

**BOROUGH OF BARRINGTON CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 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 as pertains to virtual meetings and pursuant to the Executive Orders and guidance issued by the State of New Jersey due to the Covid-19 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 Cerrito, and Councilman Robenolt. Councilman Hanson was absent with prior notice and Councilman Robenolt joined the meeting at 6:19pm. Also participating were Solicitor Tim Higgins, CFO Denise Moules, Chief Dave Uron and Clerk Terry Shannon.

First Public Portion—on a motion by Councilman Ludwig, second by Councilman Drumm the first public portion of the meeting was opened. Mayor Harris advised members of the public to please raise their hand to speak. Present was Nicole Corso from 338 Tavistock Boulevard who spoke about the flooding that occurred on June 20, 2019. Her neighbor on Copley Place North has still been experiencing flooding. They were told in August of 2019 that Root 24 was going to televise the pipe but it does not appear anything was done. She is concerned about the flooding happening again. Councilman Beach responded that we did find a blockage and we opened up a lot of the blockage. With the recent heavy rain we had, we felt the pipe did its job. The large pipes have now been televised and cleared. We did learn of a blockage in a smaller pipe on Copley Place North about a month ago but we have already taken care of it and did help move the water as it is supposed to. We will continue to monitor the situation. We recently had five inches of rain and did not have any significant flooding. Corso asked about the temporary fencing around the retention pond and was told by Mike Ciocco that they are waiting for funding to replace with permanent fencing and clear out all the debris. She wanted to know if the funding came through and Councilman Beach confirmed that it is so that work will be done.

John and Brittany Bayan were on from Tavistock Boulevard and John said he sent photos of the retention pond behind his house and he is concerned that the large pipe that feeds into that pond is much larger than the outflow pipe so that pond will always fill-up. Councilman Beach said that is how it is designed. Tavistock Boulevard is a low point in town and the outflow has to be controlled so it does not overwhelm the streams. It is an old system and could not handle the 100 year storm we had in June of 2019 but it is handling the water as it is supposed to. Bayan asked if there is any advantage to increasing the size of the output pipe and Beach responded we will discuss with our engineer. Engineer Greg Evans added that the system was constructed in 1994 and at the time we asked DEP for permission to build a basin but DEP did not approve it. He said that the outflow pipe is the restricting factor. We did see the photos that were submitted today and we were happy to see how the water was moving. It actually goes into the wetlands. The system handled the recent storms as it is supposed to. DPW put scour holes at the end of the output pipes and will continue to keep that area clear. The pipes are now at full capacity. The two recent storms that dropped over 4" of rain in a short period of time did not cause flooding which is very good information. Bayan then asked about the work that was done on Copley and said DPW dug to expose the pipe and replace it and there are two trees whose roots were compromised. One of the trees is humongous and he is concerned about the integrity. He sees that both trees have X's on them and he wanted to know if they were being removed. Councilman Beach responded that both trees will be removed. Bayan then said they were frustrated because when DPW came out to scope the sewer line, they shot water through the lines and it shot water up through our toilets. No one notified us and they did the same thing the next day. It was very frustrating that they did not notify us in advance. Councilman Beach responded that it was a mistake and their line was T'd off their house and the neighbors house and they did not realize it. They should have notified the residents and that has been addressed with them. That should not happen again. Bayan stressed that in the future, they would appreciate being notified in advance.

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

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

We have one action item—award of a contract for the 2020 Capital Improvement Program. Hopefully you had a chance to review our recommendation. The original low bidder was Think Pavers but they made a significant mistake in their bid and asked for their bid to be withdrawn. Withdrawal is permitted per Local Public Contracts Law which was confirmed by Solicitor Higgins so their bid was withdrawn. The next low bidder was DiMeglio Construction for Base Bids A through E. If approved, resolution of award will be on the council agenda. The governing body did approve the engineer's recommendation.

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

Tax bills were mailed out and the deadline to pay is August 18. Kristy was able to get out the actual bills so it was not necessary to do estimated bills.

The rabies clinic is scheduled for October 3, 9am-11am. Pet licenses will be issued at the same time. Letter will go out to all pet owners.

Mayor Harris is hereby appointing Mike Minardi to the Planning Board to replace Steve DePierri as the Class III.

Superintendent Tony Arcodia asked if it would be possible to use the VFW as a daycare for the teachers. They are considering three different plans for the return to school in September. They are leaning towards a hybrid program involving in-school and virtual learning. His concern is that it may create daycare problems for the teachers who have kids. He would like to be able to offer daycare for the teachers and they would provide a teacher to run the program. The VFW is perfect since it is not being used by anyone right now. Mayor Harris asked Councilman Drumm if they know how long this would be for and Drumm responded that he does not think they know right now. He believes that for now it is just the first tri-mester. Councilman Robenolt asked if they reached out to the state to get this approved as there are regulations regarding daycares. Councilman Cerrito added that the building does have to be up to par for this use and agreed with Councilman Robenolt regarding this. The school district will need to make sure that building would be approved for this use. Clerk Shannon will follow-up with Arcodia regarding making sure the building would be approved and as to the timing.

Bamboo ordinance—Mayor Harris reported we have residents on Austin and Albany who are dealing with a neighbor who has bamboo that has invaded three properties. It is invasive and creates a rodent problem and attracts rats. After speaking with Bob Harris and Brian Kelly, they suggested an ordinance regarding bamboo. A sample ordinance is attached for your review that creates rules and regulations pertaining to bamboo. Councilman Ludwig added this ordinance gives residents the ability to maintain it but if they don't, it gives code enforcement teeth to be able to enforce. The governing body approved introduction of the ordinance

Donation of ADA swing—Mayor Harris was contacted by Pastor Colwell and his wife Amy from Grace Bible Church that they want to donate a special swing for Wish Upon a Star Park for kids who cannot sit-up on a swing. The Mayor would like to accept this donation. It is a \$600 swing and there are several special needs in town who would be able to use this swing. The governing body agreed this was great and we would be happy to accept the donation.

Clerk Shannon added we are getting calls about spotted lanternflies. A resident from Center called today to say they were all over a tree near the stream. Does the County still have a protocol regarding this? Mayor Harris said Anne Walters from Camden County should be notified. You are supposed to kill them and report it to the County.

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

Ordinances for public hearing and adoption:

Ord. 1125, Capital Bond Ordinance for \$390,000

Ord. 1126, Amending Chapter 48, Animals (licensing period)

Ord. 1127, Long Term Tax Exemption and PILOT for Chick-fil-A project

Ordinances for introduction:

Bamboo ordinance

Resolutions:

Imposing a lien for 500 Clements Bridge Road

Awarding a contract to DiMeglio Construction for the 2020 Roads Program

August bill list

Solicitor Higgins asked that the ordinance for the long term tax exemption be removed. The name of the entity for this project will be changed so the ordinance will need to be amended.

CFO's REPORT—CFO Moules reported on the following

Monthly reports were sent to you for your review. All budget expenditures are sound and we will continue to monitor. Court revenues are taking a hit because of the pandemic but fees and permits are over what we anticipated so hopefully by the end of the year all revenues will be in good shape. The auditors are here and it appears there are no findings again this year. The exit conference will be in September. The Open Space grant Little League received last year has been reimbursed and that grant is now closed.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Drumm—we are looking to fill Steve DePierri's position and are interviewing five candidates tomorrow night. Tim Shannon is filling in as interim fire official and the County will handle investigations for us as needed. Clerk Shannon said we will add a resolution appointing Tim as back-up fire official to the agenda.

Councilman Beach—senior events are postponed. We had quite a few storms this past month but everything has been going pretty smoothly. The issue on Copley Place North was addressed quickly. We did have a tree come down on the other side of town but no one was hurt.

Councilman Cerrito—we have a meeting set-up with the new party for the Chick-fil-A project so hopefully I will have more to report at the next council meeting. We had a great ribbon cutting for the new florist in town.

Councilman Ludwig—Kevin Crawford reach out about the basketball camp but they decided not to do it. I told him we respected his decision so he will not be running the camp in August.

Councilman Robenolt—we weathered the storm okay in Barrington. OEM is fine with supplies. We are still working on the PBA contract. We are struggling to get new firefighters through the training academy because of Covid. Mayor Harris added this is a problem for all towns.

Mayor Harris reported we are at 48 positive cases since March. Wear your masks, stay socially distant and wash your hands. We had vandalism at the overpass and DOT covered with black paint. We also had vandalism at Lost World Park. Detective Pawling is looking into it but we don't have cameras there. Ron is giving us a proposal to install cameras. The ribbon cutting this past weekend was great so thanks to Vince. The food pantry is still open so please email Councilman Hanson if you are in

need. Borough will remain closed to the public so payments can be put in the drop box. Staff is working at 100%. September meetings will continue to be on Zoom.

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

Tim Slater from 225 Albany Avenue stated he has the rodent problem stemming from the bamboo. They are burrowing in his yard and his neighbor's yard who is adjacent to the bamboo property. Some of the bamboo has been cut away but it is still a problem. He intends to speak with the property owner to ask him to remove the bamboo to try to eliminate any potential litigation to pay for his rodent problem. He would like to be involved in the new ordinance. He believes the seller of a property should be responsible for removal of all bamboo. Councilman Ludwig responded that his ordinance gives the town the teeth it needs to enforce this. Slater asked if we need to continue to have Brian Kelly post notices about the bamboo as nothing has been done. Mayor Harris responded that we sent them a letter but because we did not have an ordinance, there was no further action we could take but now that we will have an ordinance, there is action we can take. We will make sure Tim gets a copy of the ordinance.

Diane Schreyer expressed concern about the two different types of bamboo and asked if both types are being addressed in the ordinance. Councilman Ludwig responded that any bamboo if it is not maintained will be enforced. We are not selecting—any bamboo has to be maintained or it will have to be removed.

Wayne Robenolt, speaking as a business owner in town, stated that we have several daycares in town that have just reopened and all have taken extreme hits. Allowing the school to use our building at no charge to open a daycare creates competition for me and he thinks it is ridiculous. He has some teachers who already bring their kids to their daycare and allowing them to go to a free daycare is unfair. He will not vote on this as it is a conflict of interest but he thinks this is very unfair.

Clerk Shannon said we are getting reports that there is a substation down which is why a section of town has no power. We are being told PSE&G is in town now. She also asked Solicitor Higgins if we can just require that all bamboo be removed but Higgins said that would create a problem. You don't want to ban it—you just have to require that it be maintained.

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

Seeing no further business to be discussed, on a motion by Councilman Beach, second by Councilman Cerrito, the Zoom meeting was adjourned at 7:21pm with all in favor.

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