

BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT

Minutes of Regular Meeting

May 13, 2026, 4:30pm

10 East 7th Street, Barnegat Light New Jersey

Mayor Wellington called the meeting to order at 4:30 P.M. and read the adequate notice statement.

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

Also Present: Mayor Wellington, Attorney, Terry Brady, Sponge Washburn, Kathleen Flanagan, Brian Logan, Auditor and Brenda Kuhn

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Caucus Items

Broadway Bulkhead (Sea Wall):

- In April, Councilman Gutowski, Stuart McGowan, and I met with the county engineers as part of our annual meeting. During that discussion, we learned that Ocean County and the NJDEP are preparing to undertake a project to replace the seawall that begins at the end of Broadway and extends to our 4th Street.
- My concern is that the county has committed to replacing the portion across Broadway, from the corner of Andie's to the state park, while the NJDEP plans to replace the section from the end of Broadway to our 4th Street. However, there is currently no plan to replace the corresponding section of seawall located on our property at 4th Street. I believe this seawall was originally constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers in the 1970s. The county provided the name of the NJDEP project engineer, and I have been working to have our section included in the project. I cannot say at this point how successful those efforts will be, but I have also spoken with several county commissioners this morning regarding the matter. I also spoke this morning with Joe Coronado, who attended our meeting, and I have engaged several individuals at the county level to help advocate for our inclusion in the project. In addition, I have a meeting scheduled next week with the new NJDEP commissioner, and I intend to raise this issue with him directly.

Sidewalks That Go Nowhere (put in during the contracts for road project contracts):

- The county advised us, and showed us the law, that we don't have to put them in.
- They are always included in the bid specs.
- Will ask Frank Little if they can be eliminated from the bid specs.

Meeting with Fire Company:

- Barry, Mike and I and, uh, Mike, met with officers of the fire company.
- Barnegat Light and the Township of Long Beach, make significant contributions to the fire company, The fire company does raise most of their own funds to be self-supporting.
- Getting to the point where the fire company just can't raise enough money to afford to buy new fire trucks. And they're required by law to have a new fire truck every 10 years.
- We have to start thinking about how to sustain our fire company.
- Talked to several of the mayors in the county this morning, and while we don't have the same problem they do, the EMS issue in other towns is also getting to the point that it's critical.
- The other Mayors are hoping that the county will come up with an EMS service to support the entire county. That's probably not going to happen in the short term, because the estimated cost of that is, approximately over \$100 million.
- So, somewhere along the line, we're working towards an issue that how do we sustain our first aid squads.
- Councilman Spark said that it's interesting the way they buy a fire truck. It's all by verbal. a handshake, there's no written contract. What they're proposing and ordering is what they call a brand-new body, which means they will get a new engine transmission, wheel, tires, and all that stuff, and they will buy, or they will buy, a recondition, what they refer to as a box. That's the cab, and the stuff on the back, with all the ladders, hoses, pumps, and all that stuff. At this time, it would cost approximately \$800,000.

- Sponge: A new truck like that would cost us \$2.2 million.

EV chargers:

- Received an email from a resident who would offer \$2,500 towards the insulation of one or more public EV chargers.
- Currently, there are six public EV chargers south of Ship Bottom and none to the north. I think it would be a great benefit to the community and a real attraction for people to visit Barnegat Light.
- The state does have regulations about development, and if the, if the municipality were to do some sort of development park or something, we would be required to put in one or 2 EV charges, depending upon the size of the project.
- There would be a fee to charge.
- I guess I'd just like you to think about, would you like to take the opportunity, not to take this person's money, but to spend the time and the effort to find out what it would cost, perhaps, to put one in by the pickleball court, or perhaps one by the ramp.
- If this bulkhead project goes through, that might be an ideal place to put in one or 2 charges down the road.
- Kat said that one station that has two chargers is \$50,000. Two stations considered dual chargers is \$78,000. It doesn't include running the conduit and all the other stuff that pouring the concrete that's just for the charging stations themselves. There is a grant available for \$2,500 for each station that you put in to offset the cost.

Harassment Training:

- Annual Training Requirement - harassment training for all employees, supervisors and Governing Body. Mayor Wellington asked that all who have not completed the training to
- Larger groups, like the lifeguards, done as a group with a sign in sheet.

ALO critter roundup project:

- Alliance for a living ocean, which is that environmental group on the island would like to do a class for one hour, once a week, between 11 and 12 at our bay beach, and it would involve 15 to 30 children who would learn to identify the different sea creatures that we have here.
- It’s educational, and it's being run by volunteers.

Beach Badge Sales:

- Badges will be available to be purchased online and on the beach with credit cards.
- Jersey Cape will be the vendor; we are renting phones with 5G from them.

Town Wide Garage Sale:

- This Saturday, starting at 8 o'clock in the morning.
- 43 participants are in the directory.
- The rain date will be Sunday.

Dogs on the beach:

- Dogs are not allowed on the beach this time of year.
- People do not clean up after their dogs.
- Real problem with dog feces being all along Central Avenue and Bay Avenue and someone steals the bags that are provided by the Borough

Approval of Minutes - April 8, 2026 - Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Approval of Treasurer’s Report

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

Approval of Building and Zoning Report

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

Committee Reports

Finance: Councilman Spark as follows:

- Adopting the 2026 Budget tonight
- Bills approved for payment total \$2,094,294.07
- Regional school tax is paid once a month - \$167,058 per month and not many kids get on the bus
- We are paying the County tax levy in the amount of \$1,607,838.30
- County planning on an increase of a penny for Co. Open Space – an extra \$20,000,000

Beaches & Parks: Councilwoman Reynolds reported as follows:

- Reported on the beach badge revenue, which is up from last year at this time
- The dog park revenue is slightly down
- Talked about the nesting birds on our beach and at the restoration area. The restoration area currently has six Piping Plover nests and Barnegat Light had the very first nest in New Jersey.
- Last year Barnegat Light was one of the sites that had the most success with fledging PP
- She asked everyone to respect the birds

Water/Sewer: Councilwoman Foley reported as follows:

- 29th & 21st Streets will be paved beginning on Monday through Wednesday which will be split between milling and paving
- 7th Street water mains from the ocean to Broadway and in the near future, will be tied into the rest of the system.

Public Works: Councilman Gutowski reported as follows:

- Currently working on the 22nd Street boardwalk and will work on 11th Street afterwards
- Installing cedar shakes to the boat ramp bathroom is on the list of things to do
- Stoned the livery area and fencing will be installed to delineate the walkway
- The Construction office remodel is completed
- Getting beautiful large photos from a resident to hang in the office
- Regarding the bulkhead that was discussed in the caucus portion of the meeting, it is in disrepair; it’s pitted and jagged. The DEP put some wood across the top for safety reasons.
- Lines were painted on the roads and the handicap lines will be painted.
- Lights will be on soon, but the exact date was unclear
- DPW build a podium for the pavilion
- Windscreens will be installed at the pickleball and tennis courts
- Borough bathrooms are open

Docks & Harbors: Councilman Saburn reported as follows:

- Boat ramp is in operation
- The slips are fully rented for the year – 45 slip and we leave two open and we have a long waiting list. Councilman Mescalotto asked if any thought was given to developing more slips. Someone answered that if it is mapped out as wetlands, we couldn’t do it.
- \$107,500 was paid (some paid in 2025 and the rest paid in 2026)
- Kayak area revenue \$750

Public Safety: Councilman Mescalotto reported as follows:

- Traffic lights go on Monday, May 18th
- Make the police & court report a part of the record.
- The biggest items on the police report were checks on businesses and residences and traffic stops.
- Police would like a list of events that we would like them to participate in
- Memorial Day parade will be held on May 24th at 5:30

Open Public Session

Motion: Reynolds Second: Gutowski All in Favor: Aye

Jeff Jorda, 2807 Central Ave., spoke about the issue of dog waste. While people may use bags to pick up after their dogs, the bags do not always make it into trash cans. It was mentioned that people steal the waste bags from the Borough's dog waste stations.

Steve Pines, 13 W. 4th St., asked about beach grass planting, which is typically done in the fall. He noted that the Boy Scouts have volunteered for this effort in the past. Mayor Wellington responded that if volunteers were identified in advance, the Borough would certainly order beach grass for planting.

Bruce Allen, 1405 Seaview, stated that the BLTPA previously organized dune grass plantings, but volunteer participation gradually declined. He also noted that much of the grass that was planted did not survive. He announced that the BLTPA Wine and Cheese Party will be held on May 24 from 4:00–6:00 p.m., and that the first of three summer meetings will take place on June 13 at 9:00 a.m. in the pavilion. Scheduled speakers include the Ocean County Administrator, two County Commissioners, and Matt Verb of the LBTPD.

Bob Durham, 9 W. 29th St., asked whether he would have access to his home during the paving project and whether he should plan to park off the street.

Mary Buzby, 20 W. 4th St., commented on the cracks in the pickleball courts.

Steve Pines reported that at the most recent BLTPA meeting, attendees raised two questions regarding the AED device at the pavilion: who is responsible for maintaining it, and whether it should be covered to help prevent vandalism.

Bruce Allen asked whether the Borough intended to fine the private citizen who constructed a path from their home to connect with the dune trail. Sponge responded that letters were being sent to both the contractor and the property owner. He explained that approximately 30 feet of the path was located on Borough property, while the remainder was on the owner's property. He also noted that a sign had been confiscated. The area will be restored, and the property owner will be fined.

Close Public Session

Motion: Mescolotto Second: Spark All in Favor: Aye

RESOLUTION 2026-070

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL AUDIT

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 5-4 requires the governing body of every local unit to have made an annual audit of its books, accounts and financial transactions, and

WHEREAS, the Annual Report of Audit for the year 2025 has been filed by a Registered Municipal Accountant with the Municipal Clerk pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A: 5-6, and a copy has been received by each member of the governing body; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 52:27BB-34 authorizes the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey to prescribe reports pertaining to the local fiscal affairs; and

WHEREAS, the Local Finance Board has promulgated N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5, a regulation requiring that the governing body of each municipality shall, by resolution, certify to the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey that all members of the governing body have reviewed, at a minimum, the sections of the annual audit entitled "Comments and Recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the members of the governing body have personally reviewed, at a minimum, the Annual Report of Audit, and specifically the sections of the Annual Audit entitled "Comments and Recommendations, as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, such resolution of certification shall be adopted by the Governing Body no later than forty-five days after the receipt of the annual audit, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5; and

WHEREAS, all members of the governing body have received and have familiarized themselves with, at least, the minimum requirements of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey, as stated aforesaid and have subscribed to the affidavit, as provided by the Local Finance Board; and

WHEREAS, failure to comply with the regulations of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey may subject the members of the local governing body to the penalty provisions of R.S. 52:27BB-52, to wit:

R.S. 52:27BB-52: A local officer or member of a local governing body who, after a date fixed for

compliance, fails or refuses to obey an order of the director (Director of Local Government Services), under the provisions of this Article, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, may be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both, in addition shall forfeit his office.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Borough Council of the Borough of Barnegat Light, hereby states that it has complied with N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5 and does hereby submit a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to said Board to show evidence of said compliance.

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

2026 Municipal Budget

Public Hearing:

Motion: Foley 2nd: Reynolds All in Favor: X

RESOLUTION 2026-071

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE 2026 BUDGET TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY AT THE TIME OF THE PUBLIC HEARING

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-8 provides that the budget be read by title only at the time of the public hearing if a resolution is passed by not less than a majority of the full governing body, providing that at least one week prior to the date of hearing a complete copy of the approved budget as advertised has been posted in the Borough Hall and copies have been made available by the Clerk to persons requiring them; and NOW, THEREFORE, BE RESOLVED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Barnegat Light, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, that the conditions have been met therefore the budget shall be read by title only at the time of the public hearing.

May 13, 2026

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

No comments from the public
The clerk read the Budget document and asked for a motion.

Resolution 2026-072 Adoption of the 2026 Municipal Budget

SECTION 2 - UPON ADOPTION FOR YEAR 2026

RESOLUTION

Be It Resolved by the **COUNCIL MEMBERS** of the **BOROUGH** of **BARNEGAT LIGHT**, County of **OCEAN** that the budget hereinbefore set forth is hereby adopted and shall constitute an appropriation for the purposes stated of the sums therein set forth as appropriations, and authorization of the amount of:

(a) \$ 2,868,110.75 (Item 2 below) for municipal purposes, and

(b) \$ - (Item 3 below) for school purposes in Type I School Districts only (N.J.S.A. 18A:9-2) to be raised by taxation and,

(c) \$ - (Item 4 below) to be added to the certificate of amount to be raised by taxation for local school purposes in Type II School Districts only (N.J.S.A. 18A:9-3) and certification to the County Board of Taxation of the following summary of general revenues and appropriations.

(d) \$ 108,539.99 (Sheet 43) Open Space, Recreation, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund Levy

(e) \$ - (Sheet 44) Arts and Culture Trust Fund Levy

(f) \$ - (Item 5 Below) Minimum Library Tax

RECORDED VOTE

(Insert last name)

Ayes

SPARK
REYNOLDS
FOLEY
GUTOWSKI
SABURN
MESCOLOTTO

Nays

Abstained

Absent

SUMMARY OF REVENUES

1. General Revenues		
Surplus Anticipated	06-100	\$ 376,455.00
Macellaneous Revenues Anticipated	13-600	\$ 1,241,419.25
Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	15-400	\$ 36,300.00
2. AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES (Item 6(a), Sheet 11)	07-100	\$ 2,868,110.75
3. AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION FOR SCHOOLS IN TYPE I SCHOOL DISTRICTS ONLY:		
Item 6, Sheet 42	07-105	\$ -
Item 6(b), Sheet 11 (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-14)	07-101	\$ -
TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION FOR SCHOOLS IN TYPE I SCHOOL DISTRICTS ONLY		\$ -
4. To Be Added to the Certificate for the Amount to be Raised by Taxation for Schools in Type II School Districts Only:		
Item 6(b), Sheet 11 (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-14)	07-101	\$ -
5. AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION MINIMUM LIBRARY TAX	07-102	\$ -
Total Revenues	13-200	\$ 4,522,285.00

Sheet 41

SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS		
5. GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS:	XXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Within "CAPS"	XXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
(a & b) Operations Including Contingent	34-201	\$ 2,579,400.00
(c) Deferred Charges and Statutory Expenditures - Municipal	34-209	\$ 163,402.00
(g) Cash Deficit	45-685	\$ -
Excluded from "CAPS"	XXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
(a) Operations - Total Operations Excluded from "CAPS"	34-305	\$ 1,005,084.34
(c) Capital Improvements	44-699	\$ 275,000.00
(d) Municipal Debt Service	45-699	\$ 139,000.00
(e) Deferred Charges - Municipal	45-699	\$ 313,050.00
(f) Judgments	37-480	\$ -
(n) Transferred to Board of Education for Use of Local Schools (N.J.S.A. 40:48-17.1 & 17.3)	29-405	\$ -
(g) Cash Deficit	45-685	\$ -
(k) For Local District School Purposes	29-410	\$ -
(m) Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	50-699	\$ 46,348.66
6. SCHOOL APPROPRIATIONS - TYPE I SCHOOL DISTRICT ONLY (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-13)	07-195	
Total Appropriations	34-499	\$ 4,522,285.00
It is hereby certified that the within budget is a true copy of the budget finally adopted by resolution of the Governing Body on the day of , 2026. It is further certified that each item of revenue and appropriation is set forth in the same amount and by the same title as appeared in the 2026 approved budget and all amendments thereto, if any, which have been previously approved by the Director of Local Government Services.		
Certified by me this 13TH day of MAY, 2026, brenda.kuhn@barnegatlight.org , Clerk		
Sheet 42		

Other Resolutions:

2026-073, 2026-074, 2026-075 were read by title and voted together.

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

RESOLUTION 2026-073

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ESTABLISHING BARNEGAT LIGHT AS A STIGMA-FREE ZONE

WHEREAS, mental illnesses are more prevalent than many people realize and affect a significant portion of the U.S. population each year. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, more than 1 in 5 U.S. adults (about 23.1%, or 59.3 million people in 2022) experience a mental illness in a given year. Additionally, about 1 in 20 adults (approximately 5-6%, or 15.4 million people in 2022) experience a serious mental illness, defined as a condition that substantially interferes with or limits major life activities; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Institute of Mental Health, approximately 1 in 5 adolescents aged 13-18 (about 20-21%) experience a severe mental disorder at some point in their lives. Among younger children aged 8-15, an estimated 13% are affected by a diagnosable mental health condition. Research also shows that about 50% of all lifetime mental illnesses begin by age 14, and 75% begin by age 24; and

WHEREAS, the stigma associated with the disorder of mental illness is identified as the primary reason individuals fail to seek the help they need to recover from the disorder; and

WHEREAS, the Stigma-Free Campaign aims to inspire the public interest and open dialogues about stigma, raise awareness of the disorder of mental illness, and create a culture wherein residents who have the disorder of mental illness feel supported by their community and neighbors and feel free to seek treatment for the disorder without fear of stigma; and

WHEREAS, promoting awareness that there can be no "health" without mental health will break down barriers and encourage residents of all ages to be mindful of their mental health and ask for help when needed; and

WHEREAS, local resources are available to treat the disorder of mental illness so no one resident needs to suffer alone or feel hopeless; and

WHEREAS, establishing Stigma-Free Zones will raise awareness of resources and encourage residents to engage in care as soon as the need is identified so recovery can begin, hope is inspired and tragedies are avoided, and

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the Borough of Barnegat Light recognizes the community needs and supports the efforts of the County of Ocean in designating Barnegat Light as a Stigma-Free Zone.

RESOLUTION 2026-074

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF MUNICIPAL BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,094,294.07

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 \$2,094,294.07 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 2026-075

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 2026 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.

PICKLEBALL			
	Kosar, Nicholas*	Attendant	\$17.50
	Davis, Benjamin*	Attendant	\$17.50
BEACH BADGES			
	Allen, Kyle*	Checker	\$16.50
	Tim Loudon	Checker	\$16.00

Correspondence

- Turn the Towns Teal - Ovarian Cancer Awareness approved and signed by the Mayor

Adjournment

Motion: Spark Second: Mescolotto All in Favor

Reports to follow