

**BOROUGH OF RAMSEY**  
**MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
**WORK SESSION MINUTES**  
Wednesday, June 10, 2020

Due to COVID19 this meeting is being conducted telephonically. The Dial-In Number is (425)436-6365 and the Access Code is 213563# Notice was published in the Bergen Record and posted on the borough website.

Council President Jones called the meeting to order at 7:32pm and led the flag salute. Council President Jones read the Open Public Meetings Act notice. 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 (via phone), Councilmembers Gutwetter, Jones, Kilman (via phone), Verdone (via phone), Weber and Woods (via phone)

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

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – None**

**III. COMMUNICATIONS -**

Motion by Councilman Weber, seconded by Councilwoman Woods. Carried.

1. Kathy Ambrose, Chairperson, Heirloom and Plant Sale, Woman's Club of Ramsey letter received June 1, 2020, thanking Administrator Vozech and the staff at borough hall for their assistance and reported raising \$350.00 despite only being an online sale due to COVID-19

**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 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 timekeeper.

Council President Jones opened public comment and repeated the instructions several times for anyone wishing to be heard to press \*6 to be heard. With no one wishing to be heard, Council President Jones closed public comment.

Council President Jones asked for a motion to go out of the regular order of business for Administrator Vozech's report and then return to the normal course of business at the conclusion of his report. Motion by Councilman Weber, seconded by Councilman Gutwetter.

ROLL CALL:

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

Borough Administrator Vozech Report

Final reading and public hearing of the capital improvement ordinance. For the project at the Ramsey Golf and Country Club for the Crystal Spring Lake Dam project.

Senior Center and Site Work – APS Contracting continues work inside the senior center and should be completed shortly.

Board of Public Works – Well Reactivation and treatment project continues. Arrow Road and Martis are nearly completed. Work continues on E. Oak Street and they just started at N. Central Ave.

Main Street Streetscape – The contractor has completed the sidewalk portion of the project on the northside of Main St.

Shade Tree Work Bid – Low bidder was Chris Fix Tree Care. Borough professionals recommended to award two-year contract.

Bergen County Community Development – There are two resolutions on for approval as a participant in their program. Bergen County is scheduled to requalify as an urban county entitlement group to receive federal funding. This allows the borough a funding benefit should we have eligible projects in the future.

Property Taxes – Estimated Billing – There is a resolution on the agenda to authorize the issuance of estimated tax bills. The second quarter taxes that were due in May were collected at a 97% tax rate, slightly below our normal collection rate. The state strongly recommends that all municipalities issue estimated property tax bills as the process of budget and tax rate certification at the State and County levels have not occurred due to COVID-19 and are not forthcoming any time soon. Bills need to be issued a minimum of thirty days before they are due. The borough will send them out later this month in advance of the August 1<sup>st</sup> due date. Of the increase in estimated property tax from 2019, the municipal portion accounts for 8% of the increase with 92% of the increase made up by the Board of Education 80%, Bergen County 11% and the Library 1%.

Recreation Finch Park Summer Camp – It has been discussed at length and based on the latest information from the Governor's Executive Orders and the State Health Department it has been decided that the summer camp will be cancelled for 2020. We do not feel we can meet the necessary standards to provide a safe and healthy experience for the campers.

V. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 06-2020 - AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REHABILITATION PROJECT FOR THE CRYSTAL SPRING LAKE DAM IN THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AND TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$100,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF

Motion by Councilman Gutwetter, seconded by Councilman Jones

BE IT RESOLVED THAT AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED: An Ordinance to a authorize capital improvements for the purpose of rehabilitation project for the Crystal Spring Lake Dam in the Borough of Ramsey, County of Bergen and State of New Jersey, and to appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to pay the cost thereof, 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.

Council President Jones reported that the ordinance was addressed under Administrator Vozech's report.

Council President Jones opened the public hearing on Ordinance 06-2020. Anyone who wished to speak was instructed to press \*6 to unmute. After asking twice more for anyone wishing to speak, Councilman Jones closed the public hearing on Ordinance 06-2020.

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:

- |          |             |   |
|----------|-------------|---|
| 106-2020 | Resolution: | payment of vouchers   |
| 107-2020 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number eleven   |
| 108-2020 | Resolution: | authorizing the borough's participation and acceptance of funds from Federal Emergency Management Performance Grant Program (EMPG) and Emergency Management Agency Assistance Program (EMAA)                  |
| 109-2020 | Resolution: | awarding contract for shade tree work to Chris Fix Tree Care, 103 Godwin Ave, Midland Park, NJ 07432, in the amount of \$247,440.00   |
| 110-2020 | Resolution: | authorizing the issuance of third quarter estimated tax bills   |
| 111-2020 | Resolution: | suspending outdoor dining permit fees for 2020  |
| 112-2020 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Bradford Smith to Sergeant of the Ramsey Police Department  |
| 113-2020 | Resolution: | authorizing the inclusion of the Borough of Ramsey in the Bergen County Community Development Program   |
| 114-2020 | Resolution: | authorizing execution of an agreement with the County of Bergen to supersede the cooperative agreement dated July 1, 2020 and amendments thereto establishing the Bergen County Community Development Program |

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, Jones, Kilman, Verdone, Weber, Woods

VIII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS - None

## IX. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

- A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Councilman Michael Gutwetter  
Recreation Commission – As reported by Administrator Vozech the summer camp is cancelled for Summer 2020.

Library Board – Virtual events and programs continue with over 370 participants. Smith School Students helped win a \$2,500 grant when they created video online resources. The library awaits a reopening date from the Governor. Starting June 15<sup>th</sup> staff will be working in the library and start contactless, curbside beginning June 24<sup>th</sup>.

Summer reading is in place and Director Latham has been working closely with the school district on a recommended reading list.

- B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Harry Weber  
Thanked the Public Safety Committee and Administrator Vozech for their help interviewing the officers for the Sergeant Promotion. After interviewing twelve qualified candidates, Detective Brad Smith was chosen and sworn in as Sergeant earlier today.

- C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilman Joseph Verdone  
The Planning Board held a Special Meeting on June 9 to review several applications from local restaurants to comply with the COVID-19 directive that allows for outdoor dining. All applications were treated as Site Plan Waivers for Outside Dining. The applicants included: Main Plaza Associates (eating establishments between the Corner Coffee Shop and Café Panache), Ramsey Tap Room and Grill, Brady's, Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza, Houlihan's, The Shannon Rose, Bici, Favale's and Tawara. Permit fees were waived and all applications were approved. Each establishment will be subject to a compliance review every 30 days until November 1st.

Ramsey Seniors/Senior Center

Ramsey Seniors continue to do well with Zoom Virtual Classes. No major health, lack of food, or other issues have been identified. The seniors are impressed with the new facilities and are anxious to move in.

VFW Post 12148

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 the VFW was not able to sell poppies this year. This is our major fundraiser; hopefully we will be able to resume next spring.

Ramsey Responds is still serving over 110 Ramsey families in need. Donations are always needed.

Donations can be sent to:

Ramsey Responds

P.O. Box 724

Ramsey, New Jersey 07446

D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilman Peter Kilman

Reported that the Martis Well returned to service yesterday.

E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilman William Jones

Reported on the Outdoor Farmers' Market re-opening on June 7<sup>th</sup> and that everything went smoothly.

The Ramsey Pool will open on Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup>. Pool Manager, Gary Bach, worked hard on the best practices with the State Pool Association that he is involved in. They worked with the Governor's office to establish the guidelines. The pool will have a 50% operating capacity with two daily sessions.

Outdoor dining for many establishments was approved by the Planning Board the other night. The borough is trying their very best working with the Chamber of Commerce to provide the businesses an opportunity to thrive in difficult times.

There was a brief discussion about whether or not an Independence Day event could be held. It does not seem likely with the amount of people that we get each year.

Reported that he has received communication about televising the borough meetings. We continue to move forward with our proposal for livestreaming.

F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilwoman Jane Woods

Design Review Board approved one sign at the last meeting and it is working well holding the meetings telephonically.

Reported that she is working on developing a social media promotional plan for Ramsey, highlighting all aspects of our community to attract people from areas such as Manhattan, Hoboken and Jersey City.

G. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON

Reported that there was a special planning board meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup> for approval for many eating establishments to start outdoor dining as of June 15<sup>th</sup>. The borough has waived the outdoor dining fees for 2020. We also made the borough lot across the street from borough hall available for any restaurant that does not have any space for outdoor dining. We have reminded all the restaurants and businesses to make an appointment with the Health Inspector.

Reported that on June 22<sup>nd</sup> nail and hair salons and barber shops can reopen. Indoor gatherings are limited to 25% of capacity or 50 people. Outdoor gatherings are limited to 100 people.

Participated in the Chamber of Commerce meeting earlier in the evening. The chamber asked for more guidance from the Governor's office and Mayor Dillon said she would reach out to her liaison. Announced that the borough is holding steady at 147 positive COVID-19 cases and 6 deaths. Ramsey has been doing a great job in social distancing and flattening the curve.

Congratulated new Police Sergeant Brad Smith after swearing him in earlier in the day.

Announced that the Ramsey High School graduation is scheduled for July 6<sup>th</sup> with raindates of July 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

Commented on the tragic and senseless death of George Floyd at the hands of the Minneapolis Police Department. She reported that the Ramsey Police Department is highly trained including a de-escalation in restraint technique and is committed to community policing. In addition, every Ramsey Police Officer is committed to treating all citizens fairly and with dignity and respect. There is a statement from Chief Gurney regarding the Ramsey Police Department on the Borough and Ramsey Police Department websites.

H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh - Reported earlier in meeting

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

J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian - No comment

Council President Jones reminded everyone that the mail in ballots were mailed out and should have been received in the mail and are due July 7<sup>th</sup>.

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 07-2020 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 31 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AND MORE SPECIFICALLY, SECTION 31-4 ENTITLED TECHNICAL REVIEW ESCROW DEPOSITS AND ADMINISTRATION

Motion by Councilman Verdone, seconded by Councilman Kilman

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, 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 22nd day of April, 2020 at 7:30pm 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.

Councilman Verdone explained that this ordinance increases the escrow application fees for residential and non-residential since they have not been changed in some time. This makes us more in line with other towns in our area. This helps eliminate the stress of a homeowner having to pay additional escrow prior to their hearing.

ROLL CALL:

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

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

XII. NEW BUSINESS

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Kilman, seconded by Councilman Jones. All in favor. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:11pm.

Meredith Bendian, RMC  
Borough Clerk