

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY  
COUNCIL MEETING MINTUES  
Wednesday, April 11, 2018

BUDGET  
PUBLIC HEARING  
AND ADOPTION

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 Mrs. Fine to lead the flag salute. Mayor Dillon read the Open Public Meetings Act notice.

I. ROLL CALL -

Present: Mayor Dillon, Councilmembers Gutwetter, Jachzel, Jones, Kilman and Verdoner

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

Absent: Councilman Weber

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – None

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

Motion by Councilman Verdone, seconded by Councilwoman Jachzel. Carried.

1. Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, Alison Gordon, Secretary  
30 Wyckoff Avenue, Waldwick, NJ  
letter dated March 28, 2018 enclosing a notice for a special meeting for a public hearing on April 17, 2018
2. Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, Alison Gordon, Secretary  
30 Wyckoff Avenue, Waldwick, NJ  
letter dated April 2, 2018 enclosing the annual audit

IV. APPOINTMENTS –

Mayor Dillon made the following appointment

Danielle Dougherty, Ramsey Fire Department

Mayor Dillon swore in Ms. Dougherty after the consent resolution.

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:

- |          |             |   |
|----------|-------------|---|
| 082-2018 | Resolution: | payment of vouchers   |
| 083-2018 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number seven  |
| 084-2018 | Resolution: | proclaiming April as Autism Awareness month in Ramsey   |
| 085-2018 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Danielle Dougherty to the Ramsey Fire Department  |
| 086-2018 | Resolution: | authorizing the award of contract to Organic Recycling, Inc., 895 Pulaski Highway, Goshen, NY as low quote for a one year contract for disposal of mixed debris, grass and branches in an amount of \$27,937.50 |

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

March of Dimes is requesting permission to walk thru town on Sunday, April 29, 2018 beginning at 10:00 am to raise money for children.

Ramsey VFW Post #12148 is requesting permission to sell poppies on May 1 – May 31, 2018. They will be at Shop Rite, Uncle Guiseppe's, Village Stationers, Ramsey Liquors, Brady's, Ramsey Gourmet, Omega Jewelers, Lotito's, Post Office and Ramsey Hardware

Ramsey Area Garden Club is requesting permission to post signs at the RHS tennis courts and sign board at Finch Park advertising their plant sale on Saturday, May 12, 2018.

B. BLOCK PARTY REQUESTS:

ROLL CALL:

YAYS: Gutwetter, Jachzel, Jones, Kilman, Verdone

VI. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Dillon and Councilman Verdone thanked Sandy Cohen of the Ramsey Seniors for all of her work and dedication to the seniors as she leaves Ramsey to move to California.

## VII. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

- A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Councilwoman Vanessa Jachzel  
Mentioned she is sorry to see Sandy Cohen leave Ramsey and thanked her for her contribution to the borough. Congratulated Danielle Dougherty and welcomed Doug Rennie back now that he is feeling better.

We will be concluding the budget public hearing later in the meeting.

- B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Harry Weber  
Absent

- C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilman Joseph Verdone  
Congratulated Danielle Dougherty and mentioned he was glad to see Doug Rennie back after being ill.

- D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilman Peter Kilman  
Congratulated Danielle Dougherty for joining the Fire Department and wished Sandy Cohen well as she leaves Ramsey.

- E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilman William Jones  
Congratulated Sandy Cohen and thanked Danielle Dougherty for joining the Fire Department.

Reminded everyone that Taste of Ramsey is May 20<sup>th</sup> and the Ramsey Farmers' Market returns outside June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

- F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilman Michael Gutwetter  
Echoed the sentiments about Sandy and Danielle.

Announced that the Board of Health would feature a Stigma Free presentation on mental illness on April 26<sup>th</sup> at the Ramsey Library.

- G. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON  
Congratulated Dani Dougherty and wished Sandy and Stanley Cohen the best and reminded everyone that May 1<sup>st</sup> is the Stigma Free walk at Ramsey High School at 7pm to raise awareness about mental health.

- 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.

Braggin, AB, Ramsey

Confirmed the BPU public meeting in Mahwah on Monday, April 16<sup>th</sup> and discussed the Mayor excusing people from the meetings after special presentations and the timing of the executive sessions.

Chance Parker, 11 Park Place, Ramsey

Discussed the loss control survey conducted at Conklin Park by the Borough's Risk Manager and the arsenic level in Ramsey water.

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

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

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES- None

## XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Dillon reopened the 2018 Ramsey Municipal Budget Public Hearing.

Councilwoman Jachzel

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). Of that amount \$16,832,839 will be collected in property tax and that's approximately \$273,000 more than 2017 which leads to the 1.68% increase. Our revenue sources other than property taxes are surplus from the year before. Our state aid is \$1,474,471 with some grants totaling \$138,000 and miscellaneous sources \$2.2 million.

We are in incredibly healthy debt position. By year end we are at approximately \$6.7 million, which is lower than it was since 2008. Our debt is the fourth lowest of the twelve Northwest Bergen County towns and the third lowest in terms of debt as a percentage of overall budget size. Out of the seventy municipalities in Bergen County we are the twelfth lowest municipal tax rates. Municipal taxes are only twenty percent of the overall property tax that is collected. The remainder is sixty-eight percent to the Board of Education eleven percent to the county and one percent to the Library.

We are investing heavily in our roads, \$900,000 for road resurfacing. There is also an extra \$100,000 in the budget for the police retirement funds to help fund the sick time buy back that was negotiated with the PBA. Recycling and garbage is up about 24% this year.

Braggin, AB, Ramsey

Discussed surplus and discretionary spending as well as bond rates and no bid contracts.

Debra Sahler, 34 Oak Ridge Road, Ramsey

Discussed the safety of the students in the schools and the funding of police presence and cost sharing. Mayor Dillon replied that her comments are more appropriate for the Board of Education and the board has not approached the governing body.

With no one else wishing to be heard, Mayor Dillon closed the public hearing on the 2018 municipal budget.

087-2018      Resolution:      Adoption of 2018 municipal budget

Councilwoman made a motion on Resolution 087-2018, seconded by Councilman Jones.

ROLL CALL:

YAY: Gutwetter, Jachzel, Jones, Kilman, Verdone

XII. NEW BUSINESS- None

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Verdone, seconded by Councilman Jones. All in favor.  
Meeting adjourned at 9:04pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

**Meredith Bendian**

Meredith Bendian, RMC

Borough Clerk