

BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT

Minutes of Special Meeting

June 24, 2026, 11:00am

10 East 7th Street, Barnegat Light New Jersey

Mayor Wellington called the meeting to order at 11:00am and read the adequate notice statement.

Roll Call Present: Reynolds, Foley, Gutowski, Saburn and Mescolotto

Absent: Spark

Also Present: Mayor Wellington, Attorney, Terry Brady, Cecile Mattina, Michele Inman, Sponge Washburn, Brenda Kuhn, Kathleen Flanagan

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Resolutions:

2026-087: Urging Legislation to Reimbursement Cost 100% Disabled Vet Exemptions

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

2026-088: Zoning Advisory Committee

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

2026-089: Employing Seasonal Workers

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

RESOLUTION 2026-087

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
URGING LEGISLATION TO IMPOSE STATE REIMBURSEMENT OF THE COST OF 100% DISABLED
VETERANS' TOTAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

WHEREAS, under State law, a resident 100% disabled veteran who served in a theater of war is entitled to a full exemption from property taxation; and

WHEREAS, upon a determination of eligibility and submission of the required proof, a veteran who is deemed 100% disabled is granted a property tax exemption by the municipality in which he or she resides; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Barnegat Light recognize and honor the sacrifices made by members of the Armed Forces in service to the Nation and support the continuation of the property tax exemption afforded to eligible disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, these exemptions constitute unfunded mandates, requiring municipalities to absorb the resulting loss of revenue, which often necessitates increased taxation upon non-disabled veteran residents and other taxpayers within the municipality; and

WHEREAS, legislation previously introduced would have required the State to reimburse municipalities for the full cost of disabled veterans' property tax exemptions, recognizing that the program and its eligibility requirements are established by the State; and

WHEREAS, such legislation would restore tax revenues to municipalities while preserving the well-deserved tax relief afforded to those who have served our nation; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Barnegat Light desire to formally urge the Legislature to draft and enact similar legislation providing for the reimbursement of municipal tax revenues lost as a result of the 100% Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exemption, and further respectfully urge the Governor to approve and sign such legislation into law.

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

1. Formally urge the enactment of legislation requiring the State to reimburse municipalities for the full amount of property tax revenue foregone due to property tax exemptions granted to 100% disabled veterans.
2. Respectfully urge the Governor of the State of New Jersey, so sign legislation leading to the reinstatement of taxes lost through the total disabled veterans tax exemption.
3. A certified copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to all Ocean County Municipalities, Ocean County Board of Commissioners, members of the Legislative Districts 9 and New Jersey Governor Sherrill.

RESOLUTION 2026-088

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
FORMING A ZONING CODE REVIEW COMMITTEE AND APPOINTING MEMBERS

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Barnegat Light recognize the importance of maintaining and periodically reviewing the Borough's zoning ordinances and land use regulations to ensure they remain consistent with the Borough's planning objectives, current development patterns, and applicable laws; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council desire to establish a committee to review the Borough's zoning code and make recommendations regarding potential revisions, updates, and amendments to improve clarity, consistency, and effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council have determined that the appointment of a Zoning Code Review Committee is in the best interests of the Borough and its residents.

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. Establishment of Committee.

There is hereby established a Zoning Code Review Committee for the purpose of reviewing the Borough's zoning code, identifying areas requiring clarification or amendment, and providing recommendations to the Mayor and Council.

2. Membership.

The Zoning Code Review Committee shall consist of the following members:

- a. Mayor Ed Wellington
- b. Jeffrey Washburn, Zoning Officer
- c. Peter Snieckus, Planning Board
- d. Cece Mattina, Planning & Zoning Board Secretary

3. Duties and Responsibilities.

The Committee shall:

- a. Review existing zoning ordinances and related land use regulations;
- b. Identify provisions requiring revision, clarification, modernization, or amendment;
- c. Solicit input from Borough officials, boards, professionals, and other stakeholders as appropriate;
- d. Prepare recommendations and proposed ordinance amendments for consideration by the Mayor and Council; and
- e. Perform such other related tasks as may be directed by the Mayor and Council.

4. Advisory Nature.

The Committee shall serve in an advisory capacity only and shall make recommendations to the Mayor and Council. Any proposed amendments to the Borough's Zoning ordinances shall be considered and adopted in accordance with applicable law.

5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

RESOLUTION 2026-089

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

WHEREAS, the Borough of Barnegat Light is in need of seasonal employees for the 2025 season; and

WHEREAS, the following is a complete list of people are employed as noted with the compensation listed below:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Body of the Borough of Barnegat Light approves the list of seasonal employees.

BEACH BADGE CHECKER

Jesse Busch *	\$16.50
Patrick Odendahl	\$16.00

Ordinances: Introduction

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-09 AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, REPEALING AND REPLACEMENT OF CHAPTER 135, "PEDDLING AND SOLICITATION" IN ITS ENTIRETY AND REPLACING IT WITH ANEW CHAPTER 135 TO UPDATE AND MODERNIZE THE MUNICIPAL CODE.

INTRODUCTION:

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

Ordinances: Second Reading/Adoption

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-07 AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, RESCINDING & REPEALING ORDINANCE 2026-03 WHICH REVISED THE BOROUGH ZONING CODE GENERAL BUILDING HEIGHT LIMITATIONS.

WHEREAS, on February 11, 2026, the Mayor & Borough Council of the Borough of Barnegat Light adopted on second reading Ordinance 2026-03, amending the Borough Zoning Code height limitations in response to and in accordance with the new height restrictions and construction limitations of the NJDEP's REALNJ Rules (Resilient Environment and Landscapes); and

WHEREAS, the NJDEP has begun the process of reconsidering said REALNJ Rules, including an extension of the legacy period of the same by one year, while the entire matter received further consideration; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Borough of Barnegat Light to increase zoning height limitations if and only if required by new NJDEP elevation requirements, and therefore, to rescind Ordinance 2026-03 until such time as an increase in zoning height limitations are necessitated by the new NJDEP regulations.

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

SECTION 1. Barnegat Light Borough 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," is hereby rescinded and repealed.

SECTION 2. This zoning regulation amendment shall be referred to the Barnegat Light Planning Board, in accordance with its referral powers provided by N.J.S.A. 40:55D-26 & 64.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall be filed in the office of Ocean County Planning Board.

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its enactment after second reading and publication as required by law.

INTRODUCTION:

Passage on First Reading: Date: June 10, 2026

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

Mayor Wellington explained that, in anticipation of the New Jersey REAL regulations, the Borough adopted Ordinance 2026-03, amending the Zoning Code to increase the height limitations from 30 feet to 34 feet. Since that time, the NJ REAL regulations have been suspended. The purpose of this ordinance is to restore the height limitations back to 30 feet until the State makes a final decision regarding the regulations. Mayor Wellington then read the ordinance by title.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

Motion: Mescolotto

Second: Saburn

Virginia Guinta, 2204 Bayview Avenue stated that her home currently has a flat roof and that she would like to construct a pitched roof. She asked whether she had missed the opportunity to proceed under the 34 foot height limit because her plans and permit application had not yet been submitted. Borough Attorney Terry Brady advised that her situation would be a matter for the Zoning Office or Zoning Board and that the governing body could not provide an answer.

Guinta also asked whether applications already submitted under the 34 foot height limit would still be permitted. Zoning officer, Washburn stated that complete permit applications submitted to the Construction Office prior to the adoption of the proposed ordinance would be reviewed under the existing 34 foot height limit. Guinta expressed her opposition to the proposed ordinance.

Mayor Wellington explained that the additional four feet in building height was not intended to provide additional living space, but rather to allow homes to be elevated to meet floodplain requirements.

Neil Chesen, 22 East 7th Street, stated that the first floor of his living space begins at 18 feet, 2 inches and expressed that he will be constrained by the 30 foot building height limitations. Mayor Wellington reiterated that the maximum building height remains 30 feet regardless of whether the ordinance is rescinded and explained that the proposed change would not increase the amount of living space. Chesen responded that, in order to maximize his living space within the existing height restriction, he would need to construct a flat roof and expressed concern about the overall aesthetics.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING Motion: Reynolds Second: Mescolotto

ADOPTION:

Final Passage: Date: June 24, 2026

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-08 AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ADDING CHAPTER 22, RECOGNIZING THE BARNEGAT LIGHT VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY AS THE OFFICIAL FIREFIGHTING ORGANIZATION FOR THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT

Chapter 22
FIRE COMPANY

§ 22-1. Recognition of Official Firefighting Organization.

The Barnegat Light Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 hereinafter shall be referred to as BLVFC, duly incorporated fire company, is hereby recognized as the official firefighting organization for the Borough of Barnegat Light, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey.

§ 22-2. Membership Qualifications.

No person shall become a member of the BLVFC unless such person:

- A. Is at least eighteen (18) years of age.
- B. Is lawfully present within the United States; and
- C. Is physically fit to perform the duties of a firefighter, as evidenced by a certificate signed by a physician licensed to practice medicine in the State of New Jersey following a physical examination conducted for that purpose.

§ 22-3. Application for Membership.

Every person seeking membership in the Barnegat Light Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 shall submit a written application to the Company containing:

- A. Date and place of birth; and
- B. If naturalized, the date and place of naturalization and current place of residence.

§ 22-4. Criminal History and Background Checks.

A. Criminal History Record Check Required.

Every applicant for membership in the BLVFC shall submit all documentation and information necessary for the completion of a criminal record background check and motor vehicle record check.

B. Disqualifying Criminal Convictions. An applicant shall be ineligible for membership if the criminal history record background check reveals a conviction for any of the following:

- (1) In the State of New Jersey:

- (a) Crimes or disorderly persons offenses involving danger to the person, including but not limited to offenses set forth in N.J.S.A. 2C:11-1 et seq., 2C:12-1 et seq., 2C:13-1 et seq., 2C:14-1 et seq., and 2C:15-1 et seq.;
- (b) Crimes or disorderly persons offenses against the family, children, or incompetent persons, including but not limited to offenses set forth in N.J.S.A. 2C:24-1 et seq. and 2C:25-17 et seq.;
- (c) Any crime or offense resulting in forfeiture of public office, position, or employment pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:51-2;
- (d) Any theft offense under Chapter 20 of Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes;
- (e) Any offense involving a controlled dangerous substance or controlled substance analog under Chapter 35 of Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes, except N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10(a)(4), occurring within the preceding five (5) years; or
- (f) Any crime of the fourth degree or higher occurring within the preceding ten (10) years.

(2) Out-of-State Convictions.

Any conviction in another state or jurisdiction for conduct which, if committed in New Jersey, would constitute a crime or disorderly persons offense described in this section.

C. Other Criminal Offenses.

An applicant shall be ineligible for membership if the BLVFC determines that any criminal conviction negatively impacts the health, safety, or welfare of the Company or the residents of the Borough.

D. Removal Upon Conviction.

Any member convicted of a crime or disorderly persons offense that would constitute a disqualifying offense under this section shall be removed from membership upon conviction.

E. Motor Vehicle Driver History Abstract. Restrictions on Operation of Fire Company Vehicles. No individual shall be authorized to operate Fire Company vehicles if the individual's motor vehicle driver history abstract reveals: More than three (3) moving violations within the preceding twenty-four (24) months; or conviction within the preceding five (5) years of any of the following offenses:

- (a) Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) or Driving Under the Influence (DUI);
- (b) Leaving the scene of an accident.
- (c) Reckless driving.
- (d) Homicide or assault by auto; or
- (e) Eluding a law enforcement officer.

F. Use of Information.

Information obtained pursuant to this section shall be used solely for lawful purposes and in accordance with the Driver's Privacy Protection Act.

G. Waiver. The Executive Board of the BLVFC may waive, with notice to the Municipal Clerk, any provision of this section upon a sufficient showing of rehabilitation, remoteness of the

offense, or other evidence demonstrating that the applicant or member does not present a risk to the health, safety, or welfare of the Company or the residents of the Borough.

§ 22-5. Election to Membership.

Applicants may be elected to membership in the BLVFC upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present and voting at a meeting at which a quorum is present.

§ 22-6. Records and Reports of Attendance.

An accurate record of attendance shall be maintained by an officer of the BLVFC and reported to the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of Barnegat Light for review and approval by the Governing Body. Attendance records shall be maintained in accordance with Chapter 23, Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP).

§ 22-7. Removal from Membership.

A. Any member of the BLVFC may be removed for cause upon notice and by a majority vote of the members in good standing.

B. Violation of any provision of this chapter shall constitute sufficient cause for removal from membership.

§ 22-8. Junior Firefighters Auxiliary.

A. Establishment.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:14-98, there is hereby established a Junior Firefighters Auxiliary for the Borough of Barnegat Light Volunteer Fire Company.

B. Rules and Regulations.

The Junior Firefighters Auxiliary shall operate in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:14-98 and such rules and regulations as may be adopted and amended from time to time consistent with state law.

§ 22-9. Fire Company Bylaws.

All matters and requirements not specifically addressed in this chapter shall be governed by the bylaws of the BLVFC, as adopted and amended from time to time, provided that such bylaws are not inconsistent with applicable law or the provisions of this chapter.

INTRODUCTION:

Passage on First Reading: Date: June 10, 2026

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

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING Motion: Reynolds

Second: Mescolotto

There were no comments from the public.

Borough Attorney Terry Brady commented on Section 22-4, G of the proposed ordinance, noting that the waivers referenced in that section would be granted by the Fire Company. He suggested

that the ordinance be amended to require that notice of any waiver be provided to the Municipal Clerk. The Mayor and Council agreed to include this in the ordinance.

Mayor Wellington explained that the purpose of the ordinance is to address inconsistencies between the Borough's Employee Handbook and the areas relating to volunteers. He noted that the Employee Handbook requires employees to undergo background checks and because the Fire Company is covered under the Borough's Joint Insurance Fund, its members should also comply with those requirements.

Attorney Brady stated that Section 22-4(G) would be amended to include the language, "with notice to the Municipal Clerk."

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING Motion: Foley Second: Mescolotto

ADOPTION:

Final Passage: Date: June 24, 2026

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

Correspondence

- The Zion Lutheran Outreach program is asking for the Borough to waive daily beach badges for their Intergenerational Beach Day. There will be approximately 20 participants. Mayor and Council agreed that they will allow the issuance of daily beach badges but they must be returned at the end of the day.
- Letter received from Reverend Wes Smith thanking the Borough for their help in a well attended Blessing of the Fleet

Adjournment

Motion: Mescolotto Second: Foley All in Favor: Aye