

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Due to COVID19 this meeting was conducted telephonically. The dial-in number is (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 7:33pm, 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 – WS 03-10-21, 03-24-21

Motion to receive and file by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilwoman Cusick. Councilman Kilman abstained from the March 24, 2021 minutes. All in favor. Carried.

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

Motion to receive and file by Councilman Kilman, seconded by Councilman Weber. All in favor. Carried.

1. Jessica Mukhija, Intern, Food and Water Watch NJ
e-mail dated March 30, 2021, regarding fracking
2. Eileen Schack, Manager, Bureau of Local Aid, District 2, NJ Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 600, Trenton, NJ 08625
letter dated March 22, 2021, informing the borough of the \$210,000 grant for the Prospect Street, Mechanic Street Park and Ride and Canterbury Drive Project
3. Dan Lambe, President, Arbor Day Foundation, 211 N. 12th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508
letter received April 7, 2021, congratulating Ramsey on earning recognition as a 2020 Tree City USA
4. Matt Miller, Ramsey Court, Alternate Public Defender
50 S. Franklin Turnpike, Ramsey, NJ 07446
letter dated March 24, 2021, informing of his resignation effective March 24, 2021 due to professional conflicts
5. Daniel Thomas, Member of Various Boards and Committees
e-mail dated April 11, 2021, informing of his resignation from all associated committees due to work relocation

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Anyone wishing to address the governing body please give your name (spelling the last 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, 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.

Chance Parker, Ramsey, NJ

Inquired about data used to determine policies, for example, who determines the use of 13 N. Central Ave, who determines the best use of the old senior center property and the inaccessibility of finding the Ramsey Youtube channel.

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

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

VI. APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Dillon made the following appointments

Richard Fiore, Ramsey Rescue (Regular Member)

Kathryn Kriz, Ramsey Rescue (Explorer Member)

Jeffrey B. Steinfeld, Alternate Public Defender for Ramsey Court

Richard M. Rosa, Prosecutor for Ramsey Court

Mike Palumbo, Planning Board
(filling unexpired term of D. Thomas)

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:

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|--|
| 083-2021 | Resolution: | payment of vouchers |
| 084-2021 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number seven |
| 085-2021 | Resolution: | authorizing the tax redemption for Block 2801 Lot 3 in the amount of \$1,273.32 |
| 086-20201 | Resolution: | authorizing the tax redemption for Block 2802 Lot 14, in the amount of \$75,927.70 |
| 087-2021 | Resolution: | authorizing an Interlocal Agreement with the Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority for TV Inspection of the Sanitary Sewer System and other systems for the years 2021 and 2022 |
| 088-2021 | Resolution: | providing for the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (Chapter 159) P.L. 1948 for the fire fighters grant |
| 089-2021 | Resolution: | providing for the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (Chapter 159) P.L. 1948 for the recycling tonnage grant |
| 090-2021 | Resolution: | providing for the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (Chapter 159) P.L. 1948 for Ramsey Rescue grant |
| 091-2021 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Richard Fiore to Ramsey Rescue as a regular member |
| 092-2021 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Kathryn Kriz to Ramsey Rescue as an explorer member |

VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION (cont'd)

Reso 093-2021: confirming the appointment of Jeffrey B. Steinfeld as Alternate Public Defender for the Ramsey Court

Reso 094-2021: confirming the appointment of Richard M. Rosa as Prosecutor for the Ramsey Court

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, Jones, Kilman, Weber, Woods

VIII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

IX. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

- A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Councilman Michael Gutwetter
Congratulated Richard and Kathryn on their appointments and welcomed Jeff, Richard and Mike to their new positions.

Congratulated Pat Elkas on her retirement from the library after twenty plus years of service.

In March the library held an in-person staff training focusing on the areas of circulation procedures and policies, covid related changes and next phases of opening and reviewed library resources for the community.

Recreation Commission – Summer camp at Finch Park registration has begun. Camp runs from June 30- July 30 from 9am to 12:30pm grades K-5. Lacrosse clinics will be held on Sundays at the high school front lawn. Adult softball begins next week and the adult soccer enrollment is not getting enough members and may not be held this year.

- B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Harry Weber
Congratulated and thanked Richard, Kathryn, Jeffrey, Richard and Mike on their appointments.

Environmental Commission will hold Ramsey Clean Up day on April 24th starting at 9am at the Rescue Building.

Challenger Softball resumes Saturday, April 17th at Finch Park at 3pm.

RIFE Committee meeting resume on Thursday, April 15th to discuss activities for the Challengers.

C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilwoman Jane Woods

Congratulated the newly appointed Rescue members, members of the Court and Mike Palumbo to Planning Board and Design Review Board and offered best wishes to Daniel Thomas and Matt.

Thanked Councilwoman Cusick for attending the Board of Health meeting and Danielle Monaghan. They reviewed the total Ramsey COVID cases since the beginning of the pandemic at 1,025 cases and discussed the overall state virus numbers being high with 12% positivity rate. The vaccine supply is up. Ramsey residents were able to get vaccinated at the Leonia clinic earlier this month. Ramsey will host another COVID testing site at the Ramsey Train Station on April 20th. There was also discussion about the legalization of marijuana and the board's strong concern from a health perspective. The Ramsey Board of Health is an advisory board, not a judiciary board valuing the member's background and dedication to the community. At this point nothing has been decided on the cannabis situation due to too many moving parts.

Ramsey Seniors – Met outside for the last trustee meeting at the Ramsey Pool Pavilion. Seniors continue to be active via zoom with all of their classes. Hopefully they will be able to get into the facility soon.

Design Review Board – Next meeting there is one application Gentleman Jack's Barbershop.

D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilman Peter Kilman

Board of Public Works – The water treatment pods continue to be on schedule. It is recommended to listen in to the meetings on the third Monday of the month.

Shade Tree Commission – Meets on the third Thursday of the month. There is a maximum of six trees per year that is allowed to be cut down but everyone should be careful with the Ash Borer infecting a lot of trees. This may affect the number of trees that may be cut down.

Congratulated the new appointees.

- E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilman William Jones
Echoes everyone sentiments and thanked all appointees for their service and those who are joining.

The Ramsey Farmers' Market continues outdoors looking to ramp up for the traditional summer season.

Reminded everyone to shop local and continue to support all of the Ramsey merchants and visit the Ramsey Chamber of Commerce.

The Pool Commission is getting ready for their summer season. As of today, the early sign ups have exceeded all previous records at 1820 family memberships and 279 seniors, 19 individuals and 215 out of town members. Total revenue collected is over \$312,000.

Replied to Mr. Parker's comment about the broadcasting of the Mayor and Council meetings. The Governing Body accomplished the task asked of them to broadcast and/or livestream the Mayor and Council meetings.

- F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilwoman Judy Cusick
Congratulated Kathryn Kriz, Richard Fiore, Jeffrey Steinfeld, Richard Rosa, and Mike Palumbo for their service to our Town. She thanked Matt Miller for his service to our town. She also indicated that she was happy to hear about Ramsey's 2020 Tree City USA recognition. She indicated that she will provide an update regarding Ramsey's Planning Board, the Ramsey Board of Education, and Ramsey Responds.

Ramsey Planning Board Meeting - There was a meeting conducted on April 6th
There were 7 Site Plan Waivers that were approved:
James Sahagian (a Financial Services company), Gentleman Jack Barbershop, Delaney Group, LLC, Progressive Dental Group, LLC, Meadow View Capital LLC, Classic Windows N Doors Inc. and Craig & Elisa Zurlini. There was a public hearing for soil movement for Clint Lynch 39 Grove Street, which was approved. The April 20th Planning Board meeting is cancelled.

Ramsey Board of Education - Encouraged all residents to keep current with the Board of Education activities because 69% of Ramsey Residents' property taxes are for the Board of Education. The March 23rd meeting was cancelled. Noted that according to the Board of Education calendar, the April 27th meeting will be a Budget Hearing.

Ramsey Responds - Food Pantry - Donations are always welcome. Food collection is every Tuesday from 4:00-5:30pm at St. Paul's with distribution on Fridays. Per their social media, the pantry supplies are low on: Canned meats, Canned vegetables & fruit, Rice, Jelly, Oatmeal, and Parmalat. There is a Ramsey Responds Social Media page that contains additional information regarding projects and requests for the pantry.

G. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON

Thanked Richard, Kathryn and Mike for agreeing to serve and Matt Miller and Dan Thomas for their service.

The Cannabis Ordinance was tabled at the last meeting and are seeking input from the Ramsey Police Department and the Ramsey Board of Health.

Regarding 13 N. Central Avenue – The borough is replacing a dilapidated single family home with special needs housing for four individuals. Which is believed to be a better use than a small park across from the Ramsey Police Department Headquarters given the need for special needs housing.

Regarding the old senior center – The Recreation Commission and the VFW expressed an interest in using the building. The VFW has expanded its membership by picking up members from other towns.

H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh

Following up on the Mayor's comments regarding the old senior center use. Prior to the seniors being relocated there, the veteran's used that building. It will also be used with sports and recreations groups and a voting district.

Resolution 088, 089 & 090 – These three resolutions are Chapter 159 insertions into the 2021 Municipal Budget for grants awarded to the Borough subsequent to the budget adoption. Resolution 088 is a grant Borough applied for through the Assistance to Fire Fighter's program and awards \$17,900 to Ramsey which will be used for protection measures and equipment for Ramsey Fire. Resolution 089 was an application through the State Recycling Tonnage Grant program which we collect data from all Ramsey businesses and include with municipal collection to report to State from which the grant amount is determined. Ramsey is being awarded \$37,674.79 under the 2018 program (award of grants from the State have a multi-year lag). Resolution 090 is an award from Firehouse Subs to the Ramsey Rescue Squad for hurst equipment in the amount of \$20,213 based on the competitive review process of the Borough's application and others received under the program.

Ordinances for Introduction: Ordinance 09-2021 Vacation of Borough Property Upland Road – As we discussed at the March 10th Mayor & Council Work Session, a resident on Manor Drive (#12) has requested the Borough consider a proposal to vacate a portion of its un-improved road that we own extending off the existing Upland Road. This property may have been for a potential extension of Upland Road dating back prior to the development of Manor Drive and Hosking Way many years ago. We have reviewed the proposal through applicable Borough departments and have recommended the Borough vacate this property extending past the existing paved area while retaining a utility easement through the vacated property which will connect to the existing utility easement existing through 12 Manor Drive property. The vacation of property will be split between 12 Manor Drive and 75 Upland Road, as detailed in the new metes and bounds. The vacation would be executed through an ordinance and it has been included for introduction later in the agenda.

- I. BOROUGH ATTORNEY – Peter A. Scandariato, Esq.
Confirmed that the Upland Road property that is being vacated is less than a building lot.
- J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian
Responded to public comments about difficulty accessing the Ramsey YouTube Channel, explaining that a live YouTube link is sent out when the agenda is posted to the website, for those who are signed up for the alerts. This would help for those who have trouble navigating the website.

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 10-2021 - AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE VACATION OF A PORTION OF UPLAND ROAD IN THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

Motion by Councilman Kilman, seconded by Councilwoman Woods

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled An Ordinance Providing for the Vacation of a Portion of Upland Road in the Borough of Ramsey, Bergen County, New Jersey, 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 28th day of April, 2021 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.

Councilman Kilman explained that this ordinance is for a vacation of property that will be split between 12 Manor Drive and 75 Upland Road as described in the new metes and bounds.

ROLL CALL:

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

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

XII. NEW BUSINESS - None

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meredith Bendian, RMC
Borough Clerk