

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Council President Jones called the meeting to order at 7:33pm and asked Board of Education Trustee Capuano to lead the flag salute. Council President Jones read the Open Public Meetings Act notice.

I. ROLL CALL -

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

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

Absent: Councilman Weber

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 02-26-2020

Motion to approve and file the minutes by Councilwoman Woods, seconded by Councilman Verdone. All in favor. Carried.

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

Motion to receive and file by Councilman Kilman, seconded by Councilman Jones. Carried.

1. George Bumiller, Ramsey, NJ
letter dated February 26, 2020, regarding comments after a council meeting
2. George Bumiller, Ramsey, NJ
letter dated February 26, 2020, regarding audio recordings for the Board of Health
3. Warren Staudinger, Bergen County Mosquito Control, Paramus, NJ 07653
letter dated February 25, 2020, regarding aerial spraying for mosquitos

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

Asked the Mayor about the council committee charged with investigating the videotaping of meetings. Mayor Dillon replied.

Braggin, Ramsey, NJ

Discussed COVID 19 precautions to prevent spread, status of 13 N. Central Avenue, absences at mayor and council meetings, RIFE website, Bergen County Mosquito Control spraying and the borough video committee

James Sander, 22 Cypress Court, Ramsey, NJ

Discussed the Ramsey Police Department.

Chance Parker, Park Place, Ramsey, NJ

Discussed the Rockland Electric lighting, plastic bag ban, senior/community center storm water management requirements, the underutilized pedestrian pathway system and the budget.

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

VI. APPOINTMENTS - None

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:

- | | | |
|----------|-------------|---|
| 066-2020 | Resolution: | payment of vouchers |
| 067-2020 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number five |
| 068-2020 | Resolution: | endorsing and approving the filing of a final application for minor diversion parkland for the arsenic water treatment system facilities |
| 069-2020 | Resolution: | authorizing an interlocal agreement with Allendale, Franklin Lakes, Ho-Ho-Kus, Mahwah, Midland Park, Oakland, Upper Saddle River, Waldwick and Wyckoff for well child care services |

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

Minetti Dennis Realty Group is requesting permission to hold a town wide garage sale on Saturday, May 2, 2020 from 9:00am – 4:00pm. Each resident will hold the sale at their home. They will provide maps and advertising.

Chuck Graziano, USA Triathlon Coach, is interested in having a Splash and Dash Event for children on June 13, 2020, from 9:00am - 11:30am at the Ramsey Golf and Country Club. They will be using the country club pool with a running course on Lakeside Drive.

B. BLOCK PARTY REQUESTS:

ROLL CALL:

YAY: Gutwetter, Jones, Kilman, Verdone, Woods

VIII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

IX. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

- A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Councilman Michael Gutwetter
Reported that the budget was introduced at the February 26th meeting and the public hearing and adoption will be at the March 25th meeting.

The Library held a very successful mini golf fundraiser and Lunar New Year. Upcoming event for NJ Makers day is set for March 21st. The Sunday concert series will start in April. The Library Board was presented with the annual report by Director Latham stressing the goals were to increase the quality of the events and better match these to attend to the interests and needs as well as implement new events.

- B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Harry Weber
Absent

- C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilman Joseph Verdone
Planning Board Meeting - March 3rd approved waiver for Ultimate Living II, LLC, a European Wax Center located in the Interstate Shopping Center. An amended site plan for Pep Boys, auto service facility on Route 17 South next to the Cigar Store was reviewed and approved which calls for completely renovating the existing building which was a Bridgestone tire facility.

Ramsey Seniors/Senior Center upcoming events

- St. Patrick's Day Luncheon at Mahwah Bar and Grill on March 16th,
- Broadway Show, West Side Story on March 28th.
- AARP Smart Driving Course program to improve seniors driving skills will be held on April 25. Depending on their insurance, seniors who successfully complete the course may be eligible for a discount.
- Ramsey High School Advanced Culinary Class and the Ramsey Seniors will make pasta using pasta making machines on April 29. This is an on-going well attended program bringing young and old together.

As of today and into the near future all of these activities are subject to cancellation due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

VFW Post 12148

New Bridge Medical Center is now offering health care for veterans. A couple of the VFW members have already taken advantage of New Bridge's services.

- D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilman Peter Kilman
Reported that the borough is working with Allendale on a formal mutual water interconnect agreement. The NJ DEP now requires a written agreement between the municipalities.

- E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilman William Jones
Reported that the Farmers’ Market was awarded the Best in Bergen, again and the Ramsey Pool was a top four finalist.

The RIFE winter dance was well attended but will likely be the last event for a while due to the restrictions with the virus.

The meeting with the Chamber of Commerce to discuss the Taste of Ramsey scheduled for May along with any contingency plans.

Regarding any concerns about the pool with the ongoing construction. The NJ DEP has been out to the site but has not found any violations.

Councilman Jones pointed out that Darlington Road is a County road.

Councilman Jones submitted a report of the videotaping committee. It recommends moving forward with the videotaping/streaming and awarding a contract to Gramco at the next meeting for \$9,556.00, which includes the updated court system software. There will be changes in the structure of the meetings, including the time limit of public comment.

- F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilwoman Jane Woods
Board of Education – Ramsey Boy’s Basketball won the sectionals and will advance to the State sectional game, the Boy’s Hockey team played in the State championship but lost in the finals. Ramsey was named Bergen County Track Team of the Year and Coach Wynne was named Bergen County Coach of the year. Five students will be sent to Nashville to compete in Nationals for the International Marketing Association.
The Board sent home a note regarding COVID19. The 2021 tentative budget was approved and will be presented in April.

- G. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON

Responded about the Rockland Electric light pole that was complained about. The borough contact from Rockland explained it was a light changed out at the request of Ramsey Police Department as well as the plastic bag ban that she is currently against but will get a survey by the business owners who would be the most impacted. If improvements are wanted on Darlington avenue then they must be addressed by the county as it’s a county road.

There was a stakeholder meeting last week for the 2020 Census. The borough will be partnering with the county in an effort to bring up census takers in Ramsey. Laptops are set up at the library and can go over to the senior center and the Woodlands.

Several events have been cancelled due to COVID-19. Reminding everyone to stay calm and wash your hands. Another joint statement will be going out with School Superintendent Matthew Murphy.

Reported that the borough is considering purchasing the property at 13 N. Central Ave.

H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh

Reported on the 2020 Municipal Budget – The public hearing is on March 25th and up for adoption. The budget brochure will be mailed out in advance of the public hearing. The tax increase this year is 1.83% and for the tenth consecutive year below the 2% tax levy.

Discussed Senior Center and Site Work Project – The contractor continues work finishing up the outside siding of the building and completed the inside framing, insulation and sheet rock. As well as the site work on the filtration basin and foundation work along with the storm water management upgrade. Parking lot on the eastern side and the expansion of the west side parking lot are under way.

BPW Well Reactivation and Treatment Update – A contract was awarded at the February meeting for installation of the final two treatment units to Stone Hill Construction. The final application for the minor diversion is being submitted to Green Acres along with correspondence and transcript of the public hearing. The resolution was on tonight's agenda to submit the final application to Green Acres.

Borough Code Recodification Project – The borough contracted with General Code to do a global recodification which includes a comprehensive review of the code with questions, suggestions, etc., for the borough. Department Heads are now reviewing their sections.

2020 Road Resurfacing Program - The review of the roads has been completed under the annual program. Some roads that had a lower rating were not included for other factors such as ongoing construction, i.e., Spring Street well work and reactivation project. Approximately \$650-\$725K is expected in capital investment in the program this year. Looking to go out to bid shortly. The borough received a proposal from Boswell Engineers to provide the borough with a borough wide roadway pavement management study for \$9,700 which would provide the borough with an outside objective party review.

At the end of 2019 the borough received a grant for \$230,000 from NJ DOT in order to repave Prospect Street, Mechanic Street commuter lot and Canterbury Drive. A contract was awarded to Boswell Engineering to perform the necessary plans and specifications to bid on the project. This will be included in the 2020 program.

Join Insurance Fund Insurance Award Safety Award – The borough received a platinum award (100%) for 2019.

On the Bergen County Executive conference call earlier today it was reported that there are ten presumptive confirmed cases in Bergen County. The County has closed their schools and their senior centers as well as other county facilities.

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

Aerial Spraying by Bergen County – As was done last year, a letter will be sent to the county authorizing the spraying in Ramsey.

- J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian - no report
- X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES - None
- XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None
- XII. NEW BUSINESS - None
- XIII. ADJOURNMENT
Motion to adjourn by Councilman Verdone, seconded by Councilman Kilman. All in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 8:21pm.
- Meredith Bendian, RMC
Borough Clerk