

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, February 28, 2018

BUDGET
INTRO

Mayor Dillon 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. Videotaping of this meeting requires prior notice be submitted to the Borough Clerk.

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 officer in the room.

Mayor Dillon called the meeting called the meeting to order at 8:25pm and asked Joe Carey to lead the flag salute.

I. 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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 02-14-18

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

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

Motion to accept and file by Councilman Kilman, seconded by Councilman Verdone
Mayor Dillon acknowledged the grant that we received from the State DOT in the amount of \$218,000.

1. Mahwah Marine Moms
letter received February 16, 2018, thanking the governing body for their participation in the 2017 Wreaths Across America
2. George Bumiller, 39 Lakeview Terrace, Ramsey
letter dated February 14, 2018 discussing the placement of the Dykstra Walker topographical survey on the borough website
3. Pieratos Family, Fort Lee, NJ
note received February 16, 2018 thanking the governing body for their expression of sympathy on the passing of their mother
4. Bergen County Joint Insurance Fund, PERMA Risk Management Services,
9 Campus Drive, Parsippany, NJ
memo received February 22, 2018, regarding the updated 2018 meeting schedule
5. Melissa Oratio, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, 30 Wyckoff Avenue,
Waldwick, NJ
letter dated February 21, 2018, enclosing the minutes from the January 9, 2018 meeting
6. Diane Gutierrez-Saccett, Acting Commissioner, State of New Jersey Department of
Transportation, P.O. Box 600, Trenton, NJ 08625
letter dated February 21, 2018 informing of the \$218,000 grant the borough received for
Island Ave/Island Road Improvements
7. Alison Gordon, Administrative Assistant, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority,
Waldwick, NJ
letter dated February 23, 20128, enclosing the 2018 meeting schedule

IV. APPOINTMENTS –

Christopher Hurley, Drug Alliance

V. CONSENT RESOLUTION

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:

- | | | |
|----------|-------------|--|
| 061-2018 | Resolution: | payment of vouchers |
| 062-2018 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number four |
| 063-2018 | Resolution: | authorizing appropriation reserve transfer number two |
| 064-2018 | Resolution: | authorizing a tax court judgment for Block 4808 Lot 5 In the amount of \$4,116.00 |
| 065-2018 | Resolution: | authorizing the tax court judgment for Block 4603 Lot 39.01 in the amount of \$11,760.00 |
| 066-2018 | Resolution: | authorizing budget self-exam |
| 067-2018 | Resolution: | authorizing the borough to enter into a grant agreement with Bergen County Community Development for handicapped accessible doors in borough hall |
| 068-2018 | Resolution: | awarding contract to Suburban Disposal Fairfield, NJ for the collection of solid waste in the amount of \$3,147,210.00 (Base Bid Plus Alt 2 and Alt 3 for a 5 year term) |
| 069-2018 | Resolution: | awarding contract to Suburban Disposal of Fairfield, NJ for the collection of recyclables in the amount of \$1,275,000.00 (Natural Gas Trucks, Option B for a Five Year Term plus Alternate 1 - Schools) |

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

V. CONSENT RESOLUTION (cont'd)

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

Shannon Rose Irish Pub is requesting approval for St. Patrick's Day, March 14-March 19, 2018. They would like to enclose their patio and serve food in the tent. They would like to use McFarran Field for employee parking and post signs for 2 weeks advertising the event.

Knights of Columbus are requesting approval for collection of funds at Bottle King, Buono Bagels, B&G Bagels and Walgreens on Friday, April 13 – Sunday, April 15, 2018. They have already received permission from store owners.

JC Promotions for Friends of the Adornos are requesting permission to hold their annual outdoor fair on Sunday, June 24, 2018 between 10:00am–5:00 pm.

B. BLOCK PARTY REQUESTS

ROLL CALL:

YAYS: Gutwetter, Jachzel, Jones, Kilman, Verdone, Weber

Councilman Jones, Kilman and Weber abstained from the Knights of Columbus special permit.

VI. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS - none

VII. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

- A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Councilwoman Vanessa Jachzel
Thank you to Chris Hurley for volunteering for the Drug Alliance.

Thank you to Chief Gurney and Lieutenant Lyman for coming in to discuss school safety and some initiatives.

We will be introducing the 2018 budget and the CAP Bank ordinance for introduction.

- B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Harry Weber

Thank you to Chief Gurney and Lieutenant Lyman for discussing school safety with us.

Congratulations to Chris Hurley on his appointment to Drug Alliance.

- C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilman Joseph Verdone

Thank you to Chris Hurley for joining Drug Alliance.

- D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilman Peter Kilman

Congratulations to Chris Hurley and echo the sentiments of my colleagues.

- E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilman William Jones

Thank you and welcome to Chris Hurley to Drug Alliance.

As I've said for many years, Ramsey is way ahead of the curve in the budgetary process. All six of our contracts are second to none and all agreements include getting contributions from the employees, which were enacted long before the state enacted Chapter 78. Compared to other towns we are at numbers that no other towns can do without exceptions and smoke and mirrors.

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

Thank you to Chief Gurney and Lieutenant Lyman for their presentation. It's nice to know that the Board of Education and the Police Department are so far ahead of the curve.

- G. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON

Thank you to Chief Gurney and Lieutenant Lyman for coming in to speak with us.

Congratulations and thank you to Chris Hurley for joining Drug Alliance.

Next Monday is the Northwest Bergen Coalition Drug Alliance meeting at Northern Highlands High School. Sara Fisher-Poppe will be joining me in attending so that I can introduce her as the person who has done a phenomenal job completely revitalizing the alliance.

This Sunday there is an opioid program at the high school from 3pm-5pm. Thank you to the Ramsey Junior Womans Club for putting the program together. I urge everyone to attend. Officer Beamon and Sergeant Shoemaker will be on the panel.

H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh – No comment

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

J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian - No comment

VIII. 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.

George Bumiller, 39 Lakeview Terrace, Ramsey

Inquired about the Mayor against illegal guns as well as her position on the sporting goods store that will no longer be selling certain weapons and changed the age to purchase. Mayor Dillon agreed. Discussed the map, plot and report from Dykstra Walker and asked for a revised map and handed the officer a letter asking the borough to withdraw the submission.

Jennifer Lessieu, 19 Lancaster Court, Ramsey

Discussed the flooding issues at the pool property and the prior Pool Commissioner's request to get a study done before the planning began and asked that the governing body take consideration regarding the project. Mayor Dillon replied that the project will include a full upgrade and will be a vast improvement to the property.

Joe Carey, 498 Island Road, Ramsey

Thanked the governing body for their constant hard work.

Debra Sahler, 34 OakRidge Road, Ramsey

Inquired about the budget process. Councilwoman Jachzel explained the process.

With no one else wishing to be heard, Mayor Dillon closed public comment.

IV. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES - None

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 05-2018 – 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 Gutwetter

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), 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 14th day of March, 2018 at 8:15 pm 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.

Councilwoman Jachzel explained that this is part of budgetary planning process allowing us to bank amounts that we appropriate under a 3.5% limit so they can be used in future budgets if we go over.

ROLL CALL:

YAYS: Gutwetter, Jachzel, Jones, Kilman, Verdone, Weber

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCE 03-2018 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 4 THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY SO AS TO ESTABLISH SECTION 4-15 TOBACCO SHOPS, SMOKE SHOPS AND ELECTRONIC VAPOR SUBSTANCE INHALATION SHOPS - **Tabled**

XII. NEW BUSINESS

Budget Introduction Resolution 070-2018

Introduced by Councilwoman Jachzel, seconded by Councilman Jones

Councilwoman Jachzel explained that this budget includes a very modest increase in the property tax rate of 1.68%. This marks the eighth year in a row that we have been able to keep the property tax increase under two percent. The total municipal budget size is \$23,554,335 not including the statutorily mandated library tax. Of that amount, \$16,832.839 will be collected in property taxes. For a property assessed at the average value of \$522,000 that percentage increase corresponds to an additional \$41.79 per year in property tax which is virtually identical of last year's increase of 1.71%. Our debt levels are currently at lower levels than they have been since before 2010 and \$3.8 million lower than they were in 2014. This budget includes a \$935,000 in pay down of debt principal with the yearend debt at \$6.7 million. Even with anticipated borrowing for the new senior/community center and drainage project we will remain in a very healthy debt position and significantly under 10% of the allowable debt amount. This budget also includes increased state mandated pension funding for police and other employees and increased retirement trust funding in anticipation of the borough's buy back of sick time which was negotiated with the Ramsey PBA in exchange for the elimination of this benefit. This will also be the fourth year that we invest heavily on road resurfacing and plan on spending around \$900,000. We are utilizing slightly more surplus in this year's budget \$2,925,000. In sum, this is a budget that we are very proud of which ensures the continued delivery of high quality services to our residents without a significant increase in cost. The public hearing for the budget will be on March 28th with copies of the budget posted on our website with hard copies available at borough hall and the library. The budget brochure will be mailed to households. Many thanks to Borough Administrator Vozech and CFO Bartalotta for the never ending hard work that goes into putting together an annual budget and all that goes into it, including last minute adjustments such as the garbage and recycling bids received yesterday. Thanks also to Finance Committee members Councilmen Gutwetter and Jones for their time and input and to Mayor Dillon and Councilmen Weber, Verdone and Kilman for their support.

ROLL CALL:

YAYS: Gutwetter, Jachzel, Jones, Kilman, Verdone, Weber

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Verdone. All in favor. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:12pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Meredith Bendian

Meredith Bendian, RMC

Borough Clerk