

**BOROUGH OF RAMSEY  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, August 26, 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 August 12<sup>th</sup>, posted on the borough website and doors to borough hall.

Council President Jones called the meeting to order at 7:30pm and led the flag salute. Council President Jones read the Open Public Meetings Act notice.

**I. ROLL CALL -**

Present: Councilmembers Gutwetter, Jones, Weber and Woods (via phone)

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

Absent: Mayor Dillon, Councilpersons Kilman and Verdone

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 07-22-20**

Motion by Councilwoman Woods, seconded by Councilman Weber  
All in favor. Carried.

**III. COMMUNICATIONS -**

Motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilwoman Woods. All in favor. Carried.

1. Anders and Karen Johnels, Woodland Avenue  
email dated July 21, 2020, disappointment and disagreement with the thoughts and decisions pertaining to the opening of schools
2. Bill Patterson, Amanda Court, Ramsey, NJ  
email dated July 10, 2020, informing of his resignation as Recreation Director, effective July 31, 2020
3. Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti, Commissioner, NJ DOT, Trenton, NJ 08625  
letter dated July 31, 2020, announcing the acceptance of application for the 2020 Transportation Set-Aside Program

#### 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.

Council President Jones opened the meeting to the public. After directing anyone wishing to speak to press \*6 to unmute several times and no members of the public wishing to be heard, Council President Jones closed public comment.

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

#### VI. APPOINTMENTS

Council President Jones made the following appointments

Madison Anton, Ramsey Rescue Squad

Nancy Boone, Design Review Board, Alt 2  
(filling unexpired term of M. Mullins)

Eileen Siraki, Design Review Board, Regular Member  
(filling unexpired term of B. Phelan)

Marylee Mullins, Design Review Board, Alt 1  
(filling unexpired term of E. Siraki)

Christine Thorpe, Library Board (filling unexpired term of B. Phelan)

Glen Popolo, Recreation Director

## 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:

- |          |             |  |
|----------|-------------|--|
| 131-2020 | Resolution: | payment of vouchers  |
| 132-2020 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number fifteen   |
| 133-2020 | Resolution: | authorizing the release of escrow for Block 3510, Lot 20 in the amount of \$ 1,763.65  |
| 134-2020 | Resolution: | accepting the funding plan for Ramsey Municipal Alliance 2020-2021 fiscal year   |
| 135-2020 | Resolution: | accepting and filing the 2019 audit  |
| 136-2020 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number sixteen   |
| 137-2020 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number seventeen   |
| 138-2020 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Madison Anton to the Ramsey Rescue as a regular member   |
| 139-2020 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Nancy Boone to the Design Review Board, filling the unexpired term of Mary Lee Mullins                   |
| 140-2020 | Resolution: | providing for the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (Chapter 159) for the bike path |
| 141-2020 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Eileen Siraki to the Design Review Board as a Regular Member, filling unexpired term of B. Phelan        |
| 142-2020 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Marylee Mullins to the Design Review Board as Alt 1, filling unexpired term of E. Siraki                 |
| 143-2020 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Glen Popolo as Ramsey Recreation Director  |

VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION (cont'd)

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

Ramsey Outdoor Store is requesting permission to hold their annual outdoor sale on Saturday, September 12, 2020 (rain date 9/19) from 9:00am -6:00pm after receiving final approval from Fire Prevention

Ramsey VFW Post 12148 is requesting permission to collect funds from October 15 to November 30 from 9:00am -5:00pm in front of Shop Rite, Uncle Giuseppe's, Village Stationers, Bottle King, Lotito's, Walgreens, Ramsey Gourmet, Ramsey Hardware, Post Office, LaGondola. Permission received by all store owners

B. BLOCK PARTY REQUESTS:

Mary Beth Remy of Jean Street is requesting permission to hold a block party on Saturday. September 26 (rain date Sept. 27) from 11:00am–11:00 pm

\*All special permits and block parties subject to restrictions and guidelines under Governor Murphy's Executive Orders

Councilman Weber clarified that the VFW fundraiser is selling poppies.

ROLL CALL:

YAY: Gutwetter, Jones, Weber, Woods

VIII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS - None

## IX. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

- A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Councilman Michael Gutwetter  
Library Board – Technology lending has been updated to the library of things program. A wide array of tools, outdoors games, board games and stem learning kits for loan are available.

Gerry Casella is retiring after forty years of service to the Library and Jeff Hoffman has been promoted to Library Assistant.

Recreation Commission – Bill Patterson resigned as Recreation Director effective July 31, 2020 and Glen Popolo moves into that position.

- B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Harry Weber  
Thanked Bill Patterson for all his years of service to the Recreation Commission.
- C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilman Joseph Verdone  
In Councilman Verdone’s absence Councilman Weber read the report.

Planning Board – At the regular meeting on August 4<sup>th</sup> reviewed one site plan waiver for outside dining for Houlihan’s. The permit fee was waived and the application was approved. Houlihan’s will be subject to a compliance review every 30 days until November 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Planning Board held a regular meeting on August 18<sup>th</sup> to review two modified site plan waivers for Outside Dining for Majestic Diner and Varka Restaurant to comply with the COVID-19 directive that allows for outdoor dining. Permit fees were waived and both applications were approved. Both will be subject to a compliance review every 30 days until November 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Public Hearing for Alejandro and Andrea Frezza was once again postponed to September 15<sup>th</sup>.

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.

### VFW Post 12148

Due to the pandemic the VFW had to cancel their biggest fundraiser selling poppies and are planning to run the poppy fundraiser this fall during October and November to coincide with Veteran’s Day.

On August 12<sup>th</sup> the Allendale VFW Post members merged with the Ramsey VFW Post, picking up 25 active and semi-active members. Both Posts are very happy with the merger and the Ramsey VFW Post 12148 name will remain.

Ramsey Responds is still very actively serving Ramsey families in need. As a result of the recent hurricane Ramsey Responds is currently supporting about 125 families' or approximately 600 individuals. Donations are always needed. Food donations are accepted every Tuesday from 5:00PM – 6:00PM at St. Paul's Church, 200 Wyckoff Avenue. Financial Donations can be sent to Ramsey Responds, P.O. Box 724, Ramsey, NJ 07446.

D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilman Peter Kilman  
Absent

E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilman William Jones  
Ramsey Pool – It continues to operate with limited special events due to COVID-19. We continue to get compliments on the efforts of Gary Bach and his staff for the hygiene at the pool.

Ramsey Farmers' Market – There was a request from the Market Director Nancy Boone to extend the outdoor market through the winter months. The hours will be from 10am-1pm. Permission was granted after speaking with all departments.

Thanked all of the volunteers who were appointed along with Glen Popolo as Recreation Director and thanked Bill Patterson for his years of service to the Recreation Commission.

Chamber of Commerce – Have been working with the chamber by advising them of all of the County State and Federal programs the businesses may be eligible for.

F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilwoman Jane Woods  
Thanked all the new appointees.

Board of Health cancelled the August meeting for lack of quorum.

Board of Education – Board Member Nick Schifano resigned from the board due to a job location change. Eighty-six percent of the students plan to return to in person class instruction for September 3<sup>rd</sup>. There are plans for a new diversity equity and inclusion committee. The school board is hiring a consultant to evaluate systemic racism in the school. Communications were received from Ramsey graduates requesting the curriculum be reviewed for systemic bias.

G. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON

Absent – comments will be covered by Administrator Vozech

H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh

Reported that the borough will be offering another COVID test at the Main Street train parking lot on Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>. This will be a mobile testing site. Check the borough website for information.

Reviewed the resolution for the Environmental Commission receiving an ANJEC Grant for \$967.00. The commission is working with the boy scouts for signage and informational stations along the bike path. This grant award was received after the 2020 budget was adopted; the resolution allows for use of the grant in 2020.

Ordinance 08-2020 – on tonight’s agenda for no parking on the southside of Martis Avenue from South Central to Maple Ct. it had been discussed with several residents in that area prior to installing the water treatment facility. After the police traffic safety division reviewed the area in question, they recommended an amendment to the borough parking code.

Board of Public Works – Well Reactivation and Treatment Project – Finalizing the installation on the water treatment units on E. Oak and N. Central to return to service in September and will complete the installation of the treatment units on the four wells that were all previously online. It is a six well project. The last two on Orchard and Spring had been offline for a number of years, their return to service will provide additional supply to the system. Hope to have that up and running later this year.

2020 Road Resurfacing Program – Work is scheduled to begin the week of September 21<sup>st</sup>. This program includes approximately twenty roads.

We received the final certified property tax rates for 2020. The municipal component for 2020 is an increase of 1.83%. The other components have higher increases which includes the Board of Education 5.17% and the County of Bergen 6.05% as well as the library portion at 2.94%. While the municipal tax rate increase is under 2% the overall increase is driven up to 4.56%. These rates are in line with the estimated tax billing that went out in the third quarter.

Storm Debris Pick Up – The one time pick up started on August 13<sup>th</sup> – This is a time-consuming process. The work continues until they’ve gone through all of the streets.

Thanked Bill Patterson for his service to the borough and welcomed Glen Popolo.

I. BOROUGH ATTORNEY – Peter A. Scandariato, Esq.

Reported that the borough prepared their response to Allendale’s request for emergency water interconnect and finalized the form.

J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian

Reported that according to Governor Murphy's Executive Order 177 the November 3<sup>rd</sup> Election will be primarily Vote by Mail. Every active voter will be mailed a Mail in Ballot which will be postage paid for anyone returning to USPS. However, Ramsey is fortunate enough to have a secure drop box in the rear of the Ramsey Library which is monitored by video surveillance as well as ballot retrieval daily by the Bergen County Board of Elections. It is an extremely safe option to return your Vote by Mail ballot. There will be voting districts open in Ramsey on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. We are currently reviewing our options. Alerts will be sent out.

If anyone is not registered to vote they have until October 13<sup>th</sup> to register to vote in the November 3<sup>rd</sup> General Election. The Borough Clerk's office will remain open until 9:00pm on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 08-2020 – AMENDING BOROUGH CODE 7-7.4 TO INCLUDE NO PARKING ON SOUTHSIDE OF MARTIS AVENUE FROM SOUTH CENTRAL TO MAPLE COURT

Motion by Councilman Weber, seconded by Councilman Jones

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled An Ordinance amending the Borough Code 7-7.4 to Include No Parking on Southside of Martis Avenue from South Central to Maple Court, 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 8<sup>th</sup> day of September, 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 Weber explained that there will be no parking on the southside of Martis Ave. as a result of the safety review from the Police Department.

ROLL CALL:

YAY: Gutwetter, Jones, Weber, Woods



XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

XII. NEW BUSINESS

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Weber, seconded by Councilman Gutwetter. All in favor.  
Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Meredith Bendian, RMC  
Borough Clerk