

MEETING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL
August 13, 2025

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 New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act. Notice of this meeting was posted on the bulletin board in Borough Hall and was advertised in the Asbury Park Press and Beach Haven Times on January 23, 2025.

ROLL CALL: Wellington, Gutowski, Reynolds and Mikuletzky
Also present: Mayor Larson, Terry Brady, Sponge Washburn, Cece Mattina, Michele Inman

DISCUSSION:

Councilman Wellington raised concerns about safety issues related to site visibility at certain street ends, citing the corner of 13th and Bayview as an example. He noted that turning out of some streets feels obstructed. Although these roads fall under county jurisdiction, Wellington recommended that the town reach out to the county to share these concerns. He also emphasized that before taking any steps, especially those that involve removing shrubbery, residents should first be consulted.

Washburn added that, according to regulation, greenery within the site triangle corners should not exceed 30 inches in height, yet many currently reach up to 3 feet. Sponge also pointed out that the town already has an ordinance in place requiring the site triangle to have 15-foot clearance in each direction with an imaginary line in between. However, because these areas fall under county jurisdiction, Sponge stressed the importance of engaging with county officials before making any changes.

Councilman Gutowski voiced additional concerns, specifically about residents planting greenery too close to the ends of their driveways, which creates a danger when backing out into the street. Councilman Wellington stated that he would take the lead in corresponding with the county in hopes of coming up with a solution.

Councilman Wellington also addressed the condition of the beach walkways. He explained that the stringers supporting the decking are so badly rotted that they can no longer function properly. His solution involves digging out the sand, laying down a specific gravel product, and then installing new stringers and decking on top. Wellington expressed that this would be a costly endeavor so it may not occur immediately but would like to start on a few streets in the fall.

Councilwoman Reynolds recommended that, while this work is being done, the walkways on select streets be widened to allow better access for gators and improve lifeguard accessibility. Wellington agreed with her suggestion, and Mayor Larson added that he would prefer all of the beach walkways to be widened, not just a few.

Mayor Larson also proposed holding a celebration to honor the town's retirees and pay tribute to residents who have passed away. The event would take place before the scheduled concert on Friday, August 29th at 6:30 p.m. He suggested beginning the celebration at 5:30 p.m., with food and an opportunity for residents to recognize those being honored.

Councilwoman Reynolds proposed the idea of making an exception for councilmembers who are sick, to attend meetings virtually. However, Councilman Gutowski, Mayor Larson, and Terry Brady collectively expressed concerns about the impact of virtual attendance. They emphasized the importance of in-person participation, for factors such as human connection, the flow of meetings, and the need to comply with the Open Public Meetings Act, allowing appropriate public access and transparency.

Lastly, Councilman Gutowski expressed his appreciation for the Bike Rodeo that occurred over the weekend and praised the police for the positive impact on the community.

Mayor Larson asked for a motion to close the Caucus.

On a motion by Reynolds and seconded by Wellington and carried by all the Caucus Meeting was closed.

THE MEETING of the Mayor and Council was called to order by Mayor Larson at 5:00pm 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 New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act. Notice of this meeting was posted on the bulletin board in Borough Hall and was advertised in the Asbury Park Press and Beach Haven Times on January 23, 2025.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL: Wellington, Gutowski, Reynolds and Mikuletzky

Also present: Mayor Larson, Terry Brady, Sponge Washburn, Cece Mattina, Michele Inman and Ed Seeger

APPROVE MINUTES: Mayor Larson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of June 11, 2025 regular meeting.

| Larson | Moved | Second | Aye | Nay | Abstain | Absent |
|------------|-------|--------|-----|-----|---------|--------|
| Spark | | | | | | x |
| Wellington | | x | x | | | |
| Gutowski | x | | x | | | |
| Reynolds | | | 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 | | | |
| Gutowski | | x | x | | | |
| Reynolds | x | | x | | | |
| Foley | | | | | | 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 | x | | | |
| Gutowski | | | x | | | |
| Reynolds | | | x | | | |
| Foley | | | | | | x |
| Mikuletzky | x | | x | | | |

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PUBLIC SAFETY: Councilman Mikuletzky reported as follows:

- Court Report a part of the meeting minutes
- Court collected \$2,561.78. (traffic fines \$1175.78, criminal fines 800.00, Fish & Game \$580.00 and Barnegat Light kept \$1220.00)
- Fire Company has had 141 calls this year.
- Warned of phone scams

WATER/SEWER:

- Nothing was reported – reports are available at the Borough Hall

FINANCE: Councilman Spark reported as follows:

- Bills in the amount of \$798,651.21 were signed.

- Two largest items were the regional school tax \$167,000.00 and police service agreement in the amount of \$187,000.00

DOCKS AND HARBORS: Councilman Gutowski reported as follows:

- Kayaks are up \$150 from 2024
- Boat Ramp is down about \$1,725.00 from 2024.
- Lease agreements for the livery’s are up for renewal in January and there have been a few committee meetings about the verbiage in the new agreements and how they should maintain those areas.

PUBLIC WORKS: Councilman Wellington reported as follows:

- Resin folding chairs will be ordered to replace the metal chairs that are currently at the pavilion
- Town hall grass will be weeded and reseeded in September
- Platforms and water fountains have been installed by the skate park and the other is between the grass and the tennis courts.
- Street signs on the beaches have been dug up so they are now visible to beach goers

BEACHES AND PARKS: Councilwoman Reynolds reported as follows:

- Pickleball revenues are down about \$1000.00 from last year
- Dog park revenues are down \$570 from last year
- Beach Badges revenues are down \$17,600 from last year, mainly due to pre-season badge sales
- For beach patrol, there were 46 rescues, 68 major medical assists, 554 preventative actions, 1 missing person, and 21 enforcements

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

Motion: Gutowski Second: Wellington All in favor X

Bob Preston of 22 W. 4th St. and president of the Non-Profit, Friends of Barnegat Light Beach Patrol summarized the success of the Ocean Mile Swim. Preston thanked the town for their involvement and asked if the town could recognize the fourth Saturday in July as “The Barnegat Light Ocean Mile Swim Day.” Mayor Larson and Terry Brady agreed that the request would be determined based on further advice of legal counsel as the Borough does not officially sponsor the event.

Pete Snieckus, of 8 E. 13th Street, inquired further about the sight triangle right-of-way. In response, Sponge explained that the required distances vary from street to street.

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

Motion: Gutowski Second: Wellington All in favor X

RESOLUTIONS:

The deputy clerk said that the resolution would be done by consent agenda. She read each resolution by title and then recorded the votes as follows:

| Larson | Moved | Second | Aye | Nay | Abstain | Absent |
|------------|-------|--------|-----|-----|---------|--------|
| Spark | | | | | | x |
| Wellington | x | | x | | | |
| Gutowski | | | x | | | |
| Reynolds | | x | x | | | |
| Foley | | | | | | x |
| Mikuletzky | | | x | | | |

RESOLUTION 2025-090

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING INCREASING THE BID THRESHOLD PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3 AND N.J.A.C 5:34-5 ET SEQ.

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law authorizes local contracting units the ability to increase their bid threshold up to \$53,000; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3, permits an increase in the bid threshold if a Qualified Purchasing Agent is appointed as well as granted the authorization to negotiate and award such contracts below the bid threshold; and

WHEREAS, Kathleen Flanagan possesses the designation of Qualified Purchasing Agent, certification # 1575, as issued by the Director of Local Government Services in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5-34-5 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Barnegat Light desires to take advantage of the increased bid threshold.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the governing body of the Borough of Barnegat Light in the County of Ocean, in the State of New Jersey, hereby increases its bid threshold to \$53,000.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5-34-5.2 the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to forward a certified copy of this resolution to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

RESOLUTION 2025-091

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING A SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH LONG BEACH ISLAND MUNICIPALITIES AND THE TOWNSHIP OF LONG BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR BRIGHT HARBOR HEALTHCARE SOCIAL WORK AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH REFERRAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, Long Beach Township entered into an agreement with Bright Harbor Healthcare (“Bright Harbor”) to create the On P.O.I.N.T. program, whereby residents of the Township of Long Beach will have access to social work referrals and improved access to behavioral health and integrated care programming to ensure that its most vulnerable population has the ability to get the care they need and deserve; and

WHEREAS, Long Beach Township’s agreement with Bright Harbor sets forth that Bright Harbor will coordinate with the Township and Long Beach Island Police Department to accept similar referrals for such services from Barnegat Light, Harvey Cedars, Surf City, Beach Haven, and Ship Bottom (collectively with Township “Island Municipalities”); and

WHEREAS, the Island Municipalities wish to enter into this Agreement to share the aforesaid services provided by Bright Harbor; and

WHEREAS, this Agreement is authorized pursuant to the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act, N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1, *et seq.*,

WHEREAS, the fees have been paid by Long Beach Township and no further consideration from other Island Municipalities shall be required. The term of this agreement is from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, and may be renewed for successive one (1) year terms by written agreement by the parties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the mayor and council of the Borough of Ship Bottom, does hereby authorize the execution of the Shared Services Agreement between Ship Bottom, Harvey Cedars, Surf City, Beach Haven, and Barnegat Light (collectively with Long Beach Township “Island Municipalities”) and Long Beach Township Police Department for referral use of Bright Harbor Healthcare Services.

RESOLUTION 2025-092

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE TAX

COLLECTOR TO CANCEL 2025 TAXES DUE ON A PROPERTY WHICH
HAS BEEN GRANTED AN EXEMPTION FOR A 100% DISABLED VETERAN

WHEREAS, the Tax Assessor received an application for tax exemption for a 100% Disabled Veteran from the owner of block 34 lot 14.01; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Assessor has notified the Tax Collector the exemption has been granted to the 100% Disabled Veteran, effective June 24, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector shall be authorized to cancel the 2025 taxes, in the amount of \$5,152.69, due on the property, as of the June 24, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of the Borough of Barnegat Light, in the County of Ocean, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. That the Tax Collector for the Borough of Barnegat Light is authorized to cancel 2025 taxes, in the amount of \$5,152.69, due on the property which was granted the 100% disabled veteran's exemption as of June 24, 2025 by the Tax Assessor.
2. That a certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Borough of Barnegat Light Tax Assessor and Chief Financial Officer and to the owner of block 34 lot 14.01.

RESOLUTION 2025-093

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF
OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE CANCELLATION
OF WATER AND SEWER BILLING AND REFUND OF SAME

WHEREAS, 2804 Bayview Avenue was previously a duplex; and

WHEREAS, the home was demolished and a new single-family home was built; and

WHEREAS, a Certificate of Occupancy was issued for the completion of the new single family dwelling on April 16, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the water/sewer account still reflects two units of water and two units of sewer; and

WHEREAS, the owner of the property has requested cancellation of the additional unit and refund of payments received; and

WHEREAS, the Utility Collector has calculated the prorated billing from the date of the issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy to be \$934.31.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Barnegat Light, in the County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. That the Utility Collector is authorized to cancel the billing from the date of the Certificate of Occupancy.
2. That the Utility Collector and CFO are authorized to process a refund in the amount of \$934.31.
3. Copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the CFO.

RESOLUTION 2025-094

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF
OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, RETURNING REMAINING ESCROW
FOR PLANNING BOARD APPLICATION 2024-03, BAYVIEW HARBOR LLC

WHEREAS, in accordance with Borough Ordinances escrow fees have been posted for the property located at 1301 Bayview, Docket: Planning Board 2024-03, Bayview Harbor LLC

WHEREAS, the applicant has requested any remaining escrow funds to be released; and

WHEREAS, Borough Engineer Frank Little and the Barnegat Light Planning Board have reviewed the requests and authorized release of the remaining escrow amounts.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Barnegat Light, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. That the Finance Department is authorized to refund the remaining escrow in the amount of \$219.31
2. Certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Barnegat Light Finance Department and shall be sent with check.
3. The check shall be made payable and sent to:

Raban & Raban LLC
11710 Long Beach Blvd.
Haven Beach, NJ 08008

RESOLUTION 2025-095

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, RETURNING REMAINING ESCROW FOR PLANNING BOARD APPLICATION 2025-02, BAYVIEW HARBOR LLC

WHEREAS, in accordance with Borough Ordinances escrow fees have been posted for the properties located at 1301 & 1501 Bayview Docket: Planning Board 2025-02, Bayview Harbor LLC

WHEREAS, the applicant has requested any remaining escrow funds to be released; and

WHEREAS, Borough Engineer Frank Little and the Barnegat Light Planning Board have reviewed the requests and authorized release of the remaining escrow amounts.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Barnegat Light, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. That the Finance Department is authorized to refund the remaining escrow in the amount of \$210.00
2. Certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Barnegat Light Finance Department and shall be sent with check.
3. The check shall be made payable and sent to:

Raban & Raban LLC
11710 Long Beach Blvd.
Haven Beach, NJ 08008

RESOLUTION 2025-096

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF MUNICIPAL BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$798,651.21

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 \$798,651.21 authorized to be paid upon verification of the Treasurer that there is sufficient money in the appropriated accounts, subject to adequate signatures and funding.

RESOLUTION 2025-097

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING SECURITY DEPOSIT REFUND FOR RECREATIONAL USE APPLICATION

WHEREAS, Maureen Cretella, paid the \$500 security deposit for a recreational use permit; and WHEREAS, a request has been received to refund the security deposit.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of

Barnegat Light, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. That the Finance Department is authorized to refund the security deposit in the amount of \$500.00
2. Certified copies of this resolution will be forwarded to the Barnegat Light Finance Department and to the Recreation Use File
3. That the checks shall be made payable and sent to:
Maureen Cretella
8 Hillcrest Dr.
Wayne, NJ 07470

RESOLUTION 2025-098

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, RESOLUTION APPROVING EXTENSION OF GRACE PERIOD FOR PAYMENT OF TAXES DUE ON AUGUST 1, 2025

WHEREAS, on July 14, 1994, Governor Christine Todd Whitman signed into law P. L. 1994, C. 72 allowing twenty-five calendar days from the date the tax bills are mailed for payment of taxes: and WHEREAS, due to the delay in receiving the certified tax rate from the County for the year of 2025, tax bills were not mailed out on time.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the grace period for the August 2025 quarter for tax collection only, has been extended to August 26, 2025. Post marks are not accepted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Tax Collector.

ORDINANCES: Second Reading:

BOND ORDINANCE No. 2025-04

BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR water/sewer UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS TO 7th Street, APPROPRIATING \$475,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$475,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE A PORTION OF THE COSTS THEREOF, AUTHORIZED IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, IN THE COUNTY OF OCEAN, NEW JERSEY

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

Motion: Reynolds Second: Wellington All in favor X

There were no comments from the public.

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

Motion: Wellington Second: Reynolds All in favor X

| Larson | Moved | Second | Aye | Nay | Abstain | Absent |
|------------|-------|--------|-----|-----|---------|--------|
| Spark | | | | | | x |
| Wellington | x | | x | | | |
| Gutowski | | x | x | | | |
| Reynolds | | | x | | | |
| Foley | | | | | | x |
| Mikuletzky | | | x | | | |

BOND ORDINANCE NO. 2025-05

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS TO 7th Street, APPROPRIATING \$650,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$313,050 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE A PORTION OF THE COSTS THEREOF, AUTHORIZED IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, IN THE COUNTY OF OCEAN, NEW JERSEY

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

Motion: Gutowski Second: Reynolds All in favor X

There were no comments from the public.

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

Motion: Gutowski Second: Reynolds All in favor X

| Larson | Moved | Second | Aye | Nay | Abstain | Absent |
|------------|-------|--------|-----|-----|---------|--------|
| Spark | | | | | | x |
| Wellington | | x | x | | | |
| Gutowski | | | x | | | |
| Reynolds | x | | x | | | |
| Foley | | | | | | x |
| Mikuletzky | | | x | | | |

CORRESPONDENCE:

- TROOP 6 Beach Camping Weekend from 10/10 – 10/12 requested permission and access to the beach of Barnegat Light at 22nd street for a camping trip from October 10th to October 12th. They also requested permission for 1 four-wheel drive vehicle to be permitted to transport gear to the campsite and a porta potty. Request was Approved.
- Cycle4awareness is seeking permission to hold a charity bike ride thru town on September 7th from 9am-12pm. The bike ride will be starting in Barnegat Light to Holgate and return back to Barnegat Light. The charity is for Special needs children and their families. Request was approved.
- Bob Preston on behalf of Friends of the Barnegat Light Beach Patrol is requesting that the Borough declare the 4th Saturday in July as “Barnegat Light Ocean Mile Swim Day”. Request was to be determined based on advice of legal counsel.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Mayor Larson asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Gutowski Second: Wellington All in Favor X

APPROVED:

KIRK O. LARSON, MAYOR

CECILE U. MATTINA, DEPUTY CLERK