

**BOROUGH OF BARRINGTON CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2021, 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 state of emergency. She stated that members of the public will be muted until the public portion at which time they can raise their virtual hand. They will then be unmuted so they can speak. They will be limited to five minutes in the aggregate and anyone using abusive language will be removed from the meeting. Mayor Harris then 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, Councilman Ludwig and Councilman Robenolt. Also participating via Zoom were Solicitor Tim Higgins, Engineer Greg Evans, Clerk Terry Shannon and CFO Denise Moules along with others.

**First Public Portion**

On a motion by Councilman Hanson, second by Councilman Drumm, the first public portion of the meeting was opened. Present on Zoom was Chris McDermott from AMP Energy who spoke about a solar project going on at Commerce Drive. They are looking for municipal support for a grant for which they are applying. He introduced himself to everyone and explained they are a solar energy company that installs solar panels on commercial buildings and the power generated is sold to residents in the surrounding area, predominantly Camden County. 51% of the energy sales has to go to low-mod income residents. The remaining 49% goes to everyone else. We are applying for a grant through the Board of Public Utilities that is highly competitive and is point-based and municipal support for the project helps them to achieve points. They also have a job training program for County residents to help them become solar trainees. All they are looking for is a letter of support from the town. Councilman Drumm asked how they go about buying this energy from their company. McDermott responded they use a marketing company who will go around to get people signed up. The discount will be 10-20% off the cost of energy from PSE&G. Mayor Harris asked how they know who is low-to-moderate income. McDermott responded there are two ways that the state does it—one is a review of income tax returns and the other is folks who have been pre-qualified through other low-income programs. Mayor Harris then told him right now we are not allowing door-to-door solicitation during Covid. McDermott said they use virtual contact and letters. They won't be at that stage until 2022. Mayor Harris then asked if they would be willing to speak to a group of seniors when meetings resume and McDermott said they would be happy to. Councilman Robenolt asked how many of the buildings will be used and McDermott responded it is the large building to the north. Mayor Harris then clarified they are not looking for financial support, they won't harass our residents, they are just looking for a letter of support so they can get this project granted. McDermott confirmed that is correct. Councilman Robenolt asked if there was a benefit to the Business Center for doing this and McDermott responded yes there is—they are getting a roof lease. He also said their company started in Canada about ten years ago. Mayor Harris asked Solicitor Higgins what we need to do if they need this by Friday. Tim responded we have the sample letter and we will revise to our own language and then the Mayor can sign the letter. Councilman Beach asked what happens to the solar panels at the end of the lease. McDermott responded the lease is for 20 years. After 20 years is anybody's guess. They don't know if the program will be extended or not. There are two five years renewals in the lease as well. If after the 20 years the program is discontinued, we did negotiate a decommissioning bond in the lease. Also for construction, they will be using local electricians and journeymen and they will be paid prevailing wage. Councilman Cerrito said he would like to see more information along with their drawings. After more discussion, it was determined that McDermott will send additional information including their business model, their prior projects, their training program and drawings to Tim so the governing body can further review. If reviewed and approved, we will get back to him.

Mayor Harris then asked if there is any other public comment. Diane Schreyer asked what happens if they don't make the Friday deadline and Mayor Harris responded if we decide not to give him the support letter, they will have to apply without it. They can still apply but they just won't have a support letter from us. They could still be approved and will then have to come in for all of the required construction permits. Patti Pawling then asked about the former Sushi place on Clements Bridge Road. Mayor Harris responded it was bought by a transportation company that distributes for Amazon. They came before the Planning Board and got all the necessary approvals. The name of the company is Prime Logistics and they are out of New York.

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

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

Action items—adoption of the stormwater ordinance which will be on your council agenda.

Review of monthly engineer's report—you received \$225,000 from DOT for reconstruction of Austin and we are proceeding with development of plans and specifications.

TCDI Grant with Haddonfield as lead agency--they released the RFP for professional services for the drainage study and they are due in on February 12.

Councilman Ludwig asked Greg or Mike (Beach) how many inlets have been fixed in the past few months. Councilman Beach responded he did not know but he will look into it. Greg added we did a couple on Fifth Avenue and improved stormwater management on the Shreve Avenue project. As far as on a borough-wide basis, that is handled internally by Mike Ciocco with general maintenance. Councilman Beach reiterated he will look into with Mike.

Haines Avenue flooding complaints—we received letters from 301 and 309 Haines Avenue about flooding on their properties. They are on the south side of Third Avenue and their properties are lower than Third Avenue and does not drain to Third Avenue. That has existed since the properties were built. With the increasing intensity of rains events, the flooding has increased. That is why we are part of the TCDI project with Haddonfield and the other towns and there is another project with the Camden County Improvement Authority with six or seven towns. Mike Ciocco went out and looked at their complaint and it was determined it is not a borough problem as the flooding is not coming from the municipal right-of-way. We sent a letter to the two residents explaining the situation. Mayor Harris said she has received no response to the letter. Greg said they sent a letter to Camden County requesting permission for the residents to connect to the storm drainage on Third Avenue. We are waiting for a response from the County. Mayor Harris reiterated this is not a borough issue. We offered to pay for the engineering if the residents want to connect to the County drainage but they will have to pay for the construction themselves. Once we hear from the County, we will make contact with the residents.

The Chick-Fil-A site improvements are all moving forward and we will keep you apprised as they progress with construction. Mayor Harris asked about the large tent they put up and Greg said he has not seen it but has heard about it. He believes that tent is heated so construction can continue in bad weather.

Mayor Harris asked Greg if he had any additional information about the CCIA project and if we know why we were included. Greg said he believes it goes back to the June 19 storm where we all had severe flooding. They are reaching out to Jim Lex for more information. Patti said they contacted her last week looking for a resolution. This one has not asked for any money. We may benefit from being in both studies. They are looking for a resolution for a shared service. Mayor Harris said she would forward to the Clerk. Greg said he hopes that within a day or two they will have more concrete information. We will attend the kickoff meeting on behalf of the Borough along with Terry.

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

♦Update on codification—our current code will be hosted on the General Code website with a link on our website sometime in March. They will be ready to present the manuscript for potential revisions and updates sometime in May.

♦Letter of support for B Cooper Tavern—Mayor Harris explained she received a letter from the Camden County Historical Society asking for a letter of support for Phase 1 funding to stabilize the building which is the Benjamin Cooper Tavern building in Camden. This is a historical building and they are looking for funds from various organizations and they want letters of support from county mayors to support their efforts. This building is an American Revolution museum as well. They are not looking for anything from us other than a letter of support. She just wanted to let every one know she will provide a support letter. Everyone agreed.

### **Council Agenda Review:**

Ordinances for public hearing and adoption:

Ord. 1131, Amending Article IX of Chapter 104, Stormwater Management

Ord. 1132, Amending Chapter 95, Property Maintenance (fees for CO inspections on resales)

Resolutions:

February bill list

Resolution for CCIA shared service agreement

Resolution to refund escrow posted by Delco for Chick-Fil-A

### **CFO's REPORT—CFO Moules reported on the following**

Monthly reports were sent to you for your review along with bank statements. Budget information will go out to department heads this week and they will have a month to get information back to me. We will set-up budget meetings for mid-March with the goal of introducing the budget in April.

### **COUNCIL REPORTS**

Councilman Hanson—we interviewed last week for police department positions and selected Patrolman Jankowski as corporal and Corporal D'Ascenzo to move up to sergeant. Those promotions will happen next month. No events are happening right now. Softball, little league and basketball all have registration open. Food pantry is operating so please contact me for information. It is Girl Scout cookie season so be sure to buy cookies when you see them selling. Thanks to Grace Bible Church for their donations of gift cards to all first responders in town. It was over 40 \$20 gift cards. Mayor Harris added they are a great community partner.

Councilman Beach—thanks to Public Works for the work during the storms. They did a good job keeping the roads clear. A lot of seniors were snowed in and volunteers helped shovel them out. A big thanks to the Hawkins family for their work on this and to all the other volunteers.

Councilman Ludwig—regarding the apartment construction fees, we had restructured the fees to make sure the program is working. He wanted to make sure everyone knew why we were raising the fees and if you have any questions, please let me know.

Councilman Robenolt—roof bids for the firehouse roof are due in March 28 or 29 and the pre-bid meeting is scheduled for the 5<sup>th</sup>. He hopes Kate is doing well after her surgery and she is looking for additional EMT's. Firehouse is doing their fund drive and membership campaign. Thanks to all who slept-in during the storms. Public Works did a nice job keeping everything clear. Uncle Mike DePierri passed away and the viewing is Thursday night and funeral is Friday. He was a member of the fire company for over 50 years and served as OEM Coordinator for many years and did a fantastic job. Mayor Harris added you can make a donation to Samaritan Hospice in Mike's honor.

Councilman Cerrito—condolences to the DePierri family. September 11 this year will be the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that event. We must never forget this tragic event and he is asking council to support erecting a public memorial in town to commemorate this event. He is pleased to announce he has receive numerous commitments from local vendors who want to donate materials and services to this project. We have selected the point across from the post office for the location of this memorial. Mayor Harris asked him to send everyone the renderings he has for the memorial. Councilman Cerrito said they are just preliminary but he will send them out. We are hoping to receive an actual piece of the Trade Center to be the focus of the memorial. We hope to be able to do everything with donations. We also hope to be able to sell pavers as well.

Councilman Drumm—concolences to the DePierri family. Mike will be greatly missed. Thanks to DPW for the really good job on the streets. He talked to Jim Arpino about the tent at Chick-Fil-A and they did apply for a propane permit but have not paid for it yet. He will be going out to the site to inspect.

Mayor Harris—thank you to Public Works, Police Fire, EMS and the Tax Office for being responsive and cooperative during the storms. Thank you to the Hawkins family, Mandi and the girls, for being out there shoveling out our seniors. Thanks to Eileen for keeping us informed about our seniors and their needs. Hopefully we will have events again some day and everyone who wants to be vaccinated will be. Anyone who wants Girl Scout cookies, there are quite a few in town selling them. You can reach out to Jennifer Milligan. Congratulations to Krystal Jankowski and Pat D'Ascenzo on their promotions.

On a motion by Councilman Ludiwg second by Councilman Cerrito, the second public portion was opened. Eileen Holcombe thanked the Hawkins family for everything they did to help the seniors and also the police officers and councilman who helped our seniors. Assemblyman Bill Moen called and said he is close as he lives in Bellmawr and is also available to help our seniors. Deputy Chief Minardi said thanks to the Public Safety committee for moving ahead with the promotions and congratulations to Pat and Krystal. Mayor Harris thanked Mike Minardi and Dave Pawling for keeping up with Eileen on helping the seniors. Also Pat D'Ascenzo is our police officer for the seniors so thanks to him as well. Diane Schreyer wanted to congratulate Officers Jankowski and Sgt. D'Asecnzo as well.

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

#### **Action item: Resolution for approval**

Mayor Harris read the following resolution by title: Res. 2-2021-28, Authorizing a Closed Session to Discuss Contractual, Personnel and/or Attorney-Client Privileged Matters. On a motion by Councilman Ludwig, second by Councilman Cerrito, the resolution was approved with the following poll vote: Beach-yes; Cerrito-yes; Drumm-yes; Hanson-yes; Ludwig-yes; Robenolt-yes.

On a motion by Councilman Robenolt, second by Councilman Ludwig, the meeting was adjourned to closed session at 7:37pm with all in favor.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

Councilman Hanson reported he was approached by Sgt. Dan Bowman that he is willing to forego all of his accumulated time including vacation, holiday and Garcia time on the condition that he be promoted to lieutenant for his last year as he plans to retire. He spoke with Denise and it saves the Borough about \$15,000 to do this. If everyone is in agreement, Dan will go from sergeant to lieutenant for his last year and will only get the \$3500 increase for the promotion because Dan is giving up \$15,000 in accumulated time. Councilman Ludwig added that as he will be getting a higher pension payment, it will cost more money over time but he is fine with it. He just wanted everyone to know he is getting that money back in the end. Councilman Hanson said he spoke to Eric Riso and he is drafting the agreement and we will have it by the end of this week so it can be approved at council. Councilman Ludwig asked if we know if Pension will approve this and Councilman Drumm responded that as long as it is at least a year, and as it is only \$3500, Pension won't care. He said there was abuse of this by

other towns in the past but we are doing it the right way. Everyone agreed and authorized the promotion and agreement to be approved by resolution at council. Dan will be sworn in at that meeting.

Seeing no further business to be discussed in closed session, on a motion by Councilman Ludwig, second by Councilman Cerrito, the Zoom meeting returned to open session at 7:48pm with all in favor.

BACK IN OPEN SESSION, on a motion by Councilman Ludwig, second by Councilman Robenolt, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48pm with all in favor.

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