

BOROUGH OF BARRINGTON CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2022, 6:00PM, MAYOR/COUNCIL CHAMBERS

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

The Clerk called roll and the following were present: Councilman Beach, Councilman Cerrito, Councilman Hanson, Councilman Ludwig and Councilman Robenolt. Councilman Drumm was absent with prior notice. Also present were Clerk Shannon, Secretary Eileen Holcombe, Finance Officer Denise Moules and Solicitor Tim Higgins.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

The engineer was not present so Mayor Harris announced they will be submitting change order No. 2 and voucher No. 2 for the 2021 Roads program for Asphalt Paving Systems.

First Public Portion

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

Administration—Clerk Shannon reported on the following items

- Town Wide Yard Sale was October 15. 35 homes participated and \$350 was raised for the TNR program.
- Shred Event was held October 29, 8am-11am, Borough Hall parking lot. 92 residents brought documents for shredding for a total of 3500 pounds of shredded paper.
- Fair and Open process for professionals—resolution will be on the agenda.
- Fire Alliance needs to raise permit/inspection fees—proposed ordinance is attached. Each permit fee is increasing by \$10.
- Green Team has been selling signs and tee shirts as a fundraiser for the Community Garden. So far, the funds raised for the Garden are \$411. Janice Bantle was instrumental in this project and did a lot of this work herself.
- Trees are being planted in the next week or two. Nursery started digging the trees this week and order has been placed. Mike and I are marking out the planting locations on Thursday.
- Lead-based paint inspections—we are now responsible for performing lead-based paint inspections on rental units. We have to allow complexes to do their own and just provide us with reports. Carol will have to keep track of all of these rental units as we have over 1100. Tim will provide us with a summary of the law and our responsibilities. Ordinances will be introduced in January with adoption in February.
- Business insurance registry—a new law signed by the Governor required towns to obtain certificates of insurance from all businesses and owners of multi-family dwellings. We will be adding this information to our annual businesses registration form and entering this information into our Edmunds billing system.
- Resolution amending the personnel policy handbook—the last AFSCME contract added Veterans Day as a holiday, but it was not added to the handbook. Veterans Day needs to be added and this will be done by resolution.

Council Agenda Review

Ordinance for introduction on first reading

- Ord. 1163 Raising permit fees for Regional Fire Alliance

Resolutions: (*preliminary—more may be added*)

Change order from the engineer

Resolution for Fair and Open process for selection of professionals

Resolution adding Veterans Day as a holiday to the personnel policy handbook

Authorizing 2022 budget transfers

Resolution to purchase a car from Runnemed for Ambulance command vehicle

November bill list

CFO's REPORT

CFO Moules reported the monthly reports were distributed. Tracking revenues through the end of October, there are short falls that will be addressed with transfers. Regarding the Best Practices Questionnaire, our score is 29.5 and we only needed 24 points to get full state aid so we have no issues. Two of the “no” answers pertained to charging stations on borough property and having a policy regarding purchase of hybrid/electric vehicles so that will have to be addressed in the future.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Cerrito—thanks to Janice Bantle for her work selling the signs and shirts to raise funds for the community garden. There are some grant opportunities on the website we are subscribing to that we are interested in. In the last month, there have been some scary accidents with kids on bikes and they were not wearing helmets. Chief Minardi responded that we will be enforcing the ordinance and our SRO's have been addressing with the students in the schools.

Councilman Ludwig—he would like to see a policy where anytime a sports team wins a championship, we should give employees off for the day of the parade. After some discussion, it was determined that any employee who wants to take off can use a vacation or personal day. We will not make this a policy for an additional day off.

Councilman Drumm—thanks to Denise for the audit. Thanks also to the police department for National Night Out. Also, thanks to the Civic Association for all the summer events.

Councilman Robenolt—Ken Baus' mother-in-law passed away this morning so he will be out for a few days.

Councilman Beach—we have a senior pasta dinner tomorrow night at 6pm. Mayor Harris added that if anyone knows of any seniors who are in danger of losing their home, have them reach out to Mike about the new county program to provide assistance to seniors for housing.

Councilman Hanson—it was suggested by the consultant who performed the study of the fire department that we change our policy regarding the fire chief also being the per diem firefighter. Usually, the fire chief is in charge of a fire scene but when he is serving as the per diem, there is command confusion. Councilman Robenolt disagreed and thinks changing this policy is ridiculous. Chief Baus has no problem with Ben (Haddon Hts) being in charge and himself riding in the back as a firefighter. Mayor Harris said you can be a chief or a per diem but you cannot be both. Councilman Ludwig said it sounds like we need sound, official structure for command at a fire scene. Mayor Harris said we were not aware that the chief was also being the per diem until the study was done.

Councilman Robenolt said you are essentially firing Ken Baus as a firefighter and he has been doing this for years. Tim Higgins said it is inconsistent for the chief to be the per diem. You have to be one or the other, but you cannot be both. Councilman Hanson added he can work for the Fire Alliance more days to make up the money he loses. Mayor Harris said this is a public safety issue but Councilman Robenolt disagreed and said he believes it is a vendetta. Mayor Harris added we have been trying repeatedly to meet with Chief Baus about this, but he refuses to come in. They had the report for three months and knew this was coming. Councilman Ludwig wanted to pay him for one more month to be the per diem and then have it end at the end of the year. Tim stated you cannot have the overlap. Because you are now aware of this issue, you have to make a decision. After more discussion, it was determined we will approve the policy change by resolution at the council meeting. The chief cannot serve as the per diem. Councilman Robenolt had already left the meeting.

Councilman Hanson added the police are doing No-Shave November. Hopefully there will be a fire parade on black Friday. Thanks to everyone who participated with Trunk or Treat.

Mayor Harris—thanks to the police for attending two different trunk or treats—that was a great thing.

Clerk Shannon added that the PBA donated \$1000 to the community garden.

On a motion by Councilman Hanson, second by Councilman Beach, the second public portion was Ludwig, the public portion was closed.

On a motion by Councilman Ludwig, second by Councilman Hanson, the meeting adjourned to closed session at 7:02pm.

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