Friday. If it works out, we should be able to get the work done by the end of August.

◆White Horse Pike redevelopment—working on the right hand turn lane, they encountered two underground fuel tanks in front of Victor's. They are in the DOT right of way so Delco asked DOT to remove them. Solicitor Tim Higgins said that is not going to happen. We are reinstating the lawsuit for the condemnation action against Victor's to get back money to pay for removal. So far there does not appear any problems with the surrounding soil. Greg said the tanks appear to be full of gasoline.

Council President Popiolek asked if there are any questions for Greg. Clerk Terry Shannon said we got a letter from DOT about the centerline markings. They are doing an inventory of the centerline markings and she wanted to know if the project would change this. Greg said yes—the centerline markings will change. Send him a copy of the letter and he will follow-up.

Seeing no further questions for the Engineer, Greg Evans left the meeting.

Administration: Clerk Terry Shannon reported on the following from the agenda

◆Pet licensing—notices were mailed giving pet owners until August 28 to come in for their license or they will get a summons. Also, today our intern, Alex, called those on the list to remind them about the deadline. Summonses will be going out the following week.

◆Getting rid of Verizon—we have had nothing but problems with Verizon since we switched phone and internet services. Service problems, customer service issues, billing problems and finally they shut off the phones in the PD for non-payment of the bill. That was the final straw and we have gone back to Comcast for internet services and are going back to Spectrotel for phone service. We will not deal with Verizon again.

◆Permanent appointment for Minardi—Chief Roberts has reported that Sgt. Minardi has completed his one-year probationary period and he has recommended him for permanent appointment. The resolution will be on the agenda.

◆Town-wide yard sale—the Town Wide Yard Sale has been scheduled for September 26. The information is ready to be distributed. The fee to participate will be \$10 and proceeds will benefit the TNR program as previously discussed. A resolution authorizing the fee for this purpose will be on the agenda.

Council Agenda Review: Clerk Shannon then reviewed the following items for the agenda

Resolutions—

- Permanent appointment for Sgt. Minardi
- Change Order No. 8 for RTW Construction
- Authorizing \$10 fee for Town Wide Yard Sale and Beneficiary
- Cancelling stale checks drawn on the Current Account
- Chapter 159 for DWI Sobriety Checkpoint Grant
- Authorizing Execution of Drug Alliance Grant contracts
- August bill list

CFO's Report: CFO Denise Moules reported on the following

You have the monthly financial reports as usual. All budget control accounts are in the black. There is one expense for an elevator repair that was not accounted for so that is the only item of expense that was unexpected which is really good for being more than half way through the year. The summary for police overtime is attached and that also looks good. It looks like we also collect more revenue than was anticipated. Spoke with Dave Hunt and we will be finding out if we were approved for another DWI grant for Labor Day weekend. If we did, the resolution for the Chapter 159 will be on the agenda. The email conversion away from FatCow is happening later this month. At the next caucus meeting, please bring any electronics you want to receive your email so he can set them up. Council President Popiolek asked if there are any questions for our CFO. There were no questions.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Ludwig stated his report is for Closed Session.

Councilman Rink reported he went to the BBA meeting and attendance was very low. It was the Chief, myself, Bill Patton and Amanda Hunt. It was August and a lot of people are on vacation. He wanted to get more input from Christine Liss regarding the information they think should be provided to new businesses when they move into town. He will meet with her tomorrow and hopes to get more information.

Councilman Robenolt stated his report is also for Closed Session.

Council President Popiolek reported that we already discussed the two tanks that were discovered during the construction. The equipment for the turn signal is in place. The only issue I am having is with the Planning Board engineer, Steve Bach. We need his approval for a change order on the pad site. The retaining wall was originally going to be a poured wall but they are changing it to an EP Henry wall. Cost is about \$100,000 less and it has more eye appeal. We need Steve to sign off on it but he is not responding. He will be getting the Mayor involved. We will be putting the PILOTs through. Solicitor Higgins said the ordinance will be more than likely introduced in September. We are looking to settle on the Wawa property in the beginning of September. The first reading for that ordinance will be at the August meeting. Kirk said the project is really moving along nicely.

Councilman Robenolt asked if we have any new information on the Harvey's site. Kirk said he saw them working there today. We met with Rich Hill and he was having a problem getting his financial backing. I spoke to Delco and they are going to take a look at the property with the existing approvals.

Councilman Robenolt then added that we had National Night Out and it went very well for the first year. There were 12 vendors who canceled at the last minute but they still had a pretty nice turnout.

Seeing no further business for open session, on a motion by Councilman Robenolt, second by Councilman Ludwig, the meeting was adjourned to closed session at 7:10pm.

Closed Session—Councilman Robenolt reported that we had agreed to promote two sergeants in the police department. The Public Safety committee interviewed seven candidates. We are recommending that Corporal Hunt and Dave Pawling be promoted although it is not unanimous. He would like enough of an approval to promote Dave Hunt next week. Councilman Ludwig said the selection of Dave Hunt is unanimous but the vote will be split on the second promotion. Council President Popiolek asked Tim Higgins what happens in a situation like this where the Public Safety committee is not unanimous on the second promotion. Higgins said because two council members are not present, everyone would need to review all the information before making a decision as to the second promotion. After more discussion, it was determined that we would move forward with the

promotion of Corporal Hunt to the position of Sergeant but we will hold off on making the second promotion until all of council has had an opportunity to review all the information and make an informed decision about the second promotion.

Regarding the retirement of mechanic Greg Southrey, Councilman Ludwig said he will be talking to Mike to come up with a date to sit down with the committee and discuss a game plan for his replacement. If there is anyone in-house who wants to apply for the position, we will consider that in addition to looking outside for a new mechanic.

Seeing no further business to be discussed in closed session on a motion by Councilman Ludwig, second by Councilman Rink, the open public meeting was reconvened at 7:30pm. On a motion by Councilman Rink, second by Councilman Ludwig, the public meeting was adjourned at 7:31pm.

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