

BOROUGH OF BARRINGTON CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2021, 6:00PM, BOROUGH HALL MEETING ROOM

Mayor Harris called the meeting to order in council chambers at 6:00pm with the Sunshine Statement. Mayor Harris then led everyone present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk called roll and the following were present: Councilman Cerrito, Councilman Drumm, Councilman Hanson, Councilman Ludwig and Councilman Robenolt. Councilman Beach was absent with prior notice. Also on the dais were Mayor Harris, Clerk Shannon and Solicitor.

First Public Portion

On a motion by Councilman Ludwig, second by Councilman Drumm, the first public portion of the meeting was opened. Seeing no public comment, on a motion by Councilman Hanson, second by Councilman Robenolt, the public portion was closed.

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

Action items:

Approve voucher No. 4 and Change Order No. 4 for DiMeglio for the 2020 Road program

Review of Engineer's Report:

Pre-construction meeting for the ramp at the VFW (CDBG project) will be held via Zoom on September 9 at 2pm. Minutes will follow.

Solid Waste Collection and Disposal—Greg Fusco will be making a recommendation for contract award at your October meeting.

Haddonfield Police Department did a seven-day speed study on Oak Avenue. We reviewed the results and the 85th percentile speed was 26 mph. There is not really a speeding problem but because of the narrowness of the road and the lack of sidewalks, Haddonfield wants to survey their residents about speed humps. After some discussion, it was determined that we will also send out a survey to the Barrington residents asking about speed humps. We will need to coordinate with Haddonfield to review the results from both towns. Greg added that it may warrant another speed study now that schools are back in session.

We have been working with Councilman Hanson and Mike Ciocco regarding the Open Space grant and the first project to be done at Wish Upon a Star Playground will be to install water fountains—adult size, kid size and dog size.

Davis Road speed study—Sgt. Hunt has completed the three sections. We will review the results and will advise the Governing Body of our analysis and ideas in the next few weeks.

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

Solid Waste Collection and Disposal—the prices we got from Seaside were less than the prices received by the Consortium so Greg Fusco will recommend that we award to Seaside. He is still completing his full analysis and will provide a formal recommendation for approval on the October agenda.

Appointment of Tax Assessor—Brian Schneider is stepping down as our Assessor effective September 30. He is minimizing his portfolio so he can spend more time with his family. He has recommended that his Deputy, Rich Buscemi, be appointed as assessor as he has the necessary qualifications and already knows the town. Brian also recommended that we appoint Ron Breining as Rich's assistant. Mayor Harris said she has known Ron as he is a local kid who grew-up here and he is highly recommended by Brian. I read his letter of recommendation and concur with these appointments. Clerk Shannon added the resolution will be on next week's agenda.

Ballot Drop-Box—the Board of Elections approved our suggested location. It won't be installed in time for the November election but will be installed later. The County is picking-up the full cost of the box for installation and the security cameras.

Council Agenda Review:

Ordinances for public hearing and adoption:

Ord. 1147, Smoking in Public Places

Ordinance for introduction on first reading:

Ord. 1148, Approving an Easement at 1101 Clements Bridge Road

Clerk Shannon explained that the Mayor received a request from Barrington Mews that they be allowed to install a sign at the corner of Clements Bridge and Reamer Drive. They submitted plans and Greg reviewed to make sure there are no sight problems. Tim prepared the easement and the ordinance can be introduced next week.

Resolutions:

Appointing Assessor and Deputy Assessor

Appointing a Recruit as SLEO II (Councilman Hanson will discuss)

Authorizing Property Maintenance Liens for DPW Costs Incurred

Approving Change Order No. 4 for DiMeglio Construction

September bill list

CFO's REPORT—Denise Moules reported on the following

Budget expenditures are within controls. Revenues received from Court are lower than anticipated so we will have to cover that shortfall either with other revenues or budget cancellations later in the year. For the permanent financing, we went out to bid for the capital ordinance and the redevelopment bond and got really good rates. For the redevelopment bond, we got a rate of 2.0% and for the capital bond it was 1.479%. It was a great time to go for the funding. Since we have a special assessment agreement with the developer, we will negotiate a revised payment schedule and hopefully it will be ready for approval next month.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Hanson—we are putting a recruit, Kieran McKeown, through the Academy. He will graduate when we have officers leaving next year so the timing is perfect. We are thinking of redoing the Davis Road speed study now that school is back in session. We won't know the outcome until Greg finishes his review. Brews, Beats and Eats is this weekend on Saturday from 3pm-10pm. There will be a small Barrington Business Festival on October 2 at the intersection of Haines and Second Ave. Food pantry is still operating but we have not had requested so we have been funneling donations to Grace Bible and St. Rose's food pantries.

Councilman Drumm—Terry, Jim Arpino and I had a Zoom meeting with the State. They did an audit of our operations and found some issues that were pre- Jim Arpino. Jim is getting them all squared away. They will be down two more times before approving our taking on Stratford which will hopefully be as of January 1. A couple residents asked me about the siren on Gloucester Pike and why it didn't go off during the hurricane. Councilman Robenolt said he believes it is still functional. Clerk Shannon added that Uncle Mike (OEM) used to have it tested on the first Saturday of every month. Councilman Robenolt added that Jim Tieman installed it so maybe it needs to be checked. Councilman Ludwig added that he thinks that because of the noise during that storm, no one would have heard it anyhow. After more discussion, Councilman Robenolt said they will check it out. We also need to inform residents what they need to do if they hear the siren going off.

Councilman Robenolt—we need to add a resolution appointing Rachel Yates as the new firefighter. Her start date will be September 20. We will be meeting with Haddon Heights in the near future to discuss some problems EMS has been having. They have been having staffing issues like everyone else. The other day, Runnemedede, Mt. Ephraim, Haddonfield and we were all out of service at the same time. We all share the same pool of part-timers so when they are not around, they are not around for everybody. Kate is doing a great job trying to keep us staffed. We are trying to get some of Gloucester County's pool of part-timers. We are also looking at staffing the ambulances with any of the firefighters who are certified as EMT's. We also have four people out on medical right now. We are working on the situation and will keep you posted. The Fire Company will hold the car show on October 10.

Councilman Cerrito—the 9/11 Memorial is nearing completion. Saturday at 8:30am we will hold the dedication service. Now that is coming to a close, I want to pick-up where we left off with the Atlantic Ave and Barrington Ave and Clements Bridge Road improvements. Councilman Robenolt added that if anyone wants to speak at the 9/11 service, please let him know so you can be added to the list.

Councilman Ludwig—Sean Foster and Ross are supposed to be starting school this fall. Can we find out if they have been scheduled to go and can we do it by resolution. Clerk Shannon responded that we don't normally do that by resolution as long as it is budgeted. Ludwig said if they are registered, then fine—a resolution is not necessary. He added that he and his crew are bartending at the event on Saturday night.

Mayor Harris—school is back in session and so far, they are all day and in-person. The HHHS football started out with a win Friday night against Deptford. Saturday they are playing Princeton so I will leave the 9/11 service to head to Princeton and will be back for Brews, Beats and Eats. Councilman Drumm added that if a student is quarantined for Covid, they will participate in school virtually. Mayor Harris reported on the number of cases rising in the County and Barrington. So, the question is do we want to go back to virtual meetings or stay in-person.

After further discussion, it was determined that we will return to virtual meetings using Zoom for September and October and will re-evaluate for November. Clerk Shannon said we have plenty of time to do the public notice. Mayor Harris added that anyone who uses our buildings, has to sign a Covid waiver and wear masks.

Clerk Shannon asked if anyone was planning to attend the League Convention. Councilmen Drumm, Cerrito, Robenolt and Ludwig all said they want to be registered. Shannon also reported that there is mandatory JIF training that has to be done by all elected officials, management and employees.

On a motion by Councilman Hanson, second by Councilman Ludwig, the second public portion was opened. Present was Kristen Lampe from 28 Beaver Drive who read a prepared speech wherein she thanked the Governing Body and Mayor Harris for keeping residents informed about the trash issues and working with the company instead of just penalizing them. She also recognized Councilman Cerrito for being the lone voice opposed to an ordinance at the last meeting which showed strong leadership. He also recognized the volunteers on the 9/11 committee and passed all praise received back to the committee. She believes that it is important that leaders share the credit and not just the blame. Councilman Hanson recognizes members of the Civic Committee and validates and appreciates all their efforts even though he and Megan do most of the planning. When you make people feel relevant and appreciate what they do, you will get the best from them. This reminds her of the quote that "how you make people feel about themselves says a lot about you". She believes that you get the best from people by appreciating and validating them rather than tearing them down. The Governing Body applauded Kristen's speech.

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

Seeing no further business to be discussed, on a motion by Councilman Hanson, second by Councilman Ludwig, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm.

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