

**BOROUGH OF BARRINGTON  
MINUTES OF MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 11, 2025, 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 Beyer, Councilman Cerrito, Councilman Drumm, Councilwoman Mercado-Miller, and Councilman Robenolt. Mayor Hanson, Municipal Clerk Terry Shannon, and Solicitor Timothy Higgins were also on the dais.

**PROCLAMATIONS**

Mayor Hanson announced that the following proclamations are being issued and will be posted on the bulletin board in borough hall: Irish Heritage Month; Poison Prevention Week; Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month; National Developmental Disabilities Month; Women's History Month

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Hanson reported that Council was provided with the minutes of February 4, 2025, Reorganization and caucus, and the February 11, 2025, council meetings and asked if there were any corrections or abstentions. On a motion by Drumm second by Mercado-Miller the minutes were approved with all members present in favor.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mayor Hanson reported 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 Beyer, second by Robenolt, the monthly departmental reports were accepted with the following poll vote: Beach-yes, Beyer-yes, Cerrito-yes, Drumm-yes, Mercado-Miller-yes, Robenolt-yes.

**ORDINANCES FOR PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION BY CONSENT AGENDA**

Clerk Shannon read the following ordinances by title:

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| Ord. 1202 | Fixing the 2025 Compensation of Certain Officers and Employees of the Borough of Barrington  |
| Ord. 1203 | Ordinance Adding Chapter 337, Off Road Vehicles, to the Code of the Borough of Barrington  |
| Ord. 1204 | Ordinance of the Borough of Barrington, Rescinding Ordinance 1196, Authorizing the Execution of the First Amendment to the Agreement for Payment in Lieu of Taxes Between Senior Housing of Barrington Partners, L.P., and the Borough of Barrington |

- Ord. 1205      Ordinance Amending Chapter 58, Fees, in the Code of the Borough of Barrington
- Ord. 1206      Calendar Year 2025 Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank (NJSA 40A: 4-45.14)

On a motion by Drumm, second by Cerrito, the second reading of the ordinances was approved with the following poll vote: Beach-yes, Beyer-yes, Cerrito-yes, Drumm–yes, Mercado-Miller-yes, Robenolt-yes.

On a motion by Robenolt, second by Beyer, the public hearing on these ordinances was opened.

Dawn Tilton spoke and thanked the Governing Body for rescinding the tax abatement for the Barrington Mews.

Seeing no further comments from the public, on a motion by Drumm, second by Beach, the public hearing was closed.

On a motion by Beyer, second by Mercado-Miller, the ordinances were adopted with the following Poll vote: Beach-yes, Beyer-yes, Cerrito-yes, Drumm–yes, Mercado-Miller-yes, Robenolt-yes.

### **ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION ON FIRST READING**

- Ord. 1207      Amending Chapter 172, Fire Prevention, in the Code of the Borough of Barrington

On a motion by Drumm, second by Beach, the first reading of the ordinances was approved with the following poll vote: Beach-yes, Beyer-yes, Cerrito-yes, Drumm–yes, Mercado-Miller-yes, Robenolt-yes.

Mayor Hanson announced that these ordinances will be considered for adoption following proper notice and a public hearing to be held during the April 8, 2025, council meeting.

### **RESOLUTION CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- 3-2025-35      Resolution to Amend the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
- 3-2025-36      Resolution Approving a Person-to-Person Liquor License Transfer
- 3-2025-37      Certification of Compliance with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964"
- 3-2025-38      Authorizing Shared Service Agreement with Merchantville for Services of Barrington's Finance Officer
- 3-2025-39      Authorizing Shared Service Agreement with Merchantville for Services of Barrington's Tax Collector
- 3-2025-40      Approving the March Bill List in the Amount of: \$1,085,920.64

On a motion by Drumm, second by Beyer, the resolution consent agenda was approved with the following poll vote: Beach-yes, Beyer-yes, Cerrito-yes, Drumm–yes, Mercado-Miller-yes, 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 Mercado-Miller, second by Drumm, the public portion of the meeting was opened.

Dawn Tilton – re Barrington Mews, what is current state of the sale of the Mews. Mayor Hanson advised that he and Councilwoman Mercado-Miller had a weekly update meeting with Lisa and Sally, and information from the current owner, that the sale may not be going through with the current buyer; the current owner will still be looking to sell the building. Ms. Tilton said thank you again for rescinding the tax abatement. The Retrospect reported on January 23 and 27 that one resident had a lease renewal for a \$200 increase per month, and in February that multiple residents had leases while tax abatement was in effect. Solicitor Higgins advised that the tax abatement was never signed and never in effect. Mayor Hanson advised we don't know what the Retrospect confirmed or who signed what, that information is not shared with us. Dawn asked if they could advise how much is owed in taxes by the Mews. The Mayor advised that what they were paying is somewhere around \$96,000, and based on current assessments the tax bill for the year is around \$860,000. Ms. Tilton asked at what point the borough or state takes action when taxes are not paid. Solicitor Higgins advised that if they don't pay the taxes there is a mechanism under state law as to how the municipality can collect taxes, which as of now is a year from any type of action like that. Mayor Hanson advised that the current owner said he will pay the taxes and will be able to deal with it. Ms. Tilton said there are patches on the roof and concerns that the roof could collapse. Is the roof safe? Mayor Hanson responded that those concerns were sent by a few residents to Councilwoman Mercado-Miller and in the management meeting they are addressing how that will proceed between the current and new management. We did ask our borough inspector to go out this week and take a look and see if there is anything emergent, that we need to do on a legal level. Ms. Tilton also advised that some residents who have reported problems with the building are getting letters from the office stating that they are harassing the office staff, almost as if it is retaliatory. Mayor Hanson told Ms. Tilton that they will bring that up on their weekly call this week. Ms. Tilton asked if we knew of any information being worked on to help residents prepare to move. On the weekly update meeting Councilwoman Mercado-Miller asked if we could, with volunteers, enter the building to help residents. Councilwoman Mercado-Miller advised that AAH Management said we would be able to enter and help the residents. Our hope is to get volunteers to go door to door and offer help since some residents can't get out of their rooms or the building. The goal is to help those in dire straits.

Sarah Shiekman – Mews resident, said a memo was sent to residents that they must buy and change their own light bulbs, that hard for people with walkers or who can't stand. They are helping less and less. Councilwoman Mercado-Miller replied that we are limited to what we can do but lots of residents have reached out to her, unfortunately this has to be proven.

Joan Brodowski – Mews resident, said they gave them a new term lease when they told them they have to change their own light bulbs. Councilwoman Mercado-Miller asked Ms. Brodowski to see her after the meeting.

Deborah Rockhill – Mews resident, people will fall changing light bulbs.

Gerry Wisser – Clements Bridge Road, Avenue events. Would like an amendment changed to allow events in their new business. Mayor Hanson advised that it is not a discussion for this meeting but see us after the meeting and the solicitor can advise you of the steps to be taken. Mr. Wisser asked if there are any regulations that retail businesses can't post their public events. Solicitor Higgins advised that Mr. Wisser has received extensive information from the Zoning Officer, we are not here to comment on what he has written or not written. What he advised Mr. Wisser is that the event is not permitted under current zoning. That issue is with him as he is the enforcement person. Mr. Wisser said his wife received emails through the whole process and wants to meet up in person. They love the space and are new to town and want to do everything the right way. Mayor Hanson said what was relayed to him is that it would require a change to the

redevelopment plan to come before the Governing Body which requires several different steps. Meet with Solicitor Higgins after this meeting. Our caucus, the first Tuesday of the month, is our monthly working meeting, come in April to caucus and we can discuss it.

Seeing no further comments from the public, on a motion by Drumm, second by Mercado-Miller, the public portion of the meeting was closed.

### **COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BODY**

COUNCILMAN BEYER – hope you are enjoying the nice weather, with this wind and recycling blowing around, try to help your neighbors and each other. Check out the new places that have opened around town.

COUNCILMAN CERRITO – nothing to report tonight.

COUNCILMAN ROBENOLT – April 20 is Barrington Cleanup Day along with Earth Day. Letters will go out to all the organizations for volunteers. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out. More information to follow.

COUNCILMAN DRUMM – it's getting nicer out and staying lighter longer. The kids will be out longer, people out walking, sports starting. Please watch your speed.

COUNCILWOMAN MERCADO-MILLER – agrees with Councilman Drumm, keep an eye on each other and our community. The Board of Health will have a meeting on March 20 with our local nutritionist from Shoprite on how to budget and eat healthy. Senior events are up and moving so contact Eileen or check the senior Facebook page.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT BEACH – piggybacked off Councilman Drumm, the weather is breaking, and the kids will start sports again. Our town is 25 mph throughout the town, we do have a lot of crosswalks, so keep your eye out for the kids trying to cross.

MAYOR HANSON – we shared on Facebook today the Lost World Park is under construction to be remodeled. Only the park area is being redone but due to construction vehicles the entire complex is closed. We hope it is completed and have a ribbon cutting ceremony by Memorial Day. Barrington Day is Saturday, May 3, behind Woodland school from 10am-2pm. Little League opening day is Saturday, April 5 9am, Softball opening day is the following weekend.

Seeing no further business to be transacted, on a motion by Beach, second by Beyer, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm

APPROVED: Terry Shannon  
Terry Shannon, Borough Clerk