

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
Wednesday, May 8, 2019

Council President Jones called the meeting to order at 7:33pm and led the flag salute. Council President Jones read the Open Public Meetings Act notice.

I. ROLL CALL -

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

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

Absent: Councilman Verdone

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – None

III. COMMUNICATIONS - None

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.

A Braggin, Ramsey

Discussed public comments made at previous meetings including the state pension system, inquired about the Board of Education tax bill and commented on ordinance public hearings.

With no one else wishing to be heard, Council President Jones closed public comment.

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

VI. APPOINTMENTS - None

## VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION

Motion by Councilwoman Jachzel, seconded by Councilman Gutwetter

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:

- |          |             |   |
|----------|-------------|---|
| 103-2019 | Resolution: | payment of vouchers   |
| 104-2019 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number nine   |
| 105-2019 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of James Trouf as the Shade Tree and Recycling Coordinator, effective May 13, 2019   |
| 106-2019 | Resolution: | award contract to Downes Tree of Hawthorne, NJ in an amount of \$46,020 for the supply and planting of shade trees for 2019, subject to borough attorney review |

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, Jachzel, Jones, Kilman, Weber

## VIII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

## IX. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Councilwoman Vanessa Jachzel  
Reported that the Finance Committee is continuing to discuss the non-union salaries and hope to have a recommendation at the next meeting.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Harry Weber  
Environmental Commission met their target collecting over 960 pounds of plastic bags to get a bench and will discuss where to place the bench.

RIFE held an art exhibit at the library featuring Michael Popolo's work.

Challenger season started this past weekend thanks to the RBSA for the schedule.

Thanked the Board of Education for sponsoring the STIGMA Free walk as well as Mayor Dillon making a heartfelt speech.

Municipal Alliance – Have many upcoming events. Recent events including a vaping presentation by Officer Beamon at borough hall with about seventy people in attendance

C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilman Joseph Verdone  
Councilman Kilman reported in Councilman Verdone's absence.

Ramsey Seniors - Upcoming events include, trip to New York City to see Broadway Show "Kiss Me Kate" on May 15th.

VFW Post 12148

Veterans soliciting donations for Poppies is in full swing and will continue throughout the month of May as well as soliciting outside the Taste of Ramsey Event.

D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilman Peter Kilman  
Will have a further update on 83 Grant Street after the next Board of Public Works meeting.

The May Zoning Board meeting was cancelled and the Shade Tree meeting is later this month.

E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilman William Jones

The Pool Commission meets next week. The pool will open on Memorial Day. A great deal of progress has been made on the new pool house. The snack stand was demolished and the fencing is being installed.

The Chamber of Commerce will be collaborating with the Veterans to sell poppies at the Taste of Ramsey.

Thanked Dr. Murphy for the great job he and the staff did with the Stigma Free Walk. It is very important to lift the stigma of mental health.

Thanked everyone involved with the baseball and softball parade.

The Independence Day celebration planning is well underway.

Addressed comments made during public comment.

F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilman Michael Gutwetter  
Board of Health – Held two recent CPR/AED classes. The Board of Health also sent a statement of unanimous support for allowing only verified medical exemptions for mandatory vaccinations to the State Governor and representatives.

The Board of Education approved the adoption of their 2019-2020 school budget of \$66.7 million. In November they will be seeking \$711,216 for salaries and health benefits for all day kindergarten. They recently advertised bids for various upgrades at all of the schools. On May 14<sup>th</sup> the Parent Academy will present a program on Mental Health Awareness on Stigma and Suicide prevention at Ramsey High School at 7:15pm.

G. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON

The Planning Board finished its review of the Board of Education application for the property on N. Franklin Turnpike and approved it with over twenty conditions that were agreed to by School Supt Dr. Murphy.

Received notification today from the County of Bergen that they will be milling and repaving Franklin Turnpike. There is no start date, yet.

The Northwest Mayors were supposed to meet with Rockland Electric to discuss their storm response after Winter Storm Quinn last year, but they had reschedule the meeting to June.

Thanked Dr. Murphy and the Board of Education for supporting Stigma Free along with the teachers and all those that showed up to the Walk and Talk event.

The RBSA opening day parade was a wonderful event. There are a lot of new teams in attendance this year.

H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh

With the resignation of Roger Knauss from Shade Tree the borough will be appointing our current Part Time Assistant Zoning Officer Jim Trouf to Shade Tree Coordinator/ Recycling Coordinator, starting May 13<sup>th</sup>.

2019 Shade Tree Supply and Planting – Low bidder was Downes Tree awarded tonight under the consent resolution.

Community Center/Pool House Project update – Work is progressing rapidly. The pool will open Memorial Day. The borough received confirmation that the NJDEP permit application for the additional sitework, parking and senior center addition has been deemed administratively complete and is in its final review period.

At the last meeting the bids were rejected for the Main Street Streetscape. We are re-advertising with a mid-June bid date.

Voting Locations – As discussed over the last year, we have been looking into moving the polling locations. With approval from the County Board of Elections we will have five locations starting with the June Primary Election. The senior center at Finch Park, Adorno Fathers, Ramsey Library, Masonic Lodge and Hubbard School. The Borough Clerk is sending out notifications to each residence and an ad will be in the Suburban News as well as posted on our website. For the November General Election two of the districts will be housed in the new Senior/Community Center.

Board of Public Works Well Reactivation and Treatment Project – As discussed earlier this year, it is a multimillion dollar project taking two wells that are offline and reactivating them providing over 30% additional supply. The treatment program will also be changed over. A bond ordinance will be introduced at one of the upcoming meetings.

Mr. Vozeh addressed the question during public comment regarding the tax bill being sent to the Board of Education, stating that it is the law with the board not owning the property as of December 10<sup>th</sup> of 2018 or utilizing the property for educational purposes, at the time. According to the borough's tax attorneys and the county assessment group, there was no way that the property could be exempt for 2019.

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

J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian No report

Council President Jones thanked the Borough Clerk for her efforts on getting the voting locations changed.

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES - None

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

XII. NEW BUSINESS - None

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Weber, seconded by Councilwoman Jachzel. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:11pm.

Meredith Bendian

Meredith Bendian, RMC