

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
Wednesday, February 14, 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 7:30pm 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

A group of Mayor's from Northwest Bergen County met with County Executive Tedesco on Saturday to discuss Deer Management. It was decided that the county will not do a legislative solution because they feel it is only a problem in this part of the county. They pushed him to do a wildlife management program. Mr. Tedesco said he would discuss it with the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

The Deer Management Program originally scheduled for last Wednesday is rescheduled to March 1st due to inclement weather at the Allendale Borough Hall.

On Sunday, March 4th there is an Opioid Abuse Presentation at the high school from 3pm-5pm.

Mayor Dillon made a very special presentation to Howard Cantor, a former member of the Ramsey Council, Planning and Zoning Boards for over thirty years. Mr. Cantor graciously accepted and said that property taxes are only a small part of what each person in Ramsey owes to the town, they also owe their time. Mr. Cantor was given a standing ovation.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REMARKS – COUNCILMAN PETER KILMAN

No report

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – COUNCILWOMAN VANESSA JACHZEL

I'd like to commend Administrator Vozech for the work that he's done on the budget. The budget will be introduced at the February 28, 2018 meeting with the budget public hearing on March 28, 2018. The tax rate increase will be 1.68%. We are not utilizing any of the permitted exceptions. Our debt position by year end will be very strong at under \$7 million which leaves us room to do the infrastructure project at the pool. We will invest heavily in the road resurfacing. Mr. Vozech will do a presentation later in the meeting.

PUBLIC SAFETY – COUNCILMAN HARRY WEBER

Tonight we have two officers being recognized for their lifesaving and heroic actions, Officer Matt Rork and Officer Brian Stevens. We also have two new police officers being sworn in tonight, Justin Garcia and Michael Hamersma.

The Environmental Commission set the date for the Environmental Cleanup day on Saturday, April 21st.

The RIFE Valentine's Day Dance was this past Friday, it was a great event. Thank you to Emily Moore at Ramsey High School for decorating the cafeteria.

The final reading on Ordinance 04-2018 is on tonight's agenda for audio and videotaping meetings.

BUILDING, PLANNING AND ZONING – COUNCILMAN JOSEPH VERDONE

Ordinance 03-2018 will be tabled in order to allow the Planning Board more time to review it for their comments.

UTILITIES, BUILDING & GROUNDS – COUNCILMAN PETER KILMAN

Thank you to Howard Cantor for his service to the community, we appreciate it very much.

PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – COUNCILMAN WILLIAM J. JONES

The next edition of the Ramsey Newsletter is slated for early April. We will begin receiving our submissions.

The Taste of Ramsey preparations are underway for May 20th.

We will hold our Independence Day Celebration on July 7th.

HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – COUNCILMAN MICHAEL GUTWETTER

The Board of Health will be offering an acupuncture and stress management program later this month.

The Board of Education received one hour of ethics for school officials which included the author Kate Fagan. The results of the PARC testing is on their website.

BOROUGH ATTORNEY - PETER A. SCANDARIATO

No report

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – BRUCE VOZEH

Administrator Vozeh reviewed the 2018 budget presentation.

Bee keepers have some issues with the proposed bee keeper legislation in Trenton. Susan Lindstrom will be attending the next Mayor and Council meeting and will have further discussion.

Earlier this week there was a meeting with Ramsey Rescue and Dr. Thumm from Ramsey High School about emergency services doing a demonstration for Ramsey High School juniors for community involvement.

Resolutions on tonight's agendas. There are two for Bergen County DPW services. We would only be charged if we utilize services for vehicle repair and maintenance services. This makes sense as we are losing one of our mechanics.

French and Perello are being appointed to perform the annual Crystal Lake Dam inspection.

There are two resolutions appointing two probationary police officers, Justin Garcia and Mike Hamersma.

There is a resolution on the agenda to auction off equipment. We will do so using govdeals.com

There is a resolution on the agenda renewing our agreement with Bruno Associates as grant writers for the borough.

There is a resolution on to execute an agreement with the County for Finch Park Open Space Grant for field improvements. It is a previously awarded 50/50 matching grant.

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.

Braggin AB, Ramsey

Thanked the Mayor and Council for the new monitors in council chambers, commented on the County Executive's decision not to have a regional deer management program, and discussed the 1.68% budget increase as well as the borough surplus and contracts under the bid threshold and made a proposal that any spending proposal for one million dollars or greater should go to a referendum.

James Sander, Cypress Court, Ramsey

Discussed the maintenance and assessment fees at Timber Valley.

Debra Sahler, 34 OakRidge Road, Ramsey

Discussed the budget process and asked about the total budget dollar amount which Mr. Vozech replied is \$23,554,335. Asked for clarification on Resolution 056-2018 for reimbursement and the legal smoking age referred to in Ordinance 03-2018. Inquired about the improvements included in the Finch Park grant. Mr. Vozech explained that it includes refurbishing the field and updating the gazebo and most of the work is being completed in-house.

Chance Parker, 11 Park Place, Ramsey

Discussed the status of the discharge of fire arms ordinance as well as resident access to Conklin Park, discussed a 2011 report by Princeton Hydro, protecting and guarding our drinking water with wellhead protection ordinance and the complete streets resolution.

Not seeing anyone else wishing to speak, Council President Kilman closed public comment.

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Weber, seconded by Councilwoman Jachzel. All in favor. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:36pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Meredith Bendian

Meredith Bendian, RMC

Borough Clerk