

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, January 25, 2023
7:00pm

This meeting is also being conducted telephonically. The Dial-In Number (425)436-6365 Access Code 213563#. The meeting may also be viewed on Ramsey YouTube Channel https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeBnVXBwSn_ILMuAGkSin9w

Mayor Dillon called the meeting to order at 7:02pm and asked Roger Knauss 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 and Woods

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Sine Die 01-04-23, Reorg 01-04-23

Motion to receive and file by Councilwoman Cusick, seconded by Councilman Kilman. Councilman Popolo abstained from the sine die 01-04-23. All in favor. Carried.

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

Motion to receive and file by Councilwoman woods, seconded by Councilman Kilman. Carried. Councilwoman Woods wished Jackie Turner well in her retirement. Mayor Dillon commented that Jackie will be greatly missed and thanked her for all her service. Mayor Dillon also commented on the communication from Mr. Zola that we would lose a crosswalk if we were to add parking spaces.

1. John Zola, 309 Shadyside, Ramsey, NJ
letter received January 9, 2023, regarding parking on Main Street near the movie theater
2. Jacqueline Turner, Ramsey Finance Officer, Accounts Payable/Payroll
letter dated January 6, 2023, informing of her retirement effective March 31, 2023
3. Maria Bruzzese, Senior Vice President, Chief Accounting Officer, Altice USA
Trenton, NJ
letter dated January 12, 2023, enclosing a check in the amount of \$113,669.00 for the franchise fee payment

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.

Roger Knauss, 21 Park Place, Ramsey – Mr. Knauss reported on the many organizations that use the senior/community center and invited any other non-profit organization that would be interested in using the facility to contact him.

With no one else wishing to be heard, Mayor Dillon closed public comment.

V. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 01-2023 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 10 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AND MORE SPECIFICALLY SECTION 10-23 COMPENSATION

Motion by Councilman Gutwetter, seconded by Councilwoman Poppe

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled An Ordinance Amending Chapter 10 of the Code of the Borough of Ramsey, Bergen County, New Jersey and more Specifically Section 10-23 Compensation, final reading by title and that said ordinance be adopted as an ordinance of the Borough of Ramsey 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.

Mayor Dillon opened up the public hearing on Ordinance 01-2023.

Mayor Dillon explained that this is an annual salary ordinance that sets the range for salaries of certain borough positions. This does not set specific salaries.

With no one wishing to be heard Mayor Dillon closed the public hearing on Ordinance 01-2023.

Roll Call:

YAY: Cusick, Gutwetter, Popolo, Poppe, Woods

VI. APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Dillon made the following appointments:

David Kelly, Ramsey Volunteer Fire Department

Anthony Graziano, Ramsey Rescue Squad

Andrea Petrow, Ramsey Rescue Squad

Sue Danz, Design Review Board

Mayor Dillon swore in Anthony Graziano to the Ramsey Rescue Squad after the consent resolution.

VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION

Motion by Councilman Gutwetter, seconded by Councilwoman Poppe

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:

- | | | |
|----------|-------------|---|
| 036-2023 | Resolution: | payment of vouchers |
| 037-2023 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number one |
| 038-2023 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number two |
| 039-2023 | Resolution: | issuance of Bond Anticipation Notes in the amount of \$7,616,000 |
| 040-2023 | Resolution: | entering into an interlocal agreement with the Borough of Waldwick for a Well Baby Clinic |
| 041-2023 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of David Kelly to the Ramsey Volunteer Fire Department |
| 042-2023 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Anthony Graziano to the Ramsey Rescue Squad |
| 043-2023 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Andrea Petrow to the Ramsey Rescue Squad |
| 044-2023 | Resolution: | tax appeal for Block 2601 Lot 52 in the amount of \$6,664.96, for years 2019-2022 |
| 045-2023 | Resolution: | appropriation reserve transfer number one |
| 046-2023 | Resolution: | accepting the retirement of Jacqueline Turner from the Ramsey Finance Office, with regret |
| 047-2023 | Resolution: | confirming the tax redemption for Block 4702 Lot 1 |
| 048-2023 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Sue Danz to the Design Review Board |

VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION (cont'd)

049-2023 Resolution: consenting to Franklin Turnpike speed limit modification

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, Kilman, Popolo, Poppe, Woods

VIII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS - None

IX. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

- A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Councilman Michael Gutwetter
Welcomed and congratulated all new appointees.

Ramsey Library – Many events are planned for winter and spring. The Lunar New Year event on January 28th and the Winterfest on February 11th. Visit the library website for details.

Recreation Commission – Spring Egg Hunt is scheduled for April 1st. Winter basketball and wrestling are ongoing. The commission is working on streamlining the registration process to make signing up easier. Summer Camp is tentatively scheduled for June 26-July 28, 2023.

Pool Commission – Have been planning activities for the pool season as well as discussing early pool registration, a one-week camp in early August, after Finch Park camp and seasonal rates. Opening day is May 27th.

- B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Peter Kilman
Congratulated all of the new appointees and wished Jackie Turner well in her retirement.

VFW 12148 – Will host a super bowl party on February 12th.

Board of Health met and held their reorganization.

- C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilwoman Jane Woods
Congratulated Jackie Turner on her retirement.

Congratulated and thanked the new appointees and welcomed Susan Danz and Kim Young to the Design Review Board.

Zoning Board approved two applications at the last meeting.

Ramsey Seniors – Thank you to Roger Knauss and Tom Lanning for handling everything with the frozen pipe at the Senior Center. The seniors will be stuffing the eggs for the Spring Egg Hunt. The Computer Help Class was very successful and are looking to add phone help classes. Book club is looking for recent retirees to join.

Design Review Board approved two applications at the last meeting.

D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilwoman Judy Cusick
Wished Jacqueline Turner a happy retirement.

Congratulated David Kelly, Ramsey Volunteer Fire Department, Anthony Graziano, Ramsey Rescue Squad, Andrea Petrow, Ramsey Rescue Squad and Sue Danz Design Review Board and expressed how grateful she is for their support and service to our Community.

Planning Board - The Planning Board held their reorganization meeting on January 17th Roger Iorio continues to serve as the Planning Board Chair and Joe Carey as the Vice-Chair. There were six (6) Site Plan Waivers presented and approved. There was one public hearing that was approved for soil movement on 213 Grove Street. The next Planning Board Meeting is February 7th. Expressed how grateful she is to this Board for their volunteer efforts on behalf of the Borough.

Shade Tree Commission – The Shade Tree Commission met on January 19th. Joe Melso and Russ Martone were voted as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively. In addition, Stanley Rutkowski, Nancy Geist, Jay McMahon, and Ken Englishman were sworn in. I am grateful to this Commission for their volunteer efforts on behalf of our Borough. Arbor Day is April 23rd Please note that there is information on Borough’s website regarding our Shade Tree Commission. The next Shade Tree meeting is February 16th.

Board of Public Works - Met on Monday on January 23rd. There was a reorganization meeting and Chris Coronato and Doug Emmer were elected President and Vice President. In addition, Robert Boff and Craig Stugart were sworn in as new appointments to the Board. The next meeting is February 27th.

Leaf Collection is complete. Thanked the residents for their feedback. Discussion with the Utilities Buildings and Grounds Committee have commenced and are considering ways to improve leaf removal.

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. There are many considerations for this project including paving schedules (both county and the Borough), costs, and other projects in the Borough. New ordinances have been discussed with Councilmen Kilman and Popolo on the Utilities, Buildings and Grounds Committee.

E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilwoman Sara Poppe
Congratulated all of the new appointees.

Wished Jackie Turner well in her retirement, she was lovely to work with.

Ramsey Journal will be arriving in mailboxes by mid-April. There will be a new resident mixer which will be held at the town pool on June 20th.

Municipal Alliance – Friday, February 3rd Alliance is hosting a comedy show to raise mental health awareness at the Knights of Columbus, with emcee Dr. Matthew Bellace,

- F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilman Glen Popolo
Congratulated all of the new appointees.

Wished Jackie Turner well in her retirement.

RIFE – Basketball season is going well for the Challengers. Art Night will be Friday, January 27th at the Community Center. There will also be an event on February 16th at Humdingers in Paramus.

Environmental Commission – Ramsey Clean Up Day is April 22nd and on April 23rd will be Toy Drive and Earth Day.

- G. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON

Thanked the new appointees.

Offered a special thank you to all of the returning and new members of the numerous boards and commissions. We could not be on this dais without the support of the boards and commissions. They make the town the special place it is.

Announced that the borough received notice today that the southbound Lake Street Route 17 ramp will be closed for about thirty days. Starting January 30th. A rave alert will be sent out and the police department will use their signs to alert everyone.

Reported that she is aiming to have all boards and commissions meeting in person by April of this year.

- H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh

Resolution 39 - Authorization of a 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 June. This resolution is for the January BAN. The Federal Reserve raised its federal funds rate seven times in 2022 with a cumulative increase of 4.25% for the year driving interest rates significantly higher. The Borough had five institutions bid on our BAN with Amboy Bank being the low bidder with a net interest cost of 4.1%. This net interest cost while higher due to the Federal Funds rate increases still reflects the strength of the Borough’s financial position in the very competitive rates that independent third-party investors provide Ramsey.

Resolution 45 – Approval of Appropriation Reserve Transfer # 1: This resolution is a budget transfer of one-line item to another line-item which has no incremental increase to the budget it is net neutral. This is similar to a budget transfer done at the end of a calendar year, it is called an Appropriation Reserve Transfer as it is for transfer in line items of the 2022 budget being made in 2023. This is for invoices received in 2023 for 2022 items that are to be charged to 2022 as the year the expense was incurred. Again, this is net neutral impact just realigns funds between line items. The items in this resolution are only for the Board of Public Works budget.

H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh

Resolution 46 – Jackie Turner in our Finance Office will be retiring at the end of March. She has been a tremendous asset to the Borough and specifically our Finance department, for the last ten years. She is also our backup for HR/Payroll and will be difficult to replace. We wish her the best in her retirement.

Resolution 49 – County of Bergen Speed Limit Recommended Change – The Borough had asked the County to perform a speed limit investigation for Franklin Turnpike in Ramsey. As Franklin Turnpike is a County Road the Borough does not have the authority to modify the speed limit. The current speed limit on Franklin Turnpike in Ramsey is 40 MPH except for a point 200’ north of Prospect Street to Airmount Avenue, where it is 35 MPH. After its review, the County recommends that the speed limit along Franklin Turnpike in Ramsey for the entire length from Allendale Corporate line to the Mahwah Corporate line be 35 MPH. This resolution would confirm the Borough concurs with the County recommended speed change and allow the County to move forward with the process of changing its ordinance to implement the new speed limit.

Ordinance 01-2023 – This ordinance is an annual salary ordinance that sets a range for salaries for certain Borough positions. This is not setting specific salaries but the ranges they would be in. Actual salaries are determined by Governing Body resolutions, individual employment contracts or collective bargained agreements, as applicable.

Ordinance 02-2023 - Ordinance to exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriations Limit and to Establish a Cap Bank – This is “pro-forma” or standard ordinance municipalities across New Jersey adopt each year ahead of adopting the Municipal Budget. The State allows a municipality, if they adopt this ordinance, to potentially increase their budget appropriations by up to 3.5% from the prior year’s budgeted appropriations. This does not impact the tax levy cap of 2% it deals with appropriation line items under the State Municipal Cap and allows flexibility if in a given year certain line items need to be increased above the appropriation cap. While Ramsey may not utilize this flexibility, there is no harm in adopting the ordinance and any amount under the revised allowable level a town is under the cap is banked for future years.

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

J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian - No report

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 02-2023 – AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

Motion by Councilman Gutwetter, seconded by Councilman Popolo

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled An Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank (N.J. S.A.40A:4-45.12) 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 8th day of February, 2023 at 7:00pm 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, Kilman, Poppe, Popolo, Woods

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

XII. NEW BUSINESS - None

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilwoman Woods, seconded by Councilman Gutwetter. All in favor. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:36pm.

Meredith Bendian, RMC
Borough Clerk