

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
Wednesday, February 8, 2023
7:00pm

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

Council President Kilman called the meeting to order at 7:03pm, lead the flag salute and read the Open Public Meetings Act notice.

I. ROLL CALL:

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

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 01-25-2023

Motion to file the minutes by Councilwoman Cusick, seconded by Councilman Popolo. Carried.

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

Motion by Councilwoman Woods, seconded by Councilman Kilman. Carried.

1. Nicole Minetti, Tara Dennis, Minetti Dennis Group, 205 N. Franklin Turnpike, Ramsey, NJ
letter dated January 20, 2023, requesting permission for the 5th annual Ramsey town wide garage sale on Saturday, May 6, 2023 from 9am – 4pm
2. Sal La Verdi, General Manager, The Shannon Rose, Ramsey NJ
letter dated January 31, 2023, requesting permission to use the McFarran Field Parking Lot for employee parking March 16, 2023 – March 20, 2023
3. Sal La Verdi, General Manager, The Shannon Rose, Ramsey NJ
letter dated January 31, 2023, requesting permission to hold a special St. Patrick's Day event from March 15, 2023 – March 20, 2023, including an enclosed patio with a tent

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.

Council President Kilman opened public comment. With no one in council chambers or on the telephone wishing to be heard, closed public comment.

V. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 02-2023 – AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

Motion by Councilman Gutwetter, seconded by Councilwoman Poppe

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled An Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limit and to Establish a CAP Bank, 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.

Councilman Gutwetter explained that this is an ordinance that municipalities across New Jersey adopt each year ahead of the municipal budget. By adoption, the state allows municipalities to potentially increase their budget appropriations by up to 3.5% from the prior year's budgeted appropriations. This does not impact the tax levy cap of 2% it deals with appropriation line items under the State Municipal Cap and allows flexibility if in a given year certain line items need to be increased above the appropriation cap. While Ramsey may not utilize this flexibility, there is no harm in adopting the ordinance and any amount under the revised allowable level a town is under the cap is banked for future years.

Council President Kilman opened the public hearing on Ordinance 02-2023.

With no one from the public wishing to be heard, Council President Kilman closed the public hearing on Ordinance 02-2023.

Roll Call:

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

VI. APPOINTMENTS - None

VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION

Motion by Councilman Gutwetter, seconded by Councilwoman Poppe

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:

- | | | |
|----------|-------------|---|
| 050-2023 | Resolution: | payment of vouchers |
| 051-2023 | Resolution: | ratifying the action of the governing body for payroll number three |
| 052-2023 | Resolution: | confirming the tax sale certificate issued to the Borough of for Block 4001 Lot 23 C0623 at the tax sale held on November 30, 2022 |
| 053-2023 | Resolution: | entering into a grant agreement with Bergen County Community Development for handicapped bathrooms at Finch Park in the amount \$53,700 |

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

B. BLOCK PARTY REQUESTS:

Roll Call:

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

VIII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS - None

IX. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

- A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Councilman Michael Gutwetter
Ramsey Library – Upcoming and past celebrations include the Lunar New Year, Winterfest, New Jersey Maker’s Day, Sunday Concert Series and Family Game Night.
- B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Peter Kilman
VFW Post 12148 – Will be hosting a Superbowl Party on February 12, 2023 at the VFW Building at Finch Park.

Board of Health – The next meeting is Thursday, February 9th at 8:00pm, in person.

- C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilwoman Jane Woods
Thanked the Ramsey Municipal Alliance and Councilwoman Poppe for a successful comedy night.

All other board and commissions meet later this month.

- D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilwoman Judy Cusick
Congratulated the Ramsey Municipal Alliance for the comedy show on February 3rd.

Planning Board – Met on February 7th with eight site plan waivers presented and seven of the eight were approved and a public hearing was held for Wurth USA that was approved. The next Planning Board Meeting is February 21st.

Shade Tree Commission - Arbor Day is April 28th. There is information on the Borough’s website regarding the Shade Tree Commission. The next meeting is February 16th.

Board of Public Works - The Board of Public Works continues planning regarding the NJDEP’s Lead Service Line replacement legislation. The next meeting is February 27th, due to the holiday.

- E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilwoman Sara Poppe
Municipal Alliance – Held a fund raiser this past Friday to raise awareness for mental health, raising about \$2,000. There were eighty-six participants. Dr. Shauna Lauricello wanted the Mayor and Council to know that the RMA is grateful for the logistical, financial and moral support they provide.

Chamber of Commerce – Are working on their event calendar and would like to remind businesses how to become a member. Members are considered an operational business in Ramsey or a resident with a business outside of Ramsey.

Ramsey Journal is currently accepting submissions and hope to be in mailboxes mid-April.

- F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilman Glen Popolo RIFE – Meeting will begin March 8th. Basketball concludes in March. An event at Humdingers is on February 16th. There are a Spring dance and a karaoke night being planned for March, with finalized dates upcoming.

Board of Education – Discussed construction at Tisdale and Hubbard Schools, committees regarding the tennis courts being moved behind the baseball field and Math curriculums. There's been quite a few retirements which have been hard to fill, most notably Industrial Arts.

- G. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON

Recognized the Municipal Alliance and Councilwoman Poppe and Dr. Shauna Lauricella for the great Comedy Event.

Due to the recent cold and windy weather, a tree came down on Shadyside that took down an electric pole. Thanked Rockland Electric with a special thanks to the DPW, Mike Skorupa, Tom Lanning, Steve Zilliani and Josh Malestein who were working in the bitter cold.

Resolution 053-2023 is for a grant from Bergen County Community Development which will allow the borough to install brand new handicapped bathrooms at the VFW building at Finch Park.

On Friday, February 10th there will be a grant workshop hosted by Congressman Gottheimer's office. Hoping to attend and meet people and see if there are any opportunities for Ramsey.

- H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh

2023 Municipal Budget – Preparation of the 2023 Municipal Budget began in the fall. The same inflationary pressures and rising costs we all face in our household budgets or business budgets are the same for the Borough. For example, we recently just had an advertised public bid process for a new five-year contract for curbside garbage and recycling collection. The prior contract from 2018 had fixed pricing through 2022. With the significant economic changes over the last five years, in fuel costs, employee costs, insurance, costs of new sanitation vehicles etc., the new pricing from the low bidder is almost double that of the 2018 contract, with an over 90% increase from 2022. This overall inflation in operating costs is hitting all towns and the State is making a one year only change to its budget requirements for 2023, understanding this is a unique economic year. As mentioned, these and other factors create challenges in developing a responsible budget while maintaining quality services for our residents. At the upcoming Mayor & Council meetings we will have more detailed discussions on the 2023 budget. A tentative schedule for the 2023 Municipal Budget is as follows:

February 22: Municipal Budget Presentation
March 8: Introduction of the 2023 Municipal Budget
April 12: Public Hearing and vote on adoption of Municipal Budget

I. BOROUGH ATTORNEY – Peter A. Scandariato, Esq. – No report

J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian - No report

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilwoman Cusick commented on Mayor Dillon’s foresight to open a warming center at the community center over the weekend and thanked our OEM and CERT members who helped to support the efforts.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilman Gutwetter seconded by Councilman Kilman.
All in favor. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:27pm.

Meredith Bendian, RMC
Borough Clerk