

BOROUGH OF BARRINGTON
MINUTES OF the 106th ANNUAL REORGANIZATION MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2024, 1:00 P.M.
COUNCIL ROOM AT MUNICIPAL BUILDING

The Reorganization Meeting of the Governing Body of the Borough of Barrington was held with Mayor Patti Harris presiding.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Councilman Vincent Cerrito and his son, Vincent Jr., led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

NATIONAL ANTHEM: sung by Luke Tursi, Wilfredo Cruz, Caitlin Moses, and Quinn Zacamy from the Haddon Heights High School Choir.

INVOCATION: Pastor Richard Archut, Barrington Police Chaplin and Pastor of Community Bible Church

SUNSHINE STATEMENT AND STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT: Mayor Harris called the meeting to order and made the following statement: "This meeting is held in compliance with Chapter 231 of the open public meetings act of 1975 and appropriate notice has been given."

MAYOR HARRIS welcomed everyone to the 106th Reorganization of the Borough of Barrington. She thanked everyone for coming out today to welcome our newly elected officials Kyle Hanson, Melanie Mercado-Miller and Vince Cerrito. She made a speech about her time as mayor and talked about how proud she was to be the first women mayor of Barrington. She spoke about dealing with Covid, all of the economic development we have accomplished, the opening of an inclusive playground, the merger of the fire departments and many other accomplishments. She said Kyle will be the youngest mayor Barrington has ever had and she knows that he will do a great job. She thanked all of the staff, employees, department heads and her fellow council people. She also thanked her family for their support and sacrifice. And a special thanks to the community for their support as well.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Clerk Shannon first read the Certification of Elections for Kyle Hanson, Vincent Cerrito, and Melanie Mercado-Miller.

Kyle Hanson was sworn into office as Mayor by Assemblyman William Moen, New Jersey State Senator and Barrington resident Nilsa Cruz-Perez, and Assemblyman William Spearman.

Vincent Cerrito was sworn into office as Councilman by his brother, Dominic A. Cerrito, Esq.

Melanie Mercado-Miller was sworn into office as Councilwoman by New Jersey State Senator and Barrington resident Nilsa Cruz-Perez.

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL: The Municipal Clerk called roll of Council with the following in attendance: Councilman Beach, Councilman Cerrito, Councilman Drumm, Councilman Ludwig, Councilwoman Mercado-Miller and Councilman Robenolt.

REMARKS BY NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS:

MAYOR HANSON – talked about how when he was in middle school, he told everyone he would be mayor one day and that day is here. He is eager to get started. He thanked his family for their support and in particular his mom, Barb Hanson, for teaching him the importance of giving back to your community—he said he would not be the person he is today without her support and guidance. He thanked Mayor Patti Harris for her support over these years. He also thanked Senator Cruz-Perez and Assemblymen Moen and Spearman for their support and guidance as

well. He thanked officials from Camden County and surrounding towns along with other dignitaries who were in attendance. He thanked all of the borough department heads and office staff for being the backbone of this community.

COUNCILMAN CERRITO– thanks all for coming out today. He said he is honored to be able to continue to serve this community and implement some ideas he has. He looks forward to working for the town and thanked Mayor Harris for her dedication and service. He told Mayor Hanson he knows he will do a great job and his commitment is to be admired. He congratulated Councilwoman Mercado-Miller and looks forward to working together. He thanked his family for their support and encouragement.

COUNCILWOMAN MERCADO-MILLER—she welcomed all in both English and Spanish. This is a historic day, and she is proud to be the first Latina council person in Barrington. She thanked Mayor Harris, Mayor Hanson and all of council for their support and collaboration. She also thanked her family for their support and belief in her. She was scared about running for office but a conversation with a friend helped her to take the leap and trust in God's guidance. She sees being of Puerto Rican descent and raised in the United States as a blessing and hopes to be able to bridge gaps. She is looking forward to the future we can build together. Thank you for having faith in me and giving me the privilege to serve.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS:

MAYOR EMERITUS PATTI HARRIS was presented awards by Congressman Norcross' office, Senator Nilsa Cruz-Perez and the Assemblymen from the 5th Legislative District, and Camden County Commissioner Jonathan Young. Commissioner Young said a few words about Patti and read a proclamation from the County. Councilman Beach presented and read a proclamation from the Borough of Barrington. Chief Minardi of the Barrington Police Department thanked Mayor Harris for greatly improving the relationship between the PD and council and for allowing the department to grow to what it is today. Then, Ed Zetusky from Barrington Little League, thanked Mayor Harris for her support and presented her with a Little League "swag bag". Finally, Mayor Hanson announced that the playground adjacent to the municipal building is being renamed the Patti Harris Tot Lot in honor of our first woman mayor.

BARRINGTON'S BEST: presented by Mayor Hanson to Jerry O'Donnell. Jerry has been volunteering in town since a young boy and this year, has been helping out tremendously with the Barrington Seniors group. He helps to plan, run and organize events and is the epitome of what we want to see in our young people.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR: presented by Councilman Cerrito to the Barrington Green Team. The Green Team has accomplished so much in this past year including the Community Garden, which donated over 500 pounds of fresh produce this year. They started the PSE&G Home Energy program, have plans for rain gardens throughout town and are working towards certification through Sustainable Jersey. Chairperson Brittany Beyer thanked Councilman Cerrito and the governing body for their support and for empowering us to work towards energy efficiency and improving the quality of life in Barrington.

POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR: presented by Chief Minardi and Lt. Pawling to Ptl. Nick Wilson for exemplary service and dedication to the community during the past year. He is truly a leader and we are very proud of him. He will be promoted to Corporal at the next council meeting.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL: Mayor Hanson opened the floor for nominations for President of Council. Councilman Drumm nominated Councilman Beach which nomination was seconded by Councilman Cerrito. With no other nominees the following poll vote was taken, Beach-abstain, Cerrito=yes, Drumm=yes, Ludwig=yes, Mercado-Miller – yes, Robenolt=yes.

MOTION IS CARRIED

SWEARING IN OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT: Councilman Beach was sworn in as Council President by New Jersey State Senator and Barrington resident Nilsa Cruz-Perez.

Senator Cruz-Perez, Assemblyman Moen, Assemblyman Spearman, Commissioner Young, and Sheriff Willson all wished the newly elected council members, and all council members best of luck and we look forward to working with you. They also offered best wishes to the Barrington community and wished everyone a Happy and Health New Year.

RESOLUTIONS: The Municipal Clerk read the following Resolutions by title, one after another, and Council would have the opportunity to vote as a Consent Agenda at the end of the reading. The Clerk advised that the Resolutions are posted on the bulletin board outside these doors.

- 1-2024-1 Authorizing Agreements for Professional Services for 2024
- 1-2024-2 Designating 2024 Governing Body Committee Assignments
- 1-2024-3 Approving Individual Borough Appointments
- 1-2024-4 Adopting the 2024 Temporary Budget
- 1-2024-5 Appointing Representatives to the Camden Co. Community Development Board
- 1-2024-6 Designating 2024 Official Meeting Dates
- 1-2024-7 Authorizing the Petty Cash Fund
- 1-2024-8 Designating Legal and Official Newspapers for 2024
- 1-2024-9 Designating Depositories for 2024
- 1-2024-10 Setting the Interest Rate Charges for Delinquent Taxes
- 1-2024-11 Authorizing Investment of Idle Funds and Transfers
- 1-2024-13 Designating Healthcare Companies for 2024
- 1-2024-14 Awarding a Contract for Animal Control Services for 2024
- 1-2024-15 Awarding a Contract for Animal Shelter Services for 2024
- 1-2024-16 Designating Deputy Custodians of Public Records
- 1-2024-17 Authorizing the Tax Assessor to File, Stipulate and Settle Both Regular and Added/Omitted Tax Appeals and Roll Back Tax Complaints for the Borough of Barrington
- 1-2024-18 Appointing Councilman Cerrito as the Class III Member to the Planning Board

On a Motion by Ludwig, seconded by Cerrito, the Resolutions were approved with the following poll vote: Beach-yes, Cerrito-yes, Drumm-yes, Ludwig-yes, Mercado-Miller-abstain, Robenolt-yes.

MOTION IS CARRIED

PLANNING BOARD APPOINTMENTS: the Municipal Clerk read the following Appointments by Mayor Hanson, no confirmation necessary:

Mayor Hanson, Class I member, term ending 12/31/27; Zachary Ferguson, Class II member, term ending 12/31/24; Tyler Orlando, Class IV member, term ending 12/31/27; Karen Cilurso, Class IV member, term ending 12/31/27; and Jennifer Milligan, Class IV Alt. 1 member, term ending 12/31/25.

PUBLIC PORTION: Mayor Hanson advised that if you have a comment or question to please state your name the record. Comments are limited to five minutes per person.

On a Motion by Ludwig, second by Cerrito, the public portion of the meeting was opened.

Diane Schreyer, congratulated Patti Harris on her term as Mayor and for her service of twelve years on council. She also welcomed Councilwoman Mercado-Miller.

Eileen Holcombe, apologized for not thanking Mayor Harris and the rest of Council last month for the resolution to purchase a new senior bus. We are all very excited about that! Eileen also thanked Mayor and Council for recognizing Jerry O'Donnell with the Volunteer of the Year award, saying how helpful he is to her and the seniors.

Jennifer Milligan, congratulated the Green Team on their award, and we look forward to making improvements around town. Stated she looks forward to working with all of council. Jennifer thanked Mayor Harris for her leadership.

Seeing no further comments from the public, on a Motion by Ludwig, second by Drumm the public portion of the meeting was closed with all members of Council present in favor.

REMARKS FROM THE GOVERNING BODY:

COUNCILMAN LUDWIG – congratulations to Vince and Melanie. Mayor Harris, Patti, we have worked together and we have come a long way. We had our differences but at the end of the day we got a lot done. I am proud of it and all we went through. Kyle, you have those qualities. We are all lucky, we have good people in the community, and we make it all work. I am pleased to be part of it.

COUNCILMAN ROBENOLT–sorry about my bad voice. Thanks everyone who came today. Thanks to all departments and staff for all your work throughout the year. Congrautulations to my colleagues on your election. Patti, congratulations, I wish you the best. Have a safe and happy new year.

COUNCILMAN DRUMM – thanks all for coming out today. We have a great relationship with all federal, state and county officials. Congratulations to Kyle as Mayor and Vince on re-election and Melanie on election. Looking forward to working with you all. Congratulations to Mike Beach on President of Council. Patti has done great things in town; we will miss you even though we are in good hands with Kyle. Coming into office at the beginning of covid, you did an awesome job, your leadership was top-notch. As mentioned, this town would not run without the employees who are the backbone of our community, from the leadership of each department to all employees. Thank you so much, you truly make Barrington great. Happy new year.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT BEACH – thanks to all departments and employees. We reach them at all hours of the day, we do what we do because of them. Thanks to Mayor Harris for all she has done, you are a kind person with commitment and compassion. Kyle, again we couldn't be happier, proud of where you are. Vince, the Green Team award is well deserved, thanks for all you have done and will do. Melanie, thank you for coming on board, you have a great team here to work with you. Mike Ciocco and DPW had a sewer main break and 24 hours later, with little or no service interruption, Pioneer Pike and DPW laid three hundred feet of 8-inch pipe and had this all back up and working. Great job by all.

MAYOR HANSON – congratulated Nick Wilson, the Green Team, Jerry O'Donnell and Mayor Harris on their awards and recognition. Wish all a happy and prosperous new year. Light refreshments will be served in the back area after we adjourn.

BENEDICTION: was delivered by Pastor Richard Archut, Community Bible Church.

ADJOURNMENT: Seeing no other business to be transacted on a Motion by Ludwig, second by Drumm, the Reorganization Meeting was adjourned at 2:16pm.

Approved: Terry Shannon
Terry Shannon, Municipal Clerk