

**BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
Wednesday, June 12, 2019**

Council President Jones called the meeting to order at 7:32pm and lead the flag salute. Council President Jones read the Open Public Meetings Act notice. Council President Jones asked for a moment of silence for the 75th anniversary of D Day for all of the men and women in our armed forces and on the passing of Patricia McDonald Bonham, the Mayor's mother in law.

I. ROLL CALL -

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

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

Motion to go out of the regular order of business by Councilman Verdone, seconded by Councilman Weber to have Mayor Dillon read the LGBTQ+ Proclamation. All in favor. Carried.

Mayor Dillon read the proclamation out loud and announced that the proclamation would be posted on the borough website.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – None

III. COMMUNICATIONS - None

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Before starting Public Comment section of the meeting Councilman Jones made a brief Statement after receiving emails on both sides of the issue over the past few weeks regarding the Pride Flag. Councilman Jones reminded everybody not to confuse the flying of the flag with support or lack of support. Due to the fact that there were so many people wishing to be heard, Councilman Jones changed the public comment time limit to 3 minutes.

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.

Chance Parker, 11 Park Place, Ramsey

Voiced his support about the flying of the LGBTQ flag and his concerns about many issues that he previously stated before the governing body urging the public to come to every meeting for public oversight of every day issues.

Jennifer Crandall, 150 W. Oak Street, Ramsey

Discussed possible lawsuits regarding the raising of the LGBTQ flag for Pride Month and immunity for the borough. Mentioned neighboring towns that are flying the flags. Requested that the borough fly the flag in recognition of Pride month.

Christie Nabipour, 23 Darlington Avenue, Ramsey

Requested that the LGBTQ flag be flown in town to support the community.

Jennifer Sauer, 14 Blauvelt Avenue, Ramsey

Asked for support of the LGBTQ community by flying the Pride flag.

Tim Santos, 59 S. Central Ave., Ramsey

Asked for support of the LGBTQ community and his family by flying the Pride flag and thanked the governing body for the proclamation.

Caroline McDonald, 14 Lancaster Court, Ramsey

Expressed her belief that Ramsey is inclusive even without flying the LGBTQ+ flag.

Angela Oberle, 180 Forest Avenue, Ramsey

Asked the governing body to use their influence to fly the LGBTQ flag.

Isabella Alicea, 30 Hart Street, Ramsey

Requested that the governing body fly the LGBTQ flag to do what's right for the community.

Christine Fitzgerald, 95 N. Spruce Street, Ramsey

Asked that the governing body fly the Pride to show an inclusive community.

Margaret Drudy, 165 W. Oak Street, Ramsey

The small gesture and the bows along Main Street will help those struggling with their gender identity.

Kathy Brickman, 25 Shuart Lane, Ramsey

Asked that the borough raise the pride flag to deter people from stealing the lawn signs.

Avery Hering, 98 S. Franklin Turnpike, Ramsey

Asked that support get extended to the kids in the transgender community.

George Bumiller, 39 Lakeview Terrace, Ramsey

Addressed the lack of showers at the municipal pool. Councilman Jones and Administrator Vozeh replied that there is a hand held shower for anyone wishing to rinse off and a notice was e-mailed to all pool members.

Thelma Pillepich, 44 Lillian Court, Ramsey

Thanked the governing body for the proclamation and announced that there was an online petition asking the borough to raise the Pride flag and has about 1,500 signatures from town.

Justin Hering, 98 S. Franklin Turnpike, Ramsey

Expressed that he felt the pride flag at the Ramsey train station would make a statement that Ramsey would stand by your side.

Braggin, AB, Ramsey

Encouraged all of the members of the audience to attend every meeting and to participate.

Amanda Kaczorowski, 5 Morton Drive, Ramsey

As a student in the community she feels the flag is an important part of making the members of the LGBTQ+ community feel welcome and makes Ramsey an inclusive community.

Caroline Johnson, 205 Canterbury Drive, Ramsey

Asked that the borough fly the rainbow flag to show support especially for the students.

Sherry Fusco, 18 Cherry Lane, Ramsey

Expressed why she feels the pride flag should be flown to help remind those that they are accepted.

Ken Fleishaker, 462 Airmount Avenue, Ramsey

Asked that the governing body be mindful in their decision to fly or not fly the flag.

Roz Gutwetter, Ramsey

Discussed how proud she is of Ramsey and how inclusive it is.

With no one else wishing to be heard, Councilman 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

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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|----------|-------------|---|
| 119-2019 | Resolution: | payment of vouchers |
| 120-2019 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number 11 |
| 121-2019 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number 12 |
| 122-2019 | Resolution: | authorizing the issuance of third quarter estimated tax bills |

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, Verdone, Weber

VIII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

LGBTQ Proclamation

IX. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Councilwoman Vanessa Jachzel

Offered her condolences to Mayor Dillon on the passing of her mother in law.

Mayor Dillon explained that her mother in law fought valiantly against cancer and she wasn't going to come to tonight's meeting but felt so strongly about the proclamation that she did.

Reported on the bond ordinance that will be introduced tonight for road resurfacing and that the finance committee is close to making recommendations on non union salaries.

The Library Board had a great meeting starting with accolades about the new Library Director, Matt Latham. There are a lot of great programs going on at the library. There has been a trial period of eliminating fines for late returns and it has been showing an increase in circulation.

Commented on how the last few weeks she's seen the best of Ramsey and the worst, at times, but focus on the positive, which included the Knights of Columbus Shield awards, Relay For Life, STIGMA Free, RIFE and so much more to be proud of in town and the borough does support gay pride.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Harry Weber

Municipal Alliance along with Emergency Services held a drunk driving demonstration for the high school students which was well attended.

At the Farmers Market this past weekend they had "Meet the Police Officer" and also had a drug take back collection and information dissemination.

The wet down for the new fire truck is June 22nd. The new ambulances arrived and are being outfitted to get them into service. The 43rd Annual Shield Awards were held this past weekend.

The Environmental Commission were awarded a trex bench for all of the plastic bags collected throughout town and would like to place it on the bike path across from Tisdale.

The Green Team met and are looking at different programs to maintain Bronze Status in the Sustainable Jersey initiative.

RIFE- Finishing up the softball season this Saturday and will have the championship game on June 21st. The RIFE gala is scheduled for Saturday, June 29th at the high school. Relay for Life was a great night raising a lot of money.

Thanked Meredith, Sherry and Kelly for all of their work for the Primary Election.

Thanked everyone for coming out tonight to the council meeting no matter what your position is on the flying of the pride flag.

C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilman Joseph Verdone

Planning Board - Englewood Hospital is adding a doctor's office in its existing space at 70 Hilltop Road. They were required to meet with the Planning Board because by ordinance they needed a variance for one additional parking space which they can adequately meet.

Pet Goods will be occupying a portion of the vacated Sports Authority space in the Ramsey Square Shopping Center.

Recreation Commission's next meeting is Monday, June 18th.

The next Design Review Board meeting is Tuesday, June 25th.

Ramsey Seniors/Senior Center

Several seniors participated and donated in support of Ramsey's Relay for Life Event.

Forty three seniors enjoyed a recent trip aboard the Pride of the Hudson with lunch at the River Grill, Newburgh, NY, along with a guided tour and winetasting at the Brotherhood Winery.

Activities Unlimited (AU) headquartered in Wyckoff a club of approximately 400 retired and semi-retired men inquired about starting a Bocce Club and asked if they could use the Ramsey Bocce Courts. The Ramsey Seniors and AU got together and very positive relationship was established.

Over fifty seniors are already signed up and looking forward to the Annual Senior Citizen Gala Dinner and Dance on Saturday, June 29, at the Ramsey High School which usually averages around one hundred forty attendees.

VFW Post 12148

VFW members solicited donations for Poppies during the month of May enjoyed very successful results. Funds raised will be used for charitable causes the VFW supports.

A big thank you to ShopRite, Uncle Giuseppe's and the Taste of Ramsey for their cooperation and support on behalf of the VFW.

Thank you to all who participated in this year's Memorial Day Parade and Services.

In recognition of Flag Day VFW members will participate in a Flag Day Ceremony at Tisdale and Hubbard Schools on Friday, June 14th and on Saturday, June 15 the Ramsey VFW will participate in Allendale's VFW annual Flag Retirement Ceremony at Crestwood Lake in Allendale.

Ramsey's July 4th Celebration is Saturday, July 6th, starting at noon with Swing for Heroes Softball Game featuring Ramsey Emergency Services volunteers against Non-Profit Groups volunteers.

The VFW will sell hamburgers, hot dogs, BBQ ribs, pulled pork, sodas, and waters and Greater Ramsey UNICO will also be selling 50/50 raffle tickets.

The drawing will take place just prior to the fireworks display with 50% of proceeds going to the winning ticket and 50% donated by Greater Ramsey UNICO to the VFW Post.

Thanked everyone who came out tonight and voiced their opinions.

D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilman Peter Kilman
Expressed his condolences to the family of Mayor Dillon.

Explained that as the liaison to any committee or commission it is just a cliff notes version of the meetings. It is better to attend the committee/commission meetings to get the entire report of what is going on.

The next Board of Public Works meeting is Monday June 17th.
The next Zoning Board meeting is June 19th.
The next Shade Tree meeting is June 20th.

Thanked everyone in attendance for their comments and has family and friends who are members of the LGBTQ+ community and is not insensitive to it. The comments do not go unnoticed.

E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilman William Jones
Reported that the award winning Ramsey pool has been up and running since Memorial Day with the safe operation being paramount. We are doing everything we can to have the pool house ready to open by the end of the school year and continue with contingencies along the way.

The award winning Farmers Market is back outside.

The Independence Day celebration is July 6th, kicking off with the softball game at noon and continue with the traditional events with a band around 6:30pm. The Ramsey Symphony will take the stage around 8:30pm and play us into the fireworks.

Congratulated the 2019 Ramsey Lady Rams high school softball team for their Group Two State Championship this year.

Thanked everyone for coming out to tonight's meeting expressing that the passion and emotions shared tonight are not lost on anyone and asked everyone including he and the governing body to treat everyone civilly.

Council President Jones addressed the comparison to our neighboring town of Mahwah, especially with Mahwah's recent 45% pay increase for each governing body member.

- F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilman Michael Gutwetter Expressed his condolences to the family of Mayor Dillon.

Board of Health – They are exploring a plastic bag ordinance. As well as exemptions to mandatory vaccinations with Measles cases reaching a high point.

There was a drug take back by the Municipal Alliance at the Farmers Market this past Sunday. Be aware of mosquito and tick season.

Board of Education – The Design Thinking Class addressed ways to engage businesses and residents to get involved in the community and chamber of commerce. There were many impressive ideas from the students.

The Board of Education awarded a contract for \$1.3 million for window replacement at Smith School. A new Athletic Director was hired Kevin Sabella and are currently redoing the entire track and field at the high school. July 1st the entire high school will be closed for asbestos abatement and Dater School will be used for administrative athletics and guidance purposes.

Hubbard School earned a silver recognition in a statewide initiative to enable and encourage students to safely walk and bike to school under the NJ Safe Routes to School Program.

Thanked everyone from the public for their input tonight.

- G. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON

Reported on the recent meeting regarding the gun range at the Public Safety Institute in Mahwah about the sound concerns. There were representatives from the Sheriff's Department, member from the Safety Institute, Mayor Roth from Mahwah and Freeholder Amoroso. The county has spent \$50,000 in sound mitigation. Ramsey was given a single point of contact for questions and complaints from the Sheriff's Department. The gun range will not be enclosed.

Attended a meeting with Rockland Electric representatives regarding the poor performance at the March 2018 Storm Quinn. Rockland is working hard to improve their storm response in the future. This will include a right of first refusal for crews, a local contact in the borough, Ralph Venturini, have a municipal portal in late 2020 giving real time information to the local officials to disseminate and those with smart meters will send signals that there is no power and work tickets will be automatically generated. Rockland asked the borough to post this information on the borough website.

Thanked Borough Clerk Bendian and her team on the work on getting word out on the new polling locations.

Thanked the Chamber of Commerce on the successful Taste of Ramsey with record attendance as well as the DPW for their work on the barriers and keeping the event safe.

Congratulated the 2019 Shield Award winners.

Thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting and explained that her job is to protect the borough from lawsuits and she does support the community and thanked Mrs. Crandall for leading the charge with the bows on main street.

Council President Jones clarified his remarks regarding law suits.

H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh
Offered his condolences to Mayor Dillon and her family.

Thanked everyone for coming to tonight's meeting and enforced the support of the entire governing body in a non-discriminatory community and belief in the Mayor's proclamation.

Road Resurfacing – The annual project has started over the last couple of days with daily alerts sent to those signed up for notifications.

Island Road and Island Ave are being resurfaced having received grants totaling \$380,000. Island will be paved from Addison to Prospect Street. There is a new subdivision in the area and will hold that resurfacing until that project is done. Looking to start at the conclusion of the school year.

Bergen County is paving Franklin Turnpike in two different sections, currently from Allendale to the Lake Street intersection. Darlington is also scheduled to be resurfaced and are waiting for the handicapped ramps to be completed.

The borough obtained a municipal aid grant for \$222,000 to help cover the cost of the resurfacing of Elbert Street from Darlington to Myrtle as well as Myrtle Avenue and are hoping to complete the project while school is not in session.

Bond Ordinances – There are two ordinances on tonight for introduction.

The 2019 Municipal Aid Project of Elbert & Myrtle which was just discussed.

The BPW Well Reactivation and Treatment Project is for \$6.5 million. It is a significant capital investment over the next two years. This will reactivate the Spring Street and Orchard water well supplies allowing us to reduce some of our purchases from Suez. It will also implement a new arsenic treatment system at six of the wells.

Community/Senior Center Pool house Project – The pool did open on time despite the weather challenges. There is a hand held shower available. Rough electrical and plumbing have all passed, sheetrock is scheduled to be completed and other finishing work continuing. We open facilities as they are completed for safe operation.

Interim walkways have been installed to allow the new pool house entrance to be utilized and are working to complete grading, top soil and sod. There is also a new playground to be installed as well as a new pavilion which will be reimbursed under a grant for up to fifty percent.

A permit from NJDEP was applied for to complete the final phase of the project including the site work, additional parking lot work and the new dedicated senior center addition. It is under the NJDEP ninety day mandatory review timeline which should be completed later this month.

Main Street Streetscape Update - The project is out to bid which includes sidewalks and lighting from Spruce Street up to Island Avenue. Once bids are reviewed locally they will be reviewed NJ DOT and undergo Federal review, as well.

Primary Election/Polling Locations - In June there were four new voting locations. Reasons for relocation were for better handicapped accessibility, dedicated parking and access and no longer fighting congestion at some of the schools for arrival and dismissal. Thanking Borough Clerk Bendian, Deputy Clerk Richards and Kelly Sylvester and reporting that the borough notifications were well beyond the requirements of the county. When the community center is up and running, districts three and five will be moved from Hubbard School to the community center and will notify those voters who are affected.

- I. BOROUGH ATTORNEY – Peter A. Scandariato, Esq.
Offered his condolences to the Mayor and her family.

- J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian
Reported on the success of the new voting locations and thanked all of those involved.

A five minute recess was taken.

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 12-2019 - BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE RESURFACING OF PORTIONS OF ELBERT STREET AND MYRTLE AVENUE IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$555,000 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 Councilwoman Jachzel, seconded by Councilman Gutwetter.

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled A Bond Ordinance to authorize the Resurfacing of portions of Elbert Street and Myrtle Avenue, in, by and for the Borough of Ramsey, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, to appropriate the sum of \$555,000 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, pass 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 June, 2019 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.

Councilwoman Jachzel explained that this bond ordinance is for the Elbert Street and Myrtle Avenue resurfacing for which the borough received a \$222,000 NJ DOT grant.

ROLL CALL:

YAY: Gutwetter, Jachzel, Jones, Kilman, Verdona, Weber

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES (cont'd)

ORDINANCE 13-2019 - BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE REPLACEMENT OF ARSENIC TREATMENT SYSTEMS AT VARIOUS PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY FACILITIES BY AND FOR THE WATER-SEWER UTILITY OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$6,525,000 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 Verdone.

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled A Bond Ordinance to authorize the Replacement of Arsenic Treatment Systems at Various Public Water Supply Facilities by and for the Water-Sewer Utility of the Borough of Ramsey, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, to appropriate the sum of \$555,000 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, pass 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 June, 2019 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 Kilman explained that the objective of the project under this bond ordinance is to increase Ramsey's water supply source by approximately 600,000 gallons per day and to convert the current arsenic filter cartridge system to a new treatment system which will reduce operating costs and proactively put in treatment systems on Ramsey wells for future DEP proposed regulations..

ROLL CALL:

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

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

XII. NEW BUSINESS – None

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the regular meeting by Councilman Weber, seconded by Councilman Jones at 9:30pm. Motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel by Councilman Weber, seconded by Councilman Jones. All in favor. Carried.

Meredith Bendian

Meredith Bendian, RMC

Borough Clerk