

BOROUGH OF BARRINGTON
MINUTES OF MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING
October 8, 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.

ROLL CALL

The Municipal Clerk called roll of Council with the following in attendance: Council President Beach, Councilman Cerrito, Councilwoman Mercado-Miller and Councilman Robenolt. Councilman Drumm and Councilman Ludwig are absent with prior notice. Mayor Hanson, Municipal Clerk Terry Shannon, and Solicitor Timothy Higgins were also on the dais.

PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Hanson announced that the following proclamations were issued and are posted on the borough bulletin board: Fire Prevention Week, Breast Cancer Awareness Month; National Hispanic Heritage Month and Recognizing the Green Team for Achieving Bronze Certification from Sustainable Jersey.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Hanson reported that Council was provided with the minutes of the September 3, 2024, caucus, and the September 10, 2024, council meetings and asked if there were any corrections or abstentions. Councilman Robenolt abstained for the council meeting minutes of September 10. On a motion by Cerrito, second by Beach the minutes were approved with all in favor.

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 Robenolt second by Mercado-Miller, the monthly departmental reports were approved with the following poll vote: Beach-yes, Cerrito-yes, Mercado-Miller-yes, Robenolt-yes

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION ON FIRST READING

Ord. 1193 Ordinance of the Borough of Barrington, County of Camden, State of New Jersey, Amending Article III, Commercial Districts, in Chapter 360, Zoning

On a motion by Cerrito, second by Beach, the first reading of this ordinance was approved with the following poll vote: Beach-yes, Cerrito-yes, Mercado-Miller-yes, Robenolt-yes

This ordinance will be considered for adoption after proper notice and a public hearing to be held during the November 12, 2024, council meeting.

RESOLUTION CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 10-2024-109 Authorizing Purchase of Ambulance from Barrington Ambulance Association
- 10-2024-110 Resolution Referring Certain Matters to the Planning Board for Review and Recommendations Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-26
- 10-2024-111 Resolution Authorizing Participation in the Equalis Group National Cooperative Purchasing System
- 10-2024-112 Authorizing Execution of Repayment Agreement with Barrington Urban Renewal Redevelopment, LLC
- 10-2024-113 Recognizing the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Definition of Antisemitism
- 10-2024-114 Resolution Authorizing Execution of Employment Agreements with Both the Chief of Police and the Police Captain
- 10-2024-115 Resolution Changing the Date for the November Caucus meeting
- 10-2024-116 Resolution Setting the Hours for Trick or Treating
- 10-2024-117 Approving the Purchase of Certain Lands by the Borough of Barrington from Carroll S. and Helen L. Carter and Authorizing Execution of All Documents Necessary to Implement Said Purchase
- 10-2024-118 Designating the Property Identified as Block 1, Lot 1.01, as an “Area in Need of Redevelopment” without the Power of Eminent Domain, in Accordance with the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law (Non-Condensation Redevelopment Area)
- 10-2024-119 Adding 2024 Tax Exemption
- 10-2024-120 Deleting Tax Exemptions for 2022, 2023 and 2024
- 10-2024-121 Authorizing the Borough to Participate in the Bergen County Cooperative Purchasing System
- 10-2024-122 Authorizing Purchase of 2023 Chevrolet F-250 SuperCab Pick-up Truck through the Bergen County Cooperative Purchasing System
- 10-2024-123 Approving Change Order No. 1—Police Department Renovation Project
- 10-2024-124 Approving Change Order No. 4—Austin Avenue Project
- 10-2024-125 Authorizing Liens against Certain Properties for Costs Incurred in Accordance with the Property Maintenance Code
- 10-2024-126 Appointing Daniel Bowman as Class III School Resource Officer
- 10-2024-127 Approving the October Bill List in the Total Amount of: \$4,443,300.69

On a motion by Robenolt, second by Beach, the resolution consent agenda was approved with the following poll vote: Beach-yes, Cerrito-yes, Mercado-Miller–yes, however she abstained on 10-2024-15, Robenolt-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 Cerrito, second by Mercado-Miller, the public portion of the meeting was opened.

Paul Maurice – Barrington resident and 20-year Fire Fighter. Said he is not happy with the selling of the ladder truck and claimed that the Mayor doesn’t care about the fire company or all the past firefighters. Shutting down the fire hall is mismanagement. Town just cares about holding more alcohol events. He also said that the Shade Tree Commission should not have planted that type of tree on Third Ave (meaning the pear trees).

Brittany Beyer – usually reports on Green Team matters but with the borough considering selling the VFW/Memorial Senior Center, she expresses her disappointment. The VFW is valuable to our community; the sale would affect a recent grant the Green Team received to install a rain garden at that site, workshops and other events that are held in that building. Ms. Beyer also has concerns about moving the senior and community programming to the second floor of any building as elevators can breakdown. If the building is sold, the community will not have any say in how the proceeds of the sale will be used. Why is a business interested in this site when other sites are already available? Will the borough match the block grant fund? Ms. Beyer was told no by the Mayor, the borough would not match the grant.

Diane Schreyer – doesn't know who puts together the Barrington on Track but it was a really good issue. The Mayor advised that it was Terry Shannon. It was well done and pleasant to read.

Sal Russomanno – represents Barrington Girl Scout Troop 3210 as a co-leader with Christine who is here with me. They do a lot for the town and lots of volunteer work including planting plants and collecting personal items for needy groups. They are grateful for the meeting space they have used in the past but they are also concerned for a place to meet that will be permanent as the council room will not fit their needs of hosting two groups at the same time. Will the community room upstairs be available to them later, or if not sold, will the VFW be available? They are requesting use of the community center every Monday at the very least with the possibility of using it more often in the future. Hoping the borough will allow the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Green Team use of the community space. They ask for your cooperation and assistance. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Lois Eckman – children riding their bikes are not stopping at the STOP sign at Russell and Edwards Avenues, not wearing helmets and not looking carefully. Is it a possibility to have some kind of program at the schools to teach the kids to follow traffic laws, to look carefully at stop signs and look both ways before they go riding out. It is important and she sees the kids and it scares her half to death. Mayor Hanson advised that they will speak with the Chief and Captain and see what can be done.

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

COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BODY

COUNCILMAN CERRITO – thanks all for coming out tonight to express your distain, positivity, or suggestions, it is very important to the community. He understands about the kids on bikes and sees what is going on and it is nerve wracking and he would love to see an awareness program, reminding that it all starts at home. Thanks Sal and Christine for working with the kids, a positive impact goes a long way. Hoping the Governing Body can support facilitating space for you.

COUNCILMAN ROBENOLT – thanks for taking time to come out, its nice to see more people from the public attending.

COUNCILWOMAN MERCADO-MILLER – echoed Councilman Robenolt's comments. She said she will be out for a while as she welcomes her baby in the next few weeks. It fills her with joy to see new faces here and so many folks in the room advocating for their programs. Thank you all for your passion and participation. My email will be active, and you can reach me while I am out.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT BEACH – congratulations to Councilwoman Mercado Miller and good luck on your first born. Thanks to all for coming out and expressing your concerns, we appreciate it. The Mayor does a great job listening to everyone and taking all into consideration; he does meet with us and talk with us to discuss issues and does a great job, and he thanked Mayor

Hanson. To Sal, thank you for your service, we will discuss and work out a place for you. Thanks to Public Works and the Green Team for the Borough Hall rain garden. It took a long time, is bigger than was anticipated, and turned out to be a beautiful addition to our property. Special thanks to Brittany and Kristen and the rest of the Green Team.

MAYOR HANSON – echoed his colleagues about all coming out to speak their mind this evening. He has been on the Governing Body since 2019 and this is probably the most public comments received during these years. Congratulations to the Green Team on their certification from Sustainable New Jersey, we can meet later to discuss things and get a timeline. The Harvest Festival, the biggest event in town, is this Saturday from 10am-4pm. Clements Bridge will be shut down; the Police have posted road closure info on social media and all information needed surrounding that event. It will be nice weather, hope to see you all there. Congratulations to Councilwoman Mercado-Miller and have a happy and healthy delivery. With the hurricane in the South, our prayers go out to all dealing with those tragedies.

Seeing no further business to be transacted, on a motion by Beach, second by Robenolt, the meeting was adjourned at 6:29 pm.

APPROVED: *Terry Shannon*
Terry Shannon, Borough Clerk