

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
Wednesday, May 10, 2023  
7:00pm

This meeting is being conducted telephonically. The Dial-In Number (425)436-6365 Access Code 213563# and may also be viewed on the Ramsey YouTube Channel [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeBnVXBwSn\\_ILMuAGkSin9w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeBnVXBwSn_ILMuAGkSin9w)

Council President Kilman called the meeting to order at 7:03pm, led the flag salute and read the Open Public Meetings Act notice.

I. ROLL CALL:

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

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – WS 04-26-23

Motion to approve and file by Councilwoman Woods, seconded by Councilwoman Cusick. All in favor. Carried.

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

Motion to accept and file the minutes by Councilwoman Poppe, seconded by Councilman Kilman. All in favor. Carried.

1. Frank Covelli, PIA, A World Insurance Associates, LLC, 429 Hackensack St, Carlstadt letter dated April 24, 2023, informing the governing body of the Bronze Safety Award for 2022
2. St. Paul R.C. Church, 193 Wyckoff Avenue, Ramsey, NJ letter dated May 3, 2023, requesting permission to hold the Eucharistic Procession through Ramsey on Sunday, June 11, 2022, 1:00pm-2:00pm
3. Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti, Commissioner, NJ DOT, Trenton, NJ letter received May 3, 2023, announcing the deadline for grant applications July 1, 2023 for the State Aid Program
4. Captain Bill Sheehan, 206 Main Street, Hackensack, NJ letter received May 8, 2023, inviting the governing body to the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Town Cup Challenge, a kayak race, on Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00am

III. COMMUNICATIONS - (cont'd)

5. Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, 30 Wyckoff Ave, Waldwick, NJ letter dated May 1, 2023, regarding water usage and EDU data for the 2024 service charges
6. Kim Single, Northern NJ ALS Walk Chair  
e-mail received May 8, 2023, requesting permission to post a banner at the high school tennis courts for the Northern NJ ALS Walk from May 15 – June 11, 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.

Don Habas, Ramsey, discussed an aggressive solicitor in town and requested the borough consider a no-knock registry, as other towns have. The Mayor and several council people replied.

With no one else wishing to be heard, on the phone or in council chambers, closed public hearing.

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

VI. APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Dillon made the following appointments

Simon Jiang, Ramsey Rescue Squad, Probationary Member

Jonathan Krehel, Office of Emergency Management

Jake Englishman, Office of Emergency Management, Deputy Emergency  
Management Coordinator

## Open Space Public Hearing

Councilman Kilman made a motion to go out of the regular order of business to conduct the Public Hearing for the Bergen County Open Space Grant application for Finch Park Lighting Improvements, seconded by Councilwoman Woods.

### Roll Call:

YAY: Cusick, Gutwetter, Kilman, Popolo, Poppe, Woods

Council President Kilman read the following notice for the public hearing on the submission of a 2023 Bergen County Trust Fund Grant

The Borough of Ramsey is holding this Public Hearing to submit the following application to the 2023 Bergen County Trust Fund Municipal Program for Park Development:

- 2023 Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund Application for the following project: “Finch Park Lighting Improvements”
- Improvements are intended to take place at the following park location within the Borough of Allendale: Block 450 Lots 3-4; 315 Island Road Ramsey, NJ 07446
- Date of Hearing: May 10, 2023 @ 7:00 PM, Ramsey Borough Hall, 33 N. Central Ave Ramsey, NJ 07446

Borough Administrator Vozech explained The Borough in 2022 with use of a prior year (2021) Open Space Grant put in place the four new pickleball courts at Finch Park. Later in 2023, we will be utilizing our 2022 Open Space Grant Award to resurface the basketball courts at Finch Park adjacent to the pickleball courts. In looking towards our 2023 Open Space Grant Application, we reviewed a number of items and decided that the 2023 application would be to replace and enhance the lighting at Finch Park to increase utilization of the park facility. The current lighting in Finch Park is decades old, very inefficient and creates more of a light spill to the neighboring area than newer technology provides. In addition, LED lighting would reduce electric load. This will ultimately be a multi-phase project to update and enhance the lighting throughout the park. Our 2023 grant application will focus on the first phase of this plan, which will include the park area covering the new pickleball courts and basketball courts. The project would replace the current lights and poles and add lighting to the pickleball court area. The new lighting would be with more efficient LED fixtures. These would also allow for less light spill and provide more focused lighting on the playing areas. As we have discussed previously, pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the United States and is now being played by people of all ages, from children through seniors. Adding lighting to the pickleball courts at Finch Park which currently do not have lights, would allow for greater opportunities to play, particularly in the spring and fall when the natural sunlight does not allow play for those looking to play after a normal workday. The new technology will also allow for easier automated control of the lights to more easily set curfews and also have options for playing lights to go out at curfew times, with safety lights remaining on longer. This project is supported by the Ramsey Recreation community and will be a great addition in helping our residents continue to enjoy our park facilities throughout the year. The project cost estimate prepared by LAN Associates is \$250,000. The Open Space grant program requires a 50% match by the municipality so the grant request is for \$125,000 and the 50% match would be funded by Ramsey.

Open Space Public Hearing (cont'd)

Council President Kilman opened the public hearing. With no one from the audience wishing to be heard in person or by telephone, Council President Kilman closed the public hearing.

The resolution will be passed in the consent resolution.

Council President Kilman asked for a motion to return to the regular of business. Motion by Councilwoman Woods, seconded by Councilwoman Poppe.

Roll Call:

YAY: Cusick, Gutwetter, Kilman, Popolo, Poppe, Woods

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:

- |          |             |   |
|----------|-------------|---|
| 114-2023 | Resolution: | payment of vouchers   |
| 115-2023 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number nine   |
| 116-2023 | Resolution: | authorizing the submission of a 2023 Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund Municipal Park Improvement grant application for the Finch Park Lighting Improvements project  |
| 117-2023 | Resolution: | authorizing the tax refund for a tax appeal for years 2021 and 2022 in the amount of \$10,462.00  |
| 118-2023 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Simon Jiang to the Ramsey Rescue Squad as a Probationary Member   |
| 119-2023 | Resolution: | awarding a contract to Above Par Landscape, LLC, 801 Franklin Turnpike, Allendale, NJ 07401, for the 2023 shade tree planting   |
| 120-2023 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Jake Englishman as Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator of Ramsey Office of Emergency Management effective May 1 <sup>st</sup>   |
| 121-2023 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Jonathan Krehel to the Office of Emergency Management   |
| 122-2023 | Resolution: | supporting Bill S3739/A5402, delaying the fourth round of affordable housing obligations scheduled to commence July of 2025, enabling municipalities time to work towards appropriately meeting their 3rd round commitments |

VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION (cont'd)

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

Northern NJ ALS Association is requesting permission to hang a banner on the fence at the high school tennis courts from May 15 -June 11, 2023 for their ALS Walk on Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at the Saddle River County Park

B. BLOCK PARTY REQUESTS:

Brian Drewes, 37 Elbert Court is requesting permission for a block party on June 17, 2023, from 2pm-10pm

Roll Call:

YAY: Cusick, Gutwetter, Kilman, Popolo, Poppe, Woods

VIII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS - None

## IX. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

- A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Councilman Michael Gutwetter  
Congratulated Simon, Jake and Jonathan on their appointments.

Ramsey Library – Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup> is the first Library Con since the pandemic. It is a comic convention style event from 12 noon until 3pm.

Pool Commission – Opening day is Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup>. Pool will only open on weekends until June 24<sup>th</sup>.

Recreation Commission – Camp registration ends June 16<sup>th</sup>. Camp runs June 26<sup>th</sup> through July 28<sup>th</sup>. Softballs leagues are in progress. Home Run Derby is June 17<sup>th</sup>. Ramsey Run is September 30<sup>th</sup>.

- B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Peter Kilman  
Congratulate Simon, Jake and Jonathan on their appointments.

Board of Health Meeting is on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

VFW Post 12148 – Poppy sales continue until June 30<sup>th</sup> at various locations.  
On May 1<sup>st</sup> members attended the annual the Wyckoff YMCA Roll Call program and luncheon.

Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> VFW members had a booth at the Farmers' Market.

On Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, Memorial Day, the day will start with the 9am ceremony at Union Cemetery, followed by the parade at 11am down Main Street with the VFW Memorial Service at Veterans' Park.

- C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilwoman Jane Woods  
Congratulated Simon, Jake and Jonathan on their appointments.

Announced that Bergen County passed a resolution declaring May as Older American's Month, urging every resident to recognize the contributions of our older citizens, help to create an inclusive society and join efforts to support older American's choices about how they age in their communities.

**D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilwoman Judy Cusick**

Congratulated Simon Jiang, Jonathan Krehel and Jake Englishman. Jake's appointment to the Office of Emergency Management, Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator was no small feat as he recently passed his Emergency Manager course final which included 160+ hours of emergency management training.

Planning Board - The Planning Board met in person on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. One site plan waiver was approved. There were 2 public hearings, Evergreen Property Holdings was carried to the June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. The May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting has been cancelled.

Shade Tree Commission - The tree dedication for Jim Rogers at Finch Park was postponed due to rain. The next Shade Tree meeting is May 18<sup>th</sup>. There is information on our Borough's website regarding the Shade Tree Commission.

Board of Public Works - Lead Service Line Replacement - The Board of Public Works continues planning regarding the NJDEP's Lead Service Line replacement legislation. This project requires that all Lead Service Lines served by the water system be replaced by the year 2031.

Thanked Borough Clerk Bendian for double-siding the meeting packets – it's resourceful for paper use and for recycling and is environmentally and financially responsible. Every bit of cost avoidance/savings helps.

Wished a Happy Mother's Day to all the moms.

**E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilwoman Sara Poppe**

Registration for the new resident mixer is open. Letters were mailed out. There are about one hundred and fourteen people already signed up.

Congratulated Simon, Jake and Jonathan on their appointments.

Ramsey Municipal Alliance have partnered with the Ramsey Juniors. They are doing some work for Mental Health Awareness month. The project is "Planting Seeds of Wellness". They are also hosting "Give Back May" at Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza. If you go on a Thursday in May and mention Ramsey Juniors, twenty percent of your bill will be donated to mental health awareness.

Ramsey Chamber of Commerce will be hosting an event on May 17<sup>th</sup> at TD Bank.



- F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilman Glen Popolo  
Congratulated Simon, Jake and Jonathan on their appointments.

RIFE – Held their Spring dance at the high school on April 28<sup>th</sup>.  
Softball season is in full swing. June 17<sup>th</sup> will be final game at MacFarren Field. June 28<sup>th</sup>  
will be the gala at Ramsey High School.

Environmental Commission – Next year will be the twenty-year anniversary for  
Clean Up Day. Styrofoam recycling was discussed and a presentation will be held at the  
next meeting on recycling for food waste.

- G. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON

Congratulated Simon, Jake and Jonathan on their appointments.  
Commended Jake Englishman for all of his work on becoming the Deputy Emergency  
Management Coordinator. He’s been involved in OEM and the CERT program and  
should be recognized.

Discussed Resolution 122-2023, regarding the bill which supports the delay of the fourth  
round of affordable housing obligation scheduled to commence in July 2025, Ramsey  
has met its third round of affordable housing commitments and we are working on  
increasing the affordable housing stock in Ramsey in anticipation of the fourth-round  
requirements. Ramsey is in a better position than most towns.

Reminded residents to please not post any signs on utility poles. It violates our borough  
ordinance and is unsightly.

- H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh

Resolution 116 – Authorizes the submission of 2023 Bergen County Open Space Grant  
application for Finch Park Lighting Improvements. The borough is planning to submit a  
grant application for lighting improvements and lighting additions at Finch Park. This  
will focus on the park area covering the new pickleball courts and basketball courts. The  
project will replace the current lights and poles which are extremely old technology and  
replace with new LED fixtures which would be more efficient. These would also allow  
for less light spill and provide more focused lighting on the playing areas. This will be  
the first phase in updating the Finch Park field areas and parking lot lighting in  
upcoming years. The resolution authorizes submission of the grant application. No  
funding is allocated for the project at this point and will be provided should the grant  
ultimately be approved later this year. Open Space grants require a 50% match from the  
municipality. The grant application is for \$125,000 and the total estimated project  
cost \$250,000.

Resolutions 119 – Awards a contract for 2023 Shade Tree planting to Above Par  
Landscape. The Shade Tree Commission and Coordinator Jim Trouf, solicited quotes  
for the annual shade tree planting. Three quotes were received and the low quote was  
from Above Par Landscape. Recommendation is to award to Above Par based on the  
quote in an amount of \$20,470.50.

Resolution 120 – Confirms the appointment of Jake Englishman as Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator of Ramsey OEM. Jake joined OEM as a volunteer over 10 years ago. He has been a very active member and tremendous asset to OEM particularly through the COVID-19 pandemic. He was also one of the founding members of the growing CERT program. Jake has recently completed the NJOEM/NJEMA Emergency Managers advanced course (160hrs.) and will now be awarded the title of “New Jersey Certified Emergency Manager.” In addition, Jake is a full-time dispatcher for the Ramsey Police Department, manages our BC OEM Web EOC program, and administers and trains dispatchers and police officers on our RAVE system. In recognition of Jake’s accomplishments and efforts on behalf of OEM, Coordinator Venturini has recommended Jake’s appointment as a Deputy Coordinator.

Resolution 122 – Supports Bill S3739/A5402 which would delay the fourth round of affordable housing obligations for an additional 3 years. The New Jersey League of Municipalities has discussed and forwarded a resolution to Bergen County municipalities that support proposed bills which are under consideration by the NJ State Assembly and the NJ State Senate, These bills Senate #3739 and Assembly #5402 would delay, by three years, the commencement of the fourth round of Affordable Housing obligations from July 2025 to 2028. Given the effect COVID-19 has had on communities and the time devoted to working through those community challenges and the lasting economic impact, not to mention the pause it created on many projects. This delay will allow municipalities time to work towards appropriately meeting their third-round commitments and present a clearer picture of where each town stands in meeting the goals prior to commencement of the fourth round.

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

J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian - No report

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES - None

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

XII. NEW BUSINESS

Public Hearing on Bergen County Open Space Project Application for the Lighting Improvements Project at Finch Park (moved out of order to hear earlier in the agenda)

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilwoman Woods, seconded by Councilman Gutwetter. All in favor. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm

Meredith Bendian  
Borough Clerk