

BOROUGH OF BARRINGTON CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 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. Mayor Harris then asked for a moment of silence in honor of Pat Farinella who recently passed away.

The Clerk called roll and the following were present on Zoom: Council President Beach, Councilman Cerrito, Councilman Drumm, Councilman Hanson and Councilman Robenolt. Also participating via Zoom were Solicitor Tim Higgins, Engineer Greg Evans, Clerk Terry Shannon and CFO Denise Moules along with others. Councilman Ludwig was absent with prior notice.

First Public Portion

On a motion by Councilman Drumm, second by Councilman Robenolt, the first public portion of the meeting was opened. Eileen Holcombe thanked everyone who helped with the Easter Dinner. Her sister, Marie Dobisch, helped make over 100-150 candy bags and Kristen Lampe organized Avon school kids to make cards for the seniors. The seniors really loved it. And Kyle did a great job! Seeing no further public comment, on a motion by Councilman Hanson, second by Councilman Drumm, the public portion was closed.

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

Discussion items:

The Governor recently announced through DCA that they have a local recreation improvement grant. It was suggested we apply for improvements at Lost World Park. We would need a resolution authorizing a grant submission. Clerk Shannon added we will contact Michael Wiley to get quotes for new equipment.

We determined that there are a couple easements for sanitary sewer that are not recorded. We will work on getting the easements together with Mike Ciocco and Tim Higgins so we can get those recorded. We will do them all in one ordinance.

Greg then spoke about the Perma-Liner contract through the USDA program. That contract was for them to come here last March and do a demo of the slip-lining equipment. It was delayed because of the situation with Covid. We talked with reps from USDA and have decided it makes sense for us to terminate that contract. The Perma-Lines reps are from Florida and they would be required to quarantine and it does not make financial sense for them to come here and then quarantine. We will submit a formal letter to USDA to request termination of the contract. Tim added we should terminate the contract by resolution as well.

Greg then discussed the force main break that occurred on Easter Sunday on Lawrence Avenue. We are preparing plans to replace the force main. We believe a portion of the CARES funding can go to capital improvements and we will confirm that.

Review of Engineer's report:

We prepared and submitted a grant application for CDBG funds to continue the handicapped improvements. You were awarded a 2020 grant in the amount of \$40,000 for the ramp at the VFW and \$28,800 for the senior citizens program.

Solid waste bids are scheduled to be received on May 6 and a pre-bid meeting is set for April 15 via Zoom. Current contract expires June 30

Applications for Open Space funding, Round 2020, was just announced that you did receive \$25,000 for the Wish Upon a Star playground for the water fountain, park benches and conversion to LED lighting. We will work on those one-at-a time. For Round 2021, the deadline was April 1 and the application submitted last year for Girls Softball was resubmitted.

Mayor Harris asked if there were any questions. Seeing none, this concluded the engineer's report.

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

- ♦Camden County Hazard Mitigation Plan—we have completed the HMP update for the County. Dave Pawling spearheaded this project and with the help of Greg Evans, Jeff Hanson and Mike Ciocco, all the updates were completed and submitted to the County and on time!
- ♦Marijuana legislation—Mayor Harris announced that this is being studied by the committee established for this purpose and they will make recommendations for next meeting. Ordinance will need to be introduced in June and adopted in July in order to make the August deadline. If no action is taken by August, then we cannot adopt any ordinances pertaining to this for five years. Also the new legislation adopted by the state nullifies the ordinance previously adopted by the Borough.
- ♦Financial Disclosure—the State has not yet released the Local Finance Notice but they did release to clerks so we could update the rosters. Our rosters have been updated and we are ready to go. As soon as they release the final LFN for officials, the filing period will be open. Deadline is currently April 30 unless it is extended. I will advise you as soon as the filing period is open.
- ♦Election update—petitions were submitted timely and the vacancy forms for the County will be submitted this week. We have identified a location for a ballot drop-box at the end of the island in our parking lot. Met with E3 IT regarding a camera for the box and one will be added to our existing system. Public Works will pour the concrete pad needed for the box. The Board of Elections will be out to approve the location.
- ♦PBA contract—contract has been finalized and returned by their attorney. Currently being reviewed by the committee and will be signed this week. Ordinance for police salaries was introduced on first reading and will be on the April 13 agenda for adoption. Ordinance will be effective for May 1.
- ♦Codification project—as you all know, our code has been updated through December 31, 2020, and is on our website. General Code has completed their legal review and analysis and returned the manuscript. We will be breaking into committees to review the manuscript and consider their recommendations. Once completed, one final ordinance will be prepared to incorporate the changes and adopt the new code. As part of this review, three chapters that were antiquated and have never been implemented need to be repealed. They are Chapter 5, Board of Assessors, Chapter 14, Economic Development Committee, Chapter 70, Housing and Chapter 112 Taxicabs. Tim prepared the repealing ordinance and it will be introduced at the April 13 council meeting. Also the tree protection ordinance needs to be revised and I am in the process of drafting that ordinance.
- ♦Town Wide Yard Sale—we are having a spring town wide yard sale on May 15 and proceeds will benefit the 9/11 20th anniversary memorial project spearheaded by Councilman Cerrito. Flyer is already on website and Facebook and will be in Barrington on Track as well. Deadline for BOT is April 16 so please get your submissions in.

Council Agenda Review:

Ordinances for public hearing and adoption:

- Ord. 1134 Amending Chapter 120, Vehicles and Traffic, in the Borough Code
- Ord. 1135 Calendar Year 2021 Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank (NJSA 40A:4-45.14)

- Ord. 1136 Setting the Salary Provisions as Indicated in the Contract Negotiated by and between
PBA Local #328 and the Borough of Barrington
- Ord. 1137 Fixing the 2021 compensation of Certain Officers and Employees of the Borough of
Barrington

Ordinances for introduction on first reading:

- Ord. 1138 Repealing Ordinances that are Antiquated or have been Superseded by State Statute
- Ord. 1139 Amending tree protection ordinance

Resolutions:

- Resolution setting fee for town-wide yard sale
- Resolution authorizing three-year average calculation for certain anticipated revenues
- Resolution to cancel an unexpended 2018 DOT Grant balance
- Resolution to introduce the 2021 municipal budget
- April bill list

CFO's REPORT—CFO Moules reported on the following

Monthly reports were submitted to you for your review along with bank statements. Current expenditures are within the temporary budget and the detail of police overtime are also within the budget amounts. The budget is going to be introduced on Tuesday. Many hours were spent on this and everyone worked really hard to get to a zero tax increase. If anyone has any questions, just give me a call. I am preparing the state document so everything is ready to be introduced. We are doing a resolution to do a three-year average for anticipated court revenue because we lost revenue due to Covid. We are doing a resolution to cancel a balance in a DOT grant that was unspent. Also we will be renewing the shared service agreements with Merchantville for the CFO and Tax Collector. Mayor Harris thanked Denise for her time and work on the budget. We are happy to announce there will be no tax increase. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard on this budget. We have no control over the school budget and they will be passing along an increase of 2%. It is about four cents and approximately \$171 on the average assessment.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Hanson—We delivered over 110 hot meals to seniors for Easter along with the candy bags prepared by Eileen and her sister and the cards coordinated by Kristen Lampe. Thanks to everyone who helped deliver. We also delivered Easter Dinner boxes to families and thanks to all who donated hams. The food pantry is still open so please let me know if you need any help. Parks are open and still practice social distancing. Little League opening day is this Saturday. Friday night they are having a game under the new lights. Thanks to Denise for all her work on the budget and also the department heads. We will be hanging yellow ribbons for Suicide Awareness to show support for our neighbors in Audubon and Haddon Heights. There is no Barrington Day. We are discussing Memorial Day and may do it virtually again. We were given grant money for another drive-in movie event so we are working on that and will provide more information. Mayor Harris thanked Kyle for all his hard work helping seniors and families in town.

Councilman Drumm—so far this year we have referred 23 people through the Project Save program. Barrington is one of the top towns that makes referrals to this program. Tree dedication suggested by the Milligan family and Betty May will be April 24 at 11am. Fire Alliance is picking up now and everything is running well. Schools are starting next Monday four days in—watch your speed around town and now that the weather is getting nicer.

Councilman Robenolt—Fire Company has been pretty busy—they were in Collingswood this morning for the apartment fire. They are continuing their training schedule and recently drove the Easter Bunny

around town and provided assistance to the Tavistock Swim Club with fundraising. They are grateful to everyone who supported the recent hoagie sale. The Chief applied for a grant through NJAW to help offset equipment costs. The CCIA sent the contracts out to the low bidder for the firehouse roof project and hope to be setting the construction schedule very soon.

Councilman Cerrito—I attended the Camden County White Horse Development Initiative last week where they discuss redevelopment along the Pike towns. Next meeting is next month and I plan to continue to participate and get ideas for our town. Chick-Fil-A project is moving along nicely. Met with Greg Evans and the designer to discuss the beautification at Clements Bridge Road and Atlantic Ave. The 9/11 Memorial project is moving along well. We will be putting out information on how people can donate via bricks or sponsorships. Well done to the budget committee and Denise—it is a great thing for the taxpayers. Condolences to the family of Pat Farinella—she was one of the first people I met in town and was very involved. Tonewood is hoping to open in June.

Councilman Beach—condolences to the Farinella family—Pat was involved in many town organizations for a lot of years. Thanks to Kyle and Eileen for the senior Easter dinners. It was a very nice thing for our seniors. Thanks to Mike and the budget committee for their work on the budget. We had a force main break in the sewer on Lawrence Ave early on Easter. Thanks to Shawn Murray, Mike Broome and Mike Ciocco—they worked on this from early on Easter all the way until Monday morning. We hope to be able to use CARES Act money to replace this main.

Mayor Harris—Camden County Department of Health wanted us to help get more people vaccinated. There are a lot of people from the Mews going tomorrow for the J&J shot. The vaccines are available at Camden County College and this is posted on our Facebook page. Back to school will begin for everyone soon and hopefully September will be back to normal. Baseball, softball and soccer are all beginning. The marijuana committee is Shawn Ludwig, Mike Drumm and Vince Cerrito and they will report their recommendations back to us. Kyle ordered a plaque for the three girls who made the recommendations about improving With Upon a Star park—Angelina Szabo, Angelina DiMartinez and Macey Johnston. Thanks to everyone for all their hard work and support during Covid—we had another death recently. Wear your mask and stay vigilant.

On a motion by Councilman Drumm second by Councilman Robenolt, the second public portion was opened. Patti Pawling commended everyone who worked on the zero budget. Also is there a tentative plan for when borough offices might open? Mayor Harris said they are waiting for everyone to be vaccinated which should be the end of May. We hope to open in June or July. Patti Pawling also suggested that Memorial Day could be planned for a live event. People really look forward to it. She also asked about the Perma-Lines project and is there an alternate plan? Clerk Shannon explained it was just a training program. CFO Moules said there are no plans to hire anyone else. Mayor Harris added that we are still looking at Memorial Day but definitely won't include the band as we don't know their vaccination status.

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

Seeing no further business to be discussed, on a motion by Councilman Hanson, second by Councilman Robenolt, the Zoom meeting was adjourned at 6:58pm.

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