

BOROUGH OF BARRINGTON CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2025, 7:00PM, MAYOR/COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Mayor Hanson called the meeting to order in council chambers at 7:00pm 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 Cerrito, Councilman Drumm Councilwoman Mercado-Miller and Councilman Robenolt. Also present were Secretary Eileen Holcombe, Solicitor Tim Higgins, Engineer Greg Evans, CFO Denise Moules and Clerk Terry Shannon.

Engineer's report

Greg Evans thanked the governing body for the re-appointment and reported on the following action items: Voucher No. 8 for police renovations but the change order is being removed.

FY2025 DCA Recreation application will be submitted by the January 31 deadline for Lost World Park.

Camden County Open Space Round 24—it was recently announced that you did receive \$25,000 for Lost World Park.

Round 2020 Recreation funding—the LED lighting has been installed at Wish Upon a Star Park and the reimbursement has been submitted.

Public Portion

On a motion by Councilman Drumm, second by Councilman Beyer, the first public portion was opened.

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

Administration

Clerk Shannon reported on the following:

Resolution to appoint realtor—we will be approving a resolution to appoint a realtor to handle the sale of the former Fire Alliance building. The Fire Alliance has moved out of the building so it can now be sold. We will be using a local realtor.

Introduction of Lead Based Paint ordinance—we need to get the process in place for lead-based inspections of rental units. Tim has prepared the ordinance for introduction and it is attached hereto for your review.

Re-introduction of Flood Damage Prevention ordinance—DEP claims that our 32-page ordinance was not in strict conformance with their model ordinance. The engineer and solicitor were back and forth on this and Tim provided the final revised language which has been approved by DEP and has to be re-adopted. This new ordinance will be on the council agenda for introduction.

Appointment of Animal Shelter—we have received substantial price increases from Homeward Bound for each of the past three years. They are again raising our shelter rates from \$983 per month to \$1283 per month, which does not make sense as we only sent 40 animals there last year. I have reached out another shelter for a quote.

102 Clements Bridge Road tax abatement—the owner of 102 Clements Bridge Road applied for a commercial tax abatement. Such abatements need to be approved by both resolution and ordinance. This is a five-year 20%, 40%, 60%, 80%, 100% abatement as permitted by our current abatement ordinance. The corresponding resolution and ordinance were emailed for your review and will be on the council agenda.

Redevelopment Plan Update Ordinance—Tim provided the ordinance for a redevelopment plan update for 111 Clements Bridge Road, and it was emailed for your review. Included is the resolution to refer the ordinance to the Planning Board for their review. These will be on the council agenda for next week.

Council agenda review

Ordinances for introduction on first reading:

Ord. 1197 Lead Based Paint Ordinance

Ord. 1198 Replacement of Flood Damage Protection Ordinance

Ord. 1199 102 Clements Bridge Road Tax Abatement Ordinance

Ord. 1200 Ordinance to Amend the Redevelopment Plan for 111 Clements Bridge Road

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

- Resolution to Approve Abatement Agreement for 102 Clements Bridge Road
- Resolution to appoint animal shelter for 2025 (if we get quotes in time)
- Resolution to refer redevelopment plan ordinance to Planning Board
- Resolution to appoint realtor for Fire Alliance building
- Resolution to approve January bill list

Mayor Hanson reported that we would also like to introduce an ordinance requesting CO's on commercial property.

Finance

CFO Moules presented the monthly reports showing bank balances, budget expenditures and revenues through December. She will have more to report on the 2025 budget process next month.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilwoman Mercado-Miller reported we are hosting a Resource Fair for the residents of the Mews on January 15 at the VFW. It will be from 12-5 and the shuttle will run every 30 minutes. I will be in attendance. Councilman Robenolt said he has been contacted by multiple residents and he believes there will be a ton of questions for officials. Mayor Hanson added we reached out to many organizations to get them to attend and help answer questions and provide any services they can for the residents. Robenolt added some people heard the Mayor was working on getting application fees at other facilities waived. Mayor Hanson said he is not working on that personally but believes there are other organizations looking into that. Councilwoman Mercado-Miller added that was her understanding as well. Clerk Shannon asked if there is anything we need to do as the next step if they don't respond to the letter we sent. Solicitor Higgins said that if the sale goes through, we will be enforcing the deed restriction which limits to whom they can rent. Mayor Hanson said the affordability piece is not included but it does establish to whom they can rent. Unfortunately, they can rent to that population at market rate. Councilman Robenolt asked if the new owners can go to court to have the

deed restriction removed. Solicitor Higgins said they could try but they would not have any grounds. Their title search would have shown the deed restriction so they went into this with eyes wide open.

Seeing no additional business to be discussed, on a motion by Councilman Drumm, second by Councilwoman Mercado-Miller, the meeting adjourned at 7:21pm with all in favor.

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