

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 22, 2020

Due to COVID-19 this meeting is being conducted telephonically. The notice was published in the Bergen Record on Wednesday, April 15th and posted on the borough website.

Mayor Dillon called the meeting to order at 7:33pm and asked Councilman Weber 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 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 (via phone), Verdone (via phone), Weber and Woods (via phone)

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

Council President Jones asked for a moment of silence to honor Jack Roche, former Board of Public Works member and involved in many organizations in the community.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 04-22-2020, Special Meeting 05-01-2020

Motion to approve the minutes by Councilwoman Woods, seconded by Councilman Weber. Councilman Weber abstained from Work Session March 11, 2020. All in favor. Carried.

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

Motion by Councilman Weber, seconded by Councilman Kilman.

Mayor Dillon commented that the draft of a 5G ordinance is in committee with Utilities, Buildings and Grounds for consideration. Carried.

1. Rosemarie Scimeca, 4 Farmington Court, Ramsey, NJ
email dated April 3, 2002, regarding imposing a small cell moratorium on deployment
2. Christy Brown, 18 Island Park Ave, Ramsey, NJ
email dated April 3, 2020, regarding imposing a small cell moratorium on deployment
3. Cassandra Barbara, 21 W. Crescent Ave, Ramsey, NJ
email dated April 3, 2020, regarding imposing a small cell moratorium on deployment

III. COMMUNICATIONS - (cont'd)

4. Charlese O'Brien, 29 W. Crescent Ave, Ramsey, NJ
email dated April 3, 2020, regarding imposing a small cell moratorium on deployment
5. Allison Keating-Nordman, 403 S. Central Ave, Ramsey, NJ
email dated April 3, 2020, regarding imposing a small cell moratorium on deployment
6. Jana Incardona, 62 Grant Street, Ramsey, NJ
email dated April 3, 2020, regarding imposing a small cell moratorium on deployment
7. Khara Edler, 66 New Street, Ramsey, NJ
email dated April 3, 2020, regarding imposing a small cell moratorium on deployment
8. Scott O'Brien, 29 W. Crescent Ave, Ramsey, NJ
email dated April 3, 2020, regarding imposing a small cell moratorium on deployment
9. Sabrina Boyd-Sheehan, 13 Briarwood Court, Ramsey, NJ
email dated April 3, 2020, regarding imposing a small cell moratorium on deployment
10. Stephanie Silverstein, 180 Twinbrook Court, Ramsey, NJ
email dated April 3, 2020, regarding imposing a small cell moratorium on deployment
11. Stacey Taylor, 297 Coventry Court, Ramsey, NJ
email dated April 3, 2020, regarding imposing a small cell moratorium on deployment
12. Michael Tosney, 297 Coventry Court, Ramsey, NJ
email dated April 3, 2020, regarding imposing a small cell moratorium on deployment
13. Laura Standridge, 184 N. Spruce Street, Ramsey, NJ
email dated April 4, 2020, regarding imposing a small cell moratorium on deployment
14. William Mahar, 184 N. Spruce Street, Ramsey, NJ
email dated April 4, 2020, regarding imposing a small cell moratorium on deployment

15. Wendy Tinio, 92 Maple Street, Ramsey, NJ
email dated April 6, 2020, regarding imposing a small cell moratorium on deployment
16. Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti, Commissioner, NJ DOT, P.O. Box 600, Trenton, NJ
letter dated April 13, 2020, announcing the acceptance of applications for Fiscal Year 2021 State Aid Programs
17. Malgorzata Stevens, 570 Darlington Avenue, Ramsey, NJ
email dated April 15, 2020, regarding the imposing a small cell moratorium on deployment
18. Snehal Patel, Assistant Commissioner, Capital Program Managements, NJ DOT, Trenton, NJ
letter dated March 31, 2020, regarding the Buy America Assurance Plan
19. George Bumiller, Ramsey, NJ
fax dated April 15, 2020, regarding meeting call-in information on the websi

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.

Mayor Dillon opened public comment, instructing anyone wishing to speak to press *6.
Mayor Dillon repeated her direction twice more, asking for public comment.
With no one wishing to be heard, Mayor Dillon closed public comment.

V. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION 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 Kilman, seconded by Councilman Weber

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, final reading by title and that said ordinance be adopted by as an ordinance of the Borough of Ramsey and;

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 is for the funding of two upcoming infrastructure projects including the 2020 municipal road resurfacing program and the 2020 municipal aid road resurfacing project. The borough applied and received a \$230,000 municipal aid grant from NJ DOT offsetting approximately 40% of the cost of the project. It includes resurfacing Prospect Street and Canterbury Drive along with the commuter parking lot on Mechanic Street. The 2020 resurfacing project includes twenty road segments with the borough allocating \$715,000 of funding for this year. This project will be bid with the Northwest Bergen Shared Service group with Ramsey as lead agent.

Borough Administrator Vozech explained that the bond ordinance does not actually spend the money, it is the authorization to do so and putting funding in place for a project. The borough will review the municipal aid portion of this project to see if we may apply for an additional municipal aid grant in this year's cycle and defer the project until 2021.

ROLL CALL:

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

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:

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| 080-2020 | Resolution: | payment of vouchers |
| 081-2020 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number seven |
| 082-2020 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number eight |
| 083-2020 | Resolution: | proclaiming April as autism awareness month in the Borough of Ramsey |
| 084-2020 | Resolution: | authorizing the interlocal service agreement with the Township of Wyckoff to provide acting municipal court administrator services |
| 085-2020 | Resolution: | authorizing a contract with the Bergen County Utilities Authority for a solid waste agreement, June 1, 2020 to May 31, 2022 in the amount of \$66.39 per ton |
| 086-2020 | Resolution: | authorizing the interlocal service agreement with the Township of Wyckoff for vehicles and equipment |
| 087-2020 | Resolution: | authorizing Boswell Engineering, 330 Philips Avenue, South Hackensack, NJ, to prepare a roadway pavement management study in an amount not to exceed \$9,700 |
| 088-2020 | Resolution: | authorizing the interlocal service agreement with the Borough of Waldwick for vehicles and equipment |

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

B. BLOCK PARTY REQUESTS:

Councilman Weber thanked the Mayor for recognizing April as Autism Awareness Month in the Borough of Ramsey.

ROLL CALL:

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

VIII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS - None

IX. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

- A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Councilman Michael Gutwetter
Wished everyone the best of health in these trying times and hoped for a speedy recovery for all of those affected by the virus. Acknowledged the efforts of all of the citizens of Ramsey

Thanked Mayor Dillon for her words of encouragement.

The Library Board met via Zoom last week. Although the library has been closed since March 14th Director Latham and his staff have been working remotely to provide virtual resources such as e-books and downloadable audio books, Youtube Channel for virtual events, programs and story times.

All events held by the Recreation Commission are on hold.

- B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Harry Weber
Thanked all the employees, emergency response personnel, DPW and everyone keeping everything running during these trying times.
- C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilman Joseph Verdone
Planning Board -Due to the Coronavirus pandemic all Planning Board meetings have been canceled.

Ramsey Seniors/Senior Center - Due to the Coronavirus pandemic the Senior Center is closed until further notice. Stephanie Farrar, Ramsey Senior Coordinator has worked with the Senior Center Instructors to provide weekly classes via Zoom. The classes include: Meditation, Yoga, Zumba and Arthritis.

The Bergen County Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) is offering a grant funded program, at no cost to seniors, caregivers, and disabled adults who need counseling. Sessions are conducted over the phone and run from 5-30 minutes depending on the needs of the individual. Sessions are provided by a Licensed Social Worker (LCSW) and all information is protected by HIPPA.

Stephanie is continually developing and refining available resources that will help our Senior Community manage during this crisis.

The President and Trustees of the Senior Center continue to reach out to the members of the Senior Center and I'm happy to report as I did at the last meeting no major health, lack of food, or other issues have been identified.

VFW Post 12148 – Post Commander John Rigg and Deputy Post Commander Anthony Bailey continue to reach out to all the VFW Members and everyone is doing OK. John Rigg inquired about the status of Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony. Responding that a lot would depend on what the State decides and will take it up with the appropriate committee.

C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilman Joseph Verdone (cont'd)

Ramsey Responds is currently serving over 100 families - approximately 400-450 individuals in town. Organizing a food bank with St. Paul's Church – accepting donations of non-perishable food and toiletries every Tuesday from 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. The items are then distributed by volunteers each week to families in need in our community.

They are also working with B&G Bagels, Giovanna's, IHOP and other restaurants to pick up and deliver meals that the eateries have generously donated to Ramsey Responds for families in need.

Ramsey Responds continues to help people in need with rent, mortgage, utilities, food, medical, and other critical expenses and are working closely with the schools and the counselors to make sure that the needs of their students and their families are met.

It is anticipated that the needs will continue to grow as the fall-out from the coronavirus continues to wreak havoc on people's finances and their businesses.

Ramsey Responds Leader, Harris Recht and his volunteers extend their deepest thanks and appreciation to the Mayor and Council for its continued support and thanks Mayor Dillon for including Ramsey Responds in her public announcements, bringing attention to the group's work has been beneficial for their fundraising efforts and greatly appreciated. Donations can be sent to Ramsey Responds, P.O. Box 724, Ramsey, New Jersey 07446.

D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilman Peter Kilman

At the Board of Public Works meeting held via phone reported that the new water treatment unit installation schedule is on track. Acknowledged Assistant Superintendent Skorupa and his department adeptly handling the volume of work and emergencies that have come up.

Questions have started to come in regarding the 2020 Ramsey Pool Season. The Pool Manager, Gary Bach addressed some information about the potential opening of the season. However, not knowing what the future will hold, the borough will always do the right thing to protect the health and safety of our residents.

Thanked everyone in town who is doing a great job during this crisis and especially thanked Mayor Dillon for going the extra mile in reaching out to various groups across the state keeping us up to date.

- E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilman William Jones
Echoed the comments of all the council members thanking all of the employees, first responders and encouraged all residents to continue to follow the guidelines.

Thanked Mayor Dillon for her calming voice in giving comfort to the community.

Pool Commission – At the last pool commission it was decided to move forward and prepare to open the pool in order for it to be ready for when it is allowed to be open.

We are cautiously optimistic about our Independence Day events. Everything is in a holding pattern but plans will be in place for when we can execute them.

Ramsey Farmers' Market is working on a plan to open in June, with many restrictions following social distancing. The Farmers' Market website does have online availability for certain vendors' products.

We encourage people to support the local businesses, if you can.

- F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilwoman Jane Woods
Board of Health – Meeting was held via teleconference covering the most recent information from the CDC along with updates on the spread. As of the date of the meeting there were 82 cases and today there are 110. The Board of Health website continues to be updated with helpful forms and links.

Design Review Board has not met but has been busy approving sign applications by email.

Board of Education – Next meeting will be held via teleconference. The Dater PTO group Ramsey Strong has been very successful getting food to the first responders and filling other important needs. The Board of Education continues to get high marks and praise from the parents on the virtual learning.

Thanked Mayor Dillon for her uplifting reports and thanked all of our first responders and teachers.

G. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON

Wished everyone a happy 50th Earth Day.

Thanked everyone for following Executive Order 107 for social distancing. There are now more discharges than admissions to intensive care units due to COVID-19. HMC recently had their 800th COVID-19th patient discharged, who happened to be a Ramsey resident.

Announced that she is in constant contact with the Bergen County Executive's office, the Governor's office, Congressman Gottheimer's office and the White House to stay on top of this ever changing situation.

As pertinent information is received it is posted on the website and shared with the Library Director and the Board of Education and the Chamber of Commerce.

Thanked the health care workers, first responders, essential workers, borough hall employees, DPW employees, teachers and volunteers who are working hard during this pandemic. All of the work is appreciated.

The borough has set up a volunteer hotline to match up volunteers with those in need in the community. The number is 201-825-3400 X 279.

H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh

Discussed resolutions listed on the agenda for shared services, appointing Boswell Engineering to perform a road rating for the annual road resurfacing program.

Work continues at the senior center as well as the site work. Paving the parking lots should be starting next week and continue with the landscaping.

The Board of Public Works well reactivation and treatment project work continues at Arrow Road and Martis Ave and should be completed and back on line by mid-May. Once they are complete we will move forward with the aesthetic improvements to the water treatment unit well houses. Preliminary work has started at the E. Oak well site and the N. Central well site is upcoming. Spring Street and Orchard will be completed late summer, early fall.

Work has started on the Main Street streetscape project. The borough had obtained a federal grant of approximately \$600,000 which covers the majority of the cost of this project. The resolution was approved last Fall with the work to be done this Spring. The funding for this project was put in place in 2019 and there is no impact to the 2020 budget.

H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozech (cont'd)

Discussed property tax due dates. The due dates are set by State Statute with the borough having no authority to change the due date. No information has been received from the State that there will be a change to this date thus far due to the corona virus crisis. The state is reviewing a number of issues regarding tax collection. The borough will wait to see what guidance the state releases and review it once we see the state's position.

Borough Hall continues to operate under normal hours of 8:30am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday. We are closed to the public but there is a drop box in the front of borough hall. You can always call borough hall to speak with anyone. The recycling center is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00am – 3:00pm. The shredding day scheduled for May 2 has been postponed due to the current circumstances.

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

Reported that he had prepared a preliminary draft of legislation regarding the 5G site and it is with the Utilities Buildings and Grounds Committee.

J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian

Reported that the Primary Election has been changed from June 2nd to July 7th as per Governor Murphy's Executive Order 120.

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES - None

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

XII. NEW BUSINESS - None

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Weber, seconded by Councilman Gutwetter. All in favor. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:14pm.

Meredith Bendian
Borough Clerk