

**BOROUGH OF BARRINGTON**  
**MINUTES OF MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**September 10, 2024, 6:00PM**  
**COUNCIL ROOM AT MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A regular monthly Council Meeting of the Borough of Barrington was held with Mayor Hanson presiding.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Hanson called the meeting to order with 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. Notice of the meeting was filed with the Retrospect and Courier Post and is also posted in the main office of the Borough Clerk where notices are primarily kept. He then led everyone present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Hanson requested that everyone remain standing in honor of Chris Mecca, our borough Construction Official, who lost his battle with prostate cancer. Members of Council and our staff are wearing ribbons to honor his memory and acknowledge Prostate Cancer Awareness month.

**ROLL CALL**

The Municipal Clerk called roll of Council with the following in attendance: Council President Beach, Councilman Drumm, Councilman Ludwig, and Councilwoman Mercado-Miller. Councilman Cerrito is absent with prior notice; the Clerk has not heard from Councilman Robenolt. Mayor Hanson, Municipal Clerk Terry Shannon, and Solicitor Timothy Higgins were also on the dais.

**PROCLAMATIONS**

Mayor Hanson announced that tonight we are honoring resident Phyllis Hait on her 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday and Mrs. Hait and her son were present. He presented the proclamation to Mrs. Hait and she spoke about how much she loves living in Barrington.

Mayor Hanson then announced that the following proclamations will be posted outside the council meeting room: Prostate Cancer Awareness Month; Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month; National Recovery & Suicide Prevention Month; Patriot Day & National Day of Service & Remembrance; National POW-MIA Recognition Day.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Hanson reported that Council was provided with the minutes of the August 7, 2024, caucus, and the August 13, 2024, council meetings and asked if there were any corrections or abstentions. On a motion by Ludwig, second by Mercado-Miller the minutes were approved. Council President Beach abstained for the council meeting minutes.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mayor Hanson advised that the monthly departmental reports were distributed to the governing body, are posted outside of council chambers, and posted on the borough website. If there are no questions on the reports, I will entertain a motion to accept monthly reports.

On a motion by Ludwig, second by Beach, the monthly departmental reports were approved with the following poll vote: Beach=yes, Drumm=yes, Ludwig=yes, Mercado-Miller=yes

**ORDINANCES FOR PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION**

The Clerk read the following ordinances by title:

Ord. 1190      Amending Article XII, Schedules, in Chapter 339, Vehicles and Traffic, in the Code of the Borough of Barrington (no stopping or standing on Bell Ave)

On a motion by Ludwig, second by Drumm, the second reading of the ordinance was approved with the following poll vote: Beach-yes, Drumm-yes, Ludwig-yes, Mercado-Miller–yes

On a motion by Ludwig, second by Mercado-Miller, the public hearing on Ordinance 1190 was opened. Seeing no comments from the public, on a motion by Ludwig, second by Beach, the public hearing was closed.

On a motion by Drumm, second by Mercado-Miller, the Ordinance 1190 was adopted with the following poll vote: Beach-yes, Drumm-yes, Ludwig-yes, Mercado-Miller–yes

Ord. 1191      Bond Ordinance Authorizing THE Completion OF Various Capital Improvements AND THE Acquisition OF Various Capital Equipment In AND For THE Borough OF Barrington, County OF Camden, New Jersey; Appropriating THE Sum OF \$1,511,500 Therefor; Authorizing The Issuance Of General Obligation Bonds Or Bond Anticipation Notes Of The Borough Of Barrington, County Of Camden, New Jersey, In The Aggregate Principal Amount Of Up To \$1,435,925, Making Certain Determinations And Covenants; And Authorizing Certain Related Actions In Connection With The Foregoing

Ord. 1192      Bond Ordinance Authorizing The Completion Of Various Sewer Utility Improvements And The Acquisition Of Various Sewer Utility Equipment In And For The Borough Of Barrington, County Of Camden, New Jersey; Appropriating The Sum Of \$336,500 Therefor; Authorizing The Issuance Of General Obligation Bonds Or Bond Anticipation Notes Of The Borough Of Barrington, County Of Camden, New Jersey, In The Aggregate Principal Amount Of Up To \$336,500, Making Certain Determinations And Covenants; And Authorizing Certain Related Actions In Connection With The Foregoing

On a motion by Ludwig, second by Drumm, the second reading of Ordinances 1191 and 1192 was approved with the following poll vote: Beach-yes, Drumm-yes, Ludwig-yes, Mercado-Miller–yes.

On a motion by Ludwig, second by Beach, the public hearing on these ordinances was opened.

Seeing no comments from the public, on a motion by Ludwig, second by Drumm, the public hearing was closed.

On a motion by Ludwig, second by Beach the Ordinances 1191 and 1192 were adopted with the following poll vote: Beach-yes, Drumm-yes, Ludwig-yes, Mercado-Miller–yes

### **RESOLUTION CONSENT AGENDA**

The Clerk read the following resolutions to be approved by consent agenda:

- 9-2024-96      Resolution to Rescind Prior Approval of 2023-24 Liquor License Renewal
- 9-2024-97      Renewal of Plenary Retail Consumption License 0403-33-002-007 for 2023-24
- 9-2024-98      Resolution to Rescind Prior Approval of 2024-25 Liquor License
- 9-2024-99      Renewal of Plenary Retail Consumption License 0403-33-002-007 for 2024-25
- 9-2024-100     Awarding a Contract to DiMeglio Const. for 4<sup>th</sup> Ave Pump Station Improvements
- 9-2024-101     Appointing Construction Official, Building Sub-Code Official & Building Inspector
- 9-2024-102     Resolution Authorizing Cancellation of Grant Balances
- 9-2024-103     Awarding a Contract to E3 IT Services for Installation of Building Security Systems
- 9-2024-104     Resolution Appointing Members to the Barrington Board of Health

- 9-2024-105 Resolution Approving the Sustainable Land Use Pledge
- 9-2024-106 Approving the New GRC Request Form & OPRA Procedures
- 9-2024-107 Resolution Authorizing Cash Advances for the Harvest Festival
- 9-2024-108 Approving the September Bill List in the Total Amount of: \$646,876.43

On a motion by Ludwig, second by Mercado-Miller, the resolution consent agenda was approved with the following poll vote: Beach-yes, Drumm-yes, Ludwig-yes, Mercado-Miller-yes

### **PUBLIC PORTION**

Mayor Hanson advised that if you have comments or questions, please come forward and state your name for the record. Public comment is limited to five minutes per person. On a motion by Beach, second by Ludwig, the public portion of the meeting was opened.

Diane Schreyer – with school opening and the recent shooting, Diane thanked all teachers and school staff for all they do.

Maryann Perrino – do we have police presence in our schools? Mayor Hanson advised that multiple schools in the area were threatened online; the threats were determined not to be credible. Our law enforcement and Governing Body take this seriously. He commended our Barrington Police Department and the surrounding towns, county, and local officials, and school district agencies who worked together to apprehend the individuals responsible. Our school resource officers have been in our schools full time for two years in our elementary and middle schools as well as Haddon Heights High School. Chief Minardi advised besides the SRO's, our patrol officers walk through the schools on a daily basis. This includes the Chief himself, the Captain, and the Detective. He advised that school safety is one of their priorities and he can confidently say our schools are in good hands.

Diane Schreyer – said two years ago, we had a retired officer that was going to the schools and asked about that. Chief Minardi advised that the SRO in Avon School is retired Lieutenant Dan Bowman and the SRO in Woodland School is Corporal Ken Lampe who is still an active officer. They are both phenomenal in the schools. He added that if he was a parent having kids in our schools, he could not feel safer with the two SRO's and the rest of our Police Department. They are full police, just like me, not security guards. They are fully trained, and we couldn't ask for better officers in the schools. Councilman Ludwig added that they were notified about the threat, and all departments were right on top of it. Mayor Hanson added that the SRO's don't just sit in an office or just patrol the halls. Our Police Department is involved in several outreach programs such as Hooked on Fishing Not Drugs and the Kiddie Police Academy, and the football program with the students at the high school. Our officers are not just in the schools, they are building a relationship with the students.

Meg O'Donnell - just wanted to say happy birthday to Phyllis Hait.

Seeing no further comments from the public, on a motion by Ludwig, second by Drumm, the public portion of the meeting was closed.

### **COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BODY**

COUNCILMAN LUDWIG – sorry about Chirs, he was a good friend, and the borough will be lost without him. We have good people to step into his shoes, but Chris was special and will be missed.

COUNCILMAN DRUMM – thanked our Police Department in town and all local Police Departments and the county. The situation was handled with professionalism. Being a retired police officer it puts him in a good spot, and that morning, the individuals were arrested. He thanked the Chief saying the department has always been top notch since your leadership and he is proud that we have a eat police department here. Happy birthday Phyllis.

Phyllis Hait said when she married a Camden fellow, and told her parents she was moving to Jersey they thought Jersey was moving to the end of the world. She is happy to be living in her Barrington house even though she has a Haddonfield mailing address. Happy to pay taxes to Barrington where she has never had any problems, everyone is kind and cooperative. The few times she called for help the ambulance, police, and fire squad have been there for me--thank you Barrington! That goes for those present now and for those before you for the past seventy-years.

COUNCILWOMAN MERCADO-MILLER – September is Suicide Prevention Month so check yourself and others, see Camden County health line. It is great to see that First Responders not only do great in our town but collaborate across other towns to work with them. The Board of Health has a meeting this Thursday for the Mayors Wellness Campaign. Our three new members are Gina Ward, Samantha Martine and Brittany Beyer. We are still looking for members for the Board of Health so if you are involved with hospitals or a health system, or have animal control experience, feel free to reach out to the Councilwoman. For seniors, September 17 golf is cancelled; there is an evening event September 26 with music from Camden County-- doors open at 6pm; October 9 is the Camden County Senior Health Fair for vaccines and lots of information; and on October 10, there is a luncheon at the senior center for the Fire Company, Fire Alliance and the Tax Office staff. For info on any event, reach out to Eileen or the senior Facebook page.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT BEACH -wished his neighbor Phyllis a very happy birthday! You said you were not as strong as you were before but from across the street where I live, I see you moving around very well, and I hope I can move that good in ten years. Chief Minardi, we don't want to congratulate just when you do something great, but always. It seems like monthly you are stepping up and doing something great and amazing. We know on a daily basis we are protected; we have one of the best departments around. Raising my kids here we have felt safe every step of the way and appreciate what you do and how you interact with the community since the time you took over. Thanked the Mayor, the Civic Association and volunteers for Brews, Beats and Eats on Saturday, it was another amazing turnout, even with the weather. Great job from Civic on events all year. Chris Mecca is a great guy and great worker, he was a friend and he will be truly missed.

MAYOR HANSON – condolences to the Mecca family. Many of council and the staff attended the viewing last week. His children said they didn't know how far his reach was and how many lives he touched. He will be missed and is leaving huge shoes to fill. Phyllis, happy birthday. We will be done shortly and have your cupcakes. We are happy to have residents who live here for 70 years and stay here because it is a great place to be. It is residents like you who make our town great, so thank you. Mayor thanked the Civic Association, Public Works, and all the volunteers who helped with Summer Nights in August and Brews, Beats and Eats last weekend. The weather was not as cooperative as we would have liked but turned out well in the end with a great turnout and a rainbow! Harvest Fest is October 12, a very big day with hundreds of vendors, a car show, music, food trucks, food court, all working together for a great day in town. Well wishes to Councilwoman Mercado-Miller who is expecting her first child next month.

Chief Minardi mentioned the Junior Police Academy. It is the first year we held this event, and it was a great success with 13 kids attending for the whole week. Captain Pawling worked hard to set it up and Corporal Lampe ran the program and did a phenomenal job with the kids. Retired Lieutenant Bowman and Sergeant Mulhearn helped him out. For the graduation, the kids marched better than the chief's academy class did! Lots of credit to our guys and all the kids involved. A great success and we look forward to expanding on the program in the future.

Seeing no further business to be transacted, on a motion by Ludwig, second by Drumm, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

APPROVED: Terry Shannon  
Terry Shannon, Borough Clerk