

BOROUGH OF BARRINGTON

CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES, Tuesday, January 10, 2017, 6:00pm

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

First Public Portion—on a motion by Councilman Robenolt, second by Councilwoman Nicholson, the first public portion of the meeting was opened. Elizabeth Kennedy from the Barrington Business Association thanked the borough for allowing them to continue to hold their meetings at borough hold. She also thanked Terry for the information on mailings. Their dues will be \$40 this year but if you join early, it is only \$35. They will be holding more workshops this year and the first will pertain to building websites. They are looking for space and the governing body offered the Barrington Recreation Center and Dr. Kennedy thanked the governing body.

Seeing no further public comment, on a motion by Councilman Rink, second by Councilman Beach, the first public portion was closed.

Assessor's Report

Brian Schneider was present to discuss the reassessment. All the letters went out and we have appointments scheduled. We have received a lot of calls but after we explain how the reassessment works, they seem satisfied. Response has been very good and now our numbers going forward are good. We put the recent sales on the website so residents can view comparisons. Diane Schreyer from Nassau Drive South said the gentleman who came to her house was very professional.

Administration

Clerk Shannon reported on the following items:

- Verizon request for municipal consent—packages were emailed to governing body. They plan to install boosters on poles throughout town and are looking for municipal consent. Tim said he is working on this in other towns and suggested we table it until February.
- Health plans as of January 1—there were problems and the folks who changed to the high deductible plans did not have benefits. We worked with the vendors and finally got it straightened out. All members now have coverage.
- Comcast franchise renewal—application was filed and we received a letter from the Office of Cable TV today with the explanation of steps to be taken for negotiation of the renewal. Tim said we need to meet with Comcast to discuss. We will need to hold a public hearing and Tim will prepare the corresponding ordinance.
- Reappointment of the Chaplain—this was not on the Reorg agenda so we need to appoint Pastor Archut at next week's meeting. Councilman Robenolt added we need to add emergency management to the Public Safety committee and Rick Rettinger needs to be added as a deputy.
- Traffic control ordinance—Chief Uron suggested we raise the fees we are charging to contractors for traffic control. We are lower than the surrounding towns and the demand that was put on the police department this past year was extensive. The governing body agreed and authorized the clerk to prepare the ordinance.

Clerk Shannon then reviewed the items for the council agenda.

CFO Moules reviewed the standard monthly reports for 2016. All accounts are in the black. Police overtime was over-expended by \$500 but she will work with the Chief to make sure the 2017 overtime budget is accurate. Revenues are also in the black. She then reviewed the 2017 budget schedule. Packets are going out this month. Denise then reported she will be working with Standard and Poors regarding our bond rating. They have already seen our financial picture is much better and they would like details on how we did it.

Council Reports

Councilwoman Nicholson spoke the recent bill allowing towns to waive sewer fees for military members who are deployed. After some discussion, it was decided we will introduce an ordinance to waive the local sewer fee for any military member currently deployed who is responsible for paying the local sewer so long as they provided the necessary proof. Tim said he will look into what document would need to be provided as proof of military status. Nicholson then said baseball and softball will be planning their opening days soon and need to schedule their coin tosses. She is looking for new members on the recreation committee and will be having a meeting in February.

Councilman Robenolt reported they are progressing with police contract negotiations. The police department hopes to be hiring SLEO II's but the county hired a lot of them so there are not too many available. Also the department is working on updating their rules and regulations. It will be submitted for governing body approval. Regarding the Construction Office, we will be approving a resolution to suspend the CO inspection program until the program can be revised. This will pertain to just the home resale program—apartment inspection program will continue. Tim will prepare the resolution.

Councilman Rink reported his side of town had a lot of diggings-up of the streets. It shut down Mercer Drive for a period. It actually helped with the speeding on Mercer. The contractors doing the work kept the area very clean.

Councilman Beach thanked everyone for their help and support and he is happy to be working with this group to do the best we can for the town.

Mayor Klaus reported the ABLE Group did a great job over the holidays. The source we used from outside town will no longer be available for getting names of families in need. Next food drive will be scheduled soon.

Second Public Portion—on a motion by Councilwoman Nicholson, second by Councilman Robenolt, the second public portion was opened. Diane Schreyer said this is her first caucus meeting and she is impressed to see how everyone works together. She asked how we would know if there will be a closed session at a meeting and the clerk explained there would be a resolution on the agenda. They are typically for personnel matters.

Seeing no further public comment, on a motion by Councilwoman Nicholson, second by Councilman Rink, the public portion was closed.

On a motion by Councilman Beach, second by Councilman Rink, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57pm.

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