

**MEETING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
**July 9, 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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:** Spark, Wellington, Gutowski, Reynolds, Foley and Mikuletzky  
 Also present: Mayor Larson, Terry Brady, Sponge Washburn, Cece Mattina, Michele Inman and Brenda Kuhn

**Discussion:**  
 Councilman Gutowski said that he had an opportunity to ride on the beach with the Captain of the Beach Patrol. He was impressed by the operation; the captain and crew were doing a great job.

Councilwoman Reynolds has been concerned about getting people with mobility problems to the beach. She was looking for a company such as a beach taxi service. Beach Haven has that service however, roads are different than in Barnegat Light and they also allow low speed vehicles on the roads and our gator isn't registered. Mayor Larson said another option would be to get someone who could push the beach wheels which are difficult for many people. Mayor Larson said the ATVs and gators are ruining the boardwalks. He said we should figure out which streets would be good to build a bigger stronger walkway for trucks, ATVs and gators to drive on. Maybe 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> streets.

Councilman Wellington said the walkways are tired and worn and the gators are breaking the edges, plus the stringers are rotting out. There is a plan to refurbish these in the fall and winter. The danger of riding the gator and ATV on the main road was also discussed.

The concept of a ballfield was discussed. Councilman Gutowski felt that the property was big enough to accommodate both the dog park and a ballfield. The mayor said he would like to get some drawings approved by committee and then have a special meeting at the firehouse where there was more room to accommodate the public.

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

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**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The 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, Gutowski, Reynolds, Foley and Mikuletzky  
 Also present: Mayor Larson, Terry Brady, Sponge Washburn, Cece Mattina, Michele Inman and Brenda Kuhn

**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			
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		X			
Wellington			X			
Gutowski		X	X			
Reynolds			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			
Gutowski		X	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 \$1,308.35. (traffic fines \$347.35, criminal fines 606.00, Fish & Game \$460.00 and Barnegat Light kept \$599.00)
- Fire Company has had 110 calls this year, 33 since last meeting.
- Multiple scams were discussed

WATER/SEWER: Councilwoman Foley reported as follows:

- Everything running as expected

FINANCE: Councilman Spark reported as follows:

- Bills in the amount of \$2,325,868.39 were signed. The School and County tax were the biggest bills

DOCKS AND HARBORS: Councilman Gutowski reported as follows:

- The revenue for the docks and kayaks is about the same as last year, busy last weekend
- 16<sup>th</sup> Street end dredging seems a little quieter. They will be there through September.

PUBLIC WORKS: Councilman Wellington reported as follows:

- Basic maintenance
- Ceiling of the pavilion has been painted baby blue
- Formica was lifting on the council table, now all new wood top was done by DPW
- Fencing at the bay beach was installed
- All the no parking and handicap parking spots were painted
- Water fountains should be where in a couple of weeks
- At the lady's restroom at the ramp, the epoxy floor is peeling, possibly from damp concrete, it will get fixed.

BEACHES AND PARKS: Councilwoman Reynolds reported as follows:

- Fourth of July weekend weather was beautiful
- Beach badge revenue is \$177,660 which is down from this time last year due to drop in preseason sales
- Everyone seems to be happy with the beaches but not everyone likes the repositioning of the lifeguard stands
- Pickleball revenue is \$2500 which is down from this time last year
- Dog park revenue is \$4800 which is also down from last year
- A count was done on the dog park passes. 177 non-residents dogs and 158 dogs belong to Barnegat Light property owners
- Report from Lifeguard Captain
- 14 new lifeguards were hired. They get trained in the history of lifeguarding, beach patrol manual, employee policy, drills, handling water emergencies and First Aid Squad information
- Jr Lifeguard program has 30 participants. Four are 15 year olds who will be eligible to be lifeguards next season
- 59 medical problems, 26 rescues, 1 major medical problem, 337 preventative actions, 15 enforcements. The estimated beach attendance is 13,555 of which 7,100 was from July 3<sup>rd</sup> to July 6<sup>th</sup>
- The beach front bird report was given
- The restoration is very active with Piping Plovers.

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

Motion: Spark Second: Gutowski All in favor X

Joseph Saburn, 10 West 18<sup>th</sup> Street, was in favor of the current structure of the dog park. He asked council to consider to involving the community with decisions any additional sports areas and suggested the pavilion. Mayor Larson said that there's an irrigation system, and we don't want poles or anything else being driven into the ground possibly causing damage the irrigation system.

Kris Panacek, 1905 Bayview Avenue, inquired about the number of times the fire alarm goes off any why do they use the siren. Sponge Washburn explained that some off the members have pagers but, being very expensive, not all of the volunteers have them. When the siren goes off, any volunteer who is outside can hear them. He went on to say, if you heard the alarm more than once, it's because they need more people to respond. The alarms only go off for the Fire Company or water rescues.

Cronin McTigue, 5 East 18<sup>th</sup> Street, said that he was very appreciative to the town for creating the dog park. He said that it's a gathering space where dogs can play and owners can have social interaction.

Kelly Phillips, 11<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> Streets, said that she has five children and four dog and couldn't agree with the mayor more. She said that eight or nine families with about 22 kids stand in front of her home every day, they are a tight community. She that recently approximately about 30 kids played a game of kickball just west of the dog park. She continued to say that it was a fabulous idea, there's plenty of room for both.

Amy Kimmich, 5 East 6<sup>th</sup> Street, would like to have an organized discussion about tis topic. She said the dog park is so important to so many people. Mayor Larson said that about ten years ago he had a ball field plan drawn up and it was only brought up at the last caucus meeting because there wasn't anything else to talk about. He thought what he said was clear about the reconfiguration of the area to be a dog park and a ball field, he never said he wanted to get rid of it. It is a huge property and back in 2006, Councilwoman Reynolds brought up the idea of building a dog park. It was supposed to be a one-month trial. Once it started, the people didn't clean up after their dogs which caused it to be undesirable for playing ball. Ms.

Kimmich said that the irrigation system shouldn't be a reason why activities, sports etc. should be do on the pavilion field. The mayor said that it wouldn't be good for volleyball poles and tent stakes because of the possible damage to the system. He said maybe we will have a special meeting in September to talk about this topic.

Susan Tatto, 2702 Central Avenue, said that she had three children, 24,19 and 17. They have a group of friends that expressed their regrets for losing the basketball court. If this is being done for the children of the town, let's make this a space for all types of activities but try not to restrict the dog park.

Barbara Smith, 108 East 17<sup>th</sup> Street Ship Bottom, coming from veterinary background, she said that may of the dogs that came into the emergency room were coming from small dog parks. If the town makes the park smaller it may cause more injuries and fights. she urged the council to consider this before making the dog park smaller.

Bob Preston, 22 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, on behalf of the Friends of Barnegat Light Beach Patrol, talked about the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Ocean Mile Swim, which is going to be held on July 26<sup>th</sup>. He said there was a lot of local business support and is anticipating a very successful event. He said that there were volunteer opportunities for the event. On Saturday mornings the sell lifeguard merchandise. He said that last year they gave out \$7,000 in scholarships and he anticipates that this year they will be around \$15,000 and opening it up to trades. The mayor suggested contacting LBT for possible use of the shuttle to transport the swimmers from 16<sup>th</sup> Street to 30<sup>th</sup> Street.

Rich Brodman, 4 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street, on behalf of the BLTPA, said that their next meeting would be on July 19<sup>th</sup> and he would be talking about hurricane and disaster preparedness, bike safety would also be discussed and Mayor Larson would be speaking. He has also attended meetings of the Ocean County Commissioner and asked for increased bicycle safety signage. He said that he has gotten complaints about the lifeguard ATV's going too fast.

Nancy Manookian, 14 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street, said that there wasn't any shade in the small dog park area.

Bruce Allen, 1405 Seaview Avenue, on behalf of Michael Sullivan who lives at the corner of 20<sup>th</sup> and Bayview. There are a lot of cars speeding and maybe we can get the police to enforce the speed limits.

Connie Higgins, 10 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street, boardwalk on 11<sup>th</sup> street. Some are really bad. She loves the mobi mats but they are buckling. Councilman Wellington said that the gators cause this when they drive over them. She said that there were was a section of a pallet that was burned by the 11<sup>th</sup> Street entrance. Then she was told that there was a trash can fire at 14<sup>th</sup> Street.

Tom Costello, 33 west 9<sup>th</sup> Street, expressed appreciation for all the sports area/equipment in town. He said he knows there are supporters of the dog park, he personally loves the west side where they play kickball but the overgrown are has poison ivy.

Pam Fahy, 31 West 9<sup>th</sup> Street, she doesn't want a ball field over there, she wants to keep that field open because it is used for a variety of activities, such as chip and putt, lacrosse and running. Mayor Larson said it would be considered a sports field, not just a ball field.

Brian Swanke, Manahawkin, uses the dog park and makes a day of it and buys coffee and lunch while here.

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

Motion: Foley Second: Gutowski All in favor X

**RESOLUTIONS:**

The 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		X			
Wellington			X			
Gutowski			X			
Reynolds		X	X			
Foley			X			
Mikuletzky			X			

**RESOLUTIONS**

RESOLUTION 2025-086

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE SFY 2026 ROAD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT –E. 27TH ST. (CENTRAL AVE TO EASTERLY STREET END) AND W. 28TH STREET TO BAYVIEW AVE) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$525,133.20

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council, of the Borough of Barnegat Light, formally approves the grant application for the above stated project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, Municipal Clerk and Borough Engineer are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as MA-2026-E. 27<sup>th</sup> and W. 28<sup>th</sup> -Barnegat Light-00045 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of Borough of Barnegat Light.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of Borough of Barnegat Light and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

RESOLUTION 2025-087

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

WHEREAS, the Borough of Barnegat Light is in need of seasonal employees for the 2025 season; and  
 WHEREAS, Hope Phillips shall be employed as a beach badge checker with the compensation of \$15.75 per hour.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Body of the Borough of Barnegat Light approves the employment of Hope Phillips, retroactive to June 23, 2025.

RESOLUTION 2025-088

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, APPROVING STIPEND FOR NEWLY CERTIFIED BEACH PATROL EMTS

WHEREAS, the Borough of Barnegat Light Governing Body approved Resolution 2025-077 approving the list and compensation for the 2025 Beach Patrol; and

WHEREAS, Lifeguards that are certified EMT's are paid an additional \$1.25 per hour; and

WHEREAS, Michael Crutchlow and Ben Addiego have received certification to be EMT's; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the governing Body of the Borough of Barnegat Light approve the additional \$1.25 per hour to the newly certified EMTs, Michael Crutchlow and Ben Addiego retroactive to July 1, 2025.

Name	Year	Position	Hourly	EMT	JLG	Q
Addiego, Ben	2	Lifeguard	16.75	1.25		
Crutchlow, Michael	3	Lifeguard	17.25	1.25		

RESOLUTION 2025-089

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF MUNICIPAL BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,325,868.39

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 \$2,325,868.39 authorized to be paid upon verification of the Treasurer that there is sufficient money in the appropriated accounts, subject to adequate signatures and funding.

ORDINANCES:

**First Reading/Public Introduction:**

**Bond Ordinance No. 2025-04**

BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR water/sewer UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS TO 7<sup>th</sup> 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

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

**BOND ORDINANCE NO. 2025-05**

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR road IMPROVEMENTS TO 7<sup>th</sup> 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

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- CUB SCOUT PACK 116 Millstone Township requested permission and access to the beach of Barnegat Light at 21st street for a joint camping trip from September 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>. Request was approved.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

Mayor Larson asked for a motion to adjourn.

**Motion:** Gutowski      **Second:** Wellington      **All in Favor** X

**APPROVED:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 KIRK O. LARSON, MAYOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
 BRENDA L. KUHN, MUNICIPAL CLERK