

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2021

Due to COVID19 this meeting was conducted telephonically. Dial-In Number (425)436-6365 Access Code 213563# The meeting may also be viewed on the Ramsey Youtube Channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeBnVXBwSn_ILMuAGkSin9w

Council President Kilman called the meeting to order at 7:31pm, led the flag salute and read the Open Public Meetings Act notice.

I. ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Dillon (via phone), Councilpersons Cusick (via phone), Gutwetter (via phone), Jones (via phone), Kilman, Weber (via phone) and Woods (via phone)

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - None

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

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

1. Alison Gordon, Northwest Bergen Utilities Authority, 30 Wyckoff Ave, Waldwick, NJ email received March 2, 2021, attaching the 2021 meeting schedule

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.

Council President Kilman opened public comment. With no one wishing to be heard, closed public comment.

V. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 08-2021 – 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 Councilwoman Woods

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:4-45.14), final reading by title and that said ordinance be adopted by as an ordinance of the Borough of Ramsey and;

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.

Councilman Gutwetter explained that this ordinance is a standard ordinance that all municipalities adopt before adopting their budget.

Council President Kilman opened the public hearing on Ordinance 08-2021. With no one wishing to be heard, Council President Kilman closed the public hearing.

ROLL CALL:

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

VI. APPOINTMENTS - None

VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION

Motion by Councilman Gutwetter, seconded by Councilwoman Woods

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:

- 065-2021 Resolution: payment of vouchers
- 066-2021 Resolution: ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number five
- 067-2021 Resolution: endorsing the application for Bergen County HOME Investment Partnerships application of \$703,008.00 has been proposed by Ramsey Housing, Inc. and BCUW Madeline Housing Partners, LLC for the construction of six units of Affordable Supportive Special Needs Housing at 13 North Central Avenue in the Borough of Ramsey
- 068-2021 Resolution: confirming the appointment of the law firm of Rainone, Coughlin, Minchello, LLC to provide professional services to the Borough as a designated Hearing Officer of the Borough in 2021, for any potential employee disciplinary action. Brian Trelease of the aforementioned firm, has been designated as the Borough's Hearing Officer for such services
- 069-2021 Resolution: authorizing the Borough to enter into an ADA Cooperative Curb Ramp Grant Program Agreement with the County of Bergen
- 070-2021 Resolution: authorizing the Borough to enter into a Shared Services Agreement for County Road Resurfacing Program with the County of Bergen

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

Woman's Club of Ramsey is requesting permission to hold their Heirloom Tomato and Vegetable Sale on Saturday, May 15th at the Masonic Lodge parking lot. They are also requesting to post signs advertising the sale around the borough.

B. BLOCK PARTY REQUESTS:

ROLL CALL:

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

VIII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS - None

IX. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Councilman Michael Gutwetter

Library – Story Time and Yoga programs continue with an uptick in views. Take-home crafts is doing well also. The Winter reading program was well received and they are looking into a Summer reading program. Capital projects for the facility are under consideration.

Recreation Commission – The volleyball clinic was cancelled and they are now finalizing the lacrosse clinic, men’s and women’s softball, adult soccer and the homerun derby. They will discuss the Spring Egg Hunt and the Summer Camp.

Congratulated the Ramsey High School Hockey team! Ramsey defeated Ridgewood in the semi finals and Northern Highlands in the Finals to win the Big North Championship.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Harry Weber

Congratulated the Ramsey High School Hockey Team on their Big North Championship win!

Environmental Commission – Plans are underway for Clean-Up Day scheduled for April 24th with some changes due to COVID. There was a presentation from “Second Chance Toys” showing the demand for hand me down toys for needy children.

The Ramsey Fire Department will conduct the Annual Easter Parade. It will be held in a similar fashion as the July 4th parade on March 27th with a rain date of April 3rd.

Reported how pleased and appreciative Ramsey Housing is to be partnering with the borough for the home for autism.

Thanked the Finance Committee and Administrator Vozeh and CFO Bartalotta on actually having a 0% increase on the municipal part of the budget.

C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilwoman Jane Woods

Congratulated the Ramsey High School Hockey Team.

The Board of Health continues to help seniors with vaccine appointments. The Governor has announced that indoor dining will increase to 50% capacity beginning March 19th.

Reported that the Ramsey Seniors continue to be active on zoom.

D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilman Peter Kilman
Congratulated the Ramsey High School Hockey Team.

Board of Public Works – The water treatment pod system is on schedule.

The Shade Tree Commission now starts their meetings at 7:30pm for 2021.

Commended the outstanding job that Councilman Gutwetter, Administrator Vozech and CFO Bartalotta as well as the department heads who made sacrifices holding their budgets flat and getting the work done.

E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilman William Jones
Congratulated the Ramsey High School Hockey Team.

Reported that the Pool Commission moved the meeting to March 31st.

Farmers' Market continues every Sunday at the Train Station. They were voted number one in the Best of Bergen, once again. Thanks to Nancy Boone and all of the hardworking volunteers.

The Ramsey Pool was also voted Number One in the Best of Bergen. A great accomplishment for Pool Manager Gary Bach and his staff and the Pool Commissioners who worked tirelessly throughout the uncertainty during March, April and May with COVID-19.

I'm so proud to be a small part of the Farmers' Market and the renovated Ramsey Pool. Two great things for our community to be proud of.

Reminded everyone to shop locally and support the local merchants. Visit the Chamber of Commerce website for more information. Outdoor dining began March 1st and indoor dining is at 50% as of March 19th. Hopefully we're turning the corner and businesses can start to flourish again.

- F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilwoman Judith Cusick Congratulated the Ramsey Hockey Team and echoed the sentiments of colleagues regarding the municipal budget – no municipal tax rate increase is impressive.

The March 2nd Planning Board Meeting was cancelled. There was one Site Plan Waiver that was distributed for ex-meeting review: S&J Pizza Holdings, LLC. The location is the New York Pizza at the Interstate Shopping Center. It was approved for change of ownership.

Ramsey Board of Education- Residents are encouraged to keep current with the Board of Education activities because 69% of Ramsey Residents' property taxes are for the Board of Education.

The Board of Education will hold their budget hearing on April 27th. They've distributed their "News and Views" newsletter for the Winter 2021 mailed to all Ramsey residents.

School Superintendent's Report –

There were 11 Ramsey High School students who qualified for National DECA; and 12 students qualified for State DECA; DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe.

There was an acknowledgement of Ramsey students who participated in the Bergen County and State Art Exhibits regarding COVID and the Ramsey School System: They are examining the current working model with regards to COVID; At this time, they are exploring becoming a COVID testing center for the staff and the students of Ramsey as preventative measure; Will work with local health officials and the State DOH to put together a plan for more in-person teaching time. Some factors considered for this plan are accessibility to the vaccine and the weather conditions. The Superintendent is optimistic that he will announce at a future Board of Education meeting an increase in the amount of in-person teaching time for this school year and fully expects that Ramsey schools will be in session for September 2021 start.

Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Report:

There was a 15-minute video presentation for the Dater Science Program. This video is posted on the Board of Education website.

Ramsey Responds - Saint Paul's will conduct a Fish Fry starting on Friday March 12th for three more consecutive weeks. Each week, Saint Paul's will be donating 100 meals to Ramsey Responds. Donations are always welcome. Food collection occurs every Tuesday from 4-5:30pm at St. Paul's and Ramsey Responds delivers and distributes on Fridays.

G. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON

Congratulated the Ramsey High School Hockey Team on their victory.

COVID-19 - The Health Department has obtained vaccine appointments for senior approximately 70 senior citizens. The borough is now starting a program to help senior citizens 75 and older obtain vaccines, including transportation. There will be COVID testing on March 24th in the Ramsey Train Parking Lot.

The restaurant indoor dining capacity will increase to 50% as of March 19th. Outdoor dining was allowed as of March 1st.

Congratulated everyone who worked on the budget getting a 0% increase in the municipal portion. Administrator Vozeh worked very hard with the Department Heads asking the departments to decrease their budgets.

The previous cannabis ordinance which legislated where cannabis can be sold in town has become null and void pursuant to the new cannabis law signed by Governor Murphy. The borough will introduce a new ordinance on March 24th. Chief Gurney issued a statement regarding parents not being notified of first offences of alcohol and cannabis possession by minors.

H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh

Announced that the public hearing on the budget would be on March 24th.

The 2021 budget brochure will be mailed out to all households. The line-item budget is also available on the borough website.

Reviewed the thirteen Northwest Bergen town's budget increases compared to the Borough's 0% municipal tax rate increase. The only other town able to keep the municipal rate at 0% is Waldwick due to their unique circumstances.

Discussed resolutions listed on tonight's agenda:

Resolution 067 – Resolution endorses application to Bergen County HOME Investment Partnerships for \$703,008 grant sought by Ramsey Housing, Inc. and Bergen County United Way Madeline Housing Partners, LLC for the construction of six (6) units of Affordable Supportive Special Needs Housing at 13 North Central Avenue. As this proposed housing is in the Borough, application requires Borough endorsement. This does not commit Borough funding for construction of the project, just endorses the grants sought. As you know, in December of 2020, the Borough acquired this property utilizing funds from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund for said purposes of qualified housing development. The Affordable Housing Trust Fund is funded through development fees and does not include any taxpayer funds.

H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh (cont'd)

Resolutions 069 & 070 – Resolutions revolve around County of Bergen planned resurfacing of County roads in Ramsey in 2021 specifically Wyckoff Avenue. In advance of the County's resurfacing, they enter into agreements with a municipality to utilize the County ADA Curb Ramp Grant Program to fund the necessary ADA ramps as well as a Shared Services Agreement for the County to resurface the roads. Upon adoption of resolutions and entering into the agreements, these improvements of the County road in Ramsey will be paid for by the County.

Resolution 068 – This resolution appoints the law firm of Rainone, Coughlin, Minchello, LLC to provide professional services to the Borough as a designated Hearing Officer of the Borough in 2021, for any potential employee disciplinary action. Brian Trelease of the aforementioned firm, has been designated as the Borough's Hearing Officer for such services.

Reported that Ramsey has been approached by a resident from Manor Drive requesting the borough to consider a proposal to vacate a portion of its unimproved road that it owns extending off of the existing Upland Road. It is being reviewed by applicable departments and will have a recommendation at an upcoming meeting.

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

J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian

Clarified the resolution numbers listed under the consent resolution.

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES - None

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

Councilman Jones announced the Ramsey Pool website is accepting memberships at the same rate as last year. There is a pre-season sale and then the early bird rate will kick in in April with the regular rates starting in May.

Council President Kilman commended the Pool Commission on how hard they worked under the incredible conditions going above and beyond during COVID to be recognized as the Number One in the Best of Bergen.

Mayor Dillon echoed Council President Kilman's remarks.
the Pool Commission.

XII. NEW BUSINESS - None

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Weber, seconded by Councilman Gutwetter. All in favor.
Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Meredith Bendian, RMC
Borough Clerk