

**BOROUGH OF BARRINGTON CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 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 Clerk Terry Shannon, Secretary Eileen Holcombe, Solicitor Tim Higgins, Engineer Greg Evans, and CFO/Deputy Clerk Denise Moules.

**Engineer's report**

Greg Evans from KEI Engineers reported on the following report items.

Action items: award or reject bids for Austin Avenue, Phase 4; Voucher No. 3 and Change Order No. 2 for Playground Equipment Installation at Lost World Park; Voucher No. 2 and Change Order No. 2 for Roadway Improvements to Davis Road; Voucher No. 10 and Change Order No. 3 for Police Department Renovations; Voucher No. 4 and Change Order No. 4 for Fourth Ave Sanitary Sewer Pump Station project. He added that we received six bids for the Austin Avenue project and it appears that DiMeglio is the low bidder. We will submit our recommendation.

Greg then reported that regarding the NJDOT project for Devon Road, we anticipate receiving bids in November. For the Oak Avenue pipe project, we prepared and submitted the contracts. Once they are returned, we will schedule the pre-construction meeting. For Second Avenue and Bell Avenue, the pre-construction meeting was held and we anticipate the contractor starting in the next couple of weeks. The contracts for the municipal building parking lot were also submitted to the contractor. When we receive them back, we will schedule the pre-construction meeting. For the municipal building flooring project, we had rejected the bids and one was rejected because they did not provide information on the licensed plumber. The contractor claims a licensed plumber is not required but we heard back from DCA who confirmed that a licensed plumber is required. We will schedule the re-bid for the November meeting. Beaverbrook drainage study—we will submit an application to the NJ Water Bank. The MEL/JIF submitted best practices regarding stormwater and flooding. We will review with Tim and will come up with a recommendation for the governing body. That concluded Greg's report.

**Public Portion**

On a motion by Councilman Drumm, second by Councilman Beyer, the public portion was opened. Present was David Kristine from Thomas Avenue who asked about the parking lot re-paving and how it will affect the rain garden. Currently, there is no water flowing into the rain garden. This will be an opportunity to correct the rain flow so it goes into the rain garden. He also suggested that we consider a permeable parking lot. Greg Evans responded that we are going to make changes to the piping under the parking lot to improve the water flow to the rain garden. We will be making improvements in stages so we can monitor the results. Brittany Beyer of the Green Team asked if we have a timeline for the paving. Greg responded not yet—we are waiting for the contracts to be returned. Brittany added that Public Works did a ton of work on the rain gardens and the Green Team planted over 750 plants. We want to make sure the gardens are successful and are not impacted by the paving.

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

**Administration**

Clerk Shannon reported on the following:

Amendment to the ADU ordinance—Mayor Hanson explained that our construction official, Phil Azzari, did a review of the ADU ordinance and pointed out a couple of needed changes. One was we needed better language verifying that the ADU could only be for family members and not as a source of income. Second, the ADU cannot be vehicular or on wheels so no one can park an RV in their driveway as an ADU. Those two items are being added. Clerk Shannon reported you now have the amendment and it will be introduced at council.

Ordinance for introduction—adding Article IV, Parental Responsibility, to Chapter 249, Peach and Good Order. Chief Minardi explained why he requested that we consider this ordinance. He said that he has seen an increase in troubling and dangerous incidents by unsupervised juveniles. We are trying to avoid something like this happening in Barrington. You can view these events online—Wildwood, Gloucester Township and Bellmawr especially. This not about sending a parent to jail—it is about getting them to work with police to fix the problem. We want the parents to pay attention to it. Councilman Beyer asked if there are mechanisms at the state or county level that could be used instead. What happens if a parent works at night. Chief Minardi responded this is not about a single parent who has to work—it is about the parent who isn't paying attention. We want them to work with us. We care about the families in town—this is about the parent who doesn't care and ignores the problem. Beyer said he worries about long term and if this is a knee-jerk reaction to a problem. Minardi said we are trying to get ahead of the problem. Councilman Drumm added that we had an ordinance that allowed us to charge a parent if a kid was constantly out after curfew. We only had to use it once and it never happened again. Beyer added an ordinance like this can open us up to litigation. Drumm responded everything can. Beyer said he wants to hear everyone's opinion on this. Councilwoman Mercado-Miller asked if the language could be shifted more to a remediation approach. Chief Minardi said there has always been juvenile remediation available, but this is for the parent who does not want to work with us. Solicitor Higgins explained there is no charge on the first offense—it is on the second offense where the parent could be charged. The ordinance we are proposing is a template from the Gloucester City ordinance. I suggest we take out the section that speaks to rebuttable presumption and then we will not have any due process concern. Councilwoman Mercado-Miller asked that there also be an education piece added to this. Chief Minardi reiterated that the intention is to keep the parent engaged so they are part of the solution. Councilwoman Mercado-Miller then asked how this ordinance compares to other concerns, for example open containers at public events, since they are both considered public safety concerns. What is the difference if both are safety concerns that draw large crowds that could become unruly? Chief Minardi responded that adults are a completely different situation. If adults behave that way, they are getting arrested. After more discussion, it was determined that Tim will revise the language to remove the rebuttable presumption clause and we will move forward with introducing the ordinance.

Allowing alcohol at senior events in borough hall—attached is the response from the JIF regarding this. We do have coverage through the JIF as long as alcohol isn't being sold, given away or served as part of a for-profit activity. However, there are differing opinions regarding this so this will be discussed. Councilwoman Mercado-Miller said we received emails from several people stating they were opposed to alcohol being permitted at the municipal building. Mayor Hanson read an email he received where a resident stated this is the seat of our local government and alcohol should never be allowed. After more discussion, everyone agreed that alcohol will remain prohibited in the municipal building.

Purchase of used pickup truck for DPW—Mike Ciocco solicited quotes for a used pickup truck for Public Works and the best price for a 2017 Ford F-150 with less than 30,000 miles was from Fred Beans in Langhorne, PA. A resolution authorizing this purchase will be on the agenda.

Resolution for Submission of a NJDCA grant application for Recreation Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities is being prepared by KEI for ADA improvements at Lost World Park. Sample resolution is attached and will be on the council agenda.

Appointment of Nick D'Alonzo as Fire Marshal—the committee selected Nick to replace Jim Arpino as Fire Marshal. Resolution to appoint Nick will be approved at this caucus meeting.

Resolution to purchase a used vehicle for the Fire Alliance—Nick obtained quotes for a used vehicle for the Fire Alliance. Best price was from Automotive Avenues of Sewell, NJ. Resolution authorizing this purchase will be on the council agenda.

Fire Marshal's recommendation for revision to smoke detector ordinance—Nick has advised that smoke detectors come under the UCC and only regulations issued by the Commissioner of DCA are enforceable in NJ. Any borough ordinance that contradicts this are void and unenforceable. Therefore he is recommending that our ordinance be revised (his suggested revisions are attached). He could not be here tonight and there were some questions so it was determined this will be held until the next meeting.

### **Council agenda review**

Ordinance for public hearing and adoption:

- Ordinance 1216, adding article XII, Regulations for Solar and Photovoltaic Energy Systems, in Chapter 360, Zoning (will be held until next month as Planning Board has not yet reviewed)

Ordinances for introduction on first reading:

- Ordinance establishing parental responsibility in Chapter 249, Peace and Good Order

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

- Award/reject bids for Austin Ave, Phase 4
- Change Order No. 2, Lost World Park Playground Installation
- Change Order No. 2, Davis Road Improvements
- Change Order No. 3, Police Dept Renovations
- Change Order No. 4, Fourth Ave Pump Station Project
- Authorizing Purchase of Used Pickup Truck for DPW
- Authorizing Submission of a NJDCA Grant Application for Lost World Park ADA Improvements
- Authorizing Purchase of a Used Vehicle for the Fire Alliance
- Accepting the 2024 Audit Report
- Resolution to Modify the 2025 Salary Ordinance for Fire Investigator Hourly Rate
- Resolution Authorizing Agreement with Acuity Consulting for Affordable Housing Plan
- Authorizing Fair and Open Process for Selection of Professionals
- Resolutions authorizing participation with County contracts for salt and deer carcass removal
- Resolution to approve the October bill list
- Shared service agreement for Project Save
- Trick or Treating hours
- Authorizing an MOU with the Reserve based on the number of units for seniors/disabled
- Moving the November council date

### **Finance**

CFO Moules presented the monthly reports showing account balances for the budget expenditures. Revenues are tracking as expected. We met with Bowman to review the audit and there were again no findings or recommendations. I will need everyone to sign the certification. The Best Practices report is due next month and I am working on it. Regarding the modification to the salary ordinance, this is for the Fire Alliance. The prior fire marshal got his overtime rate, and the new fire marshal is requesting \$50 per hour for overtime.

## **COUNCIL REPORTS**

Mayor Hanson reported that Lost World Park is open. Fall fun with First Responders is October 25 from 11-1. Brews Beats and Eats is also on October 25. Holiday house decorating contest is live. The food pantry has picked-up and is actively being used. We had borough volunteers outside Shop Rite on Sunday morning soliciting donations. We have a Little Food Pantry across from Union Grove that is being heavily used. Our senior program has donated money and bought gift cards for the food pantry. There is a shredding event on November 8. Thank you to the CFO for her job with the budget and the audit.

## **RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL**

Res. 10-2025-100      Appointing Nicholas D'Alonzo as Fire Marshal

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

Seeing nothing else for discussion, on a motion by Councilman Drumm second by Councilman Beach, the meeting adjourned at 7:28pm.

Approved: Terry Shannon  
Terry Shannon, Clerk/RMC