

BOROUGH OF BARRINGTON CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2022, 6:00PM, VIRTUAL MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM

Mayor Harris called the Zoom meeting to order in council chambers at 6:00pm with the Sunshine Statement as it relates to remote public meetings and pursuant to Executive Orders issued by Governor Murphy. She explained the process for making comments or asking questions during the public portions of the meeting. She then led everyone present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk called roll and the following were present on Zoom: Councilman Beach, Councilman Drumm, Councilman Hanson, Councilman Ludwig and Councilman Robenolt. The Clerk announced that Councilman Cerrito would be late. Also on the Zoom meeting were Mayor Harris, Clerk Shannon, and Solicitor Tim Higgins along with various department heads.

First Public Portion

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT—Greg Evans was not present

Mayor Harris announced there is one action item from the Engineer's report: Introduction of an ordinance to add a stop sign at Moore and Albertson Avenues and adding Richards Avenue as a snow emergency route. That ordinance will be introduced February 8.

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

Introduction of ordinance to amend Redevelopment Plan--the Planning Board will be hearing two applications for mixed use properties on Clements Bridge Road. The current redevelopment ordinance does not permit mixed use. The Planning Board is recommending that the Governing Body consider amending the plan to allow mixed use. Tim has drafted the ordinance for introduction and it was forwarded to you today.

Zoom meetings—with Covid slowing down now that the holidays have past, the Mayor would like to return to in-person meetings in March. As long as all are in agreement, we will return to in-person meetings as of the March 1 caucus meeting. Everyone agreed.

Re-opening of VFW for private party rentals—Tim has prepared a Covid waiver to be executed by anyone renting the hall. We are also again having the facility cleaned once a week. We are waiting to hear if the former hall manager wants to stay on or if we need to look for someone else.

Ordinance for a revised property registration program—the new legislation recently signed by Governor Murphy, allows the vacant property registration program to be resumed. Tim has prepared an ordinance for introduction but Tim, Bob Harris, Carol and I need to meet to discuss how the new program will work. Councilman Ludwig added that if ProChamps is not returning, we need to have some kind of program that is as effective as the ProChamps program was.

JIF Cyber Security Program—the JIF awarded a contract to a company named D2 Cybersecurity who will be providing cyber security training and will be doing phishing testing on all borough emails. Denise worked with E3 IT to clean-up and finalize our complete email list. I borough employees with email addresses will be required to complete cyber security training. D2 will randomly do email phishing testing to see how employees handle dangerous emails. This is not intended to be punitive but rather to give us valuable information as to the success of the training and if additional training is needed. The target date for D2 to have us set-up is June 1. Mayor Harris added that we had an employee who was scammed because she thought she was getting an email from me and she was out \$2,000.00. This program is very important.

Council Agenda Review:

Ordinances for Introduction on first reading:

- Amending the traffic ordinance to add a stop sign at Moore and Albertson and add Richards Avenue to the snow emergency routes
- Amending the Clements Bridge Road Redevelopment Plan
- Amending the vacant property registration program and fees
- Amending Barrington sewer rates

Resolutions:

Releasing the escrows held for 308 Barrington Avenue and 216 Courtney Drive
Authorizing Agreement for Education with an Employee of the Fire Alliance
February bill list

The Mayor has also requested two proclamations: Black History Month and American Heart Month

CFO's REPORT—Denise Moules reported on the following

Everyone received the financial reports—there are a few accounts that are over-expended because the amount paid exceeds the temporary budget but that will be corrected with the final budget. Overall expenses are in the black. Department heads will be getting their budget worksheets and we plan to hold meetings in March. We will schedule the department heads to come in to review their budgets during evening meetings. Regarding the sewer rates, we have not had a rate adjustment since 2015. I worked with Kristy to identify the types of rates and we added in Chik-Fil-A and the new brewery and also analyzed the consumption rates for the manufacturing district and we kept the residential increase to only \$8.00. The reason for a rate increase is for the increase in debt service for the sewer utility. The ordinance will be introduced next week. Mayor Harris added that is roughly \$.67 cents per month for residents. One other item—I need a resolution to move bond interest to BAN interest so that will also be on next week's agenda.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Hanson—we have some changes in the Police Department—we will be honoring Chief Uron on his retirement; we will be appointing Chief Minardi; Pawling will be promoted to Lieutenant; Hovern and Mulhern will be promoted to Sergeant; two new officers will be sworn in—Zach Ferguson and Matt Charlton. On the events front, the skating event at Cooper River had about 300 attendees from town so it was a great turnout.

Councilman Ludwig—I went to Tonewood Friday night and it was packed. Congratulations to the Cincinnati Bengals for making it to the Super Bowl. Roads were cleared throughout town so a shout-out to DPW. I highly recommend everyone go to Tonewood to sample the cold beverages.

Councilman Robenolt—thanks to the Fire Company and Ambulance who spent the night over the snowstorm in the building without heat. Thanks to DPW for working to get us supplemental heat while the problem is worked on. We will be heading down to do a final inspection on the new truck which should be here some time towards the end of March. We are looking to donate the old truck to a department that is in need of apparatus because of the devastating storms earlier this year. When we find a fire company that can use it, we will take the steps to donate it.

Councilman Drumm—asked Jim Arpino to explain the education benefits for a Fire Alliance employee. Jim explained that employee Joe Gallo wants to go to fire inspector school which will make him a second back-up to Tim Shannon. He is a very good inspector and is a certified fire official. Having a third person in the office to handle investigations would be a big help to us. Drumm then thanked DPW for the great job on our streets. Thanks to Fire and Ambulance for staying in the building during the storm. Covid numbers are dropping in the County—continue to be cautious and wear your masks.

Councilman Beach—thanks to DPW for their work on plowing after the storm. They worked all weekend. They also had to do a temporary emergency heating job for the fire and ambulance building. There is a new infrastructure funding plan out there and Beaverbrook would be a great project for that funding. I will discuss in more detail with Greg. Regarding parking, there is a possibility of putting 12 spots near the old antique store on Barrington Avenue. There is also the hope that if we paint lines out there, it will slow down the cut-through traffic. We are looking into getting back to normal with our seniors. We need to find another bus driver and I will work with Eileen on that.

Councilman Cerrito (joined the meeting at 6:20)—the grand opening of Tonewood was great. It seems to be very popular. I have a couple of things to discuss with Greg Evans regarding the Clements Bridge Road beautification so I will follow-up with him.

Mayor Harris—thank you to Kyle and Meg for the great skating night at Cooper River. Tonewood is a very interesting facility and the grand opening was great. Department head meeting on January 28 was great and I enjoy hearing from all the department heads. We got a lot of compliments on the plowing—kudos to Mike and Ken. I was made aware Friday morning that Fire and EMS did not have heat—thanks to DPW for getting them temporary heating. Thanks to Fire and EMS for working all weekend in those conditions. Thank you to the Police for enforcing the snow emergency routes—people need to be patient and understanding. Just a reminder to residents that during a snow event, you need to move your cars to your driveway.

On a motion by Councilman Ludwig, second by Councilman Drumm, the second public portion was opened. Diane Schreyer asked about email being hacked and if the Mayor's email was hacked. Mayor Harris explained it was not her email—it was made to look like her email. Chief Minardi has information he provides to residents regarding spam email which she will forward to her. Eileen Holcombe told Diane to check her email—she did send the information from Chief Minardi. Eileen added that we are sending socks, word search puzzles and a chunky pencil to all the Mews residents and Young at Heart members for Valentine's Day.

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

Seeing no further business to be discussed, on a motion by Councilman Ludwig, second by Councilman Beach, the meeting was adjourned at 6:32pm with all in favor.

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