

REGULAR MEETING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL

April 12, 2023

THE CAUCUS MEETING of the Mayor and Council was called to order by Mayor Larson at 4:30pm at the at the Barnegat Light Borough Hall, 10 East 7th Street, Barnegat Light, NJ. He stated that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in accordance with the NJ Open Public Meetings Act. Notice of this meeting was posted on the bulletin board in Borough Hall and was published in the Asbury Park Press on January 19, 2023, both newspapers designated by Mayor and Council to receive such notice.

ROLL CALL: Spark, Wellington, Alloway, Reynolds, Foley and Mikuletzky

Also present: Mayor Larson, Terry Brady, Kathy Guerrero, Sponge Washburn, and Michele Inman.

Discussion: Mayor Larson asked if there was anything to discuss. Councilman Alloway said there has been vandalism at the bathrooms at the boat ramp. Councilman Wellington said yes, to reiterate there has been vandalism the last three or four weekends. They have been open all winter, but it has now been decided to close them in the evenings and open them in the mornings, seven days a week. Mayor asked everyone to keep their eyes and ears open.

Mayor Larson asked if anyone had anything to say about the correspondence, any problems with the church using the pavilion for their services, also the two yoga classes and the Zumba class- all the same as last year. Councilman Spark said everyone was happy and it's a great use of the pavilion, Councilwoman Reynolds agreed.

Mayor Larson mentioned we are short on summer help, there is an ad in the paper for all summer positions. Councilman Wellington asked if it is on the website and Kathy Guerrero answered that it is. Mayor Larson said the pay should be a little better for the tram drivers, Councilman Spark agreed.

Councilman Alloway asked how many non-stickered kayaks there were and Allan Cantor said about 10. It was asked if they would be sold at the boat ramp, yes, they have registrations and stickers. Councilwoman Foley asked when the ramp was opening, this weekend. The area is already three-quarters full. Mayor Larson asked who are we going to get to check the stickers, Public Works? How much time are we giving them to get stickers? Councilman Foley asked if violation stickers were ordered, they were. Maybe give them 10 days. Councilman Wellington said maybe lock up the ones that are not registered. Councilman Alloway asked if a permanent sign has been put up, not yet, it is on order.

Mayor Larson said he received a letter from a resident of 22nd St. asking for support of the Council to do a GoFundMe page to save the diner. Councilwoman Reynolds said hopefully someone will buy it and keep it as a diner, everyone agreed it is a lot of money, \$3.6 million. Mayor Larson said Barnegat Light needs places to eat. Councilman Spark said they do a good job, "it's the heart of the town."

Mayor Larson said the Mayor of Stafford contacted him about a wind farm bridge walk followed by an event at the Boat Yard on May 13th. Being run by the owner of the American Chopper shop in Ship Bottom, Paul Teutul. Flyer and details to come.

Councilman Mikuletzky asked if anyone heard about a lawsuit in Massachusetts, Mayor Larson stated there a lot of lawsuits. Councilwoman Foley asked Councilman Mikuletzky if he would explain to the public. The mayor said nobody is getting anywhere with the lawsuits- it is going to happen. He said the dead whales are not even from the windmills yet, still just from the testing, but everyone is denying it. Councilwoman Reynolds stated that unless they have studies, nobody can say, you can't say there's no evidence if you haven't done the studies to see if there's evidence. She mentioned what they are doing has to be disrupting the seafloors.

Mayor Larson asked Councilwoman Reynolds if the beaches are ready and mentioned that we have the new Gator, she replied that they are. Councilman Mikuletzky said it rides nice and there is good visibility. Councilman Spark asked if it was quiet and he replied that it is and the back-up alarm was installed and waiting for the emergency sled that will go in the back.

Mayor Larson asked for a motion to close the Caucus. On a motion by Spark, seconded by Wellington and carried by all the Caucus Meeting was closed.

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PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Deputy Municipal Clerk stated that the meeting was being recorded and that a written copy would be available in the Clerk's office.

ROLL CALL: Spark, Wellington, Alloway, Reynolds, Foley, and Mikuletzky

Also present: Mayor Larson, Terry Brady, Kathy Guerrero, Sponge Washburn., Michele Inman and Kathleen Flanagan

APPROVE MINUTES: Mayor Larson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of March 8, 2023 regular meeting

Larson	Moved	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Spark	X		X			
Wellington			X			
Alloway		X	X			
Reynolds			X			
Foley			X			
Mikuletzky			X			

APPROVE MINUTES: Mayor Larson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of March 27, 2023 Special Meeting

Larson	Moved	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Spark					X	
Wellington					X	
Alloway		X	X			
Reynolds	X		X			
Foley			X			
Mikuletzky					X	

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mayor Larson asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report

Larson	Moved	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Spark			X			
Wellington			X			
Alloway	X		X			
Reynolds			X			
Foley		X	X			
Mikuletzky			X			

BUILDING AND ZONING REPORT: Mayor Larson asked for a motion to approve the Building and Zoning Report

Larson	Moved	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Spark			X			
Wellington			X			
Alloway			X			
Reynolds		X	X			
Foley			X			
Mikuletzky	X		X			

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PUBLIC SAFETY: Councilman Mikuletzky reported as follows:

- Requested to make the Court Report part of the minutes
- Took in a total of \$2452.15 (traffic- \$440.15, criminal- \$1820 & Fish & Game- \$1800)
- Barnegat Light got \$379.15- no big cases
- Mayor Larson asked if the courtroom worked good, Councilman Mikuletzky replied, so far, yes

WATER/SEWER: Councilwoman Foley reported as follows:

- Hydrant replaced or will be replaced by the end of the week on 30th St. & hydrant flushing will be sometime this month and it will be on the signboard
- Repairing the 7th St. main break in the near future along with repairs on 23rd St.
- Water Sewer bills went out- it's the first go through, Council knows there are issues as to be expected with any new project or program
- Every livable residence will be paying base rates, reminded everyone that this is being driven by the State, not Council
- Condos are also assessed, not just duplexes- there are a lot of questions, duplexes vs. condos vs. homes
- They will entertain questions, but no answers today. They will gather information about questions and concerns- not a unilateral decision, it's a whole Council issue. They will gather and assess and get back in due time. They want to make sure it is done in a fair way, so everyone is paying the same type of payment and amount of payment based on what their properties are.
- Barnegat Light's quarterly base rate is \$195 or \$780 for a year and the average quarterly rate in New Jersey is \$399 according to NJ Real Estate Network. Long Beach Twp. Is \$400, a little over double Barnegat Light's, so we are not out of line.
- There is a lot of infrastructure in town that needs to be addressed- wells, generators, motors, super pump station, re-painting of the water tower in very near future, a back-up generator in case of an outage
- Tried to make the bills as close to the spigot counts as possible- some a little above, some a little below
- Rates not based on the size of the house, that was brought to their attention, it may change, but right now it is based on the house and the property and everyone will get a water and sewer base rate
- Reiterated- they will take questions in the open session, but they will not be answered at the meeting, there are forms to fill out to register questions or complaints. The committee will review them weekly and get back to individuals if need be.
- Mayor Larson- good explanation by Mary Ellen. Barnegat Light is very lucky to have its own

water sewer system. This is your water company and we are just trying to run it. He said MaryEllen and the committee did an excellent job putting it together and the little problems we have are minor compared to what they thought they might be, they will be straightened out.

- The complaint forms are available, maybe change the name to suggestion form
- Councilman Spark stated that when Harvey Cedars changed over to meters there were major problems with high bills. They have done a lot to make life easy for everyone and just trying to make it fair for everyone.
- Out of approximately 1200 properties, there has been one major snafu, that's it. Little programming issues, but they are minor. That issue will help to refine the rules with water system being able to help predict and stop failures. The system helped over the winter, about 20 houses had water breaks and the smart system alerted our water department.
- If you park your car over the water meter and it stays for a couple of days, everything will be thrown up to the system once it is moved. It polls every hour and uploads every 4 to 6 hours.

BEACHES AND PARKS: Councilwoman Reynolds reported as follows:

- Getting into nice weather, people are starting to go down to the beach
- Sold \$25,700 in badges- \$16 less than this time last year
- Reminder- get badges at pre-season price by June 5th
- Dog Park- sold \$2,220 in Paw Passes, up \$510 from this time last year
- A new Gator to replace a guard truck was purchased. It is lighter and won't make as many ruts in the sand and it will have medical supplies, a good addition.
- Reminder, we will be sharing the beaches with the piping plovers, oyster crackers and black skimmers. The piping plover is both Federally and State listed as endangered.
- The northern restoration area has twice as many nests as any other location in the state. Please do not bring any dogs on the beach, they are very frightening to the birds and they already have many other predators.
- Barnegat Light and Holgate are the only beaches on LBI that have piping plovers, last year there were 15 adults in Barnegat Light and 97 in Holgate. This is due to other towns having the beach replenishment program and they raking their beaches.
- There will possibly be more washed-up whales and dolphins on the beach. A couple of weeks ago there was a rally in Trenton and a petition was presented with 500,000 signors form NJ asking for more studies to be done on the cause of the whales and dolphins dying.
- Concerned it will affect our commercial fishing, concerned that fish will be very expensive if available at all. Again, no studies to determine what is happening in the ocean. NJ Fisheries is a big source of income for the State. The mayor said fish are pretty hardy.

DOCKS AND HARBORS: Councilman Alloway reported as follows:

- The ramp will be open this weekend
- All slips have been leased
- They will be keeping an eye on the kayaks

PUBLIC WORKS: Councilman Wellington reported as follows:

- The mobi-mats and roll-up mats are at the beach ends, ready to be deployed when the warmer weather comes
- The new building (beach badge booth) on 10th St. has been framed and should be completed in another couple of weeks
- The water has been turned on at all public facilities. The bathrooms at the ramp will be closed at night.
- The docks are in, lifeguard stands are painted and ready, the trashcan racks are all done at the street ends, that project is complete
- The mayor mentioned that a pole is going to be put in by the new beach badge booth with another camera for vandalism, maybe we should get Wi-Fi at the ramp and do the same thing there. Ed said there is no reason we couldn't and put a camera or two on the ramp booth, if Council wants that, he'll do it. The mayor mentioned there are two cameras on one pole and they are pretty good and two on the water tower that overlook the north end and south end. MaryEllen said Wi-Fi nodes are inexpensive and you just need electricity and there is 5G (Verizon) all around town now for faster speeds.

FINANCE: Councilman Spark reported as follows:

- The bills were reviewed and signed by he and Councilwoman Foley in the amount of \$346,920.69. The biggest amount being paid is to the regional school board, \$118,473
- Kathleen asked him to ask Council to get together to have a Budget Workshop- agreed on Thursday April 20th at 1:00, should be about an hour. The mayor said if anyone cannot make it, they should send in their thoughts.
- Kathleen asked everyone to think of capital items, she doesn't really have many, other than the painting of the water tower. Reminded them that the capital budget is a 5-year budget. The mayor asked her if there is another vehicle like the one we just purchased (the Gator) in the budget. Kathleen said yes, she had that and a loader. She has an ATV, a loader and the construction of the public works restroom- that is just in there in case they want to use it in the future. The mayor said that the current loader is 25 to 30 years old and Kathleen mentioned that they are kind of pricey.
- The mayor said all are welcome to come to the meeting.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION: Mayor Larson asked for a motion to open the open public session.

Motion: Spark Second: Wellington All in favor X

Tim Brindley, 1404 Bayview- suggested asking the homeowners across the street from the boat ramp to see if they have surveillance cameras that may pick up the vandalism at the ramp. Also, the signs on the island that say “Save the Whales” are a nice way of saying ban the windmills. The mayor said he is not against windmills, just not doing the studies or research before they go in.

Bruce Allen, 1405 Seaview- he reminded them that two months ago he mentioned that the National Academy of Sciences set up committee to study wind and fisheries, the first meeting is tomorrow at 4:30 and you have to register to attend virtually.

Connie Higgins, 10 East 11th St.- wanted to register her complaint about the water bills. She has a ground floor apartment that they never use and she is being charged twice the base fee for water and twice the base fee for sewer for water they do not use. She is happy to pay for the water they are using, but not for water they are not using. It does not make sense to her, she would like Council to think about it and the logic behind it. The mayor said, as mentioned at the beginning of the meeting, he did not want to get into a big discussion tonight. He reminded everyone of the complaint forms and the committee is going to take everything into consideration. Long Beach Township had the same problem and they came up with a reduced rate. They may come up with a reduced rate or change the ordinance, but not tonight.

Rich Brodman, 4 East 10th St.- will beach badges be sold at the new building that is being built? Councilwoman Reynolds said yes, beach badges, pickleball passes, paw passes. He asked if the new stickers for the kayaks will also be sold there. Yes, they will, as they have in the past. The mayor said they just do not know when it will be finished, but now then they can get them at Borough Hall and the old beach badge booth until the new one is done. Councilman Alloway said they can also get them at the ramp. The mayor mentioned they are waiting for the electric company to come install a pole so they have electric to continue building.

CLOSE PUBLIC SESSION: Mayor Larson asked for a motion to close the open public session.

Motion: Wellington Second: Alloway All in favor X

RESOLUTIONS:

The Deputy Clerk said that the resolution would be done by consent agenda. Councilman Wellington asked if the resolution to employ seasonal employees included lifeguards, he was told it does not. The Deputy Clerk read each resolution by title and then recorded the votes as follows:

Larson	Moved	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Spark		X	X			
Wellington			X			
Alloway			X			
Reynolds			X			
Foley	X		X			
Mikuletzky			X			

RESOLUTION 2023-053

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT FOR SEWER CONNECTION FEES

WHEREAS, Ted Fluehr Jr., Inc. paid water and sewer connection fees associated with construction of two new homes on vacant land; and

WHEREAS, the checks were deposited; and

WHEREAS, the sewer connection fees were overpaid by fifty dollars per property; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Barnegat Light, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey that the Barnegat Light CFO is authorized to issue refund in the amount of \$100 to the following: Ted Fluehr Jr., Inc., 17 S Long Beach Boulevard, Surf City, NJ 08008-4876

RESOLUTION 2023-054

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, EMPLOYING SEASONAL WORKERS

WHEREAS, the Borough of Barnegat Light is in need of seasonal employees for the 2023 season; and

WHEREAS, the following people are employed as noted with the compensation listed below:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Body of the Borough of Barnegat Light approves the list of seasonal employees

Beach Badge Checker		
Jesse Busch	15.25	hr.
James Stokes	15.25	hr.
Tram Drivers		
Peter Lewis	15.50	hr.
Dock Master		
Stanley Madsen	15.25	hr.
Assistant Dock Master		
Ed Kenny	14.75	hr.
Dock Ramp Attendants		
Merrill Thim	14.25	hr.
Booth Attendant		
Geraldine Sheehan	17.25	hr.

RESOLUTION 2023-055

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF MUNICIPAL BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$346,920.69

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee of the Borough of Barnegat Light has examined the vouchers presented for payment,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the approved vouchers amounting to \$346,920.69 authorized to be paid upon verification of the Treasurer that there is sufficient money in the appropriated accounts, subject to adequate signatures and funding.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Zion Lutheran Church-Request to Use Pavilion-April 16-September 24/8am-9:45- APPROVED

Request for Adaptive Yoga- Marion Cianci- APPROVED

Request for Yoga Class-Arielle Ford- approved- APPROVED

Request for Zumba Class-Judie Putt- APPROVED

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Mayor Larson asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Spark Second: Foley All in Favor X

APPROVED:

KIRK O. LARSON, MAYOR

BRENDA L. KUHN, MUNICIPAL CLERK