

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, February 27, 2019

BUDGET
INTRODUCTION

Mayor Dillon called the meeting to order at 7:30pm and asked Board of Education Trustee Jennifer Burns to lead the flag salute. Mayor Dillon read the Open Public Meetings Act notice.

I. ROLL CALL -

Present: Mayor Dillon, Councilmembers Jachzel, Jones, Kilman and Verdone

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

Absent: Councilpersons Gutwetter and Weber

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – WS 12-12-18, 01-23-19

Motion by Councilman Kilman, seconded by Councilman Jones. All in favor. Carried

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

Motion by Councilman Verdone, seconded by Councilman Kilman. All in favor. Carried

1. President Richard Sabato, Bergen County Building and Construction Trades Council, 77 Brant Avenue, Suite 102, Clark, NJ 07006
letter dated January 29, 2019, regarding the proposed power house in Hudson County
2. Maria Bruzzese, Senior Vice President, Divisional Controller Cable Operations, Altice (Cablevision), enclosing the franchise fee in the amount of \$135,349 representing the fees for 2018
3. PERMA Risk Management Services, 9 Campus Drive, Suite 216, Parsippany, NJ 07054, enclosing a cyber incident roadmap in the event of an incident
4. PERMA Risk Management Services, 9 Campus Drive, Suite 216, Parsippany, NJ 07054, enclosing the 2019 meeting dates
5. Salvatore LaVerdi, General Manager, Shannon Rose, Route 17 North, Ramsey
letter dated January 30, 2019, requesting permission to hold their annual St. Patrick's Day celebration
6. Joseph Rotolo, Ramsey Municipal Court Judge
letter dated February 5, 2019, thanking the governing body for his reappointment
7. George Bumiller, Ramsey Resident
e-mail dated February 6, 2019, regarding an OPRA request

III. COMMUNICATIONS - (cont'd)

8. Michael Thumm, Ramsey High School Principal
letter dated February 11, 2019, thanking the Mayor for attending and supporting the Design Thinking course
9. George Bumiller, Ramsey Resident
fax dated February 17, 2019, regarding the lack of security at the pool construction area
10. Melissa Oratio, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, 30 Wyckoff Ave,
Waldwick, NJ
letter dated February 20, 2019, enclosing minutes from the January 8, 2019 meetings
11. George Bumiller, Ramsey Resident
fax received February 21, 2019, regarding the conduct of meetings and by-laws
12. George Bumiller, Ramsey Resident
fax received February 21, 2019, regarding the timing of speakers during public comment
13. Frank Mortimer, President, Northeast NJ Beekeepers
e-mail received January 24, 2019, regarding proposed NJ regulations for beekeeping

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
Discussed his dissatisfaction with the new meeting format

A Braggin, Ramsey
Discussed no response by the governing body to his public comments due to the new meeting format and discussed the governing body bylaws.

Chance Parker, 11 Park Place, Ramsey
Stated his objection to the new meeting format and wanting more communication between the governing body and the audience. Discussed water quality, well head ordinance, gun range contamination, borough wells within the zone of Pleasant Brook, the master plan, discharge of fire arms ordinance, deer culling.

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

V. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 01-2019 – 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 Councilwoman Jachzel, seconded by Councilman Jones

BE IT RESOLVED THAT AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED: An Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14), 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.

Councilwoman Jachzel explained that this is a tool to allow us to increase certain appropriations up 3.5% over the prior year's appropriations. Without doing this we are limited to 2.5%. This has nothing to do with the tax increase levy.

Mayor Dillon opened the public hearing for Ordinance 01-2019.

With no one wishing to be heard, Mayor Dillon closed the public hearing on Ordinance 01-2019.

ROLL CALL:

YAY: Jachzel, Jones, Kilman, Verdone

ORDINANCE 02-2019 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AND MORE PARTICULARLY CHAPTER 31 THEREOF ENTITLED LAND USE PROCEDURES SO AS TO ESTABLISH SECTION 31.4 TECHNICAL REVIEW ESCROW DEPOSITS

Motion by Councilwoman Jachzel, seconded by Councilman Kilman.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED: An Ordinance amending the Code of the Borough of Ramsey, Bergen County, New Jersey and more particularly Chapter 31 thereof entitled Land Use Procedures so as to Establish Section 31.4 Technical Review Escrow Deposits, 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.

Councilwoman Jachzel explained the reason for the increase is for the technical review done by our outside engineer. It typically cost more than \$300 and rather than cause a delay in the application process if the fee is increased up front and the money is not used it will be refunded to the applicant.

Mayor Dillon opened the public hearing on Ordinance 02-2019.

Mr. Braggin, Ramsey
Expressed his opposition to the increase.

Councilman Verdone explained that the surrounding towns have even higher escrow deposits i.e., Mahwah \$750, Allendale \$600, Upper Saddle River \$1,000 plus fees and Ho-Ho-Kus \$1,000 and Ridgewood is four times application fee.

Seeing no one else wishing to be heard, Mayor Dillon closed the public hearing on Ordinance 02-2019.

ROLL CALL:
YAY: Jachzel, Jones, Kilman, Verdone

ORDINANCE 03-2019 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 34-4 OF
CHAPTER 34 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN
COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AND MORE PARTICULARLY SUBSECTION 34-4.26
THEREOF ENTITLED FENCES

ROLL CALL:
YAY: Jachzel, Jones, Kilman, Verdone

VI. APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Dillon made the following appointments and swore in those present after the consent resolution was passed.

David Berger, Ramsey Fire Department

Joseph Manfredonia, Ramsey Fire Department

Anna Felice, Junior Fire Brigade

Justin Garcia, Permanent Police Officer

Michael Hamersma, Permanent Police Officer

VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION

Motion by Councilwoman Jachzel, 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:

- | | | |
|----------|-------------|---|
| 047-2019 | Resolution: | payment of vouchers |
| 048-2019 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number four |
| 049-2019 | Resolution: | authorizing the person to person and place to place (expansion of premises to include patio) transfer of liquor license of Ramsey Restaurant LLC DBA Houlihan's 0248-033-007-008 to HOP Ramsey, LLC DBA Houlihan's 0248-033-007-009 |
| 050-2019 | Resolution: | approving the amended Ramsey Rescue by-laws for 2019 |
| 051-2019 | Resolution: | appointing Justin Garcia as a permanent police officer to the Ramsey Police Department |
| 052-2019 | Resolution: | appointing Michael Hamersma as a permanent police officer to the Ramsey Police Department |
| 053-2019 | Resolution: | awarding contract lightning detection system to Commercial Recreation Specialists for \$47,794.90 |
| 054-2019 | Resolution: | amending the 2019 temporary budget to \$6,076,999.57 |
| 055-2019 | Resolution: | approving the NJ DOT sanitary sewer easement for \$1.00 |
| 056-2019 | Resolution: | awarding contract to Garden State Fireworks for fireworks show on July 6, 2019 in the amount of \$8,000 |
| 057-2019 | Resolution: | authorizing tax court judgment for Block 4103 Lot 6 in the amount of <u>\$6,855.42</u> |
| 058-2019 | Resolution: | authoring tax court judgment for Block 1201 Lot 3.01 in the amount of <u>\$1,154.90</u> |
| 059-2019 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of David Berger to the Ramsey Fire Department |
| 060-2019 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Joseph Manfredonia to the Ramsey Fire Department |

VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION (cont'd)

061-2019 Resolution: confirming the appointment of Anna Felice to the Ramsey Fire Department as a Junior Fire Brigade member

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

Shannon Rose Irish Pub is requesting permission to hold their annual St. Patrick's Day event March 13-18, 2019 with a tent for serving food. They would like to advertise the event with a sign posted at the curb and entranceways posted for two weeks.

Ramsey Band and Guard Parents are requesting permission to sell hoagies door-to-door from March 8-April 6, 2019

Knights of Columbus are requesting permission to collect funds for charity from Friday April 26, 2019 – Sunday, April 28, 2019. They will be at Bottle King, Ramsey Liquors, Bagel Boys, Buono Bagels, B&G Bagels, Walgreens and Uncle Giuseppe's, having been granted permission from all store owners.

B. BLOCK PARTY REQUESTS:

ROLL CALL:

YAY: Jachzel, Jones, Kilman, Verdone

VIII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

IX. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

- A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Councilwoman Vanessa Jachzel
Congratulated the new appointees and thanked them for their service. Congratulated Justin Garcia and Michael Hamersma on their appointments as permanent police officers.

Reported that the 2019 budget municipal budget will be introduced later this evening.

- B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Harry Weber
Absent

- C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilman Joseph Verdone
Planning Board - The February 19th Planning Board meeting was cancelled and is rescheduled for March 5th.

Recreation Commission - Registrations for the Finch Park Summer Day Camp will be done via CapturePoint system. To cover salaries due to the minimum wage increase, the camp fees were raised to \$225 for one camper and \$350 for a family (Early Bird rates) and \$275 for one camper and \$400 for a family (regular rates).

The Ramsey Seniors will be filling the eggs for the Spring Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 6th. Location to be announced, either Adorno Fathers or Finch Park.

Ramsey Seniors/Senior Center

Next meeting for the Ramsey Senior Committee will be March 13.

VFW Post 12148

Next meeting for the VFW will be March 6.

Design Review Board - The Design Review Board reviewed and signed off on two sign applications, Yoga Synthesis located at 151 Main Street and Chick-fil-A at the old Horizon Diner.

Reported on the CPR class given by the American Heart Association on February 22nd. Thanked Joan Waring and Ramsey Board of Health for hosting a PR hands on hosting a well-received class and added a second class due to the overwhelming response.

- D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilman Peter Kilman
Congratulated David, Joseph, Anna, Justin and Michael on their appointments.

Zoning Board - The February Zoning Board meeting was cancelled due to weather.

Shade Tree Commission – Encouraged residents to call Shade Tree if they have concerns about their town trees.

Recommended that Mr. Parker and any resident attend a Board of Public Works meeting for more details about the borough's water. The professionals cover a lot of material that will be educational.

- E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilman William Jones
Thanked and congratulated the volunteers and officers who were appointed this evening.

Pool Commission – At the last meeting they announced the results of the playground equipment survey and the restructuring of the salaries due to the new State minimum wage law. As a result it will affect rates. The commission voted to increase rates for the first time in five years for residents. There is a \$25 increase. The senior rate remains frozen. The out of town rates remain the same. Our pool offers more programs and events than most other pools in the area. The Ramsey Pool was voted number one in the Best of Bergen, once again.

The Farmers' Market will be on hiatus after March until June when it returns to the train station parking lot.

The Ramsey Journal is on track with a March 5th deadline for submission. Shooting for it to be in mailboxes by mid-April.

Councilman Jones addressed concerns raised during public comment regarding the new format of the meetings.

- F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilman Michael Gutwetter
Absent

G. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON

A meeting with Mayor Roth Freeholder Amoroso and members of County Executive Tedesco's team at the Bergen County Law & Public Safety Institute Gun Range had to be rescheduled due to a conflict with Mr. Tedesco's team. Once the meeting is rescheduled there will be an update.

On February 28th the Environmental Commission is hosting an Environmental Commission First Summit at borough hall.

DPW Assistant Superintendent Mike Skorupa from the Water Department will be making a presentation on Ramsey Sewers on Thursday, February 28th at the Ramsey Library.

Mayor Dillon addressed Mr. Braggin's concern about the storage containers near Morano's and the property on Grant Street.

Congratulated all of tonight's appointees.

H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh – No report

I. BOROUGH ATTORNEY – Peter A. Scandariato, Esq.

Borough Attorney Scandariato addressed the failure to recognize Robert's Rules by the members of the audience.

J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian - No report

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 04-2019 - AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR SALE OF PROPERTY WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SPECIFICALLY FOR SANITARY SEWER EASEMENT

Motion by Councilman Kilman, seconded by Councilman Verdone

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled An Ordinance Authorizing the Borough of Ramsey, Bergen County, New Jersey enter into an Agreement for sale of Property with the New Jersey Department of Transportation Specifically for Sanitary Sewer Easement, pass the first reading by title, and that said ordinance be further considered for final passage and adoption at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Council to be held on the 27th day of March, 2019 at 7:30pm prevailing time or as soon after as the matter can be reached in the Municipal Building in said Borough and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk be and she hereby is, instructed to publish in an official newspaper of the Borough in the manner provided by law, a copy of said ordinance together with notice of introduction thereof and notice when the same will be considered for final passage and adoption.

Councilman Kilman explained that this is the NJ DOT sanitary sewer easement property on Arrow Road.

ROLL CALL:

YAY: Jachzel, Jones, Kilman, Verdone

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES (cont'd)

ORDINANCE 05-2019 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 4 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AND MORE SPECIFICALLY SUBSECTION 4-7 ENTITLED PEDDLERS AND SOLICITORS

Motion by Councilman Verdone, seconded by Councilman Kilman

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled An Ordinance amending Chapter 4 of the Code of the Borough of Ramsey, Bergen County, New Jersey and more Specifically Subsection 4-7 entitled Peddlers and Solicitors, pass the first reading by title, and that said ordinance be further considered for final passage and adoption at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Council to be held on the 27th day of March, 2019 at 7:30pm prevailing time or as soon after as the matter can be reached in the Municipal Building in said Borough and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk be and she hereby is, instructed to publish in an official newspaper of the Borough in the manner provided by law, a copy of said ordinance together with notice of introduction thereof and notice when the same will be considered for final passage and adoption

Councilman Verdone explained that the purpose of this ordinance is to maintain peace, quiet and comfort for the Ramsey residents to the extent allowed by law. It limits and deters peddlers and solicitors from being able to gain access for criminal purposes. In addition, it details the license requirements and a “no knock” list registration provision.

ROLL CALL:

YAY: Jachzel, Jones, Kilman, Verdone

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilman Jones made a motion to untable 039-2019, seconded by Councilwoman Jachzel.

Councilman Jones explained this resolution was tabled at a prior meeting at the request of some residents for clarification of any potential restrictions of the grant.

ROLL CALL:

YAY: Jachzel, Jones, Kilman Verdone

Motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilwoman Jachzel

039-2019 Resolution: authorizing the borough to enter into a grant agreement with Bergen County Open Space in the amount of \$42,500 for the Pool Pavilion Project

ROLL CALL:

YAY: Jachzel Jones, Kilman, Verdone

XII. NEW BUSINESS

Introduction of the 2019 municipal, pool and water and sewer budgets

Motion by Councilwoman Jachzel, seconded by Councilman Jones.

062-2019 Resolution: Introduction of the 2019 municipal budget

Councilwoman Jachzel reviewed the 2019 budget explaining that the budget includes a modest tax increase of 1.86%. The ninth year in a row that the tax increase has been kept under the 2% cap without utilizing any permitted exceptions. The total municipal budget is \$23,341,699 which does not include the state mandated library tax. Of that amount \$17,162,556 will be collected in property taxes. For a property assessed at the average value of \$524,000 the percentage increase corresponds to an additional \$53 per year in property taxes. Debt continues to be paid down aggressively. Our debt level remains under the \$10 million mark remaining at a manageable level in 2019 even as more infrastructure projects are taken on along with equipment purchases. Other items that impacted this budget include increased mandated pension payouts, reduced health benefit costs and the phasing out of compensation for unused accumulated sick leave. Municipal taxes are only about 20% of your tax bill. The remainder of the bill is 68% to the Board of Education, 11% to the county and 1% to the library. This budget ensures the continued delivery of high quality services to the residents as well as significant infrastructure improvements without significant increase in costs. The hearing is on March 27th. Councilwoman Jachzel thanked Borough Administrator Vozech and CFO Bartalotta for their never ending hard work. She also thanked the Mayor and entire governing body for their hard work and support.

ROLL CALL:

YAY: Jachzel, Jones, Kilman, Verdone

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilwoman Jachzel. All in favor. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:37pm.

Meredith Bendian
Meredith Bendian, RMC
Borough Clerk