

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2018

BUDGET PUBLIC  
HEARING

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 to order at 8:15pm and asked Board of Education member Mr. Rockefeller to lead the flag salute. Mayor Dillon read the Open Public Meetings Act notice.

I. ROLL CALL -

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

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

Absent: Councilman Gutwetter

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – WS 03-14-18, 03-14-18

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

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

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

1. Gwon Family, 93 Grove Street, Ramsey  
letter received Wednesday, March 14, 2018, complementing the Ramsey Police Department and Rescue Squad and their quick response and service
2. George Bumiller, 39 Lakeview Terrace, Ramsey  
power point presentation on dissemination of information to the public for M & C meetings
3. Melissa Oratio, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, 30 Wyckoff Ave, Waldwick, NJ  
letter dated March 22, 2018 enclosing copies of minutes from February 20, 2018

IV. APPOINTMENTS –

Mayor Dillon made the following appointment

Carolyn Green, Planning Board Class II member (filling the unexpired term of H. Cantor)

V. 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:

079-2018 Resolution: payment of vouchers

080-2018 Resolution: ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number six

081-2018 Resolution: amendment to temporary budget

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

Minetti Dennis Group of KW is requesting permission to hold a town wide garage sale on Saturday, May 5, 2018, 9:00am-4:00pm

B. BLOCK PARTY REQUESTS:

ROLL CALL:

YAY: Jachzel, Jones, Kilman, Verdone, Weber

VI. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS - None

Motion by Councilman Verdone seconded by Councilman Jones to go out of the regular order of business to hold the 2018 municipal budget public hearing.

**ROLL CALL:**

YAY: Jachzel, Jones, Kilman, Verdone, Weber

Mayor Dillon announced that tonight would be the public hearing on the budget but would not be adopted because while not required by statute, the budget newsletters were not distributed timely due to recent snow storms. The budget will be voted on for adoption at the April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Councilwoman Jachzel introduced the Borough Auditor Paul Garbarini and CFO Denise Bartalotta and thanked them for preparing and reviewing the budget. With a special thank you to CFO Bartalotta for preparing the amendment to the temporary budget to cover the next two weeks.

This budget for the Borough of Ramsey includes a very modest increase of 1.68%, which is below the 2 percent state levy cap. This marks the 8th year in a row we have been able to keep the property tax increase under 2 percent.

The total municipal budget size is \$23,554,335 (excluding the state mandated library tax). For a property assessed at the average value of \$522,942, the increase corresponds to an additional \$41.79 per year in property taxes, or \$3.48 per month.

Borough debt levels are currently lower than they have been since before 2010—and \$3.8 million lower than in January 2014. This budget includes an additional \$935,000 reduction in debt principal. Even with anticipated borrowing for the new senior/community center project, we will remain in a very healthy debt position.

Ramsey in comparison to the 13 Northwest Bergen towns has the 4th lowest debt levels and 3rd lowest if you go by percentage of budget.

Of the 70 Bergen County towns, Ramsey has the 12th lowest municipal tax rate. Nine of the eleven municipalities with lower rates also have significantly higher average residential assessments while the remaining two have significantly more commercial property than does Ramsey.

Municipal taxes are only about 20% of your total tax bill. The remainder of your bill is 68% percent to the Board of Education, 11% to the county and 1% to the library.

The budget ensures the continued delivery of high-quality services to all our residents, as well as significant infrastructure improvements, without significant increase in costs.

Many thanks to Borough Administrator Vozeh, CFO Bartolotta, Mr. Garbarini, Finance Committee members Councilmen Jones and Gutwetter, Mayor Dillon and everyone else up here with me for their time, effort and input in getting this done.

Mr. Garbarini reported that borough is under self-examination this year and under the statute for self-examination the statutory requirements, levy cap and the appropriation cap and all of the other debt requirements will be reviewed and certified by the CFO and all applicable statutory requirements have been fulfilled.

Mayor Dillon opened the public hearing on the 2018 Municipal Budget

Braggin, AB, Ramsey, NJ

Asked how the 1.68% increase in taxes was calculated and questioned the surplus. Administrator Vozech explained the 1.68% is the difference between the municipal tax rate from 2017 to 2018 which is then multiplied by the assessed value. Mr. Braggin asked further questions for clarification on the budget and inquired about no bid contracts. Administrator Vozech replied.

George Bumiller, 39 Lakeview Terrace, Ramsey

Inquired about long term planning and back up documentation. Administrator Vozech explained that there are capital requests from different departments but we do not have any yet for 2018. There is only a line item allocation established in the budget for the capital requests.

With no one else wishing to be heard, Mayor Dillon adjourned the public hearing until April 11, 2018.

VII. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Councilwoman Vanessa Jachzel  
Thanked Carolyn Green for stepping up to serve on the Planning Board.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Harry Weber  
Thanked Carolyn Green for stepping up to the Planning Board and congratulated the Ramsey Rescue officers who were sworn into their new positions and thanked them for their service.

Thanked the Finance Committee and all of those who helped in putting together the budget.

C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilman Joseph Verdone  
Welcomed Carolyn Green to the Planning Board.

D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilman Peter Kilman  
Congratulated Carolyn Green for stepping up the Planning Board.

E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilman William Jones  
Welcomed Carolyn Green to the Planning Board and announced that the Ramsey Journal should be in mailboxes in early April.

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

G. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON  
Thanked Carolyn Green for stepping up the Planning Board.

Thanked Mr. Vozeh, Councilwoman Jachzel, Mrs. Bartalotta and Mr. Garbarini and the Finance Committee for a great job on the budget.

H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh  
Thanked the governing body and the Finance Committee, Councilwoman Jachzel, Mrs. Bartalotta and Mr. Garbarini for all their work on the budget.

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.

Braggin, AB, Ramsey

Discussed Robert's Rules of order and having department heads present at meetings once a month.

George Bumiller, 39 Lakeview Terrace, Ramsey

Discussed comments made during meetings and after as well as meeting information being disseminated.

Chance Parker, 11 Park Place, Ramsey

Discussed the discharge of fire arms ordinance, the use of public parks, a complete streets resolution and meeting decorum. Mayor Dillon replied.

Roger Knauss, 21 Park Place, Ramsey

Thanked the Mayor and Council for adopting the smoke shop ordinance.

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

IX. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 06-2018 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 19 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AND MORE SPECIFICALLY SUBSECTION 19-2.1 THEREOF ENTITLED FEES FOR WATER USAGE

Motion by Councilman Kilman, seconded by Councilman Weber

BE IT RESOLVED THAT AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED: An Ordinance amending Chapter 19 of the Code of the Borough of Ramsey, Bergen County, New Jersey and more specifically Subsection 19-2.1 thereof entitled Fees for Water Usage, 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 allows the borough to increase fees for water usage of 1.72% with no increase in 2017.

Mayor Dillon opened the public hearing for Ordinance 06-2018.

Braggin, AB, Ramsey

Asked why there was an increase in the water rates? Mayor Dillon replied due to capital improvements. Water systems are very expensive to operate especially with the regulations that the borough must comply with.

Chance Parker, 11 Park Place, Ramsey

Inquired about consideration of a tiered structure rate. Mayor Dillon replied there was not. Administrator Vozeh explained there is a minimum usage charge.

With no one else wishing to be heard, Mayor Dillon closed the public hearing on Ordinance 06-2018.

ROLL CALL:

YAY: Jachzel, Jones, Kilman, Verdone, Weber

IX. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES (cont'd)

ORDINANCE 07-2018 - 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, CANNABIS SHOPS AND ELECTRONIC VAPOR SUBSTANCE INHALATION SHOPS

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 so as to establish Section 4-15 Tobacco Shops, Smoke Shops, Cannabis Shops and Electronic Vapor Substance Inhalation Shops, 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 Verdone explained that this ordinance established a new section which regulates the location and operations of retailers.

Mayor Dillon opened the public hearing for Ordinance 07-2018.

Braggin, AB, Ramsey, NJ

Confirmed his statement from another meeting that this ordinance makes the borough feel good by not having these substances sold on Main Street but those that want it will get it in the next town.

ROLL CALL:

YAY: Jachzel, Jones, Kilman, Verdone, Weber

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

XII. NEW BUSINESS



XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Councilwoman Jachzel, seconded by Councilman Jones.  
Meeting adjourned at 9:16pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Meredith Bendian

Meredith Bendian, RMC

Borough Clerk