

**BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, June 24, 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 on June 18th and posted on the borough website.

Mayor Dillon called the meeting to order at 7:31pm and asked Councilman Weber to lead the flag salute. Mayor Dillon read the Open Public Meetings Act notice.

I. ROLL CALL -

Present: Mayor Dillon, Councilmembers Gutwetter, Jones (via phone), Kilman (via phone), Verdone (via phone) and Weber

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

Absent: Councilwoman Woods

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 05-27-2020

Motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Weber. All in favor. Carried.

III. COMMUNICATIONS –

Motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Verdone.

Councilman Verdone reported that he referred communications one and two to the president of the Ramsey Seniors. All in favor. Carried.

1. Kathy Ambrose, Co-President, Ramsey Leisure Club
letter dated June 10, 2020, requesting permission to hold their twice monthly meetings at the senior/community center
2. Anne O'Loughlin, President, Woman's Club of Ramsey
letter dated June 12, 2020, requesting permission to hold their twice monthly meetings at the senior/community center, starting in September
3. Melissa Oratio, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, 30 Wyckoff Ave,
Waldwick, NJ
letter dated June 17, 2020, enclosing minutes to the May 19, 2020 meeting

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.

Jennifer Crandall, Ramsey Resident

Requested that the Governing body allow the Ramsey Theater to hold outdoor drive-in movies at a location in Ramsey. Mayor Dillon replied that the theater owners must submit detailed plans for their project and she is willing to hold a special Mayor and Council meeting to approve it as long as it is signed off by all departments.

After directing anyone wishing to be heard to press *6 to unmute twice more, with no one wishing to be heard, Mayor Dillon closed public comment.

V. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION 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: An Ordinance amending Section 34-4 of Chapter 34 of the Code of the Borough of Ramsey, Bergen County, New Jersey and more particularly Subsection 34-4.26 thereof entitled Fences, 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 Verdone explained this ordinance increases the residential and non-residential application escrow fees. This puts the borough in line with other town's fees in Bergen County.

Mayor Dillon opened the public hearing for Ordinance 07-2020 and directed anyone who wished to be heard to please press *6 to unmute. Mayor Dillon repeated this twice more. With no one wishing to be heard, Mayor Dillon closed the public hearing on Ordinance 07-2020.

ROLL CALL:

YAY: Gutwetter, Jones, Kilman, Verdone, Weber

VI. APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Dillon made the following appointment

Hailey Thompson, Ramsey Rescue Squad, Explorer Member

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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|----------|-------------|--|
| 115-2020 | Resolution: | payment of vouchers |
| 116-2020 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number twelve |
| 117-2020 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Hailey Thompson to Ramsey Rescue Squad as an Explorer Member |
| 118-2020 | Resolution: | awarding contract to Cinnely Group Corporation, 125 Haul Road, Wayne, New Jersey for the Crystal Spring Lake Dam for the low-level outlet rehabilitation project in the amount of \$263,390.00 |
| 119-2020 | Resolution: | authorizing the Borough to enter into and execute the Bergen County CARES Act Municipality Reimbursement Agreement |
| 120-2020 | Resolution: | Award of professional services agreement to French & Parrello Associations to provide construction administration and field services as detailed in the March 31, 2020 proposal for the project in an amount not to exceed \$19,365. |

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

Bergen Highlands Rotary is requesting permission to hang a banner at the RHS tennis courts thanking t essential workers for their efforts for one month.

B. BLOCK PARTY REQUESTS:

Alex Stecyna of Shuart Lane is requesting permission to hold a block party on Saturday, July 4, 2020, from 12:00 noon - 9:00 pm

Maileen Arroyo-Santiago of Nottingham Rd. is requesting permission to hold a block party on Saturday, August 22, 2020 from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

All block parties subject to restrictions and guidelines under Governor Murphy’s Executive Orders

ROLL CALL:

YAY: Gutwetter, Jones, Kilman, Verdona, Weber

VIII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS - None

IX. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Councilman Michael Gutwetter

Library Board – Contactless, curbside pick began today from 2-6pm Monday through Friday in the front vestibule area. The Governor reported today that indoor service will be available beginning July 2nd. Director Latham is concerned and will likely push the date back. Programs continue through their website. Staff is working Monday through Friday two shifts per day.

Recreation Commission – Summer camp at Finch Park will not run this year. The adult softball program will not run this year either. The next event is the Ramsey Run scheduled for Saturday, September 26th.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Harry Weber

Congratulated Hailey Thompson for joining the Ramsey Rescue Squad.

Ramsey Municipal Alliance met via conference call on June 23rd. The State has suspended the funding for the program so the committee is looking into other activities that don't cost anything. Thanked members Christine Thorpe and Jennifer Zimmerman who will be stepping down due to other commitments.

C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilman Joseph Verdone

The Planning Board held a Regular Meeting on June 16 to review several applications for local restaurants to comply the COVID-19 directive that allows for outdoor dining. All applications were treated as Site Plan Waivers for Outside Dining. The applicants included: Ramsey IHOP, Pietro's Restaurant, Sal's Pizza Corner, Morano's Gourmet Market and Favale's presented a revised plan. Permit fees were waived and all applications were approved and each establishment will be subject to a compliance review every 30 days until November 1st.

Ramsey Seniors continue to do well with Zoom Virtual Classes. No major health, lack of food, or other issues have been identified.

VFW Post 12148 - No Report

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 on the Allendale Ramsey water agreement. There is some due diligence to be done and will report back at the next meeting.

E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilman William Jones
Thanked Hailey Thompson for joining the Rescue Squad.

The Ramsey Farmers' Market continues to be successful. The Ramsey Pool is ready to open next week. The staff has been working very hard to get the pool ready. The outdoor dining has been going well.

Reminded everyone that there will be one meeting in July and one in August.

F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilwoman Jane Woods
Mayor Dillon reported in Councilwoman Woods absence.
Design Review Board held a meeting telephonically and approved a sign application.

G. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON

Reported that Ramsey will host a Bergen County mobile COVID-19 testing site Wednesday, July 1st in the municipal lot across from Borough Hall on N. Central Ave.

Reminded everyone that the July 7th Election will be a primarily Vote by Mail election. Registered Democrats and Republicans should have received their Vote by Mail Ballots by now. There is a secure drop box for ballots behind the Ramsey Library.

Congratulated Hailey Thompson for joining the Ramsey Rescue Squad.

Reported that we will be restarting our 2020 Census for people to respond. We are behind with response rate. Posters will be going out throughout the borough to tell people how important it is.

Playgrounds are reopening on July 2nd. With no guidance from the state, yet about how to maintain the playgrounds.

H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh

Reported on the resolutions relating to the Crystal Spring Lake Dam. It is a shared project with the borough paying 2/3 and the Ramsey Golf and Country Club paying 1/3. The contract was awarded to Cinelly Group. French and Parrello submitted a proposal for professional services for contract administration for field services. The contract was awarded to them in Resolution 120-2020.

Resolution 119-2020 authorized the borough to enter into a municipality reimbursement agreement with the County of Bergen for the Federal Cares Act for COVID-19 related expenses. While the FEMA reimbursement provides 75% reimbursement, the CARES Act fund could provide the additional 25%. It also covers items that are not eligible for FEMA money.

Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund applications are being accepted by the county. There is a public hearing scheduled for later in this meeting.

Senior Center and Site Work - APS continues the punch list for completion of the site work. There is a meeting next week for the punch list for the senior center.

Board of Public Works Well Reactivation and Treatment Project – Work continues on installation of the treatment units. Arrow Road and Martis Ave have both returned back to service. Work continues at the E Oak Street site as well as N. Central, Spring Street and Orchard Place wells. For safety, the bike path from Orchard Place to the pool will be temporarily closed.

Main Street Streetscape – Work is substantially completed and ahead of schedule. Additional work remains with the decorative street lighting.

Property Tax Estimated Billing - As discussed at the last meeting, the third quarter taxes due August 1st, the State is strongly recommending all municipalities issue estimated property tax bills. This is due to the fact that budget and tax rate certification at the county level and state levels have not occurred due to COVID-19. The bills need to be issued a minimum of thirty days before they are due. With a due date of August 1st they will be mailed out in the next couple of days to Ramsey residents.

The borough serves as the billing and collecting entity for all of the property tax, the municipal budget only accounts for approximately 20% of total property taxes. The remaining 80% is determined by other authorities, i.e., Board of Education and the County of Bergen. In regard to the 2020 estimated tax rate increases, the borough tax rate increase is 1.83%. The Board of Education rate increase is 5.17%, from previously voter approved referendums and ballot questions, including full day kindergarten. Bergen County provided guidance that their budget increase may be near 5% based on current economic conditions. With the Board of Education and County 2020 property tax increases at or above 5% increases from 2019, despite the borough tax rate increase of under 2%, the overall increase is driven up to a 4.43% increase. More information is available on the borough website.

Bergen County Plowing and Salting Reimbursement Agreement - The county offers each community to plow the county roads in their town and get reimbursed. In the past, we have elected to plow the county roads. We are reevaluating this and will be discussing with Councilman Kilman, the Utilities, Buildings and Grounds Committee along with DPW Superintendent D'Agostaro.

Water Conservation – Alerts were sent out yesterday and reminders about our water conservation ordinance. We are hoping we get some relief from the dry weather in order to not have to move to a more restrictive water situation.

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

J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian - No comment

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES - None

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

XII. NEW BUSINESS

Public Hearing for the submission of the 2020 Bergen County Grant application for Finch Park improvements.

Administrator Vozech explained that the Borough prepared an application for a 2020 Open Space grant which replaces wooden bleachers at Finch Park to install ADA bleachers along with concrete pads as well as a paver walkway connecting to an adjacent parking lot. It is a 50/50 cost sharing with the borough and the open space trust fund. Upon completion the borough will be reimbursed the 50%. This project was reviewed and supported by the Ramsey Recreation Commission, Ramsey Baseball and Softball Association. The public hearing was advertised in the Bergen Record, the borough's official newspaper.

Mayor Dillon opened the public hearing directing anyone wishing to be heard to press *6 to unmute themselves. After two more offers for the public to speak and no one being heard, Mayor Dillon closed the public hearing.

Motion by Councilman Gutwetter, seconded by Councilman Weber

121-2020 Resolution: authorizing submission of a 2020 Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund Municipal Park Improvement Grant Application for Finch Park bleachers, pavers and landscaping

ROLL CALL:

YAY: Gutwetter, Jones, Kilman, Verdone, Weber

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Weber, seconded by Councilman Verdone.

All in favor. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:08pm.

Meredith Bendian, RMC
Borough Clerk