

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
Wednesday, March 9, 2022

BUDGET
INTRO

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

Council President Kilman called the meeting to order at 7:34pm, lead the flag salute and read the Open Public Meetings Act Notice.

I. ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Dillon, Councilpersons Cusick, Gutwetter, Kilman, Poppe, Weber and Woods

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – WS 02-09-22, 02-23-22

Motion to receive and file the minutes by Councilman Weber, seconded by Councilwoman Poppe. Councilman Kilman abstained from the 02-23-22 minutes. All in favor. Carried.

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

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

1. Alison Gordon, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, 30 Wyckoff Avenue, Waldwick, NJ 07463
email dated February 23, 2022, attaching the 2022 meeting schedule
2. John Danubio, Assistant Executive Director, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, 30 Wyckoff Avenue, Waldwick, NJ 07463
email dated March 3, 2022, attaching special meeting notice and agenda for March 7th meeting

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.

Councilman Kilman opened public comment. After offering the floor several times to anyone wishing to speak and no one wishing to be heard, Councilman Kilman closed public comment.

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

VI. APPOINTMENTS - None

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:

- | | | |
|----------|-------------|--|
| 069-2022 | Resolution: | payment of vouchers |
| 070-2022 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number five |
| 071-2022 | Resolution: | authorizing the refund of overpayment of taxes for Block 4905, Lot 42, C0011 in the amount of \$2,967.69 |
| 072-2022 | Resolution: | authorizing the governing body to waive the late fee for pet licensing for the month of March |
| 073-2022 | Resolution: | authorizing the disposal of obsolete office equipment |
| 074-2022 | Resolution: | authorizing the borough to enter into a grant agreement with the County of Bergen for a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$66,440 for the handicapped accessible bathrooms in borough hall |
| 075-2022 | Resolution: | authorizing the award of a contract to Garden State Fireworks for fireworks display for Independence Day Celebration on July 1 st 2022 with a rain date of July 2 nd in an amount of \$12,500 |
| 076-2022 | Resolution: | confirming the Board of Public Works contract award to Spartan Construction, Inc. for the alterations and façade work at the East Oak Well Facility at 100 East Oak Street in an amount of \$222,000 utilizing previously budgeted Board of Public Works funding |
| 077-2022 | Resolution: | establishing a new part-time position for Community and Senior Center facility coordinator and approving the appointment of Roger Knauss to fill such position |
| 078-2022 | Resolution: | setting 2022 part-time non-union annual stipends for Municipal Judge and Community/Senior Center Facility Coordinator |
| 079-2022 | Resolution: | authorizing the cancellation of the municipal lien for Block 3701 Lot 5 C0106 |

VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION (cont'd)

080-2022 Resolution: endorsing resolution for Bergen County Community
Development Block Grant COVID-19 Round III
Project for Improvements to Senior Center in the amount
of \$43,356.98

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

Minetti Dennis Group is requesting permission to hold their annual town wide
garage sale on Saturday, May 7th from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Knights of Columbus is requesting permission to collect funds for people with
disabilities on Friday, May 13-May 15, 2022 at Bottle King, Ramsey Liquors, Bagel Boys,
Buono Bagels, B&G Bagels, Walgreens and Uncle Giuseppe's, having received
permission from all store owners.

B. BLOCK PARTY REQUESTS:

Roll Call:

YAY: Cusick, Gutwetter, Kilman, Poppe, Weber, Woods

VIII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

IX. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

- A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Councilman Michael Gutwetter
Announced that the 2022 municipal budget is to be introduced later this evening.

This budget will adopt a prudent and responsible budget while continuing to provide a high level of service to tax payers. The municipal tax rate increase in 2022 is 1.79%, which for the twelfth consecutive year will be below 2%. The budget includes significant capital investment without borrowing. Utilizing funds from American Rescue Plan and grants Ramsey received mitigating tax payer impact for infrastructure investments. Ramsey ranks in the lowest tier of municipal tax rates in Bergen County with the 6th lowest of seventy municipalities. This is 54% below the countywide average of 30.1% of taxes to municipal services. The 2022 budget continues to reduce municipal debt levels while addressing necessary capital infrastructure investments.

Library Board – Discussed upcoming events as well as the new mask optional policy which follows the governor’s guideline.

Pool Commission – Early registration is open until April 30th. If assistance is needed regarding the pool you may send an email to ramseymunicipalpool@gmail.com

- B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Peter Kilman
No report – Will have a report at the next meeting after he’s attended all liaison meetings later this month.
- C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilwoman Jane Woods
Updated that the committee is working on a solution for overnight parking and reached out to the individuals who have previously contacted the governing body to inform them.
- D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilwoman Judy Cusick
Planning Board - At the March 1st meeting, six (6) site plan waivers were approved.

Ramsey Shade Tree Commission - The Commission has plans for a Tree Planting at the Ramsey Pool on April 29, Arbor Day.

Ramsey Board of Public Works – Updated on the Lead Service Line project.

Ramsey submitted the inventory of known Lead Service Water lines to the NJDEP in January 2022 as required by law. The inventory has been posted on Ramsey's website and will be updated periodically as LSL are discovered through future investigation. A Notice was sent out by the Borough in February of 2022 to all customers with known LSL as required by law. A Permission form was also included requesting property owners’ consent to having their portion of LSL replaced.

Next steps - there will be a formal LSL Replacement Plan prepared and submitted to the NJDEP by July 22nd. The plan will detail Ramsey's strategy for investigating and identifying all unknown service line materials and subsequent replacement of all known LSL.

- E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilwoman Sara Poppe
Municipal Alliance – Discussed upcoming activities. “Meet the Police” and “Drug Take Back” events.

LEAD resumed their mental wellness lunches. Officer Beaman will hold a Junior Police Academy this summer with RMA offering a scholarship to a high school student. Stigma Free will now become a subcommittee of Ramsey Municipal Alliance, with mental health as part of their mission.

Announced the outdoor Farmers’ Market on Sundays from 10am-1pm with hours changing in May from 9am-2pm.

The Ramsey Journal is returning to mailboxes sometime in May.

Chamber of Commerce – Please continue to shop locally and check the Chamber website for all services in Ramsey.

Independence Day Celebration – The fireworks will be July 1st with a rain date of July 2nd.

- F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilman Harry Weber
RIFE – Held an event at Humdingers in Paramus with over fifty participants. Discussed the uptick of participation in RIFE with the basketball season wrapping up and softball begins in April.

Environmental Commission discussed the upcoming ban of single use plastic bags as of May 4th. A styrofoam drive in being planned for the fall. There was a joint meeting with Shade Tree Commission, discussing out of state contractors who are violating the removal of the six-tree limit and removing more. Clean Up day is scheduled for April 9th.

Board of Education - Congratulated the Ramsey Boys Basketball team on their successful season.

Ramsey Responds – Continues outreach to support families in need.

- G. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON

Announced that the contract has been awarded for the façade work on the East Oak Street Well. The \$222,000 was budgeted last year so no additional money will be needed to put towards that project.

Discussed the Fire Department and Rescue Squad donation of older equipment (still serviceable) past its useful life in the US to donate to Ukraine. There is also a list of humanitarian aid which is being circulated with collection at the Ramsey Library.

Announced the new Rave Communication System that is replacing Nixel and Swiftreach for emergency notifications. Check the OEM website for more information to sign up to receive alerts via text, email or telephone.

H. Borough Administrator - Bruce Vozeh

Resolution 72 – Waives the late fees for pet licenses for March. The borough implemented a new pet registration software system for 2022. Between the learning curve of any new system and the continued backlog with residents not being able to secure vet appointments for rabies, no late fee will be charged until April 1st for pet renewals for 2022.

Resolution 73 – Obsolete Equipment – Discussed equipment that are no longer serviceable to be disposed of.

Resolution 74 – Entering into grant agreement with County of Bergen for \$66,440 Community Development Block Grant (“CDBG”) for handicapped bathrooms on first floor of Borough Hall. This resolution allows us to enter into the Grant Agreement with Bergen County to receive the awarded grant of \$66,440 upon project completion. This grant is the second CDBG grant for the renovation to bathrooms at Borough Hall on both the first and second floors with a total of four bathrooms. These grant opportunities offset the cost to the taxpayer of about 80%.

Resolution 75 – Award of contract to Garden State Fireworks for an Independence Event on Friday, July 1st with a rain date of Saturday, July 2nd.

Resolution 76 – Confirming Board of Public Works contract award for East Oak Street Well Facility renovations. The Board of Public Works (“BPW”) awarded a contract to Spartan Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$222,000 for the alterations, façade work and improvements to the E. Oak Street well house and water treatment unit. This resolution confirms the BPW contract award. The money for this project will be from previously budgeted funding and no new 2022 funds are needed for the contract work.

Resolution 77 – Establishing part-time position for Senior & Community Center Facility Coordinator. With an uptick in community groups looking to utilize the Community Center and Senior Center and getting back to in-person meetings and activities, there’s a need for someone to meet with groups at the facility and go over the layout, amenities, logistics of use, etc. Roger Knauss, the President of the Ramsey Seniors is very familiar with the facility, has worked with many of these groups already and is in the best position to seamlessly handle this part-time role. I recommend the Governing Body establish the position and appoint Mr. Knauss to the position.

Resolution 78 – Establishes 2022 part-time employee annual stipends for Municipal Judge and Community/Senior Center Facility Coordinator. Honorable Joseph Rotolo has not had an increase since 2010. It is recommended that his salary be increased to \$21,000 annually. The resolution also establishes a monthly stipend of \$900 for the newly created position of Senior & Community Center Facility Coordinator.

Resolution 80 – for the borough to submit a grant application to Bergen County CDBG for COVID-19 funding. This grant allows for ways to prepare for, prevent or respond to problems and needs from the pandemic. The borough is submitting the following Senior Center items; furniture, computer & touch screen check-in and

acoustic panels for a total of \$43,356.98.

Ordinances for Introduction: 04-2022 – Amending Chapter 2 of the Borough Code establishing Contractual Off-Duty Employment. After meeting with a utility contractor who will be doing work in Ramsey and requiring off-duty police officers, Officer Canonico and I reviewed the current ordinance for off-duty work relative to neighboring municipalities. We are recommending an update to the Borough Code regarding off-duty police fees. We propose to modify the daily car fee and include it into an hourly administration/ equipment fee. By modifying all charges to an hourly rate, rather than hourly and daily, simplifying the billing procedure for administration.

- I. BOROUGH ATTORNEY – Peter A. Scandariato, Esq.
Reported that he updated the revised cannabis ordinance and the off-street parking ordinance and expect it to be ready for the committees to review early next week.
- J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian - No report

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 04-2022 - ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY SO AS TO ESTABLISH SECTION 2-32.15 THEREOF ENTITLED CONTRACTUAL OFF-DUTY EMPLOYMENT

Motion by Councilman Kilman, seconded by Councilman Weber

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled An Ordinance Amending Chapter 2 of the Code of the Borough of Ramsey, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, so as to Establish Section 2-32.15 thereof Entitled Contractual Off-Duty Employment, 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 23rd day of March, 2022 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: Cusick, Gutwetter, Kilman, Poppe, Weber, Woods

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

XII. NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Councilman Gutwetter, seconded by Councilwoman Cusick

080-2022 Resolution: Introduction of the 2022 Municipal Budget

Roll Call:

YAY: Cusick, Gutwetter, Kilman, Poppe, Weber, Woods

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilwoman Woods, seconded by Councilman Weber. All in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 8:03pm.

Meredith Bendian, RMC
Borough Clerk