

BOROUGH OF BARRINGTON CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2024, 6:00PM, MAYOR/COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Mayor Hanson 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 Borough Clerk called roll and the following were present: Council President Beach, Councilman Cerrito, Councilman Drumm, Councilman Robenolt and Councilwoman Mercado-Miller. Councilman Ludwig was absent with prior notice. Also present were Secretary Eileen Holcombe, Engineer Greg Evans and Solicitor Tim Higgins.

Engineer's report—Greg Evans reported on the following

We have the following action items—approve a DCA Recreation grant for Lost World Park; approve a resolution authorizing emergency repairs to the Fourth Avenue pump station; and reject bids received for the Fourth Avenue pump station improvements. The bids exceeded the engineer's estimate. We also received notice that CDBG applications are being accepted and we recommend that you continue with improvements to the VFW senior center and the senior social program.

Review of report—the pre-con meeting for the heating system at the senior is this Thursday; Runnemede sanitary sewer system project is expected to commence mid-February. The gas mains are being done right now. Councilman Beach asked for an update on the Hidden Ponds issue and Greg said they are waiting to hear from Runnemede's engineer. Councilman Hanson added we have applied for the DCA grants for the last couple of years and will apply again this year and hopefully complete our funding needs for Lost World Park. Regarding the pump station bids, the engineer's estimate was around \$600,000 but the bids came in at over a million so we will reject and re-bid.

First public portion—on a motion by Councilman Drumm, second by Councilman Robenolt, the first public portion was opened. Present was Alex Beyer who was representing his wife, Brittany, chair of the Green Team. She is working on the Reclaim the Rain proposal through PSE&G and needs a resolution of support and help developing the project budget. Clerk Shannon said she will work with her on the budget. The resolution will be on the council agenda.

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

Administration—Clerk Shannon reported on the following

Introduction of ordinance to amend Chapter 128, Zoning, pertaining to the heights of accessory buildings. Our code did not speak to the height of accessory buildings and this amendment will address that.

Amendments to personnel policy—we needed to make a few minor changes to the personnel policy and the JIF is also requiring that each member adopt a youth protection policy. The sick policy is being amended to say that if you are sick, you have to notify your supervisor 30 minutes before the start of your shift. We are also changing the retirement policy to say if you are 65 and over, you can retire after 15 years of service and membership in the pension system. This is to match the state policy. The policy has been sent to you via email. I wanted to keep this policy separate from the personnel policy handbook because it will also apply to the sports organizations that utilize our facilities. We will need a certification on annual basis that their personnel are doing youth protection training. Mayor Hanson said Lt. Pawling spoke with little league and softball and they do background investigations. Not sure yet about soccer. A resolution to adopt both will be on next week's agenda.

Change to reading of departmental reports at council—Mayor Hanson said he has been to other town meetings and they just accept departmental reports and waive the reading. I would like to make that change as well. They are posted outside the meeting room and are also on the website.

Council agenda review

Ordinances for introduction on first reading:

- Ord. 1178--Amending Chapter 128 Zoning (height of accessory buildings)
- Ord. 1179—2024 Salary ordinance
- Ord. 1180—Salary Ordinance for police contract

Resolutions for approval by consent agenda: *preliminary—more may be added*

- Authorizing submission of a DCA Recreation grant
- Authorizing emergency repairs to Fourth Ave pump station
- Awarding or rejecting bids received for Fourth Ave pump station improvements
- Authorizing revisions to personnel policy and adoption of youth protection policy
- Authorizing agreement with Runnemedede for purchase of brine
- Authorizing shared service agreement with Tavistock for office services
- Resolution authorizing execution of a contract with PBA Local 328
- Resolution referring Ordinance 1178 to the Planning Board
- Reclaim the Rain resolution
- Authorizing CDBG grant applications
- Approving the February bill list

Mayor Hanson added we will need a resolution for submission of the Municipal Alliance grant.

Finance

•Budget comparisons are not available yet; the budget schedule is attached to the last page of the report. Introduction will be in April with adoption in May. Department heads will get their spreadsheets next week and then budget meetings will be the latter part of March.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilwoman Mercado-Miller—I met with Eileen, Megan and Terry to review the status of the senior program, the TNR program and the Board of Health. Eileen and Megan are working on getting sponsorships for the senior bus. I would like to re-establish the Board of Health and bring back quarterly meetings, update the webpage and engaging community member to get involved. I will try to establish a relationship with the Green Team as well and look into the Mayor's Wellness Campaign.

Mayor Hanson—we met with the PBA bargaining members over the last few months. Their goal was to be comparable to surrounding towns but if they wanted to increase salaries, we would have to reduce other benefits. We came to an agreement and received the final draft last night which has been forwarded to all of you. If everyone is in agreement, it will be approved next week. He added that the police was awarded DWI funds grant which will be used for roving patrols; they were awarded a phone extraction grant; they are moving forward with getting a canine. On 2/29, the PD will be participating with bingo with the seniors and on 4/3 they will be doing coffee with a cop at Little Coco. We met last week to review the fire department agreement and we are looking to extend the agreement for another year. We are considering having a broker come in to give us an estimate on what the ladder truck could

be sold for. If we cannot get what we owe, we will not sell it but hopefully we will get what we owe. Clerk Shannon asked who hired the broker. Mayor Hanson said the contract will be sent over to you so the resolution can be put on next week's agenda.

Seeing no further business to be discussed, on a motion by Councilman Drumm, second by Councilman Beach, the meeting adjourned at 6:23pm with all in favor.

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