

BOROUGH OF BARRINGTON CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2023, 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 Cerrito, Councilman Drumm, and Councilman Hanson. Absent were Councilman Beach, Councilman Ludwig and Councilman Robenolt—all with prior notice. Also present were Clerk Terry Shannon, Secretary Eileen Holcombe, Finance Officer Denise Moules and Solicitor Tim Higgins.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Greg Evans thanked the Governing Body for the reappointment for 2023. He reported there are no action items for this agenda and then reviewed the monthly engineer's report. He highlighted the following: the borough received \$213,490 for Austin Avenue, Phase 3; we submitted an application for additional funding for Lost World Park; we submitted shop drawings to the NJDOC office for the police department project and they authorized receipt of bids. We are preparing the plans and specs for the bid process. Regarding the 4th Avenue pump station project, we got a price from the state contract vendor but it exceeded the funding we have through the ARP program. We will be preparing plans and specs to go out to bid.

First Public Portion

On a motion by Councilman Hanson second by Councilman Cerrito, 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

- Aetna and Virtua have come to terms and settled on a contract. There will be no interruption in healthcare services and Virtua will remain in the Aetna network.
- Bellmawr sewer connections—401 and 402 Fifth Avenue have recently connected to Bellmawr's sewer. Barrington does not have sewer service where they are located. We will be approving a resolution for a shared service with Bellmawr for this service and Barrington will bill the residents and Bellmawr will bill Barrington for the service.
- Resolution authorizing ERI to perform the Master Plan reexamination and a complete update of the Redevelopment ordinances. Proposal for both is \$21,000 and Denise will include this in the 2023 budget. We previously had already budgeted \$15,000 for the reexamination plan.
- Amendment to zoning ordinance for cannabis facilities—the ordinance we adopted erroneously allowed consumption of cannabis at a facility. That was basically creating smoking lounges. It was not the intention that consumption be permitted so an ordinance amending the original ordinance will be introduced at the February 14 meeting. Also, the application for a cannabis retail facility in Barrington has been finalized and is ready to go. A copy is attached for your review.
- Renewal of the shared services agreement for the Regional Fire Alliance—the shared services with the four towns in the Alliance expired December 31. We sent the language for the new agreement to the state so they could approve the language. They are taking their time and asked us not to do anything with the agreement until we hear back from them.

•Promotion of patrolman to corporal—Officer Tyrell Thomas is being promoted to corporal and that resolution will be on the council agenda.

We will also have multiple proclamations on the agenda including a recognition of AJ Steen who served the Barrington Post Office and the residents for 37 years and now is retiring.

Council Agenda Review

Ordinances for public hearing and adoption:

- Ord. 1165 Amending Article I in Chapter 128, Zoning, in the Borough Code
- Ord. 1166 Fixing the Compensation of Certain Employees of the Borough of Barrington Covered by the AFSCME, Council 63, Local 3528, Contract
- Ord. 1167 Adding Article IV, Tax Abatements for Commercial and Industrial Structures, to Chapter 111, Taxation, in the Borough Code

Ordinance for introduction on first reading:

- Ord. 1168 Amending Chapter 128, Zoning, in the Borough Code (cannabis ordinance to prohibit consumption on the premises)

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

- Authorizing a Shared Service with Bellmawr for sewer connections
- Authorizing ERI to perform Master Plan Reexamination and Redevelopment Updates
- Resolution promoting Tyrell Thomas to Corporal
- Resolution appointing a new member to the Fire Department
- February bill list

CFO's REPORT

CFO Moules reported the monthly reports were distributed. We are working on a temporary budget so some lines will be overdrawn because we make full payments early in the year but the sewer and current fund are both in the black. We are working on the 2023 budget and all department heads will receive their information tonight. We anticipate holding department meetings in March. The auditor was here working on the annual financial statement and informed us we have two properties that need to be removed from the foreclosure list as they were part of the White Horse Pike redevelopment project. I would like to add a resolution to the agenda to remove these properties from the foreclosure list.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Hanson—tomorrow evening is free ice skating at Cooper River. There are no other events this month. All other departments are running well—Chief Hales should be here next week to report on how well the shared service is going. It is going very well.

Councilman Cerrito—we are ready to purchase the fence for the community garden. We are striving to get this thing open in time for planting season. Thanks to DPW for all the work they have been doing. Anytime we ask Mike Ciocco to do something outside the normal work, he is very helpful and gets it done.

Mayor Harris—as you already know, past mayor and police chief, Tom Page passed away. The family was very grateful for the outpouring of love and respect from the town. Kiwanis and Barrington are hosting a senior event at the VFW on President's Day. I was asked to be a speaker at the South Jersey Chamber of Commerce breakfast. Kyle is helping me prepare information about the great things going on in Barrington. Sean Sheridan has a lot of interest in the Avenue building he is planning—from yoga studios to BYOB restaurants, there is a lot of interest so good things are coming.

Eileen Holcombe reported they started chair yoga for seniors at the VFW. We are starting night events after daylight savings.

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

On a motion by Councilman Drumm, second by Councilman Cerrito, the meeting adjourned at 6:22pm.

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