

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, March 25, 2020

BUDGET
PUBLIC HEARING

Due to COVID-19 this meeting was held via conference call with no public in the building. The public was invited to join the call and the meeting was open to public comment.

Mayor Dillon called the meeting to order at 7:33pm and asked Borough Attorney Scandariato to lead the flag salute. Mayor Dillon read the Open Public Meetings Act notice. Mayor Dillon also mentioned that it was published in the Bergen Record, on the borough bulletin board and the Borough website that this meeting was telephonic only, along with where to find the call-in information. Notices were also posted on the front and rear doors at borough hall.

I. ROLL CALL -

Present: Mayor Dillon, Councilmembers Gutwetter (via phone), Jones (via phone), Kilman, Verdone (via phone), Weber and Woods (via phone)

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – None

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

Motion by Councilman Weber, seconded by Councilman Kilman. Carried.

1. George Bumiller, Ramsey, NJ
letter dated March 11, 2020, regarding Councilman Jones' videotaping report
2. Melissa Oratio, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, 30 Wyckoff Avenue,
Waldwick, NJ
letter dated February 20, 2020, enclosing minutes from the January 13, 2020 meeting
3. Kathy Ambrose, Chairperson, The Woman's Club of Ramsey
letter dated March 10, 2020, requesting permission to hold the 17th Annual Heirloom
Tomato and Plant Sale on May 16, 2020

Mayor Dillon asked for a motion to go out of the regular order of business for the 2020 budget public hearing.

Mayor Dillon asked Borough Administrator Vozech to present the budget for public hearing and final consideration before it was opened up to the public.

Borough Administrator Vozech commented that there was a presentation of the 2020 municipal budget at the February 11th council meeting then posted on the borough website. The budget was then introduced on February 26th, with the budget brochure mailed to all homes and advertised in the Bergen Record for tonight's public hearing.

Budget Summary

The proposed tax rate increase is 1.8%, below the state cap of 2%. The borough is not using any CAP exceptions. The total budget is up approximately \$900,000 from the 2019 budget. \$771,772 of that increase is revenue from grant reimbursements and will be directly offset as appropriations to pay down related project debt. The debt level includes debt principal pay down of approximately \$2 million. There is capital investment of approximately \$900,000 for infrastructure combined with some capital improvement reserves along with access to the debt market will allow the borough to continue with a significant level of funding for road resurfacing and other capital projects. Surplus utilization is reduced by \$250,000 offsetting the amount needed to be raised by taxes.

The hearing on the 2020 municipal budget was opened to the public. Borough Administrator Vozech explained that anyone from the public wishing to speak should *6 allowing them to be heard.

With no one wishing to be heard Mayor Dillon suspended the public hearing.

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.

Borough Administrator Vozech explained that anyone from the public wishing to speak should *6 allowing them to be heard.

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

Mayor Dillon re-opened the public hearing for the 2020 municipal budget.

Borough Administrator Vozech explained that anyone from the public wishing to speak should *6 allowing them to be heard.

Two members of the public on the call mentioned that they did not hear anything after the budget was open for public hearing. Administrator Vozech explained that no one had made any comments.

Borough Auditor, Paul Garbarini commented that the borough was eligible for self-examination and has met all the statutory requirements including the levy cap calculation and the appropriation cap calculation. The firm thanked the Finance Committee, the Mayor and Council and, in particular, Borough Administrator Vozech and CFO Bartalotta.

With no one wishing to be heard on the 2020 municipal budget, the public hearing was closed and Borough Administrator Vozech read Resolution 079-2020 to adopt the 2020 municipal budget.

Motion by Councilman Weber, seconded by Councilman Kilman.

Resolution: 079-2020 adoption of the 2020 municipal budget

ROLL CALL:

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

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

VI. APPOINTMENTS - None

VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION

Motion by Councilman Kilman, seconded by Councilman Weber

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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| 070-2020 | Resolution: | payment of vouchers |
| 071-2020 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number six |
| 072-2020 | Resolution: | authorizing tax redemption Block 1306 Lot 3 in the amount of \$10,072.43 |
| 073-2020 | Resolution: | endorsing the submission of the recycling tonnage grant application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and designating Jack D'Agostaro, CRP to ensure that the application is properly filed |
| 074-2020 | Resolution: | certifying the submission of expenditure for taxes paid pursuant to P.L. 2007, chapter 311, in 2019 in the amount of \$23,325.45 |
| 075-2020 | Resolution: | awarding contract to Gramco Business Communications, 1149 Bloomfield Avenue, Clifton, NJ, in the amount of \$9,556.00 for the videotaping of meetings, equipment and training |
| 076-2020 | Resolution: | authorizing one-year contract to Aslan & Company, Inc. for cleaning of Municipal Building, Police Station and Senior Center with a price of \$2,400 per month for a one-year contract starting May 1, 2020 |
| 077-2020 | Resolution: | approval of change order # 5 to APS Contracting, Inc. for additional subgrade excavation, disposal of material and replacement subbase for the new east side parking and the west side parking lot extension in accordance with recommendation of geotechnical engineer, for a total amount of \$81,814.03. |
| 078-2020 | Resolution: | authorizing the disposal of obsolete equipment as set forth in attachment |

VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION (cont'd)

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

B. BLOCK PARTY REQUESTS:

ROLL CALL:

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

VIII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

IX. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

- A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Councilman Michael Gutwetter
Wished everyone the best of health during these trying times.

Reported that the library is working on some virtual events, please check their website.

- B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Harry Weber
With most boards and commission meetings being suspended due to COVID-19, there was not much to report on.

He thanked Councilman Gutwetter and the Finance Committee for their work on the budget as well as the Borough Administrator, CFO and the Borough Auditor.

Thanked Chief Gurney, OEM Director Venturini, the Board of Health and the Health Department, all of the emergency responders and all borough employees during this difficult time. Also recognized Mayor Dillon for her communication getting us through these challenging times.

- C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilman Joseph Verdone
Reported that due to the virus pandemic the Planning Board has been cancelled. The Ramsey Senior Center is closed until further notice. The president and trustees of the Ramsey Seniors continue to reach out to the members.

The VFW Commanders continue to check on their members.

Ramsey Responds – They were notified that the residents of the Woodlands were very reluctant to go shopping. A list of most needed items were identified and many residents have donated food and supplies. Larry Inserra from Shoprite was made aware of the needs and had a substantial amount of groceries delivered to the Woodlands.

Ramsey Responds has been inundated with requests for financial help and will try to meet all needs. Donations can be sent to Ramsey Responds at PO 724, Ramsey, NJ 07446.

- D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilman Peter Kilman
Thanked Administrator Vozech for his work on the budget along with Councilman Gutwetter but also for assisting in this difficult time.

Reported that he's been working with the Borough Attorney on the emergency water interconnection agreement which we are looking to formalize in the near future

Reported that there are local establishments open for business and asked residents to support these businesses.

- E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilman William Jones
Thanked everyone who made the telephonic meeting happen.

Due to the uncertainty with this virus we have suspended the Ramsey Journal Spring Edition.

The Ramsey Famers' Market is exploring the possibility to open for online orders and drive thru delivery in the spring.

The Chamber of Commerce website has businesses listed that are open for business. If you're able to support these businesses are that open, please do.

The Ramsey Pool is moving forward with plans to be open for Memorial Day Weekend.

As was mentioned earlier tonight, he is proud of the response that we've had throughout the community from residents who have stepped up to help those in need including all emergency services.

Commented that Mayor Dillon has done an incredible job of being a calming voice and voice of reason during this time.

Encouraged all residents to continue to be vigilant, smart and safe and we will overcome this.

Thanked the emergency services and public safety members for all they are doing.

- F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilwoman Jane Woods
Echoed the thanks to all of the first responders and everyone that has come together in the community to get through this crisis.

The Board of Health last met March 12th prior to the rapidly changing COVID 19 landscape at which time announced the Farmers' Market was closed. Glen Karpovich of OEM updated the borough was on top of the response. Supplies like gloves, suits and masks are being released where needed. It is advised to keep detailed expense reports for FEMA reimbursements. If there are any COVID19 residents the health officer will be notified. Thanked those who are on the Board of Health, willing to dedicate their time for our wellbeing.

Design Review Board meeting was cancelled for March

The Ramsey Board of Education held their meeting on March 24th via YouTube with the format working very well. There has been very positive feedback from the Ramsey parents regarding online teaching.

Thanked the Mayor for her concise reports and updates and leading the COVID19 Task Force through a difficult and challenging time.

G. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON

Thanked Borough Administrator Vozech, CFO Bartalotta, Councilman Gutwetter and everyone who worked on the 2020 municipal budget.

Reported that the library staff is doing a great job, providing much needed programming and diversions while everyone is stuck at home during these challenging times.

Thanked all borough employees, especially Borough Administrator Vozech, Borough Clerk Bendian, the Health Department, Danielle Monaghan and Martha Sobanko and of course OEM, Ralph Venturini, Carolyn Green Angelo LaManna, Steve Ahlstedt and Glen Karpovich.

Thanked everyone who has volunteered to help their neighbors and those that are homebound. Last week a volunteer helpline was set up at borough hall, extension 279 and we have had about fifteen people offer to volunteer with only two calls for assistance. She is proud and thankful of the residents of Ramsey who in times of crisis think about their fellow residents and what they can do to help them.

A special thank you to Inserra Supermarkets for helping the residents of the Woodlands with food and supplies.

Personally thanked Rebecca Schwartz from Governor Murphy's office. They are in daily contact regarding Executive Order 107.

Please practice social distancing and be well.

H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozech

Resolution 075-2020 awarding a contract to Gramco Business Communications is for the videotaping of mayor and council meetings, which Councilman Jones has been discussing for some time. Two quotes were received.

Resolution 076-2020 awarding a contract to Aslan Company for cleaning services for borough hall, police station and the senior center. Five quotes were received.

Resolution 077-2020 approving a change order to APS Contracting for additional subgrade excavation disposal of material and replacement of the parking lots at the Pool in the amount of \$81,814.03 with no new funds to be appropriated for this.

The work at the senior center site project continues under the Governor's Executive Order. Work on the senior center is being finished up

Board of Public Works Well Reactivation and Treatment Project update. A meeting was held with residents near the Martis Well House. The borough presented renderings of the proposed aesthetic enhancements to be installed. The proposal was well received and the board will be incorporating this at the Martis, E Oak and Orchard Wells.

Due to COVID19 borough hall is operating normal hours, Monday through Friday 8:30am-4:30pm but for the health welfare and safety of the residents and employees the building is closed to the general public. We continue our operations and response to the public via phone and e-mail. Department staffs are on a rotating schedule to limit interaction and comply with social distancing guidelines. The recycling center is open on a modified schedule, Monday through Saturday 9am-3pm.

Ordinance 05-2020 – Bond Ordinance for the funding of two upcoming road infrastructure projects, including the 2020 road resurfacing program and the 2020 municipal aid resurfacing project. The borough received a \$230,000 municipal aid grant from NJ DOT offsetting approximately 40% of the cost of this project, including the resurfacing of Prospect and Canterbury along with the commuter lot.

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

J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian - No report

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 05-2020 - BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$1,285,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS

Motion by Councilman Weber, seconded by Councilman Kilman

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled A Bond Ordinance to authorize the making of various public improvements in, by and for the Borough of Ramsey, in the County of Bergen State of New Jersey, to appropriate the sum of \$1,285,000 to pay the cost thereof, to make a down payment, to authorize the issuance of bonds to finance such appropriation and to provide for the issuance of bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the issuance of such bonds, passed 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 22nd day of April, 2020 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 Weber commended Borough Administrator Vozech for always getting municipal aid grants to help offset the spending on these projects. It allows for extending the amount of paving the borough is able to do.

ROLL CALL:

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

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

XII. NEW BUSINESS -

Mayor Dillon announced that the next scheduled Mayor and Council meeting is April 22nd.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Weber, seconded by Councilman Jones. All in favor. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:17pm.

Meredith Bendian, RMC
Borough Clerk