

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
Wednesday, January 24, 2018

Council President Kilman read the following statement:

Please take a moment to ensure that your cell phones and other electronic devices have been placed on silent setting.

Also note that Section 2-80 of the Code of the Borough of Ramsey establishes procedures for still photography, videotaping and audiotaping of public meetings. In accordance with the Code, audiotaping of this meeting is permitted. However, any person audio taping must provide notice to the public that they are recording indicated by a placard of approximately 8 ½ inches by 11 inches, as outlined in the Code. Videotaping of this meeting requires prior request be submitted to the Borough Clerk and permission granted. For this meeting three such requests were received and permission granted.

Hard copies of items on tonight's agenda of the regular Mayor and Council meeting are available for public review in the binder located on the table as you enter the Council Chambers.

If there is something that you would like to submit to the governing body, please do not approach the dais, you may hand your item to the police officer in the room.

Council President Kilman opened the meeting at 7:31pm and read the Open Public Meetings Notice.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Mayor Dillon, Councilmembers Gutwetter, Jachzel, Jones, Kilman, Verdone and Weber

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Clerk Bendian, Borough Administrator Vozeh and Borough Attorney Scandariato

MAYOR'S REMARKS – MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON

Reported that she had not heard anything from the County Executive about the deer management letter she sent him last month. At the last Mayor's meeting all towns were urged to send a letter from their towns as well. On February 7th Allendale Town Hall will have a presentation by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection on wildlife management.

The borough received a grant in the amount of \$5,557.00 from the State of NJ for recreational opportunities for individuals with disabilities. This money will be put towards RIFE and the Challenger program.

The author of the book What Made Maddy Run will be at Ramsey High School on Monday, January 29th.

With the recent federal tax law, officials are reviewing ways to mitigate the impact of the upcoming cap on property tax and state income tax deductions. One idea being looked at is municipal charitable funds with an offsetting property tax credit. Councilman Gutwetter expanded on the topic. There are no clear answers but we will keep on top of it.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REMARKS – COUNCILMAN PETER KILMAN

Enjoyed speaking to Cub Scout Pack 306 on the history of Ramsey.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – COUNCILWOMAN VANESSA JACHZEL

There are two ordinances on the agenda for introduction, the elimination of tenure from office for new hires and an ordinance that amends our rules regarding videotaping and recording public meetings. There's been case law that clarified some of the provisions that are permissible and they should be limited in scope so long that it is not disruptive.

There is a resolution for the PBA contract agreement recommending that we approve it.

PUBLIC SAFETY – COUNCILMAN HARRY WEBER

There are two excellent candidates for two police officer positions. Offers will be made after some further housekeeping.

Thank you to the PBA and Administrator Vozech for working on the new contract. There was a lot of give and take.

PBA is looking to do a fundraiser to benefit Tommy Fitzpatrick from town.

There is a presentation tonight from the Bear's Cove Charitable Foundation to present the volunteer emergency services with a donation.

Drug Alliance had a transition meeting with the prior chair and the new chair. It went well.

Thank you to Glen Popolo and Borough Administrator for working on the RIFE grant that we received.

BUILDING, PLANNING AND ZONING – COUNCILMAN JOSEPH VERDONE

There are two ordinances on for introduction tonight. One is amending our current noise prevention clarifying the prohibited hours and a new ordinance establishing regulations for tobacco shops, smoke shops, cannabis, and vapor and inhalation shops.

UTILITIES, BUILDING & GROUNDS – COUNCILMAN PETER KILMAN

No report.

PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – COUNCILMAN WILLIAM J. JONES

Our Independence Day celebration will be July 7th with a rain date of July 8th.

The Pool Commission met last week and they struck their rates for this year. All rates for residents remain the same but increased the out of town rate by \$50 and minor increases to the swim teams and lessons and the summer camp.

Congratulations to our entire group of RIFE member. What started a couple years ago with the Mayor's initiative and now to get the additional monies helps a lot.

HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – COUNCILMAN MICHAEL GUTWETTER

I attended my first Board of Health meeting and I am just getting my feet wet. There is a discussion at the Ramsey Library tomorrow on Ramsey's water by Mike Skorupa.

I will attend the Board of Education meeting next week.

BOROUGH ATTORNEY - PETER A. SCANDARIATO

No report.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – BRUCE VOZEH

Community/Senior Center Pool House Update – Subsequent to the meeting with DEP Dykstra Walker Design Group who performed the topographical survey and wetlands delineations filed a request with the DEP for a letter of interpretation. The first step of the application process to have the DEP establish the official boundary line of the wetlands present and identify the resource value which will determine the size of buffers and transition areas. Notices did go out to property owners within two hundred feet of the site.

There is a resolution on the agenda tonight for a four year appointment for the Electrical Subcode Official in line with state statute.

Introduction of Ordinances – Ordinance 02-2018 - Noise Prevention - The current ordinance does not specifically provide for any restrictions for construction repair during Saturdays. We are defining Saturday hours and expanding Sunday hours.

Board of Public Works proposed 2018 Budget Update – The board will continue its capital improvement plans for water mains and proactive maintenance to sanitary sewer lines and manholes. In addition the return to service of the Spring Street well. The board will review a potential rate increase of under two percent. There was no rate increase in 2017. The net debt position is not projected to increase in 2018.

The County has notified the borough about their plans to resurface county roads in Ramsey. They propose to resurface Franklin Turnpike from Allendale to Mahwah as well as Main Street from Franklin Turnpike to the NJ Transit crossing.

We will be posting the job opening on the NJ League of Municipalities website for the part time Assistant Zoning Officer/Assistant Engineer.

There is a resignation on tonight's agenda for our DPW Mechanic Bob Shottke. The County does have a new DPW complex with shared services options for more specialized repairs. We will look at our viable options for hiring a replacement.

On tonight's agenda is a resolution for an interlocal agreement with Glen Rock for Court Administrator. We have an existing agreement with Glen Rock and this renews it.

NAR/Allendale Towing - There is a resolution on the agenda tonight to agree to a settlement for an ordinance violation. Chief Gurney recommended a two month suspension after one of the insurance companies discovered instances of overcharging.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – BRUCE VOZEH (cont'd)

PBA Labor Agreement – There is a resolution on tonight's agenda for a four year labor agreement. It will eliminate payout for accumulated unused sick time, reducing the amount of annual sick leave by fifty percent, adds an additional step to the salary guide for new hires to increase to ten steps starting in 2018. The health insurance contributions percentages will stay the same as those percentages established under Chapter 78. The salary increases at the top of the guide 1.95% with a onetime adjustment prior to the changes in the contract.

Executive Session – contract negotiations – potential litigation

BOROUGH CLERK -MEREDITH BENDIAN

No report

PUBLIC COMMENT

Anyone wishing to address the governing body should, when recognized, step up to the microphone and give his or her name (spelling the last name) and address. Please speak in an audible tone for the record 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. No one, other than the person having the floor, will be permitted to enter into any discussion without recognition by the Chair.

Council President Kilman opened public comment.

George Bumiller, 39 Lakeview Terrace, Ramsey

Mr. Bumiller pointed out a typo in Ordinance 01-2018 and read an article about the public comment time limit in Dumont and requested Ramsey continue with a ten minute time limit and reduce the time at specific meetings.

AB Braggin, Ramsey

Discussed the deer control letter the Mayor sent to the County Executive and commented on the topographic map by Dykstra Walker being in serious error, inquired about the Spring Street well and mentioned NAR Towing parking on Main Street.

Jay Morgan, 310 Cypress Court, Ramsey

Inquired about maintenance fees at Timber Valley and the need for affordable objective representation. Mayor Dillon explained that the borough has sent letters to the board and they have ignored the borough's position on it.

Chance Parker, 11 Park Place, Ramsey

Inquired about the introduction of Ordinance 03-2018. Councilman Verdone replied that there was no law in the code and followed up with why the governing body was not introducing an ordinance addressing gun ranges. The Mayor explained that the borough is working on two ordinances regarding gun ranges, a zoning and a police ordinance.

Debra Sahler, 34 OakRidge Road, Ramsey

Inquired about the timeframe of the street work on Franklin Turnpike and Main Street. Mr. Vozeh replied that the streetscape will be later this year with any county roadwork to follow. Mrs. Sahler asked the intent of Ordinance 04-2018 and if there would be restrictions on videotaping and audiotaping. It was explained that the intent is to allow audiotaping and videotaping.

With no one else wishing to be heard, Councilman Kilman closed public comment.

Motion to go into executive session to discuss potential litigation and contract negotiations made by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Weber. Borough Attorney Scandariato read the executive session resolution.

ROLL CALL:

YAYS: Gutwetter, Jachzel, Jones, Kilman, Verdone, Weber

Meeting adjourned to executive session at 8:21pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Meredith Bendian

Meredith Bendian, RMC