

BOROUGH OF BARRINGTON

CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES, Wednesday, September 3, 2019, 6:00pm

Council President Robenolt called the meeting to order in council chambers 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: Councilwoman Harris, Council President Robenolt, Councilman Popiolek, Councilman Beach and Councilman Ludwig. Mayor Klaus was absent. Also present Solicitor Tim Higgins, Eileen Holcombe, Secretary, CFO Denise Mounes and Clerk Terry Shannon.

Council President Robenolt announced that we will not have the appointment of a new councilperson to fill the seat vacated by Councilwoman Fawley. Clerk Shannon announced that the Barrington Democrat Committee submitted a letter with three names: Kyle Hanson, George Jones and Pat Farinella. On a motion by Councilwoman Harris, second by Councilman Ludwig, Kyle Hanson was nominated to fill the vacant seat for the unexpired term with the following poll vote: Ludwig-yes; Harris-yes; Robenolt-yes; Popiolek-yes; Beach-yes. Kyle was administered the Oath of Office by solicitor Tim Higgins.

First Public Portion—on a motion by Councilwoman Harris, second by Councilman Popiolek, the first public portion of the meeting was opened. There were a few residents in attendance. The following individuals spoke:

Paul Gross, 346 Tavistock Boulevard—wanted to confirm that FEMA denied funding for the June 20 flood and Clerk Shannon confirmed. He asked if it was just Barrington that was denied and Council President Robenolt responded that the whole area was denied. Gross then said Public Works did a nice job over on Erie Avenue but he was looking at the drainage that comes from 295 and wonders if that needs to be improved. Councilman Ludwig responded that we are clearing out all of the drainage areas and will then routinely maintain them. Greg Evans added that we spoke to DOT about clearing out their drainage areas and we are waiting for them to come down. Ludwig added that we do expect DOT to come down and help clear out their problem areas. We did not get any push-back from DOT.

Joe Hayden, 110 Erie Avenue—said he did see the company we hired come out and work on the drainage at the manholes in front of his property for a few hours but they left and have not returned. He wanted to know what was going on with that work. Councilman Robenolt said his information was that they were about 90% done. Hayden said there is still silt in the manhole and Robenolt asked him to follow-up with Mike Ciocco for more information.

Doreen Mellor, 109 Erie Avenue—asked for clarification on them being 90% done. Councilman Robenolt confirmed that Mike Ciocco told him they were 90% done on Erie Avenue and Mellor said that cannot be right. She said there is no way they are 90% done as every storm sewer is still filled. Also the new storm sewer they put in over on Atlantic Avenue is way full. Councilman Robenolt responded that is owned by the County and Mellor said someone needs to tell them to come over and clear that. She added she would like Mike Ciocco to stop by her house and explain how he considered the work to be 90% done.

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT—Greg Evans reported on the following

Tax office security wall will start at the end of the month; we will be wrapping-up the police station interior improvements for the governing body's review; USDA slip-lining was pushed off to September

28 as we were waiting for approval from the Turnpike Authority; and we are reviewing the parking situation on Chesterfield Road. Your present ordinance does not allow parking on the street but there are no signs or painted curbs. We will do a review of the parking situation out there and will present a report to the governing body. Greg also reported that the erosion of Beaverbrook has gotten worse and they re-issued their initial report. We are in the process of trying to set-up a meeting with Lawnside and their engineer and solicitor to discuss.

Councilman Ludwig added that we met with the residents on Tavistock Boulevard and Mercer and they were all in agreement about speed humps. Greg responded that once the capital funding is in place, they will finalize the plans for the speed humps.

CLERK'S REPORT—Clerk Shannon reported on the following

♦Little Free Library was installed at the Playground—dedication was Wednesday. Rich Constantine did an awesome job on the library. He went online and then designed and drew out the plans. Mindy Berwick wants to hold little readers programs at the playground but did ask if there is somewhere she can hold it if the weather is bad. After some discussion, the best suggestion was determined to be that in bad weather, she will just have to cancel as there really aren't any good places for her to hold the program inside.

♦Fire Alliance has moved into the new building and all is running smoothly.

♦Town wide yard sale to benefit TNR is set for October 5.

♦Health benefits for Barrington are expected to go down by 9.43% for 2020. We are having a great year.

Council agenda review

Resolutions:

Authorizing property maintenance liens

Accepting the 2018 audit report

Authorizing cancellation of contract balance

September bill list

Resolution appointing Barb Willson as OEM Director (Council President Robenolt requested)

Change order for Diamond Construction

Resolution to amend personnel policy pertaining to toll violations (Councilman Popiolek requested as a result of audit report)

Councilman Robenolt added that we will be swearing-in our new SLEO.

Councilwoman Harris added that regarding the playground, we are having a problem because the police are throwing kids out of the playground because they are too old. However this is an inclusive playground and is open to all ages. We do need to install bike racks so kids have a place to put their bikes as they cannot be on the rubber surface inside the playground. She added that she gets a lot of complaints over the weekend about the park not being open. Public Works opens Monday through Friday and the police open on the weekends and holidays but that does not always happen. We need to find a way to solve this problem. She is frustrated with the number of complaints she is getting about this. The park should be opened at the same time each day. Clerk Shannon suggested we look into electronic locks. Councilman Robenolt suggested we post a sign saying if the park is not open, to text a phone number. It can be the number of the officer in charge.

CFO's REPORT—CFO Moules reported on the following

- ♦We will be doing the first reading of the capital ordinance on Tuesday. 5th Avenue, Barrington Avenue underpass and engineering for Commerce Drive Phase IV will be included in this ordinance. Mercer Drive speed humps will be covered by the remaining 2018 funds. Councilman Robenolt asked if there is any funding for Beaverbrook and Denise responded we have enough debt room but that project is not included in this current funding. We will have to do new funding for that project.
- ♦We got the paperwork to continue the senior program funding from CDBG.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Popiolek—Chick-Fil-A is underway. Demolition has started and is being done by Winzinger. He also welcomed Kyle to council.

Councilwoman Harris—Harvest Fest is coming up fast. Everything seems to be on target. Brews, Beats and Eats is this weekend. October 19 will be a fun-fest with first responders at the firehouse. Pumpkin painting, scarecrow making, etc. with police and fire. Scarecrows will be hung on Clements Bridge Road. October 25 is Trunk or Treat at the school. Tree lighting this year will be a huge event. Kids can make an ornament, we will have a snow machine and other things during the tree lighting. Recreation Committee is working on all of these events.

Councilman Beach—congratulated Kyle and thanked him for stepping-up to serve on council.

Councilman Ludwig—Public Works will be repairing inlets throughout town this winter. Some of them are broken and we can repair in-house for a bag of cement and a day's pay. This should help with our water situation.

Councilman Hanson—Brews, Beats and Eats is this Saturday behind St. Frances in the parking lot and the weather looks like it will be great. The Civic Association hired a bus to help with transportation.

Councilman Robenolt—roof project at the firehouse is moving along slowly. It should be ready to go out to bid very soon. We are bringing on a new SLEO named Tyrell Thomas who came highly recommended by Rich Kinkler. He is finishing up at the shore this weekend. Frank is just about done with the hire of the paid firefighter. Also we are looking to see what improvements we can make in the police department for now until the renovations are done to appease the AG's office.

On a motion by Councilman Ludwig second by Councilman Beach, the second open public portion was opened.

Paul Gross, 346 Tavistock Boulevard—suggested we could generate revenue by ticketing drivers for speeding on Chesterfield and Mercer as well as texting while driving.

Eileen Holcombe reported the Small Business Association thanked us for letting them set-up here to take applications to assist with flooding costs. They did not get as many people as they thought they would but residents could also apply online.

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

On a motion by Councilwoman Harris, second by Councilman Popiolek, the meeting was adjourned to closed session at 7:09pm.

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