

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
Wednesday, February 12, 2020

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, Kilman, Verdone, Weber and Woods

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

Absent: Mayor Dillon

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – None

III. COMMUNICATIONS - None

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 and will hold up a sign when you have 30 seconds remaining.

A Braggin, Ramsey, NJ

Commented about the RIFE website, the property across the street from the police department, 83 Grant Street property, the land swap for BPW and council absences from meetings.

Chance Parker, Ramsey, NJ

Discussed old and new business agendas items, the playground at the municipal pool and the bocce ball courts, the \$6.5 million dollar water quality improvement project, contamination of groundwater soil, an erosion or sediment protection plan, the feasibility study for pedestrian bike paths.

Council President Jones replied that old and new business is simply procedural and the playground on the pool property was paid for by the pool commission.

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

VI. APPOINTMENTS

Council President Jones made the following appointment

Carla Souza, Board of Health, second alternate

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:

- | | | |
|----------|-------------|--|
| 042-2020 | Resolution: | payment of vouchers |
| 043-2020 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number two |
| 044-2020 | Resolution: | authorizing the disposal of items no longer needed for public use as listed in attachment |
| 045-2020 | Resolution: | authorizing the Borough to purchase as part of the Senior Center and Site Work project the Bocce Court Shelters and Walkway Canopy from Ben Schaffer Recreation Inc of Lake Hopatcong, NJ 07849 under NJ State Contract #16-FLEET-00135 in a total amount of \$97,193.55 |
| 046-2020 | Resolution: | authorizing a contract to Boswell Engineering Services for the Borough's FY2020 Municipal Aid Project, Prospect Street, Mechanic Street Park & Ride and Canterbury Drive Improvements in an amount not to exceed \$61,000 |
| 047-2020 | Resolution: | appropriation reserve transfer number two |
| 048-2020 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Carla Souza to the Board of Health as second alternate |
| 049-2020 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number three |
| 050-2020 | Resolution: | authorizing the escrow release for Block 4812, Lot 12 in the amount of \$279.76 |

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

- A. SPECIAL PERMITS:
- B. BLOCK PARTY REQUESTS:

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 Borough Administrator Vozech will discuss the 2020 municipal budget, and discussed the ordinances on the agenda.

Library Board – The concert series is planned for the next six months. An open mic event is planned for February 14th. The Lunar New Year event was very well attended. A mini golf fundraiser will be held February 28 and 29th.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Harry Weber

Environmental Commission – Ramsey Clean Up Day is April 18th.

The Green Team will be pursuing the silver status for Sustainable NJ. Discussed the collection of thin plastic bags.

Municipal Alliance will be hosting “Dangers of Vaping“ at the Ramsey High School on February 19th and LEAD will hold their annual Harlem Wizards game will be on March 1st at Don Bosco.

RIFE- The next event is the Winter Social on February 28th at the High School.

The Knights of Columbus will hold a blood drive on March 1st 12 noon - 4pm.

C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilman Joseph Verdone

Planning Board – Two waivers were approved both office spaces.

The Planning Board reviewed the Ramsey Board of Education – School Improvements Presentation for various facilities, including, Ramsey High School, Eric Smith Middle School, Tisdale Elementary School and Hubbard Elementary School.

This was a review for recommendations in conjunction with the Ramsey Master Plan. The plans were reviewed by the Planning Board Engineer and most recommendations revolved around grading, storm water management, drainage, etc. The Ramsey Board of Education agreed to comply with the Planning Board’s Engineer review comments. The Planning Board also agreed the plans were consistent with the Ramsey Master Plan.

Ramsey Seniors/Senior Center

Several key events that the seniors are planning and looking forward to include:

- Seniors Leisure Club Valentine’s Luncheon at Savini on February 12th
- Technology Class, Where Have All My Photos Gone, March 3rd, at the Senior Center
- St. Patrick’s Day Luncheon at Mahwah Bar and Grill on March 16th,
- Broadway Show “West Side Story” on March 28th.

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

The first draft of the Ramsey Community/Senior Center Operating Guidelines and Rules and Regulations is under review.

VFW Post 12148 - Meeting was held on Wednesday, February 5th. We had 15 veterans attend. A presentation by two representatives from Keller Williams Realtors discussed tips on how to make downsizing easier, offering programs exclusively for veterans.

Allendale's VFW Post has decided to close in June and have been informed that they are welcome to join the Ramsey VFW. This would pick up at least 25 members.

Ramsey VFW agreed to host Allendale's Annual Holiday Party in honor of their Past Commander who passed away a couple of years ago. Tentative date is March 7.

D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilman Peter Kilman

Board of Public Works – Crew Engineers are finalizing a well head protection program that dovetails into the well head protection ordinance noted in our 2011 Environmental Resource Inventory.

E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilman William Jones

Quotes were received for videotaping and are being reviewed. A determination will be made by the next few meetings.

Ramsey Chamber of Commerce – Beginning to start the process for the Taste of Ramsey in May.

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

Design Review Board - Two signs were approved.

Board of Education – Discussed training for the NJ School Boards regarding the mental health task force as well as school board recognition month and the educator of the year. They also held a staff meeting for teaching understanding.

An email was sent to the Board of Ed asking for clarification of the board policy for athletic team busing which is not being followed by the hockey team.

G. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON

Councilman Jones reported in Mayor Dillon's absence.

Reported that the borough has received a \$20,000 grant from the State for the RIFE and Challenger programs.

The Mayor attended a meeting regarding the 2020 Census and she will be organizing a meeting in early March of community leaders and stakeholders for the census to ensure engagement of all residents.

H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh

Senior Center & Site Work Project Update – Framing and sheathing work is complete at the senior center. The site work also continues. They've even started installing a portion of the sidewalk. The bocce ball courts are being relocated.

Discussed resolutions listed on the agenda.

2019 Municipal Aid Project Update - The borough had applied and received approval in December of 2019 for a grant in the amount of \$230,000 to offset the cost of the project.

Discussed the Board of Public Works Well Reactivation Project – Bond Introduction

Municipal Cap Bank Ordinance 04-2020 - This ordinance allows for potential flexibility in the budgeting of appropriations.

2020 Municipal Budget Presentation

The proposed municipal tax rate increase is below the state cap of 2%. The budget is up approximately \$750,000 from 2019 with \$605,627 being grant reimbursement revenue the borough received. Therefore, there will be no property tax impact from this increased grant reimbursement reserve.

The 2020 budget includes increased debt principal pay-down of approximately \$1.8 million. The budget will provide \$.9 million of capital investment in the infrastructure allowing road resurfacing and other capital projects.

The budget will reduce the level of surplus utilization by \$250,000 as a revenue item offsetting the amount needed to be raised by taxes. It will still utilize \$2,050,000 of benefits achieved in prior fiscal years from under spending the budget and receiving revenue in excess of the budget and putting the value back into the budget to offset taxpayer cost.

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

J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian - No report

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 03-2020 – A BOND ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE AN ADDITIONAL SUM OF \$2,900,000 FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF ARSENIC TREATMENT SYSTEMS AT VARIOUS PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY FACILITIES BY AND FOR THE WATER-SEWER UTILITY OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS

Motion by Councilman Kilman, seconded by Councilman Verdone

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled A Bond Ordinance to appropriate an additional sum of \$2,900,000 for the replacement of arsenic treatment systems at various public water supply facilities by and for the Water-Sewer Utility of the Borough of Ramsey, in the County of Bergen , State of New Jersey, to authorize the issuance of bonds to finance such additional appropriation and to provide for the issuance of bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the issuance of such bonds, pass 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 26th day of February, 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.

ROLL CALL:

YAY: Gutwetter, Jones, Kilman, Verdone, Weber, Woods

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES (cont'd)

ORDINANCE 04-2020 – 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 Jones

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled An Ordinance to exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation limits and to establish a CAP bank, pass 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 26th day of February, 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.

ROLL CALL:

YAY: Gutwetter, Jones, Kilman, Verdone, Weber, Woods

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

XII. NEW BUSINESS

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Verdone, seconded by Councilman Gutwetter. All in favor. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:29pm.

Meredith Bendian, RMC
Borough Clerk