

**BOROUGH OF BARRINGTON CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 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: Councilman Drumm, Councilman Beyer, and Councilman Robenolt. Councilwoman Mercado-Miller was late with prior notice and arrived at 6:14pm. Council President Beach and Councilman Cerrito were both absent with prior notice. Also present were Clerk Terry Shannon, Secretary Eileen Holcombe, Solicitor Dave Capozzi (covering for Tim Higgins), Engineer Greg Evans, and CFO/Deputy Clerk Denise Moules.

**Engineer's report**

Greg Evans from KEI Engineers reported on the following:

We have the following action items for the council agenda: voucher no. 3 and change order no. 3 for the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue pump station project; and award or rejection of bids for the borough hall flooring project, the Oak Avenue storm sewer pipe-lining and the borough hall parking lot improvements.

He then reported that the pre-con meeting for Second Avenue and Bell Avenue is September 11; the Mayor, Denise and I have been working on the USDA application for Beaverbrook drainage improvements, but the borough's affordability score changed on July 1 so the borough now qualifies for principal forgiveness through the NJ Water Bank. We are recommending that you forego submitting to USDA and instead submit to the NJ Water Bank. Everyone was in agreement. Regarding the Fourth Avenue new force main, it was activated on July 31 and everything is running well. Clerk Shannon added they did a really nice job on the paving. Councilman Beyer asked if the parking lot improvements would take into consideration the rain runoff to the rain gardens but Greg said no, that will need to be addressed separately. We are exploring other options.

**Public Portion**

On a motion by Councilman Beyer, second by Councilman Drumm, the public portion was opened. Present was Kyle Wright who spoke about the ADU ordinance. He is hoping this gets to the finish line and is adopted. He asked if anything in the ordinance has changed and Clerk Shannon responded yes, there was a revision and the revised ordinance is on the website. The changes pertain to stormwater management and require that anyone planning to do an ADU has to comply with our stormwater program and submit a drainage plan with their site plan. Wright said he is hoping we can push this through—this would be a great thing for the residents and would help to keep families in town.

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

**Administration**

Clerk Shannon reported on the following:

Discussion regarding ADU ordinance—hopefully everyone has had a chance to review the revised ordinance. Is everyone in agreement to move forward with adoption? Everyone present agreed.

Ordinance regarding solar projects—this pertains to large solar projects on commercial buildings. Our current ordinance does not speak to large projects, just residential. Bob Harris requested that we adopt regulations regarding large-scale projects. Tim prepared the draft ordinance and you have the ordinance. Please review and if all are in agreement, this will be introduced at council. If you have any

questions about this, they can be directed to Bob Harris or Tim Higgins. This pertains primarily to the manufacturing district.

Green Amendment Resolution—Maya DeAndrea was present at the last meeting and asked that you consider doing a resolution of support for the Green Amendment to the NJ State Constitution. The assembly/senate bills were forwarded to you. If all are in agreement, this resolution will be on the council agenda.

Allowing beer/wine at special events to be held at borough hall for senior events--Eileen explained that the seniors had beer/wine at some of their events at the VFW and they would like to know if they can do that here in this building. They would only do this at the night events—not during the day. Councilwoman Mercado-Miller said if we allow it for the seniors, we would have to be equitable and allow this for other organizations. Councilman Drumm pointed out that we had previously allowed beer/wine in the former community center. Councilman Beyer said he feels differently about this here because this is the municipal complex. After more discussion, it was determined that we need more information as to liability and insurance coverage and will revisit when we have that information.

**Council agenda review—Clerk Shannon reviewed the following:**

Ordinance for public hearing and adoption:

- Ordinance 1212, amending Chapter 360, Zoning, to permit ADU's

Ordinances for introduction on first reading:

- Ordinance amending Chapter 360, Zoning, for solar installations

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

- Change Order No. 3, 4<sup>th</sup> Ave Pump Station Project
- Resolution to award/reject bids received for Oak Ave storm sewer pipe project
- Resolution to award/reject bids received for borough hall parking lot project
- Resolution to award/reject bids received for borough hall flooring project
- Authorizing cash advances for the Harvest Fest
- Resolution referring matters to the Planning Board (zoning ordinance amendments)
- Resolution in support of the "Green Amendment" to the state constitution
- Resolution to allow beer/wine at specified senior events (will be held for now)
- Resolutions for promotions in the Barrington Police Department (Mayor Hanson will discuss)
- Resolution for Chapter 159 for donations/grants received (Denise will discuss)
- Resolution Cancelling Sewer Capital contract balance (Denise will discuss)
- Resolution Cancelling Sewer Capital appropriation for debt service (Denise will discuss)
- Resolution to approve the September bill list

We will be doing a proclamation for Sean Foster for his quick action in calling for an ambulance for our mechanic, Rich, who was having a heart attack.

**Finance**

CFO Moules presented the monthly reports showing account balances for the budget expenditures. Revenues are tracking as expected. We will be doing a Chapter 159 for a donation for one of the borough signs and the police received a grant for a DUI checkpoint. We will be doing a resolution to cancel off the sewer capital balance left on the USDA grant. The USDA fully funded so we will cancel off the debt service. We received confirmation from the auditor that the audit is complete and there are no findings. We will have a resolution to accept the audit on next month's agenda.

## **COUNCIL REPORTS**

Councilwoman Mercado-Miller reported the Board of Health is going strong. We had a "Signs of Hope" event with low turnout but we will try again later this month. We are looking forward to fall and winter events.

Councilman Drumm reported they received five resumes for the fire marshal position. We will be conducting interviews and will report back to council. It will be a part-time position instead of a full-time position. There may be some changes in the future so it made sense to keep it part-time for now.

Councilman Robenolt reported the Green Team is moving forward with the rain barrel project. They are also doing the mosquito dunks so they have been very busy. Councilman Beyer added we got 100 barrels and residents will be required to attend a training class on how to maintain the barrels. Many of them have already been claimed.

Mayor Hanson thanked the police department for running the Kiddie Academy. Thanks to the Civic Association for hosting Summer Nights and also the Green Team, Community Bible Church and River and Root who partnered with that event and did crafts for kids. The police department, with the retirement of Sgt. Hunt, has an opening and conducted interviews with potential candidates. They did select a candidate so that resolution will need to be added to the agenda. Clerk Shannon added we should also do a resolution accepting Hunt's retirement. Councilman Hanson added that we are promoting Corporal Thomas to sergeant and Officer McKeown to corporal so those resolutions will also be the agenda. Lost World Park is complete and opened yesterday. We are having an official ribbon cutting on September 13<sup>th</sup> at 11am and invited the county commissioners and state representatives since we used both DCA funds and county Open Space funds. The Board of Health will be doing giveaways and we will have Mister Softee there as well. Thanks to Public Works for their help on this. Harvest Fest is next month, October 11. We are accepting vendors and sponsors. Brews, Beats and Eats is this Saturday and we are hoping for no rain. On Track submissions are due on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Eileen reminded everyone that anytime you need to use this office of the council room, please let he know.

Seeing nothing else for discussion, on a motion by Councilman Drumm second by Councilman Beyer, the meeting adjourned at 6:33pm.

Approved: Terry Shannon  
Terry Shannon, Clerk/RMC