

**BOROUGH OF RAMSEY  
SINE DIE MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, January 3, 2024  
6:30pm

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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeBnVXBwSn_ILMuAGkSin9w)

Mayor Dillon called the meeting to order at 6:33pm and asked Administrator Vozech to lead the flag salute. Mayor Dillon read the Open Public Meetings Act notice.

I. ROLL CALL:

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

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 12-13-23

Motion to receive and file the minutes by Councilwoman Cusick, seconded by Councilman Kilman. All in favor. Carried

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

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

1. George Bumiller, 39 Lakeview Terrace, Ramsey  
letter dated December 20, 2023, including Suggestion 19

Mayor Dillon asked for a motion to go out of the regular order of business for Administrator Vozech to give his report. Motion by Councilwoman Woods, seconded by Councilwoman Cusick. All in favor. Carried.

Administrator Vozech -

Resolution 236 - Authorizing endorsement of Bergen County Community Development Block Grant for West Bergen Mental Healthcare application: West Bergen Mental Healthcare has a proposed project for replacement of the air conditioning units at their Ramsey location on Cherry Lane. They are submitting a grant application for funding through the Bergen County Community Development Block Grant Program. As the host community, the program requires a confirming resolution from the Borough. This resolution is an endorsement of their application.

Resolution 239 – Adoption of Municipal Tort Claim Form: Bergen County Joint Insurance Fund which the Borough belongs to, has provided a recommended Tort Claim form for the municipality to adopt. Formal adoption of this form through resolution may, in defense of any claim, provide better protection for the Borough. The form will also be posted to the Borough website.

Resolution 240 – Authorizing renewal of Bond Anticipation Note: Borough utilizes Bond Anticipation Notes (“BAN”) for capital project funding. These mature in one year and the Borough then at maturity will go back out to bid for a new BAN after paying down a portion of principal plus interest through the budget. We have BANs that mature in both January and March of 2024. This resolution is for the January BAN which we have received a net interest cost of 3.86%. This net interest cost is a reflection of the strength of the Borough’s financial position in competitive rates that independent third-party investors provide Ramsey in this higher interest rate environment. In this bid Piper Sandler was the winner with the lowest net interest cost.

Resolutions 241 & 242 – Authorizing purchase of vehicle, service body and equipment for Mechanic Division of the Board of Public Works: The mechanics truck in our Vehicle Maintenance division of DPW is beyond its useful life and needs replacement. Funding was put in place in the 2023 budget. These resolutions award the purchase of both the vehicle and its service body and equipment. In addition to all the supplemental compartments needed for tools and equipment, include items such as transfer fuel tank and pumps, air compressor and power inverter. Both purchases are being done under Cooperative Purchasing Contracts.

Resolution 243 – Authorizing Renewal of Group Dental Insurance through Delta Dental: Borough’s risk manager, Frank Covelli has worked with Delta Dental on a renewal for employee dental coverage. This resolution awards a renewal for a two-year agreement with no increase for two years.

Resolution 244 – Authorizing our participation for 2024 in an interlocal agreement with Borough of Waldwick for Well-Baby Clinic. The Borough and Ramsey Board of Health have been entering into an interlocal service agreement with the Borough of Waldwick to provide public health services to Ramsey residents through Waldwick. These services are mandated by the Public Health Council of New Jersey and are provided to infants and pre-school children.

Administrator Vozech (cont'd)

Resolutions 245 – Budget Appropriation Transfer #3 – This budget appropriation transfer is a net neutral budget item moving unutilized funds from one line item to another that may have had unbudgeted needs through the year. Again, there is no overall budget or tax impact just the formal shifting on funds from one line item to another.

Resolution 246 – Approving various 2024 salary adjustments: This resolution authorizes 2024 salaries for a number of positions some which are not covered under a Collective Bargaining Agreement (“CBA”) annual increase and some under a CBA who have changes in their position. These include part-time non-union employees of the Municipal Judge and Prosecutor receiving 2% increases for 2024, as well as the Recreation Director annual salary for 2024 being set at \$18,000 and the Community Senior Center Facility Coordinator being set at \$12,000 for the year. Peter (“PJ”) Anastasio who has worked in Municipal Court office since 2019 has completed necessary course work for his certification as a Deputy Court Administrator with his capstone project to be completed. Based on this, Court Administrator Ernest has recommended a salary adjustment below those of fully certified Deputy Court Administrators but above court employees who have not taken the Deputy Court Administrator classes. PJ’s 2024 salary would be \$56,000 plus the 2% annual CBA increase. Jim Trouf has been with the borough since 2018. He wears many hats. As a permanent full- time employee serves as Shade Tree Coordinator, Assistant Zoning Officer/Property Maintenance, Recycling Coordinator and has previously obtained his RCS Building Inspector license. He has now completed additional courses with the State to move further along with his Building Inspector license. Resolution sets his annual salary to \$65,488 prior to the CBA 2% increase for 2024.

Motion to return to the regular order of business by Councilwoman Woods, seconded by Councilwoman Cusick. All in favor. Carried

IV. 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:

- |          |             |  |
|----------|-------------|--|
| 236-2023 | Resolution: | payment of vouchers  |
| 237-2023 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number 26  |
| 238-2023 | Resolution: | authorizing the endorsement of a Bergen County Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$39,500.00 for West Bergen Mental Healthcare for the replacement of air conditioning units to include Needlepoint Bipolar Ionization at 1 Cherry Lane, Ramsey |
| 239-2023 | Resolution: | a resolution of the Borough of Ramsey adopting a form required to be used for the filing of notices of tort claims against the borough in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Tort Claims Act N.J.S.A 59:8-6  |
| 240-2023 | Resolution: | authorizing the renewal of \$7.070 Million BAN   |
| 241-2023 | Resolution: | authorizing the purchase of vehicle replacement for the Mechanic Division of the Department of Public Works from United Ford, LLC under TIPS Cooperative Purchasing Contract #230802 in an amount of \$64,459.65   |
| 242-2023 | Resolution: | authorizing the purchase of service body and equipment for the Mechanic Division of the Department of Public Works from Cliffside Body Corp. under NJ State Approved Bid ESCNJ 23/24-04 with approved CO-OP #65MCECCPS in an amount of \$85,370                  |
| 243-2023 | Resolution: | authorizing the renewal of the Group Dental Benefits program for eligible employees and their covered dependents through Delta Dental of New Jersey, Inc.,   |
| 244-2023 | Resolution: | authorizing the annual interlocal agreement with the Borough of Waldwick for the Well-Baby Clinic  |
| 245-2023 | Resolution: | budget appropriation transfer number 3   |
| 246-2023 | Resolution: | approving various 2024 salary adjustments  |

Roll Call:

Yay: Cusick, Gutwetter, Kilman, Popolo, Poppe, Woods

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Anyone wishing to address the governing body please give your name and address as a courtesy. Please speak in an audible tone and address your comments to the Chair. There will be a five-minute time limit per speaker. 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. With no one wishing to be heard in chambers or on the telephone, Mayor Dillon closed public comment.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

VII. NEW BUSINESS - None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT – None

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Gutwetter, seconded by Councilwoman Poppe. All in favor. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:43pm.

Meredith Bendian, RMC  
Borough Clerk