

BOROUGH OF BARRINGTON CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 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 the roll of council, and the following were present: Council President Beach, Councilman Drumm, and Councilman Robenolt. Councilman Cerrito arrived at 6:16pm. Councilwoman Mercado-Miller was absent with prior notice and Councilman Ludwig was absent. Also present were Secretary Eileen Holcombe, Solicitor Tim Higgins, and Clerk Terry Shannon.

Engineer's report

Greg Evans reported on the following action item: we submitted Voucher No. 6, and Change Order No. 5-Final, for the Austin Avenue project and also voucher No. 6 for the police department renovations. For the Lost World Park playground installation, we had a low bid from Think Pavers and are still reviewing the bids. Regarding the Runnemedede sanitary sewer extension project, we received a proposal from their contractor for \$12,450 to connect the Hidden Ponds pump station force main to Lauren Lane. If you wait to do it later, the cost will go up as they will need to re-mobilize. Regarding the 4th Avenue pump station project, the pre-construction meeting was held October 16 and once we have a start date, we will notify you. We have been working with Mike Ciocco to convert the lighting at the Wish Upon a Star playground to LED lighting.

Public Portion

On a motion by Councilman Drumm, second by Councilman Beach, the first public portion was opened. Present was Brittany Beyer who spoke about the possible sale of the VFW building. She thinks it is short-sighted to sell the building that could generate revenue if it were promoted and we would have to return CDBG funds. She is also concerned that we used the borough assessor to appraisal rather than an outside appraiser. She wanted to know if the governing body would be discussing the potential sale and making a decision. Mayor Hanson responded that the decision to sell the building would be voted on by borough council and is not up for discussion this evening.

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

Administration

Clerk Shannon reported on the following:

Green Team—the presentation of Bronze certification will be presented at the Sustainable Jersey luncheon on November 19 at the NJLM Convention. Brittany, Alex and Terry are attending.

NJLM Convention—for those of you attending, they do not send badges anymore. You should have (or will) receive instructions that will include a QR code so you can print your own badge when you arrive at the Convention.

Resolution for Fair and Open process—the resolution for RFQ's for selection of professionals under a Fair and Open process will be on the November agenda. RFQ's will be due in early December so you can review.

Valuation of VFW Senior/Community Center—the quotes to have a commercial appraisal done of the building were between \$3000 and \$7000 so we had our assessor perform a valuation of the building.

He used a formal process and looked at comps of similar sized buildings with similar uses. He values the VFW building at between \$350,000 and \$375,000.

Letters to be sent to the two cannabis candidates who currently have resolutions of support—we have two candidates for whom resolutions of support were issued but no action has been taken to get these businesses up and running. We frequently get requests for new resolutions of support so we have asked Tim to send official letters to the two prior candidates notifying them they have to show progress by a certain date, or the resolutions of support will be rescinded.

Council agenda review

Public hearing and adoption of Ord. 1193, amending article III, Commercial Districts, in Chapter 360, Zoning

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

- Resolution for Fair and Open process for selection of professionals
- Approving Change Order No. 5-Final, for the Austin Ave project
- Resolution for a Dedication by Rider for the Lead Hazard Control fee
- Approving the November bill list

Tim Higgins added that he sent the ordinance for tax abatements. Clerk Shannon explained that tax abatements need to be re-adopted every ten years so we need to re-adopt ours.

Finance

CFO Moules was not present, so Clerk Shannon reported that Denise completed the Best Practices Questionnaire and our score was 40.5. Anything above 35 meant you have no reduction to your aid. A lot of the questions were not scorable and were just information gathering. It appears to be in preparation for the new round of COAH compliance. Starting January 1, we have to collect the \$20 lead hazard abatement fee that needs to be remitted to the state. That is why we need to do the resolution for a dedication by rider. You received Denise's monthly report and if you have any questions, you can reach out to her.

Councilman Drumm told Clerk Shannon that he would like to attend the luncheon where the Green Team will be recognized. Councilman Cerrito is not sure yet if he can attend.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Hanson thanked the Public Safety and Public Works departments for their work on the Harvest Festival. Halloween was last week and we had no issues. Election Day is tomorrow so make sure you get out and vote. On Friday, the 29th, we will have our tree lighting ceremony followed by the fire truck parade. In December, the Holly Jolly Trolley will be on the 15th. The Civic Association giving tree is up here and at the VFW in time for polling place attendance. That benefits local children where the parents have asked for assistance.

Seeing no additional business to be discussed, on a motion by Councilman Beach, second by Councilman Drumm, the meeting adjourned at 6:19pm with all in favor.

Approved: Terry Shannon
Terry Shannon, Clerk/RMC