

BOROUGH OF BARRINGTON
MINUTES OF the 106th ANNUAL REORGANIZATION MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2025, 6:00 P.M.
COUNCIL ROOM AT MUNICIPAL BUILDING

The Reorganization Meeting of the Governing Body of the Borough of Barrington was held with Mayor Kyle Hanson presiding.

SUNSHINE STATEMENT & WELCOME REMARKS MAYOR HANSON In **COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT:** 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.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS:
The Oath of Office was administered to the newly elected councilpersons as indicated.

Michael Drumm was sworn into office as Councilman by Solicitor, Timothy J. Higgins, Esq.

Jeffrey "Alex" Beyer was sworn into office as Councilman by Camden County Commissioner Jeffrey Nash.

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL: The Municipal Clerk called roll of Council with the following in attendance: Councilman Beach, Councilman Beyer, Councilman Cerrito, Councilman Drumm, Councilwoman Mercado-Miller, and Councilman Robenolt.

REMARKS BY NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS:

COUNCILMAN DRUMM - thanked all for coming out tonight and dignitaries Assemblyman Spearman, Commissioner Nash, all the residents and my family and friends for their support. It's a great honor to have my father here to hold the bible while I'm sworn in, he was a Councilman in the late 70's. He thanked Mayor and Council for their support over the years and looking forward to working with Alex. He thanked all the employees for 2024, what a great year, you are all the heartbeat of the borough, and we just sit and monitor you all. We appreciate all of you and look forward to working with you again this year.

COUNCILMAN BEYER – said he is very excited and honored, its his first time being elected to anything. His wife and he moved here in 2020 when she was not yet his wife, they were married here by then Mayor Patti Harris, and they love being part of the community. We have helped to grow the Green Team and through that process have met so many members of the community and staff. I am here because of my wife, who is a true inspiration to me, she has volunteered her entire life and instilled that in me. Thank you all, I appreciate the honor.

The Mayor recognized the attending dignitaries:

Assemblyman Spearman - great to be back in town, to Councilman Beyer, you are very smart to acknowledge your wife, and just remember "yes dear." Congratulations on a successful 2024, you have done some amazing things, I know and love your Mayor, has done great things at the state level. It's good when you have a Mayor who has a commitment to you and also has the state listening to him. Wishing all a Happy New Year on behalf of Assemblyman Bill Moen and Senator Nilsa Cruz-Perez. It's a pleasure to be here, have a great 2025 and we will be here to provide whatever you need, within reason.

Commissioner Nash – happy and healthy New Year to all. While driving here I realized that this is the first time I have been to this town that I wasn't in the Brewery or The Rail. The commissioner has been in public service a long time and describes it as a hundred reasons not to get involved

in volunteering in your community and a hundred reasons not to take the leap of running for elected office. But there is always the chance of the one great thing you can accomplish in your community that makes it all worthwhile. I think that is why Michael, Alex, the Mayor, and the rest of Council get involved. You being here shows you have that gene that wants to help, and it is appreciated. Thank you.

Gina Marie from the office of Congressman Norcross passed along remarks from the Congressman congratulating Mike Drumm and Alex Beyer and wishing all a Happy New Year. Congratulations to the entire team for a great 2024 and looking forward to a great 2025. Please reach out to our office if you need any help.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL: Mayor Hanson opened the floor for nominations for President of Council. Councilwoman Mercado-Miller nominated Councilman Beach which nomination was seconded by Councilman Cerrito. With no other nominees the following poll vote was taken, Beach-abstain, Beyer-yes, Cerrito-yes, Drumm-yes, Mercado-Miller-yes, Robenolt-yes.

MOTION IS CARRIED

SWEARING IN OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT: Councilman Beach was sworn in as Council President by Camden County Commissioner Jeffrey Nash

PRESENTATION TO OUTGOING COUNCILMAN SHAWN LUDWIG

Mayor Hanson said as we welcome Councilman Alex Beyer, we say goodbye to Councilman Shawn Ludwig who has served on Council for 13 years. He has served as director or member of Economic Development, Parks and Recreation, oversaw road projects and many more. He has been a friend and mentor to the Mayor since he joined the Governing Body, and he has always been willing to share his experience and knowledge whenever asked. He put the residents and their concerns first, which is our job when we are elected. He has been available to residents to speak with them or return their call. He has been an asset to our Governing Body, and he will be missed. We hope you enjoy your new-found time with your family, friends and of course routing on the Eagles!

Commissioner Nash, Assemblyman Spearman, and Gina Marie on behalf of Congressman Norcross, presented proclamations of service from the county, state, and federal governments.

Former Mayor Patti Harris also thanked the Councilman for his dedication to the borough which leadership attributed to the economic growth along the White Horse Pike, Gloucester Pike, and Clements Bridge Road. You helped to provide resources for the residents, new parking lots for youth sports and support stronger public safety standards, always making sure it was a fair and just process and your service for the past 13 years will not be forgotten. This banner, from the Barrington Democrat Club, will be hung in your honor.

Councilman Drumm – thanked Shawn for his years of service to the residents of the borough. As a lifetime resident I appreciate those who came before me. Being on council takes a lot of dedication and hard work, you did that very well for the community. Thank you and good luck.

Councilwoman Mercado-Miller – has not had the privilege to work with Shawn for so long, but the time with you has had an impact. I looked up to you as your perspectives were unique and fair. I appreciated you having the voice that was not always spoken up for but needed to be spoken up for. You have inspired me to do the same. Thank you and come visit, but don't work.

Council President Beach – advised that when he first got on Council, he said former Mayor Harris and Shawn were who he looked up to. You always stood for what you believed was the right thing even if you were alone against us, you fought for the residents. We have been out at fires together in the cold and the Council President took over director of Public Works for Shawn,

trying to pick up where Shawn left off and hold to your standard. I will miss your Eagles updates. Thanks for all your service.

Councilman Robenolt – said he has sat on council with Shawn the whole time he has been here, and it has been a pleasure and honor to work with him. You will sorely be missed, stay in touch.

Councilman Cerrito – said a little tear left his eye when you left the chair here tonight. Your admirable passion, in general, is reflected in your service on council. He admires Shawn's passion for his family as well. Have a prosperous and healthy retirement from council. He is sure he will see Shawn around and said he will be missed. Thank you for your service and best of luck.

Councilman Beyer – said while he did not work with Shawn directly, he has seen Shawn from the other side of the table and the quality of your character, your candor, the time you give to the community and your willingness to speak to anyone who would listen. You bring up points others didn't have the voice to say, and I thank you for that and being a member of this community.

Shawn Ludwig – thanked everyone for their support and recognizing him for his hard work. He thanked his kids, his cousin Brian. The police department has grown over the years, the reality is you're a great police department. What you do for the kids in the community is amazing, and your leadership, the kids feel safe around you and not every community can say that. I have enjoyed working on the council, with our ups, downs, and disagreements. We all just wanted to make sure things in town were better. The most important thing for all of you do to is be nice to the residents, they depend on us. The seniors, for housing, and the residents depend on us maybe more than they know. I'm proud to serve here and call all of you my partners. Patti, we are not here anymore but its time, things are good and it's a good town. I feel that I left it in a better place than I found it, and that is a part of all of us. Thanks, and have a Happy New Year.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS:

POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR Chief Minardi presented the Police Officer of the Year award to Ptl. Matt Charlton, for exemplary service and dedication to the community during the past year. The town is very lucky to have an officer like this, and we have a room full of them. Matt is the officer everyone wants on their shift; everyone wants behind them. He is one of the guys we want showing up and that is one of the biggest compliments he can have in this job. It's an honor to work with you and all the great officers in this room. Congratulations Matt.

RESOLUTIONS: The Municipal Clerk read the following Resolutions by title, one after another, and Council would have the opportunity to vote as a Consent Agenda at the end of the reading. The Clerk advised that the Resolutions are posted on the bulletin board outside these doors.

- 1-2025-1 Authorizing Agreements for Professional Services for 2025
- 1-2025-2 Designating 2025 Governing Body Committee Assignments
- 1-2025-3 Approving Individual Borough Appointments
- 1-2025-4 Adopting the 2025 Temporary Budget
- 1-2025-5 Appointing Representatives to the Camden Co. Community Development Board
- 1-2025-6 Designating 2025 Official Meeting Dates
- 1-2025-7 Authorizing the Petty Cash Fund
- 1-2025-8 Designating Legal and Official Newspapers for 2025
- 1-2025-9 Designating Depositories for 2025
- 1-2025-10 Setting the Interest Rate Charges for Delinquent Taxes
- 1-2025-11 Authorizing Investment of Idle Funds and Transfers
- 1-2025-12 Designating Healthcare Companies for 2025

- 1-2025-13 Awarding a Contract for Animal Control Services for 2025
- 1-2025-14 Designating Deputy Custodians of Public Records
Authorizing the Tax Assessor to File, Stipulate and Settle Both Regular and
- 1-2025-15 Added/Omitted
Tax Appeals and Roll Back Tax Complaints for the Borough of Barrington
- 1-2025-16 Appointing Councilman Alex Beyer as the Class III Member to the
Planning Board

On a Motion by Drumm, second by Beyer, the Resolutions were approved with the following poll vote: Beach=yes, Beyer – yes except abstain on 1-2025-16, Cerrito=yes, Drumm=yes, Mercado-Miller– yes, Robenolt=yes.

MOTION IS CARRIED

PLANNING BOARD APPOINTMENTS: the Municipal Clerk read the following appointments by Mayor Hanson, no confirmation necessary:

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| Class II Member, term ending 12/31/25 | David Pawling |
| Class IV Member, term ending 12/31/28 | John Rink |
| Class IV Member, term ending 12/31/28 | Tyler Orlando |
| Class IV Alt. #2 Member, term ending 12/31/26 | Terri Sullivan |
| Class IV Alt. #3 Member, term ending 12/31/26 | John Brennan |
| Class IV Alt. #4 Member, unexpired term ending 12/31/25 | Kyle Wright |

PUBLIC PORTION: Mayor Hanson advised that if you have a comment or question to please state your name for the record. Comments are limited to five minutes per person.

On a Motion by Drumm, second by Beach, the public portion of the meeting was opened.

Pastor Archut, Community Bible Church – believes in prayer and would like to lead a prayer for council and the town of Barrington. Pastor then prayed for council and our residents.

Dawn Tilton, daughter of Barrington Mews resident – concerned about the misinformation being given to the Mews residents, that the whole issue is because of the Mayor, and the senior fair is a show, and there is an organization giving false information. It’s a rumor mill and concerning to her. I know we are waiting for a DCA updates, but is there any new official updates? Mayor Hanson advised that both he and Councilwoman Mercado-Miller are both aware of the organization giving false information and the Mayor immediately emailed the acting director of the organization and were on a zoom call with them. They assured us the intake person working for them was speaking out of turn, they should not have communicated what they did and put in their opinions whether good or bad and they assured us they will be at the resource fair and they appreciate the work we are doing for our residents. We have not heard from the prospective buyers about the letter we sent to them on December 23, 2024, and neither has the borough staff. Dawn advised the office is not renewing leases. Ms. Tilton was advised that legal services will be at our Resource Fair to answer those specific questions. Mayor Hanson has also not heard from the DCA. Ms. Tilton asked about a rent cap and was advised that it won’t affect this sale, but we can look at moving forward.

Paul Gross - congratulations to Councilman Ludwig, I know we didn’t see eye to eye on some things, thank you for your service. Mr. Gross said with the Barrington Mews residents having to move it’s impossible to find housing. He asked about Ord 11-96, he is not a fan of the PILOT

program, it's a scheme and avoids school taxes. If it goes to market value and there is a couple hundred children moving in something has to be done so they pay for that. Mayor Hanson advised that if the property sells there is no PILOT agreement, and the property will go on regular taxes and the schools will get their portion. If it doesn't sell and remains affordable housing, there will be no children in the building that will be attending schools.

Seeing no further comments from the public, on a Motion by Cerrito, second by Drumm the public portion of the meeting was closed with all members of Council present in favor.

REMARKS FROM THE GOVERNING BODY:

COUNCILMAN DRUMM – congratulated Officer Charlton on his award, it is a great honor. This is a great reflection of the leadership; we see this all the time with Chief Minardi and Captain Pawling. I hear Officer Charlton is a great officer and I wish him a lot of luck.

COUNCILWOMAN MERCADO-MILLER – we talk about all the positives that happen with this town, I will talk about not so positive and conflicts with healthy debates. In 2024 I looked forward to those conversations. I appreciate those who normally don't come to our meetings showing up and out for themselves and those who could not attend to express their opinions and get answers clarified. I hope you continue to show up in 2025 to help make this town better.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT BEACH – congratulated Matt for doing a great job. Our police officers all do a great job starting with Chief Minardi. Congratulations of Councilman Drumm and Beyer, it will be a pleasure to work with you. Thanks to Public Works for the work the last few days with cold weather, snow, and some ice, working day and night to make the roads safe. Thanks to all employees for a great 2024 and looking forward to 23025. Happy New Year everyone.

COUNCILMAN ROBENOLT– thanks for coming out tonight, we appreciate it and its nice to see a full room. Congratulations to Matt, a strong addition to our police department, we appreciate his service to our community. Congratulations to Mike and Alex and to Mike Beach on Council President election, it's a pleasure serving with everyone here. Shawn, you will be missed, my friend.

COUNCILMAN CERRITO - congratulations to Mike, I know you will continue to do a great job and Alex, having worked with you on the Green Team the past year I know you will do a great job. Officer Charlton, what a great honor to receive that award especially being a newer officer. Shawn, again I reiterate my appreciation to you and your family. I have always been a supporter of you and it's sad to see you go as you leave on a happy note. You will be sorely missed, thank you for all you have done.

COUNCILMAN BEYER – thanked everyone again for support for himself, everyone up here and most of all support for the community. The power and greatness of a community is being of and for the community. Make sure you support the people that surround you, it's one of the greatest things you can do, and we will do the same for you. The smallest to the most seasoned, everyone is important, and the councilman's goal is to live up to that privilege and do everything I can with all up here, for the town of Barrington.

MAYOR HANSON – echoed words of his colleagues congratulating Councilman Drumm and Beyer, I look forward to working with you both. Congratulations to Councilman each on your reelection as Council President. The Mayor thanked Shawn one more time. Your dedication to this borough is unmatched, we appreciate you and your years of service and your family, for the time they gave up with you so you could serve. Congratulations to Officer Charlton, to our appointed professionals and to those who came today to support us. He thanked all the borough staff and departments, Police, Frie, EMS, Fire Alliance, tax office, Mayor & Council secretary, senior services director, and assistant director, DPW and anyone else he may have missed. It is

a 24/7 job, they answer the phone and emails nights and weekends, this town would not operate without all of them, they are the unsung heroes. Thank you all for coming out tonight. The room is a little smaller because the Chief needed a bigger office, but this is the way it will be moving forward. We hope to see you next month.

ADJOURNMENT: Seeing no other business to be transacted on a Motion by Drumm, second by Beyer, the Reorganization Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Approved: Terry Shannon
Terry Shannon, Municipal Clerk