

BOROUGH OF BARRINGTON
CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES, Tuesday, May 5, 2020, 6:00pm
VIRTUAL MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM

Mayor Harris called the meeting to order in council chambers at 6:00pm with the Sunshine Statement announcement and pursuant to the Executive Orders and guidance issued by the State of New Jersey due to the Corona virus state of emergency. She led everyone present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk called roll and the following were present on Zoom: Councilman Drumm, Councilman Beach, Councilman Hanson, Councilman Cerrito, and Council President Robenolt. Also participating were Solicitor Tim Higgins, CFO Denise Moules, Chief Dave Uron and Clerk Terry Shannon.

First Public Portion—on a motion by Councilman Robenolt, second by Councilman Beach, the first public portion of the meeting was opened. Seeing no public comment, the public portion was closed on a motion by Councilman Hanson, second by Councilman Drumm.

ENGINEER'S REPORT—Greg Evans reported on the following items

For the DOT Municipal Aid applications, we are recommending that you apply for Austin Ave, Second to Third as priority 1, and Haines Ave from Third Ave to Clements Bridge as priority 2. Applications are due July 1. The Mercer Drive speed bumps have been constructed. The 2020 capital improvement program will be going out to bid this month with DOT approval. That is for Commerce Drive, Phase 4. We submitted the Camden County Open Space application for continued improvements at the With Upon a Star Playground. Councilman Beach said everything on Mercer looks good.

CLERK'S REPORT—Clerk Shannon reported on the following items

Staff schedule—all staffers continue to work from home and come into the office on a schedule so there is only one person in the office at a time (occasionally more than one but they remain socially distant). Residents continue to be serviced and payments are being posted. The extension of tax payments to June 1 may actually help with the flow of payments. Kristy Emmett is now on maternity leave.

Financial Disclosure Statements—deadline to file was extended to July 31

Tax grace period extended to June 1—resolution authorizing extension is on this agenda for approval.

Insurance claims have been filed for damage caused to sidewalks by April 21 windstorm and to DPW roof in April 30 windstorm. The JIF will be sending out an adjuster. The initial response regarding the April 21 storm is there is no coverage for the street but there may be coverage for the sidewalks.

State allowing Zoom meetings for taking of marriage applications—these are optional and in-person meetings can still be held as long as safety precautions are taken. Had one yesterday and everyone wore masks and we met in the council room and stayed more than six feet apart. Worked very well. We have also done a few via Zoom.

Clerk Shannon reviewed the items for the council agenda as follows:

Resolutions for consent agenda:

Change Order No. 2--Final for Commerce Drive Phase 2
Resolution authorizing submission of the DOT applications
Introduction of the 2020 municipal budget
May bill list

CFO's REPORT—CFO Moules reported on the following

Finance report was sent to you—any questions let me know. Some of the budget expenditures are in the negative but that is because of timing. The overall budget is still in the black. Police overtime was minimal. We are doing okay so far with revenues—they are trending as expected for now. We held budget meetings on Friday and it went very well via Zoom. At the end of the day, we reduced the overall budget by \$125,000. The rate as of now is under three cents. We can go ahead with introduction. We may not be able to adopt in June but will hold the public hearing. We are under state review so we cannot adopt until we get state approval. Councilman Robenolt asked if we need to do another temporary budget but Denise said no, we did an emergency appropriation in April. Mayor Harris said Denise did an outstanding job and it was a great opportunity for Kyle and I to be part of the budget review. The department heads all did a great job and came in prepared to give a little. We are in a better position than a lot of municipalities.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Hanson—all parks will remain closed including organized sports. All events are postponed as far out as the fireworks. The fireworks company needs a decision in a couple of weeks. They are waiving the postponement fee if we reschedule within six months. Thanks to all the residents who have donated to the food pantry. If anyone needs food please notify me. Also thanks to the residents who have been sending food to our departments. Thanks to Denise for your guidance through the budget process. Mayor Harris added that some residents have been made cash donations.

Councilman Drumm—attended the virtual school board meeting last night. They talked about continuing to improve the virtual learning. Mr. Arcodia said that they have a summer program for kids who need extra help and they are looking at expanding that to be virtual for anyone who feels they need extra help. They are planning for the reopening in September. Shout out to the teachers who have been so available to the kids.

Councilman Robenolt—all the public safety departments are doing okay and have enough PPE. The fire company is looking into virtual training. Deputy chief contract is almost worked out. The PBA is supposed to get back to me this week to schedule continued negotiations for that contract. I sent some photos to Councilman Beach of the trees that were removed at Beaver Drive. A lot of the debris went into the stream so we need to discuss that. The chief has some input regarding his and Mike's contracts and we will also have Eric's review this week. Mayor Harris asked if the fire department was having a problem with the cleaning company but Wayne responded it was not an issue with the cleaning company. Mayor Harris added that Pritchard has been doing a great job and we budgeted to continue with them for at least nine months.

Councilman Beach—thanks to all the first responders, the employees and volunteers for all they have been doing. Senior events and the bus are postponed indefinitely. Public Works will be rotating crews. With grass growing and the storms, they are having trouble keeping up. They will be rotating Fridays to try to keep up. We had trees come down during these storms. Regarding the tree at 45 Beaver, he will get back to Wayne. The contractor was not supposed to put any debris into the stream. Wayne said we may want to get Greg's opinion of the situation out there. The contractor said they would need a crane to get them out. Mike gave the contractor permission to line the trees on the side of the bank but they had problems getting the trees out. The contractor was Wingate.

Councilman Cerrito—glad the speed bumps were completed—I believe they save lives. Chick-fil-A received their temporary permits for power and utilities. They will be starting construction in the next couple of weeks. I have been reaching out to some of our businesses to see how they are doing during this crisis and getting positive feedback. Tomorrow night we are meeting with a potential developer for 500 Clements Bridge Road. We don't know anything about the project yet but are looking forward to meeting with them.

Mayor Harris—happy Cinco de Mayo and Happy Mother's Day to all the moms out there. Thank you to everyone for their work on the budget. The number of Covid cases continues to grow. 90% of the cases in Camden County have recovered. 136 of the 189 deaths have been from long-term care facilities. It is tragic for these families because they cannot visit their loved ones. Shout out to our property maintenance department for dealing with issues in town during this pandemic. Have heard from several realtors who are happy we are still doing CO inspections. Happy Mother's Day to Denise, Eileen, Diane and Terry and to all of your moms. Wildwood just opened so I may be able to see my mom.

Action item: Resolution for approval

5-2020-53 Authorizing an Extension of Second Quarter Property Taxes

On a motion by Councilman Beach, second by Councilman Robenolt, the resolution was approved with the following poll vote: Hanson-yes, Beach-yes, Cerrito-yes, Robenolt-yes; Drumm-yes.

On a motion by Councilman Beach, second by Councilman Drumm, the second public portion was opened. Councilman Beach thanked Kyle for helping the residents who were without power. Seeing no further public comment, on a motion by Councilman Drumm, second by Councilman Robenolt, the second public portion was closed.

Councilman Hanson added that we are working on a virtual Memorial Day video so if anyone would like to submit something, please let me know. Mayor Harris added a shout out to Bella and Gia, Eileen's birds who joined her on the Zoom meeting.

Seeing no further business to be discussed, on a motion by Councilman Cerrito, second by Councilman Beach, the Zoom meeting was adjourned at 6:37 with all in favor.

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