

**SPECIAL MEETING OF ACTING MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
September 29, 2025**

THE SPECIAL MEETING of the Acting Mayor and Council was called to order by Acting Mayor Spark at 10:00am 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 a 48-hour notice was emailed to the Asbury Park Press and Beach Haven Times on September 25, 2025

**MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF MAYOR KIRK O. LARSON**

**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: Sponge Washburn, Kathleen Flanagan, Cece Mattina, Stuart McGowan and Kirk's Daughter, Lori and her husband Dan Malay

Acting Mayor Spark said that the next item on the agenda was nominations for Mayor.

Spark nominated Mr. Wellington, seconded by Foley

	Wellington Nominated by	Second	Aye
Spark	X		X
Wellington			X
Gutowski			X
Reynolds			X
Foley		X	X
Mikuletzky			X

The Clerk administered the Oath of Office to Ed Wellington and then read letter to Ed Wellington.

The Clerk read a letter to Newly Appointed Mayor:

Wishing you all the support, respect and kindness you deserve. As I mentioned to you before, it gives me joy to ride around town past all the little red roof tops and know you had a hand in that. Love this town and the people in it, the way Kirk did - and it will love you back.

All my best,  
Pam Larson

Word from our new Mayor:

To the Council:

Mayor Wellington expressed a spirit of reconciliation and cooperation. He extended an olive branch, pledging to work with the Council in an open and fair manner. His message was clear: let us move forward together, for the betterment of our community, and let bygones be bygones.

To the Residents:

He assured the residents that he loved this town too and promised to work hard to preserve it just as it is.

To the Business People:

He acknowledged that it's hard to make a buck in this town because of where we are and everything else that is going on. We will work with you to the best of our ability

To the Fishermen both Recreational and Commercial:

He mentioned that Kirk has a solid grasp on the fishing matters, and he acknowledged that he will need to get up to speed himself. In the meantime, don't hesitate to reach out to us — we're here for you.

To the Employees:

He said to all the employees, both Full time and Part Time, thank you for all your good work

To the Volunteers:

Mayor Wellington said thank you for your service – we appreciate you.

The Clerk read Resolution 2025-099 by title and recorded the votes.

**RESOLUTION 2025-099**

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, MAKING AN APPOINTMENT TO OFFICE OF MAYOR OF THE BOROUGH BARNEGAT LIGHT.

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists in the office of Mayor of the Borough of Barnegat Light, said vacancy being created on August 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, according to NJSA 19:3-29, a vacancy shall be filled at the general election next succeeding the happening thereof, unless such vacancy shall happen within 70 days next preceding such election, in which case it shall be filled at the second succeeding general election; and

WHEREAS, according to NJSA 40A:16-11, where the incumbent whose office has become vacant was elected to office as the nominee of a political party, the municipal committee of the political party of which the incumbent was the nominee shall, no later than 15 days after the occurrence of the vacancy, present to the governing body the names of three nominees for the selection of a successor to fill the vacancy; and the governing body shall, within 30 days after the occurrence of the vacancy, appoint one of the nominees as the successor to fill the vacancy; and

WHEREAS, the municipal committee of the Barnegat Light Republican Party submitted the names of three nominees, who are members of the Barnegat Light Republican Party and are qualified to be appointed to and serve as Mayor of the Borough of Barnegat Light; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Barnegat Light Borough Council to make an appointment to the vacancy in the office of Mayor, as provided by law.

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

1. That the Barnegat Light Borough Council hereby appoints Ed Wellington to temporarily fill the vacancy in the office of Mayor, until the unexpired term may be filled at the November 2026 general election when a successor is elected and qualified.
2. That a certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the aforementioned appointed Mayor and the Barnegat Light Republican Party.

DATED: September 29, 2025

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

The Clerk guessed that at the October meeting we will be filling the council seat that was that was vacated today.

The mayor said that by law we are not obligated to have an open public session because it's a special meeting, but if I can get a motion and a second, I'd be happy to open it up to the public.

Motion: Gutowski      Seconded by: Reynolds

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION:

Steve Pines, of 13 West 4th Street, asked for clarification on the mayoral vacancy process. The Clerk said the Municipal County Committee Chair submitted a memo with three nominees for mayor and three for council and now that a mayor has been selected, council nominations will be addressed at the next meeting.

Councilwoman Reynolds asked if the list of three nominees remains valid. The Clerk said yes, the list stands.

Mr. Pines requested the names on the list. The Clerk said Lori Malay, Tim Brindley, and Joe Saburn.

Councilwoman Foley asked if only those three names can be voted on, the Clerk said yes. If council does not appoint someone within 30 days, the Municipal County Committee will appoint someone from the same list.

The Council President confirmed the names were submitted by the Republican Party.

Barry Mescolotto, of 11 West 19th Street, asked about the term length of the appointed council member. Council President Spark said the appointee will serve for the remainder of the term.

Bill Buzby, of 20 West 4th Street, expressed confusion about the County Committee. Mayor Wellington explained that the Republican Club has a Board of Trustees, and two County Committee members (one male, one female) collaborate on selecting nominees.

Councilwoman Reynolds emphasized that County Committee members are elected by voters. Dan Malay wanted to clarified that while the Republican Club and County Committee have a relationship, the County Committee members are elected officials, as Councilwoman Reynolds stated. He added, in this municipality, which has one voting district, there are two committee members: one male and one female.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Mayor Wellington asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Gutowski      Second: Reynolds      All in Favor X

APPROVED:

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Ed Wellington, Mayor

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Brenda L. Kuhn, Municipal Clerk