

BOROUGH OF BARRINGTON CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 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 Drumm, Councilman Hanson and Councilman Robenolt. Councilman Ludwig was absent with prior notice. Also present were Clerk Shannon, Secretary Eileen Holcombe, Finance Officer Denise Moules and Solicitor Tim Higgins.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Greg Evans reported that for action items, we have approval of a resolution for submission of the DCA Recreation Improvement grant. This will be additional funding for Lost World Park. Clerk Shannon added that is on this agenda because of a timing issue.

DOT announced that we received \$213,490 for Austin Avenue, Phase 3. We appreciate the opportunity to serve the borough over the last year and we look forward to continuing to serve in 2023. He wished everyone Happy Holidays.

First Public Portion

On a motion by Councilman Hanson 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 Drumm, the public portion was closed.

Administration—Clerk Shannon reported on the following items

Reorganization meeting will be at 5pm on January 3 prior to the regular caucus meeting. Resolution setting the dates for Reorg and the January meetings will be on the council agenda.

Letters sent out by Aetna regarding expiration of the contract with Virtua. They do not have a new contract with Virtua yet and the contract expires December 31. Negotiations are still ongoing. Virtua is asking for a huge increase from Aetna. I will continue to keep you posted as the process moves along.

Fair and Open process for professionals—RFQ submittals are due December 16.

Letter from Tim regarding amendment to zoning—new statute requires municipalities to amend zoning to include provisions for Electric Vehicle Supply/Service Equipment and Make-Ready Parking Spaces. Scott Smith from KEI is reviewing our zoning ordinance accordingly. Tim has prepared the model ordinance which after Scott has reviewed, can be introduced in January.

Resolution authorizing submission of an application for a Local Recreation Improvement Grant for Lost World Park (on this agenda because of timing).

All trees have been planted. Residents are thrilled and we have been getting emails of thanks. We planted 25 and will continue to plant 25 trees per year to replace all the ones we lost.

Annual appointments—list of annual appointments for Reorg agenda has been provided to the Mayor.

Budget transfers, Chapter 159 and annual resolution for state contract vendors will be on the agenda.

Council Agenda Review

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

Resolution for Reorg and January meetings

Resolution for 2022 budget transfers
Chapter 159 for grants received—DOT grant and ARP funds
Resolution authorizing state contract vendors
December bill list
Tax refund for an overpayment

CFO's REPORT

CFO Moules reported the monthly reports were distributed. There is a shortfall of revenue with municipal court that will be covered by budget cancellations. Good news—the bank is now calculating interest on a daily basis rather than monthly. As a result, last month, our interest almost tripled so this will be a good revenue source going forward.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Cerrito—the new parking signs look great. He commended the police department for the disability registry. Great job by the fire and ambulance departments on the parade. The Green Team will be having an onsite meeting at the location of the community garden to review the layout.

Councilman Hanson—thanks to the fire department, ambulance and police for the holiday parade. Also thanks to the police for picking up coat donations that were donated by the firefighters union. The giving tree is still active and donations are due back next Monday. Holly Jolly Trolley is next week at Woodland; the house decorating contest is open for sign-ups until Friday.

Councilman Beach—a lot of seniors attended the holiday party; it was a huge success. Thanks to Megan and Eileen for all the events they have been doing with the seniors.

Mayor Harris—thanks you to the fire department for the parade. Thanks to the Civic Association for giving out the glow sticks. Rich at Public Works built a huge light switch for the tree lighting and it worked great. Runnemedede already asked to borrow it. Thanks to the police for the disabled and autistic registry—it is great that people will be able to have markers on their cars to notify police in the event of an emergency. The senior luncheon was great—it was packed. We will be providing dinner on December 21 to anyone who needs a hot dinner dropped-off. The community garden looks amazing.

ACTION ITEMS—Resolutions for approval

12-2022-126 Resolution to authorize the Execution and Submission of the Application for Local Recreation Improvement Grant, FY2023, for the Lost World Park Playground Rehabilitation.

12-2022-127 Resolution Authorizing a Closed Session to Discuss Contract Negotiations

On a motion by Hanson, second by Cerrito, the resolutions were approved with the following poll vote: Drumm-yes; Beach-yes; Hanson-yes; Cerrito-yes; Robenolt-yes.

On a motion by Hanson, second by Beach, the second public portion was opened. Seeing no public comment, on a motion by Hanson, second by Beach, the public portion was closed.

On a motion by Councilman Drumm, second by Councilman Beach, the meeting adjourned to closed session at 6:17pm with all in favor. Mayor Harris announced that no further business would be conducted after the closed session.

CLOSED SESSION

Councilman Beach explained that we have been negotiating with AFSCME for the past few weeks and have a tentative settlement. Clerk Shannon distributed the proposed settlement for council review. Beach stated in 2023 they would get 3.5%, 5% in 2024 and 3.5 in 2025. For 2024, the sell back of five sick days goes away. That comes out to 2% of their annual pay so since they can't be paid for it anymore, we added the flat 2% to their base salary. It is budget neutral because it would have been charged to buy back sick but instead will be charged to regular wages. We also gave them a \$25 increase for footwear per year; increased vision benefits to \$1200 over the life of the contract; and increased the annual dental maximum to \$3000. Bereavement went from three days to five days for immediate family and domestic partner. We asked for sick notes again after three days in a row. They will also have to provide a sick note for every illness after they have used seven in one year. We got a big concession on the vacation schedule for new hires. New hires will get a maximum of four weeks as opposed to six weeks they can get currently.

After more discussion, the proposed settlement was approved but won't be officially approved by resolution until the union ratifies the contract. The corresponding salary ordinance will be introduced in January.

On a motion by Councilman Hanson, second by Councilman Beach, the meeting returned to open session at 6:39pm.

On a motion by Councilman Hanson, second by Councilman Drumm, the meeting adjourned at 6:39pm.

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