

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
Wednesday, April 12, 2023
7:00pm

This meeting is also being conducted telephonically. The Dial-In Number (425)436-6365 Access Code 213563#. The meeting may also be viewed on Ramsey YouTube Channel https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeBnVXBwSn_ILMuAGkSin9w

Council President Kilman called the meeting to order at 7:04pm, lead the flag salute and read the Open Public Meetings Act notice.

I. ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Dillon, Councilpersons Cusick, Kilman, Gutwetter, Popolo and Woods

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

Absent: Councilwoman Poppe

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 03-22-23

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

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

Motion to receive and file by Councilwoman Woods, seconded by Councilman Popolo Councilwoman Woods thanked Stephanie Farrar for her service to the Ramsey Seniors. All in favor. Carried.

1. Stephanie Farrar, Ramsey Senior Coordinator
letter dated March 29, 2023, informing of her resignation effective March 31, 2023

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Anyone wishing to address the governing body please give your name (spelling the last name) and address. 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, 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.

Council President Kilman opened public comment. With no one on the telephone or in chambers wishing to be heard, closed public comment.

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

VI. APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Dillon made the following appointments

Brian Dillon, Board of Public Works

Kathy Daini, Design Review Board, Alternate One

VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION

Motion by Councilman Gutwetter, seconded by Councilman Popolo

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:

- | | | |
|----------|-------------|--|
| 090-2023 | Resolution: | payment of vouchers |
| 091-2023 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number seven |
| 092-2023 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Brian Dillon to the Board of Public Works |
| 093-2023 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Kathy Daini to the Design Review Board as Alternate One |
| 094-2023 | Resolution: | proclaiming April as Autism Awareness month in the Borough of Ramsey |
| 095-2023 | Resolution: | accepting the resignation of Stephanie Farrar as Senior Coordinator, with regret |
| 096-2023 | Resolution: | award of contract to Cliffhanger Productions for professional services to supply entertainment consisting of two bands for the Borough's Independence Day Celebration in an amount of \$7,200 |
| 097-2023 | Resolution: | award of contract to Moore Productions for stage, sound and lighting equipment for the Borough's Independence Day Celebration in the amount of \$7,985 |
| 098-2023 | Resolution: | awarding a contract to Burgis Associates, Inc., a professional engineering firm of the State of New Jersey, is hereby retained by the Borough of Ramsey to provide preparation of a study to determine if Block 3603, Lot 1 in the Borough meets the criteria to be designated as an area in need of redevelopment at a cost not to exceed \$7,700.00 as set forth in the proposal of Burgis Associates, Inc. as attached hereto and made a part hereof. |

VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION (cont'd)

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

Konica Minolta is requesting permission to hold an employee appreciation event on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 between the hours of 1:00pm – 3:00 pm which will include food, games, tent, stage and a band.

B. BLOCK PARTY REQUESTS:

Roll Call:

YAY: Cusick, Gutwetter, Kilman, Popolo, Woods

Absent: Poppe

VIII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS - None

IX. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Councilman Michael Gutwetter

Ramsey Library – NJ Maker’s Day, STEAM based activities, has expanded in popularity and scope and had the biggest turn out, yet, which was held on March 25th.

Ramsey Pool – Pre-season has begun and the de-winterization of the bath house and pool opening. Two gazebos have been added for more shade and comfort. Opening day is scheduled for Saturday, May 27th and will be open to members on weekends until June 24th. Registration is available through Community Pass and early bird rate closes May 1st.

The Ramsey High School Swim team won team of the year and Coach Bach was named Coach of the Year.

Recreation Commission – The Spring Egg Hunt was cancelled due to safety concerns due to inclement weather but 1,500 eggs were handed out and partnering with the Fire Department was a success. Upcoming activities are softball starting April 16th.

Recreation Director Tyburczy has revised the Recreation page on the website to make it easier to navigate and more informative.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Peter Kilman

Thanked Stephanie Farrar for her service to the Ramsey Seniors and congratulated Brian Dillon and Kathy Daini on their appointments.

VFW Post 12148 – The annual poppy donations will begin May 1st at various establishments throughout the borough. In May members will replace American flags on fallen veterans’ graves at Union and Redeemer Cemeteries.

C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilwoman Jane Woods

Thanked Stephanie Farrar for all of her service to the seniors.

Design Review Board – Approved three sign applications, Red Hen Bistro, Granny’s Pantry and DSW. The board also discussed the compliance of signs on Main St and will be structuring a comprehensive plan in collaboration with the Ramsey Zoning Officer and Assistant Zoning Officer, in an effort to declutter downtown Ramsey. Welcomed and thanked Kathy Daini for joining the board.

D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilwoman Judy Cusick

Congratulated Brian Dillon and Kathy Daini on their appointments.

Wished Stephanie Farrar well and thanked her for her service to the Ramsey Seniors.

Expressed how happy she is that the borough has declared April as Autism Awareness month.

Shade Tree – There will be a tree dedication to Jim Rogers, former Board of Health member, at Finch Park for Arbor Day on April 29th at 1:00pm. You can find information on the borough website.

Board of Public Works – The board continues planning regarding NJDEP’s lead service line replacement legislation and borough compliance. This project is a ten-year project that requires all lead service lines to be replaced by 2031.

Springtime fire hydrant flushing has begun. The borough website has a schedule and updates will be posted throughout the process. They are scheduled for the weeks of April 10, 17 and 24th from 11pm to 6am.

Reported on the training session that she and Mayor Dillon attended for the OEM mobile trailer operation on Sunday, April 2nd.

E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilwoman Sara Poppe

Council President Kilman gave the report in Councilwoman Poppe’s absence.

Congratulated Brian Dillon and Kathy Daini on their appointments.

Thanked Stephanie Farrar for her years of service to the Ramsey Seniors.

The DEA will hold drug take back day on Saturday, April 22nd for unneeded, unwanted or expired medications to the collection box in the Ramsey Police Station lobby.

The Ramsey Municipal Alliance will also provide another opportunity for disposal when they host the Annual Meet the Police at the Farmers’ Market on June 11th.

LEADs got talent has begun auditions for the fifth-grade students at Dater School and the talent show will be held May 20th.

May 4th and 5th the Air Tool kit will be presented at Hubbard and Tisdale Schools, a mental health awareness assembly for younger students using therapy dogs.

Thanked Danielle Monaghan from the Health Department for getting table tents to restaurants to local bars, which display ride share information for safe and responsible choices.

The Ramsey Journal is complete and should arrive in mailboxes the week of April 17th.

The Chamber of Commerce will host a networking event on April 19th at Houlihans.

The “Save the Date” was sent to town organizations to participate in the New Resident Mixer on June 20th.

- F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilman Glen Popolo Congratulated Ryan and Kathy on their appointments and thanked Stephanie Farrar for her service to the Ramsey Seniors.

RIFE – April 28th is the Spring Dance at the Ramsey High School Cafeteria from 7pm-9pm. The Challenger Softball season kicks off on April 22nd. The Gala is tentatively planned for June 24th at the Ramsey High School.

Environmental Commission – Ramey Clean Up Day is April 22nd . On April 23rd is the Plastic Toy Collection and Electrical Vehicle Car Show at the Farmers' Market. Eagle Scout Marc Jachzel did a presentation on his fishing line and disposal containers project.

- G. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON

Thanked Stephanie Farrar for her service to the Ramsey Seniors.

Welcomed Brian Dillon to the Board of Public Works, who is replacing Bill Emmer. Extended a big thank you to Bill for his many years of service, as he was instrumental as President of the board for the recent filtration system upgrades.

Welcomed Kathy Daini, a licensed architect, to the Design Review Board.

Congratulated the Ramsey High School Swim Team and Coach Gary Bach.

Library Board – Director Latham reported that the Glow in the Dark Easter Egg Hunt was the most popular event with approximately six hundred people.

OEM – CERT Training – The new trailer was donated by Bergen County and is full of equipment, including generators, for emergencies. They received training on the use of the mobile generators, which are available to those in an emergency.

H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh

Resolution 95 – Accepting resignation of Senior Coordinator Stephanie Farrar, with regret: Stephanie has been with Borough for about nine years as our Senior Coordinator. She was involved with our transition from the old Senior Center to the new Senior Center and helped our Senior group work through COVID, maintaining programs safely. She formed many special bonds with our active Senior group and we thank her for her service to the Borough and the lasting impact she has had on many of our seniors that she has worked with over the years.

Resolutions 96 & 97 – Awarding contracts for the Borough Independence Weekend Celebration for entertainment, stage, sound and lighting services: This resolution approves contracts with Cliffhanger Productions and Moore Productions for services for our Independence Weekend Event on July 1st. Cliffhanger will supply two bands for the event and Moore Productions will provide the stage, sound equipment and sound operators for the event.

Resolution 98 – Awarding contract to Burgis Associates for the determination of a property classification as an area in need of redevelopment: This resolution awards a contract to Burgis Associates for a study of Block 3603, Lot 1 to determine if such property meets the criteria to be designated as an area in need of redevelopment. If this property is ultimately determined to meet the criteria as an area in need of redevelopment, it would then be further reviewed for future potential planning and zoning modifications.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh (cont'd)

Ordinances for Introduction:

Ordinance 4-2023 – Bond Ordinance for various public improvements, vehicle, apparatus and equipment: The Borough is introducing a Bond Ordinance for a total of \$2,721,600. The ordinance has a number of different components with infrastructure projects, specialized equipment and vehicles.

- Preliminary Expenses for Fire/Rescue/OEM New Station - \$921,600: At the last meeting a contract to Netta Architects was approved for preliminary Phases 1A & 1B of design contract for a new Fire Department/Rescue Squad/Office of Emergency Management Station House. The Borough received proposals for future professional services beyond preliminary design, including construction documents, bid management through construction management and close out. This portion of the ordinance would fund the future costs and phases of that professional services contract to be considered once funding is in place.
- 2023 Annual Road Resurfacing Program - \$625,000: Milling and paving of various streets in Borough. Criteria is based on the engineer rating of the poorest roads in conjunction with the BPW State mandated lead service line replacement program.
- NJDOT Municipal Aid Resurfacing Project – \$425,000: The remaining portion of Island Road from Addison Place to the NJDOT overpass area and a portion of Williams Drive from Airmount to the MacFarran Field Complex. Upon completion the Borough will receive a \$206,000 grant it had obtained. The other portion of Island Road was recently resurfaced and the other portion of Williams Drive will be included in the 2023 resurfacing program
- Concrete sidewalks replacing asphalt sidewalks in poor condition - \$250,000: The borough has asphalt sidewalks in poor condition along certain portions of Darlington Avenue from Elbert to Dogwood and N. Central south of the Park Street intersection. Both roads are predominately concrete walks except for these areas. Darlington does have asphalt walks past Dogwood by the cemetery and then to Lost Tree Lane but that will be held for a future potential project.
- DPW – Purchase of New Hoist Truck replacing 1995 vehicle - \$500,000: DPW will be replacing a 1995 truck which is past its useful life and no longer viable. This puts in place funding for a new hoist truck which will be equipped for multiple functions and more operationally efficient. This funding includes the truck, body, plow, salter, 20-yard container and a dump truck body.

2023 Municipal Budget – The 2023 municipal budget was introduced on March 22nd. The full budget document is posted on the Borough website as well as the Municipal Budget presentation. A Municipal budget brochure will be mailed out to residents prior to the budget public hearing and adoption, as well as on the Borough website. The Public Hearing and vote on adoption of the 2023 budget will be held at the Mayor and Council meeting on April 26th.

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

J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian - No report

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 04-2023 - BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF A NEW AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLE, INCLUDING ORIGINAL APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT, IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$2,721,600 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 Gutwetter, seconded by Councilman Popolo

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled A Bond Ordinance to authorize the Making of Various Public Improvements and the acquisition of a new Automotive Vehicle, including Original Apparatus and Equipment, in by and for the Borough of Ramsey, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, to appropriate the sum of \$2,721,600 to pay the cost thereof, to make a down payment, to authorize the issuance of bonds to finance such appropriations 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 26th day of April, 2023 at 7:00pm 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.

Roll Call:

Yay: Cusick, Gutwetter, Kilman, Popolo, Woods

Absent: Poppe

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

XII. NEW BUSINESS

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilwoman Woods, seconded by Councilman Gutwetter. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:34pm.

Meredith Bendian, RMC
Borough Clerk