

Special Meeting of Mayor and Council
Budget Workshop No. One

October 28, 2025

9:00am

The Special meeting of Mayor and Council was called to order by Mayor Wellington at 9:00am at Borough Hall, 10 East 7th Street, Barnegat Light, NJ. He said 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 the Borough website on October 6, 2025; and was published in the Asbury Park Press on Friday, October 10, 2025.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Spark, Gutowski, Reynolds, Foley were present, Mikuletzky was absent
Also present: Mayor Wellington, Kathleen Flanagan, Stuart Mc Gowan and Brenda Kuhn

Clerk's Statement: this meeting is being recorded and a written copy will be available in the Clerk's Office.

2026 Municipal Budget Workshop No. 1

The CFO, Kathleen Flanagan, announced that this meeting is very preliminary because she has not met with the department heads yet.

Utility Operating

- Current revenue is up in the amount of \$49,731.04
- Sewer rentals are down, between now and the end of the year she will look into
- Appropriations are on point, no transfers are expected
- Emergency Contract is going out to bid, but wasn't notified. Would like to change it to a one-year contract with a one year with a one-year option to extend and put that into the bid
- Council President shown concern about the revenue and asked if we were happy with the current rates. He said the usage charge is extremely low. He tasked the CFO to generate an equation that would increase our revenue by lowering the flat rates and increasing the usage. The CFO highly opposed changing the rates.
- Suggested an ordinance for water/sewer penalties
- Water tower painting will be addressed this year, antennas will need to be removed

Finance

- Revenues slightly up from last year, expects to end the year strong
- Budget transfers will be done at next meeting if necessary

Beaches and Parks

- Beach revenue up \$732 from last year
- Avoided over expenditure. Better formula to avoid this in the future

Docks and Harbors

- Boat ramp revenues are down \$2,300
- Livery lease will be going out to bid

Public Safety

- Police contract is up in 2026, CFO suggested have some type of negotiation. There was a discussion of a way to approach this issue of the services and the rising cost
- Court revenues down \$1,479

- May need an alternate place for court due to renovations to building, (Building Department)

Public Works

- Not aware of any significant purchases in 2026
- Equipment may be needed, money already in capital
- Cell leases were discussed

Personnel

- Urged the council to get salary increases early for budgeting purposes
- State Health Care Plan significantly increasing, to help offset the health insurance increases, we moving to a different provider for same benefit. Municipal up 33%, State employees up 19% and teachers even less. Conner Strong & Buckelew, our risk managers, helped to find same benefits with lower cost to the municipality.

Capital Projects Anticipated for 2025

- Unaware of any capital projects
- Capital projects are a 10-year plan
- Program that looks at streets/water mains and determines which one should be done next.
- Councilwoman Reynolds suggested to put money in capital for beach taxi
- Next roads for DOT projects will be East 27 & West 28 water main and road
- Parking Dock and Harbor improvements
- Sound system could be put into capital budget
- Council room is too small to accommodate, think of alternative plan.

Resolutions: The resolution were voted on by consent agenda and the votes were as shown below.

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

RESOLUTION 2025-113

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGATLIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING TO JOIN THE NJ SOLUTIONS JOINT HEALTH INSURANCE FUND.

WHEREAS, a number of public entities in the State of New Jersey have joined together to form the NJ Solutions Joint Health Insurance Fund, hereafter referred to as the “Fund”, as permitted by N.J.A.C. 11:15-3.1 et. seq., N.J.S.A. 17:1-8.1 et. seq., and N.J.S.A. 40A:10-36 et. seq., and

WHEREAS, the Fund was approved to become operational by the Department of Banking and Insurance and the Department of Community Affairs (collectively, the “Departments”) and has been operational since that date; and

WHEREAS, the statutes and regulations governing the creation and operation of a joint insurance fund in the State of New Jersey contain certain restrictions and safeguards in connection with the administration of the public interest entrusted to such a Fund; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of Borough of Barnegat Light, hereinafter referred to as “Local Unit” has studied the feasibility of joining the Fund and has determined that membership in the Fund is in the best interest of the Local Unit.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the governing body of the Local Unit hereby agrees and authorizes the following:

Execution of the application for membership to the Fund, including any and all documents and/or certifications as may be necessary, in order for the Local Unit to complete the application process and join the Fund

The Local Unit shall become a member of the Fund for an initial period outlined in the Local Unit's Indemnity and Trust Agreement, subject to the approval of the Fund Commissioners, which in no event shall exceed three (3) years as prescribed in N.J.A.C. 11:15-3.3(a).

The Local Unit shall participate in the following type(s) of coverage(s) offered by the Fund: Health Insurance and/or Prescription Insurance and/or Dental Insurance and/or Medicare Advantage/Employer Group Waiver Program as defined pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17B:17-4, the Fund's Bylaws, and Plan of Risk Management.

Adoption and approval of the Fund's Bylaws, a true and correct copy of which is annexed hereto as Attachment A, which has been approved by the Departments.

Execution of the Local Unit's Indemnity and Trust Agreement, a true and correct copy of which is annexed hereto as Attachment B, which has been approved by the Departments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governing body of the Local Unit certifies, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 11:15-3.3(a), that the Local Unit has never defaulted on claims under a self-insured plan and that it has not had its insurance canceled for nonpayment of premium for a period of at least two (2) years prior to this application.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governing body of the Local Unit is authorized and directed to execute the Indemnity and Trust Agreement and such other documents signifying membership in the Fund as required by the Fund's Bylaws, and to deliver these documents to the Fund's Executive Director with the express reservation that these documents shall become effective only upon on acceptance of the Fund's By-laws as prescribed in N.J.A.C. 11:15-3.3(a).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect upon its passage.

RESOLUTION 2025-114

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE RECEIPT OF BIDS FOR THE LEASING OF CERTAIN MUNICIPAL PROPERTY (LIVERY LEASES).

WHEREAS, the Borough of Barnegat Light owns certain properties as set forth on the Notice to Bidders attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference; and the Mayor and Borough Council have determined that these properties are not needed for public use; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:12-14 provides that a municipality may lease any lands or buildings or portions thereof not presently needed for public use to the person who will pay the highest rent therefor; and

WHEREAS, the governing body has set a certain price as being the minimum acceptable bid for the leasing of said property, as set forth on the Notice to Bidders attached hereto and made a part hereof.

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

1. That the properties set forth on the attached Notice to Bidders shall be offered for a five-year livery lease at public auction to the highest bidder thereon. The minimum bid that shall be accepted shall be as set forth on the Notice to Bidders in regard to each said livery lease. The lease auction shall take place at the time, date and place set forth in the published Notice to Bidders. The proposed Livery Lease forms are attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference.

2. That the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Barnegat Light reserve the right to reject any and all bids on said properties.

3. That a notice of said livery lease auction shall be published in the official newspaper of the municipality by two (2) insertions, at least once a week during two consecutive weeks, the last publication to be not earlier than seven (7) days prior to such auction.

RESOLUTION 2025-115

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING CANCELLATION OF WATER AND SEWER BILLING FOR COMBINED UNITS

WHEREAS, two (2) properties at Lighthouse Manor have been combined into one (1) unit; and
WHEREAS, the 2025 Tax List reflects the combination of two (2) units into one (1) single unit; and
WHEREAS, as a result of this change, only one (1) tax bill was properly issued for the combined property for the 2025 tax year; and
WHEREAS, water and sewer utility bills were issued for both properties; and
WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate to correct the billing records to reflect the proper number of units and to cancel the additional, erroneous billing;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Barnegat Light, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to cancel the duplicate water and sewer billing for the additional unit that was combined into one, as reflected on the 2025 Tax List; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Tax/Utility Collector and Chief Financial Officer for their information and action.

RESOLUTION 2025-116

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, PROVIDING A STIPEND FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AS CLEAN COMMUNITIES COORDINATOR

WHEREAS, the Borough of Barnegat Light is in need of a Clean Communities Coordinator, as required by State regulations; and
WHEREAS, Stuart McGowan, the Borough Superintendent of Public Works, has the necessary credentials to qualify for and has been appointed to the same; and
WHEREAS, said position carries an annual stipend of \$3000 per year; and
WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Mayor and Borough Council to provide a stipend for Stuart McGowan, the Borough Superintendent of Public Works, for the position of Clean Communities Coordinator, at a stipend of \$3000 per year.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Barnegat Light, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. That Stuart McGowan, the Borough Superintendent of Public Works, shall be paid for the position of Clean Communities Coordinator, at a stipend of \$3000 per year, retroactive to January 1, 2025.
2. That the Borough Salary Resolution, as limited by the Barnegat Light Salary Ordinance, is hereby amended in accordance herewith.
3. That certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to Stuart McGowan and the Borough Treasurer.

RESOLUTION 2025-117

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, PROVIDING A SALARY FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AS STORMWATER MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

WHEREAS, the Borough of Barnegat Light is in need of a Stormwater Management Coordinator, as required by State regulations; and
WHEREAS, Stuart McGowan, the Borough Superintendent of Public Works, has the necessary credentials to qualify for and has been appointed to said position; and
WHEREAS, said position carries an annual salary of \$4000 per year; and
WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Mayor and Borough Council to provide a salary for Stuart McGowan, the Borough Superintendent of Public Works, for the position of Stormwater Manager, at a salary of \$4000 per year.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Barnegat Light, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. That Stuart McGowan, the Borough Superintendent of Public Works, shall be paid for the position of Stormwater Manager, at a salary of \$4000 per year, retroactive to January 1, 2025.

2. That the Borough Salary Resolution, as limited by the Barnegat Light Salary Ordinance, is hereby amended in accordance herewith.
3. That certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to Stuart McGowan and the Borough Treasurer.

Councilwoman Foley asked council about a onetime forgiveness for a water leak. She noted that one property had an unusually high water bill, initially described as a leak but later determined to be caused by a soaker hose.

The Clerk reported that she had spoken with the property owner and that the matter had been settled. She added that, under the current ordinance, there is no provision allowing for forgiveness of water bills.

The Mayor suggested that the Water and Sewer Committee meet to discuss the possibility of allowing a one-time bill forgiveness policy.

Although special meetings do not typically include an open public session, the Mayor allowed Dan Malay, who was present in the audience, to speak. Mr. Malay addressed the topic of the police contract, stating his opinion that the Long Beach Township Police Department would be a better choice than another department, citing their superior training and capabilities.

Motion to Adjourn:

Moved: Spark Second: Foley

All were in favor