

BOROUGH OF BARRINGTON

CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES, Wednesday, July 2, 2019, 6:00pm

Mayor Klaus called the meeting to order in the council room on the dais at 6:00pm with the Sunshine Statement announcement. He led everyone present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk called roll and the following were present: Councilman Ludwig, Councilwoman Harris, Council President Robenolt and Councilman Beach. Councilman Popiolek and Councilwoman Fawley were both expected to arrive later. Also on the dais were Mayor Klaus, Solicitor Tim Higgins and Clerk Terry Shannon.

Councilwoman Fawley arrived at 6:05pm. Councilman Popiolek arrived at 6:20pm.

First Public Portion—on a motion by Councilwoman Harris, second by Councilman Ludwig, the first public portion of the meeting was opened. There was a large number of residents in attendance. Councilwoman Harris introduced Sam Spino from the Camden County Office of Emergency Management. Mr. Spino introduced himself as Emergency Management Coordinator and he understands the residents are dealing with difficulty recovering from the recent flooding (June 20 storm). He explained that OEM has gathered municipal information for FEMA and is now talking to them about individual assistance (IA). We hope to hear next week as to if they will be doing a federal declaration. If you have called your insurance company and were denied, please get that paperwork. We will need that information along with your losses to request IA. He explained that you can draw a straight from Cherry Hill all the way through to Gloucester City to see the disaster results. All of these towns were hit with this flooding. He provided his contact information for the residents and told them to contact him with any questions. Any residents who were already on Councilwoman Harris' list have already been reported to them. If you have not reported your loss information yet, please do so. If you call 2-1-1, we will try to match those who need work done with professionals who do that work.

Councilwoman Harris then asked the residents to come to the podium and give your name and address. The following individuals spoke:

Michael Krowicki, 190 Tavistock Boulevard—basement filled with oil and water. Waiting for an estimate—wants to change to natural gas. He needs help with PSE&G. He needs to get debris out of basement—Barrington supplied him with a dumpster. Mayor Klaus responded that we will contact PSE&G on his behalf. Mr. Krowicki further stated he is only getting \$5,000 from his insurance company.

Paul Gross, 346 Tavistock Boulevard—we are basically a basin for Highland, Warwick and Copley and all the water comes down Tavistock. Are the drains compromised in anyway? He believes we need to check all the pipes to make sure they are not filled with mud and debris. We have lived here for 43 years and this has never happened and he believes this is going to continue because of global warming. He also thinks the state needs to do something because of the drainage coming from the White Horse Pike and Route 295.

Mayor Klaus introduced Assemblywoman Pat Jones—she said she, Senator Cruz-Perez, who is also a victim of the flooding, and Assemblywoman Spearman have been meeting with the different towns hit by this flooding. She spoke to DOT today and they are putting a team together to look at this area because of the flooding. They are working with the governor's office to gather information to apply for public assistance from the federal assistance. The Small Business Administration provides very low-interest loans for repairs that are not covered by insurance. She was devastated by what she saw on Tavistock Boulevard. 31 flood warnings have already come in this year and last year there were 17. We got five inches of rain in a short period of time. We are trying to get the numbers together that will allow us to get funds from FEMA. If we have 25 houses with 40% destruction, we will qualify for the SBA low-interest loans. The commissioner of DOT is an extraordinary woman. She is no-nonsense

and is not political and wants to get the job done. We will make sure they come down to look at our situation. We understand how frustrating this is. Please contact my office with any questions or concerns and she provided her phone number and her email address.

Then the following residents spoke about the flooding situations on their streets:

- ♦Joe Hayden, 110 Erie Avenue; storm drains backup multiple times every year. We get flooding with regular rain.
- ♦Doreen Mellor, 108 Erie Avenue; flooding has been a problem for 38 years and nothing has been done. We have flooding every year but this was the worst. We want to see some action.
- ♦Dee Danks, 302 Reading Avenue; community needs to make sure when you see landscapers throwing stuff into the street, report them. We have to keep the storm drains clear.
- ♦Bruce Berry, 352 Tavistock Boulevard; six drains are not working properly, standing water in them. He is waiting to hear if there will be a class action lawsuit. Does not think drains are being properly maintained.
- ♦George Gallen, 103 Erie Avenue; county used to come out twice a year to clear drains. 36" drain under the railroad is only an 18" drain now because it is clogged. None of the solutions proposed by KEI Engineers have worked. Problems have gotten worse. Can we have a drainage committee to address this specifically? Why hasn't this been addressed after the lawsuit that was filed? His wife, Betty Gallen added that she was upset with the police response. Her sons had to leave the house and had no place to go. They wound up going to a neighbor's house.
- ♦Kathleen Bonstead, 335 Albany Avenue; vacant lot behind her has a storm drain that has never been maintained. She had a geyser in her backyard. Who is responsible for maintenance? They had six inches of water in their basement. The water was pouring in the windows. They lost their water heater and appliances. The Mayor took her phone number to have DPW follow-up.
- ♦Sam Spino again stated to call 2-1-1 for assistance—Rubicom has been helping residents with clean-outs.
- ♦Carlos Garcia, 125 Erie Avenue; it was a good feeling to see the Mayor come out. He has a small company and lost three vehicles. Flooding happens every year. Sewer getting into his house. What if his kids get sick? Police, Fire and Public Works were phenomenal. Everything in basement was destroyed. He lost all of his memories from his family. Birth certificates, photos and other papers were lost that were in his garage and cannot be replaced. This needs to be addressed because it is a health issue.
- ♦Pat Ianelli, 107 Erie Avenue; has a lot of damage. Constantly pumping water from basement-even on a dry day. Just had it re-waterproofed. Orange stuff coming in through the walls. Desert Dry re-did the basement and put in two new sump-pumps. Rubicom helping with clean-out. Water is under foundation—she needs it checked for safety. Outside buildings also ruined. Was told her insurance company would not offer flood insurance. She is scared about safety of her home. She has seven people living in her home. She needs the town to help her and does not want to move. Mayor Klaus asked for her phone number.
- ♦Councilwoman Harris said she has not heard anything about the Erie Avenue flooding since the lawsuit. Councilman Beach said the same thing and he has been on council for three years. Councilwoman Harris added that now we will have to take steps to help with the situation.
- ♦Frank LeGault, 108 Erie Avenue; three little kids, water over our heads, problem does not get fixed. They have to replace water heater, heater and more. How do we evacuate with three kids? We are not looking for money from the town—we just want the flooding fixed.
- ♦Councilman Ludwig responded that we have to do something different since what has already been done has not worked. We will be working with DPW and our engineers to try to improve the situation. Councilman Beach added that the five inches of rain in that storm was one thing but the fact that Erie floods in one inch of rain is something he knew nothing about. Councilwoman Fawley concurred.
- ♦Mr. Krowicki suggested that residents install a check valve to stop sewer from backing up.
- ♦Mrs. Landis, 198 Tavistock Boulevard; can we now be designated as a flood zone so we can get flood insurance?

♦Councilwoman Harris said that even if you cannot get flood insurance from your insurance company, you can get it from the National Flood Insurance program. All you have to do is call them. She will get the contact information and post it.

Seeing no further public comment, on a motion by Councilwoman Fawley, second by Council President Robenolt, the first public portion was adjourned. The meeting was paused so the public could leave and Mayor and Council could go back to council chambers to finish the caucus agenda. Both Councilman Popiolek and Councilman Ludwig left the meeting as they had prior commitments.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Greg Evans reported on the following action items: we will make a recommendation to award or reject the bids received for the tax office security wall. Also voucher No. 2-final for MD Remodeling and change order No. 1 and voucher No. 1 for Marandino for Commerce Drive will be processed.

Greg then reviewed the monthly engineer's report and provided updates on the following: 4th Avenue pump station had a force main break on June 25. Mike had Pioneer Pipe come in for the repairs and a resolution for the emergency repair will be submitted for approval. They believe it was a result of the storm as well. Clerk Shannon said we will submit a claim. Greg then said that Denise sent everyone an email for the capital program and the corresponding ordinance. Clerk Shannon said Councilman Popiolek suggested we hold off on this ordinance until we find out what we need to do for the stormwater situation. The governing body agreed. Councilman Robenolt asked Greg to have his office submit a report on the stormwater situation so the governing body can better understand the conditions. Greg said they will submit a report. Greg then left the meeting.

CLERK'S REPORT

- ♦July 3—change in crowd flow has been posted and only three vendor permits have been issued.
- ♦Plans for Wish Upon a Star Playground—DPW hti water when they drilled the holds for the footings. Cannot pour the concrete until the ground dries out.
- ♦Full-time firefighter—Fire Company is ready to advertise for career firefighter and it will be posted on Facebook and the website. Interested applicants will be directed to email for the application package.

Council Agenda Review: Clerk Shannon reviewed the following

Ordinances for public hearing and adoption:

Ord. 1111, Repealing Ordinance 948, removing stop signs at Russell and Adams
(returns it to a stop intersection)

Resolutions:

Property maintenance liens
Resolution for emergency repairs of force main break
Award or reject bids for tax office security wall
Change order No. 1 for Marandino
July bill list

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilwoman Harris—6pm line-up tomorrow at Old Rail for parade. Retrospect asked for information about plans for Wish Upon a Star. Harvest Fest will be next event after July 4. Mayor and Mrs. Mayor will be grand marshals. Fireworks will go off regardless of weather once they are in the tubes. Roads will close by 6pm.

Council President Robenolt—moving forward with process of hiring firefighter. Panel of chiefs will conduct first round of interviews. Everything is moving along very well getting things squared away at

the firehouse. Police, Fire and Ambulance all did an excellent job the night of the storm. We had to bring in the rapid water response team. We had people trapped on the Pike, Commerce, Copley and Tavistock. We couldn't keep up with the calls and handled them on priority status.

Councilwoman Fawley—Cindy White has taken a position with Haddon Township. There were some internal conversations being had with the staff that Oaklyn may not be renewing the shared service agreement. We would like to sit down with them to discuss any issues they are having. Tim Higgins said he has not heard anything about this at all and he will talk with Bonnie. Councilwoman Fawley added that perhaps they just want to be heard about any issues that are occurring. Clerk Shannon suggested we also include Mt. Ephraim and Brooklawn. Tim will set up a meeting.

Mayor Klaus—he got compliments on the governing body response to the flooding. People just wanted us to hear them.

On a motion by Councilwoman Harris second by Council President Robenolt, the second open public portion was opened. Seeing no further public comment, on a motion by Council President Robenolt, second by Councilwoman Fawley, the second public portion was closed.

On a motion by Councilman Beach, second by Council President Robenolt, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm.

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