

BOROUGH OF BARRINGTON
MINUTES OF MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 8, 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. Also on the dais, accompanying each elected official, were 8th grade students from Woodland School, who were shadowing Mayor and Council for Student Government Day.

PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Hanson announced that the following proclamations are being issued and will be posted on the bulletin board in borough hall: National Volunteer Month; National Lawn and Garden Month; National Donate Life Month; Autism Awareness Month, Oral, Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Month, National Child Abuse Prevention Month, Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month. Mayor Hanson advised that our EMS Chief Kate Bowen is in search of a kidney and the "Donate Life Month" proclamation is dedicated to her, her story is in the Retrospect.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Chief Minardi made a special presentation to Officer Charlton, Detective Sgt. D'Ascenzo, Cpl. Bekas, Sgt. Hovern, and our K9, Odie, who were awarded with the Honorable Service medal. The medal is gold with blue trim to be worn on the left breast, awarded for a heroic act in the line of duty. A vehicle was stopped by officer Charlton assisted by Cpt. Bekas. When Sgt. Hovern arrived with Odie, they found drugs and a Molotov cocktail in the vehicle, which is a homemade bomb. The Camden County Sheriff's Bomb Squad arrived and secured the device, and the person was arrested. Detective Sgt. D'Ascenzo followed up with the investigation and assisted in the search of the individual's Stratford residence with Barrington, Stratford and Camden County Sheriff's Department involved. Semi-auto rifle modified into an illegal assault rifle was found. In addition, high tech magazines, multiple silencers and two other firearms were found. The suspect was charged with multiple weapons offenses and remained in custody. Due to the excellent police work these officers performed, they successfully eliminated a serious threat to public safety. Their actions reflect great credit to themselves and the Barrington Police Department. The Chief said this is a great example of proactive police work which is not always the case. Because our officers carried the investigation further, they saved what could have been an horrific incident.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Hanson and his shadow student reported that Council was provided with the minutes of the March 4, 2025, caucus, and March 11, 2025, council meetings and asked if there were any corrections or abstentions. On a motion by Drumm, second by Beyer, 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, and are posted outside of council chambers, and 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 Robenolt, second by Drumm, 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 INTRODUCTION ON FIRST READING

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

Ord. 1208 Amending Chapter 145, Construction Codes, Uniform, in the Borough Code

On a motion by Drumm, second by Cerrito, 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 May 13, 2025, council meeting.

RESOLUTION CONSENT AGENDA

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

4-2025-41 Awarding a Contract to Schaeffer Fireworks for the Annual Fireworks Show

4-2025-42 Authorizing the Sale of Equipment No Longer Needed through GovDeals

4-2025-43 Introduction of the 2025 Municipal Budget

4-2025-44 Adding a Tax Exemption for a Totally Disabled Veteran

4-2025-45 Approving Change Order No. 1 for Lost World Park Rubber Surface Project

4-2025-46 Approving Change Order No. 3, Police Department Renovations Project

4-2025-47 Approving the April Bill List in the Amount of: \$764,362.69

On a motion by Beach, second by Drumm, the resolution consent agenda was approved with the following poll vote: Beach-yes, Beyer-yes, Cerrito-yes, Drumm-yes, Mercado-Miller-yes, Robenolt-yes

RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL OUTSIDE CONSENT AGENDA

4-2025-48 Resolution Accepting the Proposal Received from Christina Leva for Purchase of the Barrington VFW Senior Community Center Property

On a motion by Drumm, second by Cerrito, the resolution was approved with the following poll vote: Beach-yes, Beyer-no, Cerrito-yes, Drumm-yes, Mercado-Miller-yes, Robenolt-no

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 Beyer, second by Drumm, the public portion of the meeting was opened.

Don Cofsky, from Devon Road, read in Retrospect that there is a proposal to put a median strip down Devon Rd. Eight neighbors do not like this proposal, it will not work, it destroys the road and will eliminate street parking. He is hoping this is not firmed up with the state yet. The proposal would make two one-way streets; this would be a disaster and leaves the question as to how much runoff would be diverted. He suggested that widening the park strips would be a better alternative. Mayor Hanson advised that nothing has been finalized and we will move the discussion to the June caucus meeting.

Rich Berman, also from Devon Road, added he is also not happy with the proposal for Devon Rd., it will create a bigger problem than it will solve.

Allison Stoffel, also from Devon Road, said she has been here since 1999, and nothing for Devon Rd was ever addressed except from the storm a few years ago. We take care of our street as best we can, please take our concerns into consideration. The mayor said to come to the caucus meeting on June 3 and we can further discuss the issue.

Dawn Tilton - Barrington Mews resident's daughter said letters were received by residents that there is a rent increase and water inclusion in their leases. The residents are being "fear mongered" into signing leases, and water payments besides, they don't even have a dishwasher or washer and dryer. They have to move and most don't have money to hire someone. As much as council has gone above and beyond to help, and thank you for that, as a society everyone in this room, excluding the students, have failed the Mews residents. How are we going to address this as a community?

Mayor Hanson said that he and Councilwoman Mercado-Miller have had discussions last week about setting up appointment with the legal clinic—unfortunately, as a borough we can't get involved much with tenant situations that are ongoing. The legal clinic will be coming here on April 23 to meet with residents of the Mews that have opened cases and volunteers to help with paperwork. Ms. Tilton said someone needs to go door to door and help those who can't get out of their apartments and are not aware that the building has been sold and some don't have the capacity to understand. Do you have anyone to help them move? Mayor Hanson said we reached out to the county and had a meeting with them about available services that we can partner with and offer to the Mews residents for moving costs, volunteer movers, legal clinics, and any available options. Councilwoman Mercado-Miller advised that she had a meeting with legal services to keep them up to date and find out about their plan of action. More information will be available on the 23rd of the month. Mayor Hanson said we are working with folks we can work with, and we are doing what we can legally at this point. We have been told that the closing went through, and the property is now under Axiel Partners. Will share more information when we receive it later this week.

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

COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BODY

COUNCILMAN BEYER –It's National Volunteer Month and a good time to check out the different groups around town like the Civic Association, the Green Team, and opportunities with the Board of Health to volunteer, check out our website for a list. There are many. Lots of volunteers are needed and welcome. Besides the borough website and Facebook page, please consider downloading the Barrington Borough app, it's a great way to get notifications and keep informed.

COUNCILMAN CERRITO – had his student shadow read the monthly report from the Barrington Ambulance Squad.

COUNCILMAN ROBENOLT – had his student shadow read the report from the Green Team. Earth Day weekend in Barrington is April 26. We are looking for volunteers to clean up various locations around town and we encourage groups and families to help. Please see our website for sites needed to clean. We will be at borough hall from 9-10 am for volunteers to pick up gloves and trash bags. If you can't volunteer this weekend, please pick a date that will work for you and let us know.

COUNCILMAN DRUMM – Councilman Drumm recognized the police for a job well done, excellent police work, as usual. Their work is a great reflection on the department, the Chief and Captain, thank you all. His student shadow read the monthly report from the Fire Department.

COUNCILWOMAN MERCADO-MILLER – her student shadow advised that the Bd of Health has a nutrition presentation which will be posted on their Facebook page. Seniors have a few events coming up such as the Ice Cream Social on May 8, and the Brunch with Police and Ambulance on May 15. If you have any questions, please reach out to Councilwoman Mercado-Miller. Please be safe and continue to take care of each other.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT BEACH – followed up on Councilman Drumm's comments and said thank you and congratulations to our police, great job. We could reward you every month, and I like to thank you when we are not giving you an award, because you do great work all the time, it is non-stop and we appreciate what you do. Brooke advised an award the borough receive for 2024 for reducing the number of loss time accidents by over 50% or more over the year 2024 and Sam congratulated DPW for a safety award for '0' lost injuries for the year 2024. They thanked all the borough employees for their hard work and congratulated public works for their safety award for no lost time injuries.

MAYOR HANSON –This Saturday morning at 10am is Softball opening day. Barrington Day is May 3rd 10am-2pm behind Woodland School. This is a free fun family event with blowups, pony rides, snacks, and giveaways. Lost World Park is closed to the public till further notice due to construction. Mayor Hanson congratulated and thanked our police for their progressive and proactive police work; we have one of the best Police Departments in the state. He commended all the students here tonight. Public Speaking is not an easy feat, and all did a great job. 8th grade students will be here tomorrow to rotate through all departments in town and have pizza lunch donated by Coppola Pizza who is moving to town shortly. We look forward to a great day tomorrow with the students.

Seeing no further business to be transacted, on a motion by Beach, second by Beyer, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm

APPROVED: Terry Shannon
Terry Shannon, Borough Clerk