

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
Wednesday, February 9, 2022

This meeting is being conducted telephonically. The Dial-In Number (425)436-6365 and the access code is 213563#. The meeting may also be viewed on Ramsey YouTube Channel [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeBnVXBwSn\\_ILMuAGkSin9w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeBnVXBwSn_ILMuAGkSin9w)

Council President Kilman called to order at 7:31pm and asked Eagle Scout Ciaran Mannion to lead the flag salute. Council President Kilman read the Open Public Meetings Act Notice.

I. ROLL CALL:

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

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Reorg 01-03-22

Motion to approve by Councilman Weber, seconded by Councilwoman Woods.  
All in favor. Carried.

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

Motion to receive and file by Councilman Weber seconded by Councilwoman Poppe  
Mayor Dillon thanked Mr. Scorzelli for his many years of service to the borough. All in favor. Carried.

1. Alison Gordon, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, 30 Wyckoff Avenue, Waldwick, NJ 07463  
e-mail dated January 31, 2022, attaching a notice relative to the Authority's Work Session and Annual Reorganization Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 15, 2022
2. Larry Scorzelli, Ramsey Fire Subcode Official, Ramsey Building Department  
letter dated February 2, 2022, resigning from the Ramsey Building Department effective February 2, 2022

Council President Kilman asked for a motion to go out of the regular order of business in order to hear a presentation by Eagle Scout Ciaran Mannion.

Motion by Councilwoman Cusick, seconded by Councilwoman Woods.

Roll Call:

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

Eagle Scout Ciaran Mannion made a presentation for his Eagle Scout Service Project at the Ramsey Senior Center for a Horseshoe Pit.

The project was well received by the governing body.

Council President Kilman asked for a motion to go back into the regular order of business. Motion by Councilwoman Cusick, seconded by Councilwoman Woods.

Roll Call:

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

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. After offering the floor several times to anyone on the phone or in person and no one wishing to be heard, Council President Kilman closed public comment.

V. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 01-2022 - 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 Limits and to establish a CAP Bank, reading by title and that said ordinance be adopted as an ordinance of the Borough of Ramsey and;

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 ordinance is a standard ordinance municipalities adopt each year ahead of adopting the municipal budget.

Council President Kilman opened the public hearing on Ordinance 01-2022.

With no one else wishing to be heard, Council President Kilman closed the public hearing on Ordinance 01-2022.

Roll Call:

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

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

ORDINANCE 02-2022 - AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FUNDING FOR THE RENOVATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS WATER TREATMENT UNIT AND WELLHOUSE ON EAST OAK STREET WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AND TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$218,563.48 THEREFORE, CONSTITUTING PROCEEDS OF OBLIGATIONS OF THE BOROUGH HERETOFORE ISSUED

Motion by Councilwoman Cusick, seconded by Councilman Kilman

BE IT RESOLVED THAT AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED: An Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to establish a CAP Bank, reading by title and that said ordinance be adopted as an ordinance of the Borough of Ramsey and;

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 is reappropriating unutilized funds From the completed Darlington Sewer Project to the 2022 Board of Public Works Project to renovate the East Oak Well Facility.

Council President Kilman opened the public hearing on Ordinance 02-2022.

With no one else wishing to be heard, Council President Kilman closed the public hearing on Ordinance 02-2022.

Roll Call:

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

Councilman Kilman asked for a motion to table Ordinance 03-2022 which will allow the operation of retail cannabis establishment in the Route 17 Highway zone in the borough. We have determined that the permitted locations in the Route 17 Highway zone may be too restrictive to allow any immediate operation. Therefore, I am asking to take another look at the permissible locations and revise the ordinance, if necessary. The ordinance will be reintroduced at our next meeting.

Motion by Councilwoman Woods, seconded by Councilwoman Cusick.

Roll Call:

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

VI. APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Dillon made the following appointments

MaryAnn Lupo, Office of Emergency Management

Kelly Sylvester, Office of Emergency Management

Patrick Kuruc, Ramsey Rescue Squad

Adam Lao, Ramsey Rescue Squad, Explorer Member

Zachary Miller, Ramsey Rescue Squad

Glenn Veprek, Ramsey Rescue Squad, Explorer Member

VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION

Motion by Councilman Gutwetter, seconded by Councilwoman Cusick  
Councilwoman Poppe abstained, due to a conflict with the block party request.

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:

- |          |             |   |
|----------|-------------|---|
| 049-2022 | Resolution: | payment of vouchers   |
| 050-2022 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number three  |
| 051-2022 | Resolution: | awarding contract to BGD Contracting, 220 Homestead Place, Park Ridge, NJ in the amount of \$162,000.00 for the renovations of first and second floor bathrooms at borough hall                                       |
| 052-2022 | Resolution: | authorizing the disposition of equipment from the Ramsey Police Department  |
| 053-2022 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of MaryAnn Lupo to the Office of Emergency Management  |
| 054-2022 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Kelly Sylvester to the Office of Emergency Management   |
| 055-2022 | Resolution: | appropriation reserve transfer #1   |
| 056-2022 | Resolution: | authorizing the extension of term of outdoor café licenses  |
| 057-2022 | Resolution: | requesting permission of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services for approval as a dedication by rider of revenues received by a municipality for the Law Enforcement Support Office Program (LESO) |
| 058-2022 | Resolution: | award of contract for IT professional services related to the replacement of the Ramsey Police Department phone system to ATech Service Group in the amount of \$15,543   |
| 059-2022 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Patrick Kuruc to the Ramsey Rescue Squad  |
| 060-2022 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Adam Lao to the Ramsey Rescue Squad   |
| 061-2022 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Zachary Miller to the Ramsey Rescue Squad   |

VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION (cont'd)

062-2022 Resolution: confirming the appointment of Glenn Veprek to the Ramsey Rescue Squad

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

B. BLOCK PARTY REQUESTS:

Charlene Menshikov of Biscayne Drive is requesting permission to hold a block party on Saturday, June 11, 2022 from 4:00pm – 11:00pm

Roll Call:

YAY: Cusick, Gutwetter, Kilman, Weber, Woods

ABSTAIN: Poppe

VIII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Ciaran Mannion, Eagle Scout Project (Done earlier in the meeting)

## IX. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

- A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Councilman Michael Gutwetter  
Congratulated and thanked the appointees.

Recreation Commission – Basketball and wrestling are going well.

Library Board – Winterfest '22 is Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup> from 12 noon-3:00pm.  
Celebrating the winter season with outdoor activities games and crafts for all ages. Lunar New Year was celebrated on February 5<sup>th</sup> with traditional dance music and a scavenger hunt which continues until February 15<sup>th</sup>.

New collections are now available, local history, local author and New Jersey Collections as well as ancestry.com.

At the next Pool Commission meeting they will discuss the 2022 rates and are hoping to have registration live by the end of March.

Thanked Ciaran Mannion for his thoughtful and well put together presentation and looks forward to seeing the finished project.

- B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Peter Kilman

Board of Health meeting cancelled this month. They reported that the drive through clinic was very successful. The COVID numbers are trending down and returning to late November case levels.

- C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilwoman Jane Woods

Thanked Ciaran Mannion for his report. Her father-in-law would be very proud, he was a big supporter of the boy scouts.

Congratulated all new appointees.

Discussed the briefing by the Teterboro Airport management and FAA meeting that she attended. Teterboro's role in the region is that it is classified as a general aviation reliever airport, its primary function is to draw noncommercial aircraft from the congested major airports. The increased traffic and altered flight path is due to Teterboro and Newark airports having construction on their runways.



D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilwoman Judy Cusick Congratulated the new appointees, MaryAnn Lupo, Office of Emergency Management and Kelly Sylvester, Office of Emergency Management, and our Rescue Squad members, Patrick Kuruc, Adam Lao, Zach Miller and Glenn Veprek. And also for Larry Scorzelli, Fire Subcode Official on his retirement. Thanked Ciaran Mannion, whom she coached in Little League baseball, for his presentation.

Ramsey Planning Board Meeting – At the Planning Board meeting on February 1<sup>st</sup>, there were two (2) waivers presented and approved at the meeting for a salon and an interior designer. During this meeting, an overview of Ordinance No. 03-2022-New section, Chapter 35 entitled “Cannabis” was provided. The next Planning Board meeting is March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Ramsey Shade Tree Commission – At the January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting the Commission has plans for a Tree Planting at the Ramsey Pool on April 29<sup>th</sup>, which is Arbor Day.

Ramsey Board of Public Works – At the last meeting it was noted that there are PFAS Chemicals Found in 34 NJ Water Systems but NOT in Ramsey.

During the last meeting, I mentioned the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection’s NJ Lead Service Line law (P.L. 2021, Ch.183) where all Public Community Water Systems, including Ramsey, are required now to provide water service line inventory information to the NJDEP. Public Community Water Systems are required to inventory and replace all lead and galvanized service lines in our system over a period of 10 years. As previously stated, Ramsey continues to sample for lead in your drinking water as required by NJDEP. Ramsey test results are in compliance with USEPA lead limits.

There is a Frequently Asked Questions document regarding this effort on our Borough website. Ramsey has posted the inventory of all of the water service lines on the Borough website under Service Line Inventory in the FAQ. Please refer to the facts for additional information.

E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilwoman Sara Poppe Thanked Ciaran Mannion for a thoughtful and thorough presentation.

Congratulated and thanked all of the appointees.

The Ramsey Municipal Alliance will be hosting film called “Like” which is about how to regulate the impact of social media on our lives.

Ramsey Chamber of Commerce has an active social media page on Facebook and a website which lists many small businesses and events and initiatives that are upcoming.

The Ramsey Farmers’ Market continues to run on Sundays from 10am-1pm through the winter.

The Ramsey Journal will be back and in mailboxes sometime this Spring.

- F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilman Harry Weber  
Congratulates MaryAnn, Kelly, Patrick, Adam, Zach and Glen on their appointments and  
congratulated and thanked Larry Scorzelli for his many years of service.

Thanked Ciaran Mannion for his presentation.

Board of Education – They are promoting the film “Like” showing on February 15<sup>th</sup>.

Environmental Commission – Ramsey Clean Up Day is April 9<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of April 10<sup>th</sup>.  
They are monitoring the progress towards the plastic bag ban in New Jersey. They are  
reserving a month at the Ramsey Library to display environmentally related artifacts and  
educational information. There was also a discussion on the future of electric cars and how  
they will be implemented in the communities. Grants are becoming available to assist with  
infrastructure and other aspects in advancing electric vehicles. They also discussed specialized  
collections of plastic toys.

RIFE- The next social event is the Valentine’s Day Dance on Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, at the  
Senior/Community Center. Thanked Roger Knauss for his help. The Humdingers event  
is now March 4<sup>th</sup> due to the rise in COVID cases.

Ramsey Responds – Continues to provide financial assistance, gift cards, clothing and  
furniture to families in the community. They are also providing food on an as needed basis.  
Some upcoming initiatives, Ramsey Responds will partner again with St. Paul’s and the fish  
fry team, starting March 4<sup>th</sup>.

- F. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON

Reminded about the monthly drive thru COVID testing site on Saturday February 12<sup>th</sup>  
at the Main Street Train Station.

We are looking into a resolution of the helicopter traffic in the near future. There seems to  
be a lot less noise lately. More on that at the next meeting.

Thanked Ciaran Mannion for his presentation. The project will be a wonderful addition to  
the senior center.

Congratulated and thanked the new appointees to Ramsey Rescue and OEM.

February 2<sup>nd</sup> is Supermarket Employee Day. The Mayor will present a proclamation to the  
Manager of the Ramsey Shoprite recognizing the Supermarket Hero Employees of Shoprite.  
All of the people who worked tirelessly through the pandemic to make sure that everybody  
in Ramsey had food.

G. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh

Resolutions 51 – Award of Contract to BGD Contracting for renovations of first and second floor bathrooms at Borough Hall: Borough has been planning to make full ADA improvements and renovations to the bathrooms at Borough Hall. Both women’s and men’s restrooms on each of the first and second floors. To mitigate the taxpayer impact of these improvements, the Borough has applied for and been awarded grants over the last two annual cycles of Community Block Development Grants (“CDBG”) through Bergen County. The total of these two grants are \$126,838. The CDBG grant process has limited funding where grant amounts are determined regionally in the County through a competitive process approved by representatives of each geographical subgroup of the County before final approval from County and confirmation from Federal Government where funding ultimately is distributed from. With these grants in place, Blueline Architecture was commissioned to develop plans and bid documents. The public bid was very competitive with nine (9) firms submitting sealed bids. BGD Contracting is the lowest responsible bidder. Bid packages were reviewed by Blueline for technical compliance and Borough Attorney Scandariato for legal compliance. After review, both have recommended award to BGD Contracting for the bid amount of \$162,000. By utilizing the grant opportunities available and preparing a successful grant package, Borough will be offsetting just under 80% of the taxpayer cost of the needed infrastructure improvements.

Resolution 52 – Authorizing Disposition of Police Department Equipment: Ramsey Police Department has equipment that had passed its life cycle and was no longer being utilized and had been replaced. This equipment will be disposed of and this resolution allows for the disposal of property. Majority of the equipment in this case is computers and servers that were replaced over the last couple years due to technical obsolescence

Resolution 55 – Approval of Appropriation Reserve Transfer # 1: This resolution is a budget transfer of one-line item to another line-item which has no incremental increase to the budget it is net neutral. This is similar to a budget transfer done at the end of a calendar year, it is called an Appropriation Reserve Transfer as it is for transfer in line items of the 2021 budget being made in 2022. In regard to invoices received in 2022 for 2021 items that are to be charged to 2021 as the year expense was incurred. Again, this is net neutral impact just realigns funds between line items.

Resolution 56 – Extension of Outdoor Dining Term & Waiver of Permit Fees: – Resolution authorizes action the Governing Body is taking for 2022. As it has in past years, in order to help try and mitigate at least some of the economic impact our restaurants have faced with COVID-19. This allows for outdoor dining as of March 1st this year and allows for all approved plans from 2020 carried through into 2021 to now continue into 2022 if they remain unchanged. In addition, the Mayor & Council are again waiving the annual license fees for outdoor dining.

Resolution 57 - Dedication of Rider a Reserve for Police Equipment: This resolution is a follow-up to resolution passed last meeting. The State Division of Local Government Services requires permission for approval as a dedication by rider of revenues by a municipality when the revenue is not subject to reasonably accurate estimates in advance. This resolution makes minor modifications to the language included in resolution passed last meeting based on feedback from the State Division of Local Government Services on language updates they require.

H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh (cont'd)

Resolution 58 – Award of contract to ATech Service Group for IT professional services for replacement of Ramsey Police Department Phone System: Ramsey Police Department phone system is well beyond its useful life and is starting to incur periodic operational issues. ATech Service Group has submitted proposal for a new phone system and the IT Professional services related to such replacement in an amount of \$15,543. The new system will also provide significant improvements in operational capability, features, user flexibility with options now available in the marketplace.

Thanked Larry Scorzelli, Fire Subcode Official who has retired after many years of service to Ramsey. We wish Larry well in his retirement. Ralph Venturini, Construction Official, as designated by the State, has appointed Jim Dougherty as temporary (30 day) Fire Subcode Official. Mr. Dougherty is a Fire Subcode Official in other municipalities and holds all the requisite licenses for the position. The Borough will be working to fill this subcode official position beyond this temporary appointment.

2022 Municipal Budget - Work has been underway on the 2022 municipal budget. Over the next week we will be presenting the final draft of the budget to the Finance Committee. Borough anticipates a municipal budget which for the twelfth consecutive year will have a municipal tax rate increase of below 2%. I anticipate making a full presentation of the 2022 budget at the February 23rd meeting inclusive of the Ramsey Municipal Budget being proposed as well as comparable information to other communities in Northwest Bergen County and the County as a whole. On a timeline consistent with past years, Budget Introduction will be either after the budget presentation at the February 23rd meeting or the subsequent March 9th meeting. The public hearing and vote on adoption of the budget would either be at the March 23rd or April 13th meeting, depending when it is introduced. There will be final information on the budget timeline at the next meeting with the budget presentation.

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

J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian - No report

Council President Kilman thanked Roger Knauss for always helping out whenever called upon but in particular his guiding hand with Ciaran Mannion's presentation.

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES - None

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

XII. NEW BUSINESS – None

XIII. ADJOURNMENT -

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Weber, seconded by Councilman Gutwetter. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Meredith Bendian, RMC  
Borough Clerk