

**BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, July 12, 2023
6:01pm**

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

Mayor Dillon called the meeting to order at 6:01pm and asked Chief Lyman to lead the flag salute. Mayor Dillon read the Open Public Meetings Act notice.

I. ROLL CALL:

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

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

Absent: Councilman Kilman

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 06-28-23, Special Meeting 07-05-23

Motion by Councilwoman Cusick, seconded by Councilwoman Woods. All in favor. Carried.

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

Motion by Councilwoman Poppe, seconded by Councilman Popolo.

Councilwoman Woods thanked Mrs. Becher for her letter, it is a snapshot of how beautiful it is to live in Ramsey and what a great town it is. Councilwoman Cusick thanked Marymartha Becher for her letter. Mayor Dillon Mrs. Becher's letter brought tears to her eyes and after sixteen years of being on the governing body this is one of the nicest letters ever received. Councilwoman Poppe said the letter was beautifully written and great to read a letter of thanks. Councilman Gutwetter commented how well thought out the letter was. All in favor. Carried.

1. John Danubio, Assistant Executive Director, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, 30 Wyckoff Ave, Waldwick, NJ
e-mail dated June 30, 2023, with the connection fee notice
2. Andrea Diekmann Johe, Borough of Ramsey Financial Specialist
letter dated June 30, 2023, informing of her resignation, effective June 30, 2023
3. Marymartha Becher, 91 Maple Street, Ramsey
letter dated July 7, 2023, thanking the governing body for making Ramsey a special place to live

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.

Mayor Dillon opened public comment, with no one wishing to be heard on the telephone or in council chambers, Mayor Dillon closed public comment.

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

VI. APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Dillon made the following appointments

Dean Zindaki, Probationary Police Officer, Ramsey Police Department

Alex Cardenas, Probationary Police Officer, Ramsey Police Department

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:

- | | | |
|----------|-------------|--|
| 154-2023 | Resolution: | payment of vouchers |
| 155-2023 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number fourteen |
| 156-2023 | Resolution: | providing for the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any County or Municipality pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (Chapter 159), P.L. 1948) Stewardship Grant for Shade Tree |
| 157-2023 | Resolution: | accepting the resignation of Andrea Diekmann Johe effective June 30, 2023, with regret |
| 158-2023 | Resolution: | refund for overpayment of taxes due to a tax appeal for years 2021 and 2022 for Block 4203 Lot 7, in the amount of \$19,597.50 |
| 159-2023 | Resolution: | awarding a contract to CivicPlus, 302 South 4 th Street Suite 500, Manhattan, Kansas for the CivicRec Premium Package inclusive of annual fee, implementation and training costs in the amount of \$25,407 |
| 160-2023 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Dean Zindaki as a Probationary Police Officer for the Borough of Ramsey, effective July 12, 2023 |
| 161-2023 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Alex Cardenas as a Probationary Police Officer for the Borough of Ramsey, effective July 12, 2023 |
| 162-2023 | Resolution: | authorizing \$30,000 of the American Rescue Plan funds be allocated to the purchase of turnout gear for the Ramsey Volunteer Fire Department and that \$30,000 American Rescue Plan funds be allocated to the Ramsey Rescue Squad for turnout gear and SCBA Cylinder Replacement |

VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION (cont'd)

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

B. BLOCK PARTY REQUESTS:

Roll Call:

YAY: Cusick, Gutwetter, Popolo, Poppe, Woods

ABSENT: Kilman

Mayor Dillon swore in Officers Zindaki, Cardenas and Gutierrez. Their families pinned their shields and many friends and colleagues were in the audience. Chief Lyman said how lucky Ramsey is to be getting these three officers, they are an incredible asset to the force and thanked the Mayor and Council and Public Safety committee for always supporting the police.

VIII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS - None

IX. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

- A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Councilman Michael Gutwetter
Welcomed Officers Zindaki, Cardenas and Gutierrez to the Ramsey Police Department and thanked them for their service to our community.

Ramsey Library – Summer reading program kicked off last month and thanked the local businesses who contributed the prize baskets. “Meet the Author”, Ann Napolitano will be on July 25th. Summer Concert series continues at Finch Park.

Recreation Commission – Fall registration continues and the Ramsey Run will be on September 30th.

Pool Commission – The pool offers live music on Friday nights, aqua aerobics on Saturday morning at 9am.

- B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Peter Kilman
In Councilman’s Kilman’s absence the following report was given.

VFW Post 12148 - The VFW’s annual poppy donation collections ended June 30th and the VFW sincerely thanks the Greater Ramsey area residents and visitors for their generous support.

The VFW’s Barbeque food booth in front of the VFW Building at the Ramsey July 4th Celebration was not as successful as in previous years. However, the leftover food was delivered to the Ramsey Police Department and other first responder organizations.

The Greater Ramsey UNICO Chapter and the VFW sold 50-50 raffle tickets at the Ramsey July 4th Celebration. Fifty percent of the proceeds went to the winner. The other 50%, a check for \$1,150.00 was presented to Post Commander, John Rigg at the Ramsey UNICO’s general meeting.

- C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilwoman Jane Woods
Thanked Administrator Vozeh, the DPW and all who contributed to another successful Independence Day Celebration.

Congratulated and thanked new Officers Zindaki and Cardenas on their appointments to the Ramsey Police Department.

- D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilwoman Judy Cusick
Congratulated and welcomed Officers Gutierrez, Zindaki and Cardenas to the Ramsey Police Department.

Ramsey Planning Board – The next meeting is on Tuesday, July 18th. Chick-fil-A has withdrawn their application to the Planning Board.

Shade Tree Commission - There is information on the Borough website. The borough received Spotted Lantern Fly traps from the county. If anyone is interested, please reach out to Jim Trouf.

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.

Paving Project – Reiterated the recent RAVE notifications and phone message from Mayor Dillon regarding paving. Information is posted on the borough website, as well. Main Street from Central Ave to Franklin Turnpike was closed this week for milling. Milling will start on Wyckoff Avenue near West Crescent and will continue through Main Street. Paving started July 12th and will proceed west to Central Avenue. Paving will take approximately 2-3 days total (after milling is complete). All work is weather permitting. This is a Bergen County project as Wyckoff Avenue and Main Street are county roads. The contractor is set to work Monday through Friday between the hours of 7am and 5pm. Ramsey Police has set up detours during working hours.

Water Quality Report - H2M has tabulated and reviewed the water quality data for the Borough of Ramsey's 2022 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). The report is posted on our Borough of Ramsey website – search for Water Quality in the search bar. The water quality is excellent and our sample results from 2022 demonstrate this.

Reported on the Eagle Scout project by Eric Jachzel – Eric installed microfilament (fishing line) recycling stations at Suracci Pond. Eric chose this project after some wildlife was fatally injured by fishing line that was not disposed of properly.

- E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilwoman Sara Poppe
Municipal Alliance next meeting is July 24th in council chambers at 7:30pm.

Congratulated Officers Zindaki, Cardenas and Gutierrez.

- F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilman Glen Popolo
Congratulated Officers Zindaki, Cardenas and Gutierrez on their appointments.

Congratulated everyone who helped with the Independence Day event.

RIFE – The Boulder game will be later in July and the BBQ/Pool party will be at the municipal pool in August.

G. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON

Welcomed Probationary Officers Zindaki, Cardenas and Gutierrez to the Ramsey Police Department and shared her excitement having them on board, wishing them successful careers in Ramsey.

Thanked everyone who worked on the Independence Day celebration, Councilwoman Poppe, Administrator Vozeh, the DPW and all of the emergency services and volunteers. The fireworks display was spectacular.

Thanked everyone for their patience during the milling and repaving of Main Street and Wyckoff Avenue.

Confirmed that there will be a Planning Board meeting but that Chick Fil A has withdrawn their application.

H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh

Thanked everyone who was involved in the Independence Day Celebration that made the event so successful.

Provided a report on the paving project on Main Street. Reporting that the County is up to the intersection of N. Central and Main St. The intersection of N. Central and Main Street will be closed Thursday morning until the area is resurfaced and has time to cool down to allow cars to drive on it. Paving will continue from Main Street down Wyckoff Avenue towards East and West Oak Streets. The Ramsey Library will have a delayed opening on Thursday, July 13th at 1pm.

Resolution 156 – Insertion of Special Line Item of Revenue (Chapter 159) in the Municipal Budget: When the Borough receives grants subsequent to the adoption of the municipal budget that will have offsetting budget expenditures, the Borough may do a resolution to add the grant to the current year budget revenue and have a direct offset line item on the appropriation side of the budget. Resolution 156 inserts a \$20,000 grant for Shade Tree to perform an updated tree inventory. The State requires an updated tree inventory to be eligible for additional grants for Shade Tree items such as tree planting which the Borough has received.

Resolution 157 – Accepting resignation of Andrea Diekmann Johe with regret. Ms. Diekmann replaced Jackie Turner in the Finance Department earlier this year and resigned for personal reasons. I am working with CFO Bartalotta on reviewing the possible restructuring of roles internally and to identify the needs of the department.

Resolution 159– Awards a contract to Civic Plus for the purchase, training and implementation of Civic Rec system: Recreation and Pool researched and met with vendors to find a new software system to incorporate program registration, facilities management and online payment services. The recommendation is to award the contract to CivicRec for these services. This resolution approves the contract with Civic Rec for annual fees, training and implementation of the system for \$25,407.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh (cont'd)

Resolutions 160 & 161 – Confirming the appointments of Dean Zindaki and Alex Cardenas as Probationary Officers with Ramsey Police Department: Through the Ramsey Police Department hiring process to fill positions, a total of five candidates received conditional offers of employment. Officer Guterrez was previously appointed and confirmed effective June 30th, Officer Zindaki and Officer Cardenas appointments and confirmations are on tonight's agenda. Officer Zindaki will attend the Police Academy starting later this month. Officer Cardenas transferred after serving as an officer in Madison and Paterson, NJ. There are two additional candidates who have conditional offers of employment, upon successful completion of the Police Academy in September. At which time they will join the Borough.

Resolution 162 – Authorizing the use of American Rescue Plan funds for Ramsey Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad turnout gear and equipment: Ramsey Fire Department and Rescue Squad both submitted capital budget requests and this resolution will allow funding for purchases of turnout gear of \$30,000 for Fire Department and \$21,000 for Rescue Squad as well as \$9,000 for SCBA Replacement Cylinders for the Ramsey Rescue Squad. This funding will be allocated from a portion of the remaining American Rescue Plan funds.

Ordinance 8-2023 – Amending Section 2-23 of the Borough Code modifying the number of Sergeants in the Ramsey Police Table of Organization. Chief Lyman requested an eighth Sergeant position which requires an ordinance modifying the Borough Code for the Police Table of Organization. This position would be an Administrative Sergeant in the building on a weekday and daytime schedule. They will supervise the traffic division and administrative work coordinating with vendors and oversight of these contracts. As traffic concerns are the most common citizen complaint the department receives, having direct supervision during the day when most traffic situations seem to occur, will provide a benefit to the department and citizen response. The normal work week for the Administrative Sergeant will be forty hours, made up of four (4) ten-hour (10) weekday shifts each week (rotating weeks Monday through Thursday and Tuesday through Friday from 7am to 5pm). There will also be an agreement with the PBA regarding the eighth sergeant being reassigned to other duties at times covering patrol shift supervision, rather than incurring overtime. In summary, the addition of the eighth sergeant will enhance continuity of operations within the department, reduce overtime and establish direct supervision of the Traffic Bureau.

Ordinance 5-2023 was tabled at the last meeting. The ordinance would codify the operating hours for Borough Hall to include the summer hours (which we have operated under starting in 2021). The ordinance was tabled to allow for further discussion with one of the employee labor unions that represent some of the Borough Hall employees. Those discussions were around potentially modifying the past summer hours schedule but after further review the schedule will remain as we have done and what was presented in Ordinance 5-2023. It has been listed on tonight's agenda under "Unfinished Business"

I. BOROUGH ATTORNEY – Peter A. Scandariato, Esq. - no report

J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian

Announced that the next Mayor and Council meeting would be on Wednesday, August 9th at 6:00pm.

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 08-2023 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2-32 ENTITLED POLICE DEPARTMENT IN CHAPTER 2 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AND MORE SPECIFICALLY, SUBSECTION 2-32.2 THEREOF ENTITLED APPOINTMENTS

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance Amending Section 2-32 Entitled Police Department in Chapter 2 of the Code of the Borough of Ramsey, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, and more specifically Subsection 2-32.2 thereof entitled Appointments, 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 9th day of August, 2023 at 6:00pm 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.

Roll Call:

YAY: Cusick, Gutwetter, Popolo, Poppe, Woods

Absent: Kilman

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCE 05-2023 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 10 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AND MORE SPECIFICALLY SECTION 10-2 ENTITLED HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT

Mayor Dillon asked for a motion to remove Ordinance 05-2023 from the table and to instruct Borough Clerk Bendian to advertise Ordinance 05-2023 for public hearing to be heard on August 9th at 6:00pm.

Motion by Councilman Gutwetter, seconded by Councilman Popolo.

Roll Call:

YAY: Cusick, Gutwetter, Popolo, Poppe, Woods

Absent: Kilman

XII. NEW BUSINESS - None

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilwoman Woods, seconded by Council. All in favor. Carried.
Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.

Meredith Bendian, RMC
Borough Clerk