

BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT

Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2026, 4:30 p.m.

Mayor Wellington called the January 14, 2026 meeting to order at 4:30 pm at the Borough Hall, 10 East 7th Street, Barnegat Light, New Jersey. He read the adequate notice.

Roll Call: Present-Spark, Reynolds, Gutowski, Saburn, Mescolotto (Foley was absent)

Also Present: Mayor Wellington, Municipal Attorney, Terry Brady, Michele Inman, Assistant Treasurer, Cece Matina, Deputy Clerk, Sponge Washburn, Zoning/Code Enforcement Office, the new Construction Official, Robin Young and Brenda Kuhn, Municipal Clerk/Tax & Utility Collector.

Kathleen Flanagan arrived at 4:38pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Caucus Items

1. Joint Council of Taxpayers' Associations of Long Beach Island's effort to reduce Regional School Tax
 - The Mayor said that he would be receiving a request from the Joint Council of Taxpayers to donate \$10,000 to hire a legal consultant to move the effort forward. That request is being declined.
2. Discussion regarding the park and possible dedication, United States 250th celebration
 - New signs renaming the park have been installed
 - Celebration/dedication at 1st concert.
3. Special Meeting, January 29th @ 10am-CDBG first public hearing
 - Purpose is to talk about project to be submitted for the grant.
 - The second public hearing to finalize the project to be submitted will be the regular meeting on February 11, 2026 at 4:30.
4. Ordinance 2026-03 entitled: An Ordinance of the Borough of Barnegat Light, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, Amending the Borough Zoning Code to Revise the General Building Height Limitations.
 - Council President Spark had a lot of questions about this ordinance. The Zoning Officer answered a lot of his questions.
 - In the end, the council decided to pass the ordinance on first reading and present it to the Planning Board. If the Planning Board approved the ordinance as written, the council would adopt it.

Approval of Minutes

December 10, 2025 Regular Meeting

Wellington	Moved	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Spark	X		X			
Reynolds		X	X			
Foley						X
Gutowski			X			
Saburn			X			
Mescolotto					X	

January 7, 2026 Reorganization Meeting

Wellington	Moved	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Spark			X			
Reynolds			X			
Foley						X
Gutowski			X			
Saburn	X		X			
Mescolotto		X	X			

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Wellington	Moved	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Spark	X		X			
Reynolds			X			
Foley						X
Gutowski			X			
Saburn		X	X			
Mescolotto			X			

Approval of Building and Zoning Report

Wellington	Moved	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Spark			X			
Reynolds			X			
Foley						X
Gutowski			X			
Saburn		X	X			
Mescolotto	X		X			

Committee Reports

Finance: Councilman Spark reported as follows:

- No bills to sign
- Budget workshop will be scheduled within next couple of weeks
- The Tax Collector said that we had a 99.64 percentage of collections for 2025

Beaches & Parks: Councilwoman Reynolds reported as follows:

- Gave report of comparisons of 2024 vs 2025 revenue for beach badges, Paw Passes, and Pickleball
- The mayor stated that there were some complaints about credit cards not being an option to purchase beach badges. He asked if the committee could look into it. MyBeachMobile was mentioned and Kat said she wasn't a fan of that company,

Water/Sewer: Councilman Gutowski reported on behalf of Councilwoman Foley as follows:

- Resolution on the agenda tonight to cancel water billing
- Water main break on 7th Street and Broadway. The pipe was iron but it got repaired
- 7th Street water main will be replaced
- Paving 21st & 29th Streets late March or April
- Barnegat Light used about 63,000,000 gallons vs Loveladies/High Bar Harbor used about 76,000,000 gallons

Public Works

- Construction at the Building Department is underway
- Room is gutted, waiting for the new phone system installation before resuming construction
- Snowflakes are down
- Kirk's signs are installed at the park
- New boardwalk at 26th street ramp fixed
- Possibly doing 11th Street too
- Liveries-new railroad ties and white stone installed, trap rock in parking lot
- Bathroom at ramp will have left over cedar siding installed to match other buildings in town

Docks & Harbors

- Kayak revenue was reported-up by \$25.00
- Boat Slip revenue was reported-up significantly
- Landscaping at the liveries is spectacular

Public Safety

- Met with Police Chief Ed Berndardt
- Warned everyone about car thieves. Lock your cars and don't leave your keys in your car.
- A lot of the expensive cars have mirrors that fold in when locked, if they aren't folded in the thieves are alerted that the car is not locked.
- Thieves now have an electronic device clones your key.

Open Public Session: moved by Reynolds, seconded by Spark, all in favor

- There were no public comments

Close Public Session: moved by Gutowski, seconded by Spark, all in favor

Ordinances: Introduction

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-01

ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

Wellington	Moved	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Spark			X			
Reynolds	X		X			
Foley						X
Gutowski			X			
Saburn			X			
Mescolotto		X	X			

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-02

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 76 OF THE BOROUGH CODE, ENTITLED "CONSTRUCTION CODES, UNIFORM," THEREBY ESTABLISHING AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FEES FOR RESIDENTIAL AND NONRESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CREATING AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND PURSUANT TO THE FAIR HOUSING ACT AND THE STATEWIDE NON-RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT FEE ACT.

Wellington	Moved	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Spark			X			
Reynolds			X			
Foley						X
Gutowski			X			
Saburn	X		X			
Mescolotto		X	X			

ORDINANCE 2026-03

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING THE BOROUGH ZONING CODE TO REVISE THE GENERAL BUILDING HEIGHT LIMITATIONS.

Wellington	Moved	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Spark			X			
Reynolds			X			
Foley						X
Gutowski	X		X			
Saburn		X	X			
Mescolotto			X			

ORDINANCE 2026-04

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED,"AN ORDINANCE FIXING AND DETERMINING THE ANNUAL SALARIES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY"

Wellington	Moved	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Spark			X			
Reynolds			X			
Foley						X
Gutowski	X		X			
Saburn		X	X			
Mescolotto			X			

Correspondence:

- Skateboard Workshop-approved
- Zumba at the Pavilion-approved
- Yoga at the Pavilion-approved

Resolutions: Consent agenda

Wellington	Moved	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Spark			X			
Reynolds	X		X			
Foley						X
Gutowski			X			
Saburn			X			
Mescolotto		X	X			

RESOLUTION 2026-047

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING AN ADJUSTMENT TO A WATER AND SEWER BILL DUE TO A BILLING ERROR

WHEREAS, the water and sewer Account No. 621-0, 11 East 14th Street, was billed for the third quarter with zero usage, and

WHEREAS, the fourth quarter was billed for the usage for the combined usage for both quarters, and

WHEREAS, this resulted in a higher fourth quarter bill due to the application of higher water usage rates, and

WHEREAS, the billing system was reviewed and verified for accurate water usage for each quarter, and

WHEREAS, the water and sewer charges were recalculated using the correct quarterly usage and applicable water rates, and

WHEREAS, the Utility Collector has determined that an amount of \$34.46 was overbilled and should be canceled;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body that:

1. The Utility Collector is hereby authorized make the necessary adjustments to cancel the amount of \$34.46 from the account.
2. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

RESOLUTION 2026-048

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE REFUND OF A SECURITY DEPOSIT TO GREAT LAKES DREDGE &

DOCK

WHEREAS, Great Lakes Dredging submitted a security deposit in the amount of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500.00) in connection with the Temporary Use of Public-Right-of Way application for the use of 16th Street within the jurisdiction of the Borough of Barnegat Light; and

WHEREAS, the dredging area subject to the permit has been fully inspected by the appropriate authority; and

WHEREAS, the inspection confirmed that the work was completed in compliance with all applicable permits, requirements, and regulations, and no deficiencies or damages remain outstanding; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the security deposit has been satisfied and the refund of said deposit is warranted;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Barnegat Light Borough Council as follows:

That the security deposit in the amount of \$7,500.00 be refunded to Great Lakes Dredge & Docks.

That the CFO is hereby authorized and directed to process and issue the refund in accordance with standard financial procedures .

RESOLUTION 2026-049

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF MUNICIPAL BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$133,912.00

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

WHEREAS, said vouchers have been found to be in proper form and legally payable.

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 approved vouchers, in the amount of \$133,912.00, be and are hereby authorized for payment upon certification by the Treasurer that sufficient funds are available in the appropriate accounts, and subject to the required signatures and funding.

RESOLUTION 2026-050

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, SETTING THE 2026 SALARIES OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Barnegat Light that the following rates of compensation shall be within the scale of limits set forth in Section I of Salary Ordinances 08-03, 09-02, 10-09, 10-10, 12-11, 16-02 and 2020-2020-08; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following Borough employees are actively employed by the Borough of Barnegat Light and shall receive the amount specified and set forth below. These amounts shall be retroactive to January 1, 2026.

Name	Position	2026
Ed Wellington	Mayor	4,000.00
Michael Spark	Council President	2,800.00
James Gutowski	Councilperson	2,500.00
Dorothy Reynolds	Councilperson	2,500.00
Joseph Saburn	Councilperson	2,500.00
Barry Mescolotto	Councilperson	2,500.00
Mary Ellen Foley	Councilperson	2,500.00
Michele Inman	Assistant Treasurer	74,587.00
Michele Inman	Payroll Clerk	4,000 00
Brenda Kuhn	Municipal Clerk	158,000.00
Brenda Kuhn	Tax Collector/Water/Sewer	1,717.00
Brenda Kuhn	Open Space Secretary	1,000.00
Kathy Guerrero	Tax Clerk	86,030.00
Kathy Guerrero	Recycling Coordinator	4,000.00
Cecile Hodgson	Deputy Municipal	52,745.00
Cecile Hodgson	Planning Board Secretary	3,000.00
Cecile Hodgson	Zoning Board Secretary	2,500.00
Cecile Hodgson	Recreation Coordinator	2,000.00
Kathleen Flanagan	Chief Financial Officer	38,883.00
Kathleen Flanagan	Qualified Purchasing Agent	7,500.00
Kathleen Flanagan	Payroll Clerk	5,000.00
Ed Seeger	Tax Assessor	24,876.00
Maureen Daniels	Court Administrator	8,231.00
Daniel Sahin	Municipal Court Judge	6,866.00
Stuart McGowan	Supt. Water/Sewer	77,865.00
Stuart McGowan	Supt. Public Works	77,865.00
Stuart McGowan	Clean Communities Coordinator	3,000.00
Stuart McGowan	Safety Coordinator	3,000.00

Albert Morison	Assistant Supt. Water/Sewer	48,855.00
Albert Morison	Assistant Supt. Public Works	48,855.00
Jeffrey Washburn	Zoning Officer/Code Enforcement	42.30 hr.
Jeffrey Washburn	Deputy Emergency Management Officer	6,000.00
John Schulz	Technical Asst to Construction Official	26.50 hr.

RESOLUTION 2026-051

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE MEETING TO BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING AND/OR REVIEWING MATTER EXEMPT UNDER THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT IN EXECUTIVE SESSION, SPECIFICALLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE MATTERS IDENTIFIED BELOW; ACTION MAY OR MAY OR MAY NOT BE TAKEN UPON RETURN TO REGULAR OPEN SESSION:

- personal educational or medical matter; specifically:
- collective bargaining agreement or negotiations with:
- tactics for public safety; specifically:
- pending or anticipated litigation; specifically:
- contract negotiations regarding:
 - Certain shared services contracts*
- matter involving the employment of a specific current or prospective officer or employee; specifically:
 - unless (RICE NOTICE) requested to be in public
- OTHER: statutory confidential matter; regarding the right to receive government funds; matter of individual privacy;
- purchase, lease or acquisition of property; investigations of violations of law; any attorney-client privilege matter;
- deliberations after a public hearing; specifically:

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-12, provides that all meetings of public bodies shall be open to the public at all times, except for certain enumerated exception; and

WHEREAS, according to NJSA 10:4-12(b), a closed executive session of a public body may be convened to discuss matters as noted in the title of this Resolution.

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 Borough of Barnegat Light does hereby authorize a closed executive session to discuss matters identified in the title of this Resolution.

2. That reasonably comprehensible minutes of the closed session shall be taken showing the time and place, the members present, the subjects considered, the actions taken, the vote of each member, and any other information required to be shown in the minutes by law, which shall be promptly available to the public to the extent that making such matters public shall not be inconsistent with NJSA 10:4-12.

Prior to going into closed executive session, Terry Brady said it was an honor and privilege to be awarded another contract to represent the Borough as Municipal Attorney. He went on to say that he greatly appreciated the support.

Mayor Wellington announced that the Council would go into closed session and that when the meeting reopened, it would adjourn without conducting any additional business.

The Closed Executive Session ended and the regular meeting was reopened. Having no further business, Mayor Wellington asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Gutowski Second: Mescolotto All in Favor X

APPROVED:

ED WELLINGTON, MAYOR

BRENDA L. KUHN, MUNICIPAL CLERK