

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, February 26, 2020

BUDGET
INTRO

Mayor Dillon called the meeting to order at 7:30pm and asked Officer Rork to lead the flag salute. Mayor Dillon read the Open Public Meetings Act notice.

I. ROLL CALL -

Present: Mayor Dillon, Councilmembers Gutwetter, Jones, Kilman, Verdone, Weber and Woods

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Reorg 01-02-2020, 01-22-2020, WS 02-12-2020
Motion by Councilman Kilman, seconded by Councilwoman Woods. All in favor.
Carried.

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

Motion by Councilman Weber, seconded by Councilwoman Woods. All in favor. Carried.
Mayor Dillon thanked the state for the grant.

1. George Bumiller, Ramsey, NJ
letter dated January 22, 2020, requesting further committee information on the videotaping of meetings
2. Sheila Oliver, Lieutenant Governor, State of NJ, 101 S Broad Street, Trenton, NJ
letter dated January 27, 2020, informing the borough of their \$20,000 grant for the RIFE program

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Anyone wishing to address the governing body please step up to the microphone and give your name (spelling the last name) and address as a courtesy to all present. 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 present, 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 and will hold up a sign when you have 30 seconds remaining.

George Bumiller, Ramsey, NJ

Inquired about the Board of Health recordings, requested that the Mayor have Councilwoman Woods ask him a question again that she asked after a prior meeting. Councilwoman Woods replied. Mr. Bumiller submitted two letters to the governing body.

A Braggin, Ramsey, NJ

Discussed the lack enforcement of conditions placed in resolutions under the Planning Board resolutions, the budget hearing, NJ DEP Green Acre land swap issues. Mayor Dillon replied that there was a public hearing on the land swap on Monday, February 24th.

James Sander, 211 Cypress Court, Ramsey, NJ

Expressed concern about the Ramsey Police and their lack of enforcement, reported on borough vehicles and police cars around town.

Not seeing anyone else wishing to be heard, Mayor Dillon closed public comment.

V. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES

Motion by Councilman Kilman, seconded by Councilman Weber

ORDINANCE 03-2020 – A BOND ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE AN ADDITIONAL SUM OF \$2,900,000 FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF ARSENIC TREATMENT SYSTEMS AT VARIOUS PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY FACILITIES BY AND FOR THE WATER-SEWER UTILITY OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS

BE IT RESOLVED THAT AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED: A Bond Ordinance to appropriate an additional sum of \$2,900,000 for the replacement of arsenic treatment systems at various public water supply facilities by and for the Water-Sewer Utility of the Borough of Ramsey, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, to authorize the issuance of bonds to finance such additional appropriation and to provide for the issuance of bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the issuance of such bonds, final reading by title and that said ordinance be adopted by 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 Kilman explained that this ordinance is to complete the funding of the Board of Public Works well reactivation and treatment project. Previous funding was utilized to contract for the prefabrication of six water treatment pods to be located at the six well locations and the contract for the site work and installation of four of those pods at currently active wells. This additional funding will be for the contract for the site work and installation of the water treatment pods at the two currently inactive wells at Orchard Place and Spring Street.

Mayor Dillon opened the public hearing for Ordinance 03-2020.

With no one wishing to be heard, Mayor Dillon closed the public hearing on Ordinance 03-2020.

ROLL CALL:

YAY: Gutwetter, Jones, Kilman, Verdone, Weber, Woods

V. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES

Motion by Councilman Gutwetter, seconded by Councilman Jones.

ORDINANCE 04-2020 – AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED: An ordinance to exceed the municipal budget appropriations limits and to establish a CAP bank (N.J.S.A 40A:4-45.14)

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 that municipalities adopt each year ahead of the budget adoption.

Mayor Dillon opened the public hearing for Ordinance 04-2020.

With no one wishing to be heard, Mayor Dillon closed the public hearing on Ordinance 04-2020.

VI. APPOINTMENTS

Brandon Alicea, Ramsey Rescue Squad
Nicholas Pedulla, Ramsey Rescue Squad
Samuel Englishman, Ramsey Fire Department
Anna Felice, Ramsey Fire Department
George Trival, Ramsey Fire Department

Green Team - Liz Benfanti, Nancy Boone, Joe Carey, Karen Dey, John Greenberg, Joyce Hudon, Jeff Kehoe, Reeva Kymer, Patrick Nerney, Chance Parker & Michele Taylor

VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION

Motion by Councilman Gutwetter, seconded by Councilman Jones

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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|----------|-------------|--|
| 051-2020 | Resolution: | payment of vouchers |
| 052-2020 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number four |
| 053-2020 | Resolution: | appointing members to the Environmental Commission's Green Team |
| 054-2020 | Resolution: | authorizing the extension of the Plenary Retail Consumption License No. 0248-33-007-009 (Houlihan's) to Landry's, LLC, to conduct business under the privileges, terms and conditions of the License, as designated purchaser, until such time as the License may be transferred to Landry's |
| 055-2020 | Resolution: | authorizing the tax redemption for Block 4810, Lot 2, in the amount of \$14,971.62 |
| 056-2020 | Resolution: | authorizing the cancellation of tax lien for Block 3701, Lot 4, Qualifier C0205 |
| 057-2020 | Resolution: | self-exam for 2020 municipal budget |
| 058-2020 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Brandon Alicea to the Ramsey Rescue Squad |
| 059-2020 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Nicholas Pedulla to the Ramsey Rescue Squad |
| 060-2020 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Samuel Englishman to the Ramsey Fire Department |
| 061-2020 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Anna Felice to the Ramsey Fire Department |
| 062-2020 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of George Trival to the Ramsey Fire Department |

VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION (cont'd)

- 063-2020 Resolution: approving change orders #1, #2 and #3 to APS Contracting, Inc. for the Senior Center and Site Work project. Change orders are for #1 additional shutters for \$2,478.96, change order #2 relocation of existing water line for \$7,630.90 and change order #3 adding transaction window for \$2,064.25
- 064-2020 Resolution: awarding one-year contract effective April 1, 2020 to Organic Recycling of Goshen, New York for the disposal of mixed debris, grass and branches as the lone quote received in the amount of \$28,812.50

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

Doherty Enterprises/Shannon Rose Irish Pub is requesting permission to hold their annual St. Patrick's Day celebration for March 13-March 18, 2020. They are requesting to hang a banner from March 1-March 18, 2020 and would like to use McFarren Field for parking from 7:00 am-4:00 am each day. They are requesting permission to close in their patio and use a tent with sides and doors.

Knights of Columbus is requesting permission to collect funds for their fundraiser April 17 – April 19, 2020 in front of Bottle King, Bagel Boys, Buono Bagels, B&G Bagels, Walgreens and Uncle Giuseppe's. Prior permission obtained from all store owners.

B. BLOCK PARTY REQUESTS:

ROLL CALL:

YAY: Gutwetter, Jones, Kilman, Verdone, Weber, Woods

Mayor Dillon swore in those present to their appointments.

VIII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

IX. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

- A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Councilman Michael Gutwetter
Reported that the 2020 municipal budget will be introduced at tonight’s meeting with the public hearing and adoption at the March 25th meeting.

Ordinance 04-2020 was adopted tonight to exceed the municipal budget appropriation limit and to establish a CAP bank, a standard ordinance adopted by municipalities ahead of adopting the budget.

Library Board – Mini Golf Fundraiser is February 28th and 29th.

Recreation Commission – The Annual Spring Egg Hunt is April 4th. Adult Softball registration opens shortly and the commission is working on a code of conduct and more details will be up-coming on the 50th Home Run Derby.

- B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Harry Weber
Welcomed and thanked all of the appointees.

Thanked the Ramsey Fire Department for their installation and recognition dinner. Presenting very impressive service awards to certain members, Artie Keys, Rich Scalione and Tom Lanning, Jr.

RIFE- Winter dance is Friday, February 28th at the Ramsey High School.

Municipal Alliance – Offered a presentation on vaping at the Ramsey High School by Officer Beamon.

LEAD – Harlem Wizards game at Don Bosco High School on March 1st.

March 1st the Knights of Columbus are hosting a Blood Drive from noon to 4pm.

- C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilman Joseph Verdone
Planning Board - Approved 3 waivers, of note change of ownership at Domino’s Pizza and Angelo’s Desserts on Main Street.

Two amended site plan applications for Lithia Northeast Real Estate representing Toyota and Lexus on Route 17 North were reviewed and approved. Toyota is dividing the existing building creating a drive through service center. The current service facility on McKee drive in Mahwah will be vacated..

Lexus is renovating the outside of their building and incorporating new signage.

Lithia will also be completing the signaling at the exit onto Franklin Turnpike near Don Bosco.

C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilman Joseph Verdone (cont'd)

Ramsey Seniors/Senior Center – Upcoming events:

- Technology Class, Where Have All My Photos Gone, March 3rd, at the Senior Center
- St. Patrick's Day Luncheon at Mahwah Bar and Grill on March 16th,
- Broadway Show, West Side Story on March 28th.

The first draft of the Ramsey Community/Senior Center Operating Guidelines and Rules and Regulations were distributed to the M&C and are still under review.

VFW Post 12148

New Bridge Medical Center is now offering health care for veterans, making it more convenient than currently having to travel to East Orange.

The New Bridge Medical Center is across the street from the Paramus Veterans Memorial Home and has officially joined the Veterans Affairs Community Care Network, a federal program that helps veterans connect with health care facilities.

Congratulated the appointees to the Ramsey Rescue Squad, Fire Department and members of the Green Team.

D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilman Peter Kilman

Congratulated all of the new appointees.

Shade Tree – Continues to keep the community looking beautiful.

Board of Public Works – February 13th there was a meeting with residents about the Martis Ave Well to discuss the installation of the water treatment pod going on that well. As a result of this meeting and at the direction of Mayor Dillon the borough will engage a design architect who will submit renderings to aesthetically integrate the pod in that area.

There was also a public hearing on Monday February 24th about the land swap with Green Acres and the entire process.

E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilman William Jones

Thanked and welcomed the many volunteers that were appointed earlier in the evening.

Reported that the Farmers' Market continues its indoor season, the Ramsey Chamber of Commerce is underway planning the Taste of Ramsey in May, the Ramsey Journal is in the works for the Spring Edition, the Ramsey Pool Commission approved their budget at their last meeting.

Addressed Mr. Bumiller's letter regarding reports on videotaping the meetings. The committee is recommending that the borough begin live streaming council meetings. A formal report will be given at the March work session as to the time line.

F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilwoman Jane Woods
Thanked the new appointees.

Board of Health – Discussed two bills in state committee: Mandatory vaccines and banning of flavored vapes. The Corona Virus in New Jersey is being monitored. Planning an adult mental health seminar about suicide. Hands only CPR training is March 24th at the Library.

Design Review Board – Approved three sign applications.

Board of Education – The Ram Jams performed at the last meeting. Concerned parents spoke at the meeting about a harassment issue at the middle school. Parent Academy topic for March 4th is One Book One Community, Permission to Feel at the high school auditorium. The Smith School musical Annie is March 6th and 7th.

G. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON

Congratulated and thanked all of the appointees.

A meeting is planned for next week for the 2020 Census Planning which will include all stakeholders, Board of Education, seniors and religious leaders. A grant has been applied for from the County of Bergen to offset outreach expenses. The goal is to get over ninety percent counted in Ramsey, focusing on Hard to Count voter, because millions of dollars in Federal funding depend on this. There is a lot at stake, it is vital to get everyone counted.

Earlier this evening there was a COVID 19 Task Force preparedness meeting. OEM, Ambulance, Board of Education, Board of Health, Borough Administrator, Councilwoman Woods. It is reported that the borough is in good shape and are planning to be prepared with enough masks, gloves and gowns for our first responders. Check the CDC website because there are constant updates.

As mentioned earlier, the public hearing on the green acres property for the land replacement in connection with the water treatment system. There were professionals from Crew Engineers who gave testimony and answered questions. If anyone wants to comment on the Green Acres application all comments are due to NJDEP no later than March 9th with a copy due to Administrator Vozeh.

H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh

Mr. Vozeh addressed an earlier comment regarding the responsibility of the budget. It was clarified that the responsibility is under the Borough Administrator, not the CFO under the borough code.

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

Highlights of the 2020 Municipal Budget

- The proposed municipal tax rate increase is 1.83% for the tenth year in a row being below 2% without using any acceptable exceptions
- Total budget size is approximately \$900,000 higher than 2019. \$772,000 of that increase is due to revenue or grant reimbursements used for debt paydown. These offsets have no property tax impact
- Borough debt levels include an increase debt principal pay down of approximately \$2 million
- The capital included in the budget includes \$900,000 of capital investment and infrastructure that combined with capital improvement reserves and access to debt markets would allow a level of funding for road resurfacing and other capital projects
- Surplus utilization the budget reduces by \$250,000 from 2019 which is a revenue item offsetting the amount needed to be raised by taxes. The 2020 budget still utilizes \$2,050,000 of benefits that have been achieved in prior fiscal years from under spending the budget and receiving revenue in excess of the budget with that value put back into the budget to offset the tax payer cost

I. BOROUGH ATTORNEY – Peter A. Scandariato, Esq. - no comment

J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian - no comment

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES - None

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

XII. NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Councilman Gutwetter, seconded by Councilman Jones

065-2020 Resolution: 2020 Municipal Budget Introduction

ROLL CALL:

YAY: Gutwetter, Jones, Kilman, Verdone, Weber, Woods

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Weber. All in favor. Carried.
Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Meredith Bendian, RMC
Borough Clerk