

**BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
Wednesday, June 28, 2023
6:00pm**

This meeting is being conducted telephonically. The Dial-In Number (425)436-6365 Access Code 213563# and may also be viewed on the Ramsey YouTube Channel https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeBnVXBwSn_ILMuAGkSin9w

Mayor Dillon called the meeting to order at 6:03pm and asked Jake Englishman to lead the flag salute. Mayor Dillon read the Open Public Meetings Act notice.

I. ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Dillon, Councilpersons Cusick, Kilman, Gutwetter, Popolo, Poppe, Woods

Also Present: Borough Clerk Bendian, Borough Administrator Vozeh and Borough Attorney Scandariato

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – WS 06-14-23

Motion to approve and file by Councilwoman Poppe, seconded by Councilwoman Woods. All in favor. Carried.

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

Motion by Councilman Kilman, seconded by Councilwoman Poppe. Mayor Dillon accepted Sergeant Scott Peterson's retirement, with regret. All in favor. Carried.

1. Dan Lambe, Arbor Day Foundation Chief Executive, Lincoln, NE
letter received June 16, 2023, congratulating Ramsey on earning recognition as a 2022 Tree City USA
2. John Danubio, Assistant Executive Director, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, 30 Wyckoff Ave, Waldwick, NJ
e-mail received June 20, 2023, regarding the rescheduling of the public hearing for the 2023 Connection Fees of the Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority scheduled to Wednesday, July 19, 2023 at 7:00pm
3. Sergeant Scott Peterson, Ramsey Police Department
letter dated June 27, 2023, informing of his retirement from the Ramsey Police Department, effective July 7, 2023

Mayor Dillon asked for a motion to go out of the regular order of business in order to have the OEM Officers sworn in as well as for the Smith School presentation, seconded by Councilwoman Woods. All in favor. Carried.

Mayor Dillon swore in Jake Englishman and Jonathan Krehel who were appointed to the Office of Emergency Management last month.

Mayor Dillon announced how impressed she was when she sat in on the student presentation at Smith School and their action item was to present it to the borough. Mayor Dillon invited them to present it to the governing body.

Eighth Grade Smith School student Litter Presentation (See attached)

Michelle Kossakowska
Olman Barrantes
Peter Pawlik
Gaelle Ngabo

The students made a presentation focusing on the location of the garbage cans on Main Street and ways to eliminate littering on Main Street.

The governing body thanked them for their impressive presentation remarking on how well everyone presented the subject.

Mayor Dillon asked for a motion to return to the regular order of business. Councilman Kilman motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Poppe. All in favor. Carried.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Anyone wishing to address the governing body please give your name (spelling the last name) and address. Please speak in an audible tone and address your comments to the Chair. There will be a five-minute time limit per speaker, unless reduced because of the volume of business on the agenda. Please note, public comment is your time. Out of respect and fairness to all, there will be no interruptions or questions answered during your time. No time shall be ceded to anyone else and no time shall be saved for later use. Any responses may be given during the governing body's comments later in the meeting, or as directed by the Chair. The Borough Clerk is the official time keeper.

Glenn Catanzariti, 213 N. Central Ave, Ramsey, reported a concern at Finch Park and provided a picture to Mayor Dillon. Mayor Dillon said she would speak with the Police Chief and DPW Asst. DPW Superintendent, Tom Lanning.

With no one else wishing to be heard on the telephone or in council chambers, Mayor Dillon closed public comment.

V. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 05-2023 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 10 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AND MORE SPECIFICALLY SECTION 10-2 ENTITLED HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT **TABLED**

Councilman Gutwetter made a motion to table Ordinance 05-2023 to the next meeting, seconded by Councilman Popolo. All in favor. Carried.

ORDINANCE 06-2023 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 20 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AND MORE SPECIFICALLY SECTION 20-3.12 THEREOF ENTITLED SUBSTITUTIONS

Motion by Councilwoman Cusick, seconded by Councilwoman Woods

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance Amending Chapter 20 of the Code of the Borough of Ramsey, Bergen County, New Jersey and more specifically Section 20-3.12 thereof entitled Substitutions, final reading by title and that said ordinance be adopted as an ordinance of the Borough of Ramsey and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk be and she hereby is, directed to cause a copy of the title of said ordinance to be published in an official newspaper of the Borough in the manner provided by law together with notice of the date of introduction and adoption of said ordinance.

Councilwoman Cusick explained that this ordinance adds the ability for the use of stone as ground cover in commercial landscaping applications with approval of the Shade Tree Commission, to be reviewed on a project-by-project basis. The ordinance also provides guidance on types of stone and the types of applications where stone may be an acceptable substitution subject to Shade Tree review and approval. Previously, there had been no allowance for stone as ground cover in commercial applications.

Mayor Dillon opened up the public hearing on Ordinance 06-2023.

With no one wishing to be heard in council chambers or on the telephone, Mayor Dillon closed the public hearing on Ordinance 06-2023.

Roll Call:

YAY: Cusick, Gutwetter, Kilman, Popolo, Poppe, Woods

V. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES (cont'd)

ORDINANCE 07-2023 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 20 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AND MORE SPECIFICALLY, SECTION 20-5.13 THEREOF ENTITLED REPLACEMENT AND TREATMENT OF TREES WHICH ARE REMOVED OR DAMAGED IN VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION; TREE RESTORATION FUND; STOP-WORK ORDER

Motion by Councilwoman Cusick, seconded by Councilwoman Woods

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance Amending Chapter 20 of the Code of the Borough of Ramsey, Bergen County, New Jersey and more specifically Section 20-5.13 thereof entitled Replacement and Treatment of Trees Which are Removed or Damaged in Violation of this Section; Three Restoration Fund; Stop Work Order, final reading by title and that said ordinance be adopted as an ordinance of the Borough of Ramsey and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk be and she hereby is, directed to cause a copy of the title of said ordinance to be published in an official newspaper of the Borough in the manner provided by law together with notice of the date of introduction and adoption of said ordinance.

Councilwoman Cusick explained that this ordinance amends the current language in the ordinance on the obligation for replacement of trees removed in violation of the code. Previously, the language was that the owner was to replace the trees, the new language in addition to owner, adds the contractor, landscaper and tree removal service to the code. This will facilitate replacement of trees taken down in violation but also aid property owners who may have hired a contractor who violated the tree removal process but then attempted to push replacement on the property owner as responsible under the old language.

Mayor Dillon opened up the public hearing on Ordinance 07-2023.

With no one wishing to be heard in council chambers or on the telephone, Mayor Dillon closed the public hearing on Ordinance 07-2023.

Roll Call:

YAY: Cusick, Gutwetter, Kilman, Popolo, Poppe, Woods

VI. APPOINTMENTS - None

VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION

Motion by Councilman Gutwetter, seconded by Councilman Popolo

BE IT RESOLVED that the following resolutions herewith listed having been considered by the governing body of the Borough of Ramsey be and are hereby passed and approved:

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|----------|-------------|---|
| 143-2023 | Resolution: | payment of vouchers |
| 144-2023 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number thirteen |
| 145-2023 | Resolution: | renewal of the 2023-2024 liquor licenses |
| 146-2023 | Resolution: | renewal of the 2023-2024 Best Western Motel, Ramsey Liquor LLC, with conditions |
| 147-2023 | Resolution: | supporting the Bergen County Fire Mutual Aid Plan in the Borough of Ramsey |
| 148-2023 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Anthony Padilla as a part-time Fire Prevention Inspector, effective June 21, 2023 |
| 149-2023 | Resolution: | reaffirming Ramsey's adoption of the National Incident Management system (NIMS) |
| 150-2023 | Resolution: | providing for the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any County of municipality pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (Chapter 159), P.L. 1948) for electric charging stations |
| 151-2023 | Resolution: | resolution providing for the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any County of Municipality pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (Chapter 159), P.L. 1948) for bullet proof vest partnership |
| 152-2023 | Resolution: | accepting the retirement of Sergeant Scott Peterson from the Ramsey Police Department, effective July 7, 2023, with regret |

VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION (cont'd)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following applications and/or recommendations hereby be approved:

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

Ramapo Rally is sponsoring the Bicycle Touring Club of NJ for a bike rally on Sunday, August 20, 2023. Some of the participants will be cycling through town between the hours of 7:00 am – 5:30 pm.

B. BLOCK PARTY REQUESTS:

Marissa Davis of North St. is requesting permission to hold a block party on Saturday, August 12, 2023 from 4:00pm-9:00pm

Mayor Dillon opened public comment for Resolutions 145-2023 and 146-2023. With no one wishing to heard on either resolution, Mayor Dillon closed public comment.

Roll Call:

YAY: Cusick, Guwetter, Kilman, Popolo, Poppe, Woods

VIII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Smith Middle School Student Litter Presentation (held earlier in the meeting)

Michelle Kossakowska
Olman Barrantes
Peter Pawlik
Gaelle Ngabo

IX. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

- A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Councilman Michael Gutwetter
Ramsey Public Library – There is a summer reading challenge for kids, teens and adults and many events for all ages, please check the website.

Recreation Commission – Finch Park camp started June 26th. The Home Run Derby was June 17th and was well attended. Planning is underway for the 45th Ramsey Run to be held on September 30th.

Pool Commission – Memberships are in line with previous years and there are many events planned for the season.

- B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Peter Kilman
Congratulated the Smith Middle School students on their outstanding presentation.

Commended the Board of Education and Principal Thumm on the high school graduation.

VFW Post 12148 – The annual flag retirement service was held at Crestwood Lake Park in Allendale with one thousand flags burned in accordance with the United States Military procedures. The VFW participated in the New Resident Mixer at the Ramsey Pool and will also participate at the Independence Day celebration with a BBQ food booth and will sell 50/50 tickets along with the Greater Ramsey UNICO. The annual poppy donation continues to run until June 30th.

Announced the new folder on the borough website which is called the Community Engineer Assessment of the Fire Rescue Building. Reiterated his report from last meeting.

The existing building was originally constructed as a firehouse in the 1950s. Since the original construction, multiple additions have been added to this building. As a result, from the ongoing wear and tear from constant use - various structural problems, ongoing repairs, and limitations to accommodate the Emergency Services requirements have arisen. To that end, the Ramsey Borough has been considering options for either extensive renovations or for replacement of the existing Fire Dept and Rescue Squad buildings on South Island Ave.

After consultation with various professionals in the Ramsey Borough, we engaged Colliers Engineering and Design as an independent engineering firm to perform a review of the current conditions. From a structural ADA overall perspective on the building. You can find their findings in this folder on our website.

In its 2022 report, Colliers provides a detailed analysis of its findings, conclusions and recommendations.

Colliers Engineering Design's conclusion was the most long term, cost effective way to put in place the necessary infrastructure for supporting the operations of these

emergency services is to construct a new, shared station house.

The report, in its entirety can be found in the project folder on the Ramsey Borough website, named Community Engineer Assessment of Fire and Rescue building. We have created this folder on the borough website to house information from the project as it becomes known and/or approved by the Fire/Rescue Building Committee, the Borough Administration and the Mayor and Council.

C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilwoman Jane Woods
Thanked Councilwoman Poppe on another successful resident mixer.

Congratulated the Ramsey High School class of 2023.

Congratulated and thanked Jake Englishmen and Jonathan Krehel for their service to the Office of Emergency Management.

Thanked the Smith School presenters.

Design Review Board – Approved the Lincoln of Ramsey sign but are still discussing the Burlington application.

D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilwoman Judy Cusick
Congratulated the Ramsey High School class of 2023. Especially happy for the graduates, their families, and the Ramsey School staff and system.

Congratulated Jonathan and Jake as well as Michelle, Olman, Peter and Gaelle for their wonderful presentation.

Congratulated Councilwoman Poppe on a wonderful and welcoming New Resident Mixer.

Ramsey Planning Board – At the Planning Board June 20th two site plan waivers were approved. The public hearing for 14 Mechanic Real Estate LLC was approved, subject to the conditions specified during the meeting. The Quality of Bergen LLC application was carried to the August 15th meeting. The Chick-fil-A hearing is being continued to July 18th.

Shade Tree Commission - There is information on our Borough's website.

Board of Public Works - Lead Service Line Replacement - Public Works continues planning regarding the NJDEP's Lead Service Line replacement legislation. This project requires that all Lead Service lines served by the water system be replaced by 2031.

Paving – Reiterated the recent RAVE notification that was sent regarding paving. On or about July 5th, the Wyckoff Ave/ Main Street resurfacing project will begin. There will be approximately five days for milling which will start on Wyckoff Ave near West Crescent and will continue through Main Street, ending at Franklin Tpk. Paving will take

approximately two to three days. The project is being completed by the County of Bergen as it is a county road. Ramsey Police will set up detours.

Reported that the 2022 water quality report has been released by H2M, our consultant. The report will be posted on the Ramsey website. The water quality has been tested and is considered excellent by the water samples.

- E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilwoman Sara Poppe Wished Sergeant Peterson well in his retirement from the Ramsey Police Department.

Congratulated the Smith School Eighth graders who made the presentation. They were very well organized.

Congratulated Jonathan Krehel and Jake Englishman on their appointment to the Office of Emergency Management.

Congratulated the Ramsey High School class of 2023.

Ramsey Municipal Alliance – LEAD Officer Beamon reported on the Torch Run which brought in \$3,200. The LEAD pool party was June 12th.

The Junior Police Academy is July 10th.

Congratulated scholarship winner Hannah Nokes.

Leadership grant allowed to some students to attend a leadership conference and were tasked with making an action plan.

On July 21st there will be a First Responder presentation at the Ramsey Pool.

Thanked everyone who helped out with the new Resident Mixer. It is a mission to connect the new residents to the community organizations. Two hundred five residents attended the mixer.

Chamber of Commerce will hold their summer social on July 12th at Brady's.

- F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilman Glen Popolo Congratulated Jake and Jonathan on their appointments and Sergeant Peterson on his retirement.

Congratulated Councilwoman Poppe on a great New Resident Mixer.

RIFE – The Ramsey gala was June 24th and was very well attended and thanked OEM for providing security. A Boulders game and a pool party/BBQ are being planned.

Congratulated Dr. Matteo and the Board of Education for a successful indoor graduation.

Board of Education – The DEP did reject the relocation of the tennis courts by the baseball field and are researching other locations. The union contracts have all been settled. The eighth graders also presented their litter presentation and discussed it with

the Board of Education.

G. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON

Thanked and congratulated Jonathan Krehel and Jake Englishman on their OEM appointments.

Thanked Michelle, Olman, Peter and Gaelle on their very informative presentation.

Congratulated Scott Peterson on his retirement. He is a great person and officer. Wished him well in his new role.

Congratulated all of the 2023 graduates. The high school graduation was so well executed, having to go inside due to the weather.

Thanked Councilwoman Poppe for the New Resident Mixer, she did a great job.

Announced the long awaiting milling and paving project on Main Street and Wyckoff Avenue, starting July 5th. A Rave alert has gone out and updated alerts will keep the residents posted on the detours.

Invited everyone to join in the Independence Day celebration on July 1st.

H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh

Resolution 147 – Supporting Bergen County Fire Mutual Aid Plan: Currently Ramsey participates in Mutual Aid with a number of surrounding fire departments, similar to many of our towns in the area. Bergen County is proposing a County Mutual Aid Plan which would save individual municipalities from having separate mutual aid agreements with each individual town that is not contiguous with Ramsey. This would also standardize uniform procedure for coordination of requesting, dispatching and utilizing fire department personnel and equipment when a department requires mutual aid assistance.

Resolutions 148– Appointment of part-time Fire Prevention Inspector, Anthony Padilla: One of our part-time fire prevention inspectors resigned and Fire Official Darryl DeMott has recommended Anthony Padilla to fill this position. Anthony has the necessary qualifications and is an intern Firefighter/EMT with Teaneck Fire Department (paid Department) as well as a Fire Instructor at the Bergen County Fire Academy.

Resolutions 150 & 151 – Insertion of Special Line Item of Revenue (Chapter 159) in the Municipal Budget: When the Borough receives grants subsequent to the adoption of the municipal budget that will have offsetting budget expenditures, the Borough may do a resolution to add the grant to the current year budget revenue and have a direct offset line item on the appropriation side of the budget. We have two such grants on the agenda for tonight. Resolution 150 inserts a \$150,000 grant for It Pays To Plug In, New Jersey's Electric Vehicle Charging Grant to be utilized in the Borough Commuter Lot on North Central. Resolution 151 adds a grant for Bullet Proof Vest Partnership in an amount of \$4,125.

- H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh (cont'd)
Resolution 153 – Accepting the Retirement of Sergeant Scott Peterson of Ramsey Police Department: Sergeant Peterson will be retiring his position in the Ramsey PD as of July 7th. Sergeant Peterson has been an outstanding officer and leader in the Department and will be missed. He will be taking a deferred retirement from his position with the Borough (does not have years of service for traditional retirement) and will be taking a position with the Department of Homeland Security Investigations. We wish him well in his new position.

At the last meeting estimated property tax bills were discussed in advance of the third quarter billing, due August 1st. This is necessitated by the fact that the County of Bergen must certify all four components of the property tax rate (Board of Education 69%, Municipal 19%, County 10% and Library 1%) prior to the final 2023 property tax rates being set. Since that County certification has not occurred yet and bills needed to be issued a minimum of thirty days before they are due, they were sent out. Once the County certification process is complete the final 2023 rate will

be implemented and reflected in the fourth quarter property tax billing. The Board of Education, Municipal and Library portion of the 2023 property tax rate have all been set pending certification and along with an estimate for the County component these are reflected in the total estimated 2023 property tax rate of \$2.726 which overall is a 3.93% increase from 2022. A further explanation of the estimated bills and quarterly billing cycle is on our website under the News Flash on the home page as well as the Tax Collector page of the website.

- I. BOROUGH ATTORNEY – Peter A. Scandariato, Esq. – no report
- J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian - no report
- X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES – None
- XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None
- XII. NEW BUSINESS
- XIII. ADJOURNMENT
Motion to adjourn by Councilwoman Woods, seconded by Councilman Kilman. All in favor. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:03pm.

Meredith Bendian, RMC
Borough Clerk