

BOROUGH OF BARRINGTON CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2025, 6:00PM, MAYOR/COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Council President Beach called the meeting to order in council chambers at 6:00pm with the Sunshine Statement and led everyone present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Hanson was absent with prior notice.

The Deputy Borough Clerk called the roll of council, and the following were present: Council President Beach, Councilman Beyer, Councilman Drumm, Councilwoman Mercado-Miller and Councilman Robenolt. Councilman Cerrito arrived at 6:08pm. Also present were Secretary Eileen Holcombe, Solicitor Tim Higgins, Engineer Greg Evans, and CFO/Deputy Clerk Denise Moules.

Engineer's report

Greg Evans reported on the following:

- Change order and voucher for DiMeglio for the agenda.
- Devon Road FY 2025 Municipal Aid—we commenced with the construction plans and specs and will put that out to bid by the end of the year.
- Improvements to Second and Bell—contracts are being prepared now and pre-con will be within a week or two.
- New exterior door in old construction office is nearing completion.
- Pump station was put online July 31. Reconstruction of Albany will start soon which will wrap-up the project.
- We are working with Mike on the DEP Stormwater grant and management plan.

Public Portion

On a motion by Councilman Beyer, second by Councilman Drumm, the public portion was opened. Seeing no public comment, on a motion by Councilman Robenolt, second by Councilwoman Mercado-Miller, the public portion was closed.

Delores Bromke was present to talk about water problems on her property. She distributed photos of what she believes are the problems showing leaves and debris. She said that in the winter it freezes at the intersection. She understands it is a county road and Greg Evens responded that we are working on the plans for the county to add more inlets and sump pump connections. Will probably go out to bid by the end of the year. Delores then talked about the ADU's saying that she believes if we start adding a lot of other structures, it will increase the water problems. She is concerned we will be overbuilt with water issues. Solicitor Higgins stated the ADU ordinance has been modified to include grading plans to address water runoff. Council President Beach added we will also require people to include drainage collection to reduce water runoff. Flooding is one of our main concerns.

Joe Tursi asked if he can get a copy of the modified ordinance. Tim told him he can get it tomorrow. Tursi said he thinks the ADU ordinance will be fine in areas that are not prone to flooding but not for areas that do flood, like his back yard. Greg said his backyard floods because it is lower than Third Avenue. He has to move his car further up the street so it doesn't flood. Tursi believes Third Avenue contributes to the flooding on his property. He said the Pennoni report states there is a choke point by 295 that is part of the problem. Greg said DOT lined that drainage system because it was deteriorating. Pennoni said we should coordinate with DOT and the County to address the flooding. Greg said we are coordinating with the County and will be adding more inlets on Third. Tursi added he thinks the drainage pipe on Kingston is part of the problem and creates a barrier. Greg added we will look at more inlets around the Haines area and also at the choke point. Tursi said he is not against the ADU's themselves but if you are in an area where flooding is occurring, you have to look at that carefully. Alex added we do not declare a flood zone—it is done federally. Tursi said if you know it is an area that is

prone to flooding, then special care has to be taken. Greg added that now they will have to comply with the topography and grading ordinance. Tursi said he would like to read the new ordinance.

Kyle Wright said he thinks it is innovative that the town is considering the ADU ordinance. It helps to keep older generations in place so they can age with dignity, plus when kids come back after college, they cannot afford a new home. This gives them the option to buy the family home and their parents can live in the ADU. It keeps families together and provides everyone with a place to live. My mom was terminally ill for more than three years and if she had to go to a facility, my dad would have had to sell his house. Instead we cared for her at home and it was all hands on deck for the three years. Allowing families to remain in their homes and provide additional living space for the kids or parents is a great thing.

Administration

Discussion regarding cannabis ordinance—Mayor Hanson sent out the talking points to all members of council. This ordinance has been advertised and will be on the council agenda for public hearing and adoption. Please make sure this is discussed in preparation for the public hearing.

Discussion regarding ADU ordinance—Mayor Hanson also sent out talking points regarding this ordinance. This ordinance is not on for public hearing and adoption at this month's council meeting and is being pushed to the September agenda. Tim can explain the information Mayor Hanson provided so the concerns brought by the residents can be discussed and any questions answered.

Amending the Personnel Policies to allow donation of sick and vacation time—we did not have any provision in our policies to allow employees to donate sick and vacation time to another employee who is experiencing a catastrophic illness so they can recover without going on disability. The MEL/JIF does have a model policy to allow this and we have drafted our version for Barrington and it is attached for your review. This can be approved by resolution and distributed to all employees.

Renewal of membership in the JIF—our three-year participation agreement will expire in December and needs to be renewed. The resolution to renew will be on the council agenda and is attached.

Council agenda review-- Deputy Clerk Moules reviewed the following:

Ordinances for public hearing and adoption:

Ord. 1211 Amending Chapter 360, Marijuana Regulations (360-22)

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

- Resolution for submission of an application for Camden County Open Space funding
- Resolution to amend personnel policies to add donation of sick/vacation time
- Chapter 159 for National Night Out donations and borough sign donations
- Resolution to award a contract to E3 IT for IT services for the Police Department
- Resolution to renew membership in the JIF
- Resolution adding a property tax exemption for a 100% disabled veteran
- Resolution to revise contract with Bellmawr for paving services
- Resolution to approve August bill list

Finance

CFO Moules presented the monthly reports showing account balances for the budget expenditures. Everything is in the black so there are no concerns at this point.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Robenolt asked if the cannabis ordinance allows cannabis on Clements Bridge Road. Solicitor Higgins said the original ordinance did but it was revised to just include White Horse Pike. Councilman Cerrito added he still thinks 200' from a school is still too close. Councilman Beyer said we are limited and pushing it to the White Horse Pike makes sense. Councilwoman Mercado-Miller said she could see both Vince's and Alex's point. Councilman Beach added we may not get any because the space we are allowing is so limited. After more discussion it was determined we will move forward with the ordinance but it may not be unanimously approved. Councilman Robenolt added that regarding the ADU ordinance, Mr. Wright has been waiting patiently and his project does not involve new construction. Is there anyway we can move his project along? Solicitor Higgins said we really cannot because the ordinance needs to be in place. The meeting in September is early so it won't be too long. Councilwoman Mercado-Miller asked that we also consider a green infrastructure ordinance.

Councilman Cerrito—expressed his condolences to the Arpino family. Jim was a great guy and he will be missed.

Councilman Beyer echoed Councilman Cerrito. It was great to see how many people turned out for the viewing. He was great to talk to and will be missed.

Councilwoman Mercado-Miller also echoed those sentiments about Jim Arpino.

Council President Beach also echoed the sentiments about Jim Arpino. You could see how much he meant to all of the towns. He was an amazing person. Public Works brought on another employee next week.

Seeing nothing else for discussion, on a motion by Councilman Beyer, second by Councilwoman Mercado-Miller, the meeting adjourned at 6:54pm.

Approved: Terry Shannon
Terry Shannon, Clerk/RMC