

BOROUGH OF BARRINGTON CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2025, 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 Cerrito, Councilman Drumm, Councilman Beyer, 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 reported we will have a resolution to award or reject bids for Davis Road. There were six bidders and we are recommending Earle Asphalt Company as they were the lowest, responsible bidder. We will also have voucher No. 9 and Change Order No. 2 for police department renovations. We will also need a resolution for CDBG applications for senior services and possibly borough hall improvements.

- FY2025 DCA Recreation application was submitted for pickleball courts at Lost World Park.
- Contractor for Lost World Park playground installation will begin in March.
- Fourth Avenue pump station project—materials have been ordered and we expect the project to begin in March. We will notify all the residents.

Public Portion

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

Dawn Tilton asked if there are any updates on Barrington Mews. Mayor Hanson we don't have any updates but we are rescinding the extension of the PILOT agreement.

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

Administration

Clerk Shannon reported on the following:

Resolution to participate in Camden County contract for recyclables—the county has awarded a contract to Omni Recycling Group, LLC, and it is a ten-year contract with lower collection costs and a 10% revenue share. Per Mike Ciocco's analysis (attached), this past year we paid an average of \$77.55 per ton for disposal and there was no revenue share. The first year of the Omni contract will be \$35.00 per ton and there will be a CPI adjustment annually. They were substantially lower than the other bidders and we can participate by entering into a contract directly with Omni. Mike Ciocco and Councilman Beach both recommend we do this. If all are in agreement, we will approve by resolution.

Councilman Beach added Seaside has asked us to consider changing our recycling collection day to Friday. I don't think it will be a problem for the residents since it is the same as trash day. I do think that they should pay for any cost to notify the residents. They said this will help them out because of the volume of towns they have to collect. Mayor Hanson added that based on their manpower, having all of our collections on one day will help them. Councilman Drumm added that with the problems they have had in the past with equipment, he doesn't see how this will help them. Councilman Beyer asked if we can do as a trial period. Councilman Beach said we need more information from Seaside and we will be meeting with them and he will report back. Councilman Cerrito asked if they do this in any other towns and Beach said he didn't know. Councilman Beyer said he does not think our residents will have a problem with it. Mayor Hanson said if we agree to this, it will be for a six-month trial to see how it

goes. Everyone agreed to a trial period. Councilwoman Mercado-Miller asked if there are any penalties if they mix trash with recycling. Councilman Beach said that will be monitored and if we see any evidence of this happening, it will be addressed.

Resolution for Drug Alliance funding—the county has provided a new resolution for Drug Alliance funding. This resolution will be on the council agenda.

Clerk's review of Council agenda

Ordinances for public hearing and adoption:

- 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
- Ord. 1201 Amending Chapter 278, Rental Properties

Ordinances for introduction on first reading:

- Ord. 1202 2025 Salary Ordinance for Certain Officers and Employees of the Borough
- Ord. 1203 Adding Chapter 337, Off Road Vehicles, to the Borough Code
- Ord. 1204 Rescinding PILOT Extension for Barrington Mews
- Ord. 1205 Ordinance to Amend Fees for Summer Recreation Program

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

- Award bids for Davis Road
- Resolution for Drug Alliance funding
- Resolution to enter into a contract with Omni Recycling
- Resolution authoring an RFP for a developer for potential sale of VFW building
- Resolution to approve February bill list
- Resolution authorizing submission of CDBG application for senior programs

Councilwoman Mercado-Miller explained we had a complaint regarding ATV use on private property that was creating a dust cloud issue. Our code did not address specifically and it is a public health concern. So, we created the ordinance for introduction so we can prevent this problem from occurring in the future. Councilman Drumm asked if enforcement can be through the noise ordinance but Councilwoman Mercado-Miller responded the problem is more than that. It is the dust cloud it creates and the impact to residents.

Mayor Hanson explained the Mews management did not sign the PILOT extension agreement and they are not communicating with us. We have reached out to them multiple times with no response. Therefore, we should not be offering them the extension to the PILOT and are recommending we rescind. Everyone agreed. Present was Dawn Tilton who said she is 100% behind this. If, however, the sale falls through, what happens then. Mayor Hanson responded we are open to renegotiating a new PILOT agreement if everything will remain the same. If the property goes to settlement, the new owner will be responsible for paying the full taxes due on the property.

Mayor Hanson added that the ordinance for summer rec fees is because we are extending the program. Regarding the RFP for a developer for the VFW building, we were waiting to move the senior program until the upstairs was done. It is moving along and should be done soon. Putting out an RFP for a developer will give anyone interested a chance to bid on the property and submit a proposal.

Councilman Beyer asked if we know what type of business will go there. Mayor Hanson said that will be included in the proposal submitted. We had one person who wanted it for a restaurant but who knows what other types of businesses will be interested. Councilman Beyer asked if we can do nothing if we don't like any of the proposals and Mayor Hanson said yes. Beyer said we bought the VFW for \$1.00 and I don't know how much it costs us to keep the building open but he worries that we will miss not having that space. We spent money on upgrades and it makes sense to him to keep it. Mayor Hanson said we were worried about what we would have to return based on the CDBG funds spent but we had a meeting with a representative from HUD who assured us we would only have to pay back a maximum of \$40,000. The appraised value we got was \$350,000-\$375,000. We would also get taxes on the property if it goes back on the tax rolls. Beyer asked how much it costs to operate the building. Mayor Hanson said with the rental income, we try to break even but that does not include soft costs such as utilities, insurance, etc. With the money that has to be invested into the building, we would not see a profit for decades. Councilman Beach added we met with the seniors and they were happy with the idea of moving upstairs in this building which was important to us. Councilman Beyer added there are other groups who need space and what about all the holiday collections?

Clerk Shannon asked if the resolution can be in the consent agenda but Councilman Beyer asked that it be separate.

Finance

CFO Moules presented the monthly reports showing account balances for the temporary budget. Attached is the budget schedule which provides the dates when the budget needs to be introduced which is April, with adoption in May. We are looking at mid-March for the departmental budget meetings. The other resolution we need to add is to approve the shared service with Tavistock for office support services. The COLA ordinance is the cost of living ordinance that allows us to increase expenditures by 3.5% and to be able to bank any amount not needed for the budget.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Drumm reported the Fire Alliance is in need of a vehicle and found a used pickup truck which is a 2020 Silverado for \$22,659. It is a great price and Denise confirmed the funds are available. The resolution for the purchase is on this agenda. On a motion by Councilman Drumm, second by Councilman Cerrito, Resolution 2-2025-27, authorizing purchase of a 2020 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 for the Fire Alliance in the amount of \$22,659, was approved with the following poll vote: Beach-yes; Cerrito-yes; Drumm-yes; Beyer-yes; Mercado-Miller-yes; Robenolt-yes.

Councilwoman Mercado-Miller said we had the resource fair last month for the folks at the Mews and it was well attended. There were a lot of different representatives from various agencies present to answer questions. Last week, we had a legal clinic for Mews residents and that was also well attended. People have been appreciative of the help we have been trying to provide. Board of Health is working on the planned activities for this year.

Councilman Beach thanked Councilwoman Mercado-Miller and Mayor Hanson for the help you have been trying to provide to the Mews residents. There is a possibility of icy rain tomorrow so please be careful driving around.

Councilman Drumm added the Fire Alliance moved to the firehouse and is settled in. There are some touch-ups needed but it looks really good. Go Birds!

Councilman Beyer said he is excited to see the things the Board of Health are planning for this year. Nothing more to report at this time.

Councilman Cerrito added great job to Melanie and the Mayor with the assistance you are trying to provide to the Mews residents. Job well done.

Clerk Shannon added the Garden is getting ready to start taking applications for plots for this year and there is a waiting list so it is a huge success in large part due to the efforts of Peggy Read and Janice Bantle. Peggy said we may not put applications out this year because there is so much interest.

Mayor Hanson reported the 2025 events calendar will be posted by the end of the week. Civic Association held the free ice skating event last night. Lost World Park playground demolition and installation will be starting soon. Thanks to Councilwoman Mercado-Miller and Eileen and Megan for all their hard work for the Mews residents. It is a terrible situation and they have been fielding calls and emails and trying to provide assistance where they can.

Seeing no additional business to be discussed, on a motion by Councilman Drumm, second by Councilwoman Mercado-Miller, the meeting adjourned at 6:48pm.

Approved: Terry Shannon
Terry Shannon, Clerk/RMC