

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, July 22, 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 July 16th, posted on the borough website and doors to borough hall.

Mayor Dillon called the meeting to order at 7:33pm 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), Weber and Woods (via phone)

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – WS 06-10-2020, 06-24-20, Special Meeting 07-02-2020
Motion by Councilman Weber, seconded by Councilwoman Woods.
Councilman Weber and Councilwoman Woods abstained from Special Meeting 07-02-20 due to absence. All in favor. Carried.

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

Motion by Councilman Verdone, seconded by Councilman Kilman.

Councilman Weber, Councilman Verdone, Councilwoman Woods and Mayor Dillon thanked Bob Phelan for his service and all his contributions and wished him well.

Administrator Vozech mentioned that Mr. Phelan also was the coordinator for the senior bus and was a tremendous asset. All in favor. Carried.

1. Robert Phelan, Canterbury Drive, Ramsey, NJ
email dated July 4, 2020, informing of his resignation from the Library Board and the Design Review Committee, effective September 1, 2020
2. James Rotundo, Executive Director, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, 30 Wyckoff Ave, Waldwick, NJ
email dated June 24, 2020, enclosing information about the sewer connection fee for 2020
3. Allison Gordon, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, 30 Wyckoff Ave., Waldwick, NJ
email dated July 17, 2020, enclosing the agendas for the July 21st meetings

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.

Mayor Dillon opened public comment and instructed anyone wishing to speak to press *6. The Mayor repeated the instructions twice more. With no one wishing to be heard, Mayor Dillon closed public comment.

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

VI. APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Dillon made the following appointments

Madeline Stitz, Ramsey Rescue, Explorer Member

Moustafu Elfeky, Ramsey Rescue, Administration 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:

- | | | |
|----------|-------------|--|
| 123-2020 | Resolution: | payment of vouchers |
| 124-2020 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number thirteen |
| 125-2020 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number fourteen |
| 126-2020 | Resolution: | authorizing the increase to the bid threshold to \$44,000 and quote threshold to \$6,600, as per the Local Public Contracts Law |
| 127-2020 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Madeline Stitz to the Ramsey Rescue Squad as an Explorer Member |
| 128-2020 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Moustafu Elfeky to the Ramsey Rescue Squad as an Administration Member |
| 129-2020 | Resolution: | awarding contract to State Line Fire and Safety Inc., 50 Park Avenue, Park Ridge, NJ for the purchase of hydraulic tools for Ramsey Rescue Squad in an amount \$36,221.75 |
| 130-2020 | Resolution: | extending the temporary suspension of the enforcement of zoning code 34-40.1 (d) specifically for the purpose of allowing for a “pop up” drive in movie theater located in the Eric Smith School parking lot, as detailed in Reso 122-2020, through August 31 (corrected as per Borough Attorney Scandariato, through September 8, 2020) |

VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION (cont'd)

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

Ramsey Ambulance Corps is requesting permission to hold a contactless, drive thru fundraiser BBQ on September 12, 2020 from 4pm-7 pm

B. BLOCK PARTY REQUESTS: None

Borough Attorney Scandariato clarified that Resolution 130-2020 for the pop-up theater is extended through September 8, 2020, not August 31st as reflected on the agenda.

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
Reported that the Library Board is implementing Phase III to reopen for limited indoor services. No in person library programs.

Recreation Commission – Recreation Director Bill Patterson is resigning due to relocation as of July 31st and thanked him for his years of service. Commissioner Glen Popolo is interested in a RIFE pool event in August, if permitted. The Halloween parade is in the planning stages, if it can be held, due to COVID-19.

- B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Harry Weber
Congratulated Madeline and Mustafu for joining Ramsey Rescue.

Environmental Commission continues to achieve the Sustainable Jersey certification.

Municipal Alliance is putting together a new plan for their spending for the next year. Their grant money was significantly reduced for the year from \$7,500 to \$3,500. A plan is required to be submitted to the state to continue with the program

RIFE is looking to schedule a pool event in August.

Thanked Recycling Coordinator Jim Trouf and Administrator Vozech for scheduling the shredding day for September 19th.

- C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilman Joseph Verdone
Reported that on July 7th the Planning Board reviewed applications for Varka and Majestic Diner for outdoor dining. Applications were treated as Site Plan Waivers for Outside Dining. Permit fees were waived and applications were approved. Each establishment will be subject to a compliance review every 30 days until November 1st.

The public hearing for Big Tows, Inc. at 35 Grant Street is seeking Site Plan and Soil Movement approval for an addition and associated site improvements to a motor vehicle service garage facility. A unique feature includes a self-contained spray paint booth that meets very strict EPA requirements. The application was approved subject to specific conditions.

At the July 21st Planning Board meeting four waivers were approved, three office relocations, and a pizzeria on North Franklin Turnpike. Also, Site Plan Waivers for outside dining for Brothers Smokehouse and Shannon Rose were reviewed and approved.

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.

C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilman Joseph Verdone (cont'd)

The Senior Center at Finch Park has been vacated by the seniors. On Monday, July 27th the shuffle board and pool table will be relocated to the new Senior/Community Center at the Municipal Pool Complex.

VFW Post 12148

Due to the pandemic the VFW cancelled their Poppy fundraiser earlier and are now planning to run the poppy fundraiser in October and November to coincide with Veteran's Day. The Ramsey's VFW Post proudly participated in the July 4th Ramsey drive through town parade.

In August the Allendale VFW Post members will join with the Ramsey VFW Post. The Ramsey VFW Post will be picking up 10 – 12 active members. Both Posts are very happy with the merger and the Ramsey VFW Post 12148 name will remain.

Ramsey Responds remains very actively serving Ramsey families in need. Donations are always needed. Donations can be sent to Ramsey Responds, P.O. Box 724, Ramsey, NJ 07446

Wished his friend Bob Phelan the very best as he and his wife Lynne begin a new chapter of their lives together in North Andover, Massachusetts. It has been my honor to have worked with Bob on the Design Review Board and I thank him for his unwavering support managing the Ramsey Seniors Bus Program. He will surely be missed.

D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilman Peter Kilman

Board of Public Works – Reported on the research and progress of the Allendale Ramsey emergency water interconnection agreement. After meeting with Borough Attorney Scandariato, Administrator Vozeh, Water Supt. Skorupa, BPW Attorney Carter Corriston and Crew Engineers Mauro Bacolo. They approved that we continue our next phase of work and reach out to Allendale to explain the modifications the borough would like to see incorporated into the agreement.

Congratulated Madeline and Mustafu on their appointments to Ramsey Rescue.

E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilman William Jones

Thanked Bob Phelan for his years of service to the community in his many capacities and wished him well.

Thanked Bill Patterson as a longtime member of the Recreation Commission and as Director.

Thanked and welcomed Maddie and Mustafa for joining Ramsey Rescue.

F. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilman William Jones (cont'd)

The Farmers' Market and Pool are both doing the best they can under the conditions. They've done an excellent job setting the safety standards and following all protocols in place. Many people have commented on how well the pool is practicing social distancing. Encourages residents to join while there is still time to enjoy it.

Outdoor dining continues with businesses doing their best to adjust. Please continue to support your local businesses.

Announced that the final phase of the video system is in place and we will do some final testing in order to go live by September.

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

At the Board of Health meeting they discussed signage for the library bike paths Finch Park and other gathering areas and contact tracing. They will be posting videos on sick awareness, how to wear a mask and other educational content. They are working closely with the Board of Education to provide COVID protocol to facilitate opening this Fall.

Board of Education met via Youtube. They are working to create a remote learning plan in coordination with the Board of Health that must be submitted to the State Department of Education by July 27, 2020. The full plan will be released to the Ramsey community by August 3rd.

The 2020 Census is still underway with a big push by the State to get everyone to participate. They have a video call each week. Mayor Dillon has been a driving force.

Offered best wishes to Bob Phelan and congratulated Madeline and Mustafa on their appointments to Rescue Squad. Congratulated all of the graduates of Ramsey High School.

H. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON

Due to COVID-19, more specifically social distancing, we will not have the Jack McKeown Memorial Run this September, in addition, we will not have Ramsey Day. There is just no way to control the social distancing and the 500-person limit.

Reported about her visit to the Library. She said it was very welcoming and the services they have offered is outstanding.

Thanked Bob Phelan and Bill Patterson for their years of service and wished them both well. Congratulated and thanked Maddie and Mustafa for joining Ramsey Rescue.

Reported that the Ramsey High School graduation was no less than spectacular. It was a very memorable ceremony. Well done to all involved.

H. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON (cont'd)

Thanked Dr. Murphy, Dr. Thumm, Mr. Esdale and Mrs. Mitchell for presenting the diplomas to four students who could not be at the July 6th graduation.

Reminded everyone to continue to wear their masks as Ramsey has been doing very well with their numbers.

I. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh

Discussed Resolution 126-2020 to raise the bid threshold for the advertising of public bids regarding goods and services any municipality that has a QPA, which the borough has. This brings the amount up to \$44,000 for public bids and \$6,600 for solicitation of quotes.

Resolution 129-2020 awards contract for Rescue Squad hydraulic tools. Two bids were received but the low bid was thrown out for failure to meet technical specifications. Bids were reviewed by Rescue Chief, QPA D'Agostaro and Borough Attorney Scandariato.

Board of Public Works Well Reactivation Treatment Project – Work continues on all six treatment units. E. Oak Street and N. Central Ave well sites include the integration and connection of the onsite treatment units. Prep work continues on Spring Street and Orchard St in advance of the treatment units arriving. Martis Well unit is up and running and back online. The aesthetics improvements at Martis are moving forward, as well.

Main Street Streetscape – The sidewalks are completed and the contractor is moving forward with decorative street lighting.

Property Taxes – Estimated bills were mailed out and payments are due August 1st with a ten-day grace period. The state has not moved the due date or extended the grace period. By law they are the only entity that can do that. The borough serves as the billing and collecting for all property tax and only represent 20% of the total bill. The other 80% include the Board of Education and Bergen County.

Plowing of County Roadways – This is still under review after meeting with Road Department and Councilman Kilman. The reimbursement from the county is short of the borough's cost, however, we have more timing control when plowing the roads ourselves. We will receive feedback from other towns and then move forward with a recommendation.

Ramsey Run – Ramsey Day – Losing both events is a difficult decision. With the amount of people involved staffing booths and the event, plus those from the public who attend, we will certainly be over the limit of the Governor's executive order for the outdoor gathering limit; In addition to the social distancing challenges. Mayor Dillon concurred and expressed her disappointment on that first Saturday after Labor Day not having Ramsey Day.

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

K. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian - No report

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES – None

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

XII. NEW BUSINESS - None

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Weber, seconded by Councilman Gutwetter. All in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 8:09pm.

Meredith Bendian, RMC
Borough Clerk