

**BOROUGH OF RAMSEY  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
Wednesday, May 12, 2021**

Due to COVID19 this meeting was conducted telephonically. The dial-in number is (425)436-6365 Access Code 213563# You may also view the meeting on the Ramsey YouTube Channel at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeBnVXBwSn\\_ILMuAGkSin9w](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 - 04-28-21**

Motion by Councilwoman Cusick, seconded by Councilman Weber. All in favor. Carried.

**III. COMMUNICATIONS -**

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

1. George Bumiller, Ramsey, NJ  
fax dated April 27, 2021, regarding Design Review Board meetings
2. James Rotundo, Executive Director, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, 30 Wyckoff Avenue, Waldwick, NJ  
letter dated April 30, 2021, regarding the 2022 service charges
3. Scott Stahlman, 890 Somerset Court, Ramsey, NJ  
letter received May 5, 2021, addressing three issues as a concerned resident
4. George Bumiller, Ramsey, NJ  
fax dated May 6, 2021, making various comments and suggestions

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Anyone wishing to address the governing body and 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.

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

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

VI. APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Dillon appointed the following

Sean Redfern, Ramsey Fire Department, Regular Member

## 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:

- |          |             |   |
|----------|-------------|---|
| 100-2021 | Resolution: | payment of vouchers   |
| 101-2021 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll 9   |
| 102-2021 | Resolution: | declaring May as Mental Health Awareness Month in the Borough of Ramsey   |
| 103-2021 | Resolution: | agreement to enter into a contract with the BC Utilities Authority for participation in the BCUA's Solid Waste Cooperative Marketing Program from June 1, 2021 through May 31, 2023   |
| 104-2021 | 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:4-7 (Chapter 159), P.L. 1948) for a grant for Recreational Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities (ROID) in the amount of \$17,865.00                                 |
| 105-2021 | Resolution: | Council does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Ramsey Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2022   |
| 106-2021 | Resolution: | Authorizing professional services contract with Blueline Architecture, L.L.C. in the amount of \$10,500 for preparation of construction drawings, specifications and associated documents along with contract administration and site visits for renovation of 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor restrooms at Borough Hall. |
| 107-2021 | Resolution: | Authorizing professional services contract with Blueline Architecture, L.L.C. in the amount of \$3,000 for preparation of design drawings, site plan and project cost estimate for renovation of Finch Park street hockey rink area into new pickleball courts.   |
| 108-2021 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Sean Redfern to the Ramsey Volunteer Fire Department as a regular member  |

VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION (cont'd)

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

B. BLOCK PARTY REQUESTS:

Kristi Luzzetti of W. Cedar Place is requesting permission to hold a block party on Saturday, October 9, 2021, from 1pm until 7pm

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 Sean Redfern on his appointment to the fire department.

Ramsey Library – At the end of April the library experienced a flood from the HVAC system. After two weeks of remediation the library is back up and running. Thanks to Director Latham and all those involved.

Interviews for the public relations continues as will staff reviews.

The summer reading program is in place and digitalization of the library collection is ongoing. June 1<sup>st</sup> is the target date for indoor seating and studying. Masks and social distancing required.

- B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Harry Weber  
Congratulated Sean Redford for joining the fire department.

Thanked Mayor Dillon and Administrator Vozech for their work on getting the grants for resolutions 104-2021 and 105-2021. The ROID grant is very much needed to help with new equipment for the special needs children. Resolution 105-2021 helps Municipal Alliance which will go towards educational sessions for the community.

Environmental Commission – Thanked Nancy Boone and the Farmers' Market to donate proceeds to a young woman working on a girl scout award. Thanked Riva Kymer and Michelle Taylor for their work on the Styrofoam collection, it was a big success. A big thank you to Roger Knauss for all of his help. The next shredding day is Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup> from 9am-1pm.

- C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilwoman Jane Woods  
Congratulated Sean Redford for joining the fire department.

Ramsey Seniors – Thanked Borough Administrator Vozech and the DPW for working on the final punch list for the senior center. The furniture has arrived and we are close to having an official opening. Echoed Councilman Weber's remarks about Roger Knauss and how wonderful he is.

- D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilman Peter Kilman  
Reported on VFW Post 14148. A VFW member was able to secure a motorized wheelchair and was able to donate it to a young child in need. The VFW hosted a birthday party for the 9-year-old girl and donated the wheelchair to her.  
The VFW has begun its annual poppy sale outside various stores in Ramsey.

- E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilman William Jones  
Welcomed Sean Redford to the Ramsey Fire Department.

The Farmers' Market continues every Sunday in the train station parking lot.  
Asked everyone to visit the Chamber of Commerce website for a full list of businesses to support.

The Pool sign ups continue and this is the last week for the early bird rates. The pool will be open for sign-ups on Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup> from 2-6pm.

- F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilwoman Judith Cusick  
Congratulated Sean Redfern and thanked him for his service.

Ramsey Planning Board – At the Planning Board meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup> there were 6 waiver applications that were approved: FMD Trading, Skin & Laser Center of NJ LLC, Prospect Auto NY Inc., American Pile LLC, Mirprod LLC and King Crash Auto Collision LLC. There was one request for outdoor dining in accordance with Executive Order #150 for Main Plaza Associates – specifically 86-130 E. Main Street/Café Panache. The special outdoor dining was approved. They also approved a soil movement permit and a cabana.

Ramsey Board of Education:

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

At the May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, the following topics were discussed:

Board member Walsh gave her resignation

Nurses Appreciation week was recognized

During the Superintendent's Report, he noted that May is Mental Health Awareness month.

Tisdale School provided a video presentation, "RULER: Charter and Meta-Moment" which discusses "K-12 Wellness Long-term Goals".

Ramsey Responds:

Food Pantry - Donations are welcome. Food collection is every Tuesday 4-5:30pm at St. Paul's. Pantry supplies are low on: Canned Vegetables and Fruits, Canned Meats, Tuna, 1-2 lb. Bags of Rice, Parmalat, Oatmeal, Pancake Mix & Syrup, Coffee, and Beans.

Fresh Produce is also welcome. On May 15<sup>th</sup> the Max Challenge of Ramsey will host a "Max Day of Giving" fundraiser for Ramsey Responds from 9am-1pm. There will be fitness classes, wellness vendors and retailers present.

- G. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON

Congratulated the Ramsey High School Drama group on their production of Mama Mia on the front lawn. Commended all involved. They did a wonderful job and commended them.

Reminded everyone that you can go to New Bridge Medical Center in Paramus, Holy Name Hospital and numerous pharmacies for walk up vaccines. The borough will likely no longer host testing events because there are so many locations in the immediate area.

Announced that borough hall will be open to the public starting June 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be in person council meetings starting in June subject to all of the restrictions enforced by the Governor.

There will be a Memorial Day Parade this year. The VFW is organizing it.

Thanked and congratulated Sean Redford for joining the Ramsey Fire Department.

H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh

**Resolution 103** – Authorizes the Borough to enter into a cooperative purchasing agreement with other Bergen County Municipalities through the Bergen County Utilities Authority (“BCUA”) for Solid Waste disposal services. Ramsey has participated in this program for many years and the prior agreement will be expiring the end of May and BCUA has secured a bid for a new two-year agreement. This disposal service will be for the company operating the transfer station where Suburban Disposal, our contract party for collection of solid waste, will bring the material to for its ultimate disposal.

**Resolution 104** – Borough has applied for and received a grant from the State of New Jersey under the Recreational Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities program in an amount of \$17,865. This grant will help fund programs through our Challenger programs and RIFE. Since the grant approval was subsequent to adoption of the 2021 Municipal Budget a Chapter 159 addition to the budget is required to allow for utilization of the grant funding in 2021.

**Resolution 105** – Ramsey Municipal Alliance (“RMA”) each year receives grant funding and as part of the grant application, RMA is required to file its strategic plan. This resolution authorizes and endorses that submission.

**Resolution 106 & 107** – Both of these resolutions are for professional services with Blueline Architecture, L.L.C.. Resolution 106 is in regard to services for construction drawings, specifications, contract administration and site visits for public bid and contracting for renovation of the second-floor bathrooms at Borough Hall in an amount of \$10,500. This project is being funded primarily through a Community Development Block Grant the Borough had applied for and received in the amount of \$60,398. Blueline had done the preliminary plan for the grant application, now with the award they will do the work on the construction and bid documents so we can move forward with the project. Resolution 107 is for preliminary site drawings for renovation of the street hockey rink area in Finch Park to new pickleball courts. The grant application for a Bergen County Open Space grant requires a preliminary site plan and cost estimate from a licensed professional. Blueline’s proposal for these preliminary services is for \$3,000. If the Borough is successful with our grant application, upon approval we would then move to engage for professional services related to construction and bid documents at that time.

**Ordinances for Introduction: Bond Ordinance 11-2021 - Road Resurfacing 2021 Annual Program** – As we discussed at the last work session, the Borough has collectively bid with other Northwest Bergen municipalities for 2021 road resurfacing. D&L paving was the lowest responsible bidder of the 13 firms submitting bids and were awarded the master contract for this resurfacing. This bond ordinance will provide the funding for Ramsey’s portion of the master agreement which represents the roads we have identified to be resurfaced in 2021. As noted at earlier meetings, our annual program is determined by an independent engineer review and scoring of each of our roads and its current conditions with the poorest rated roads then resurfaced first. In certain situations, a road that rated poorly may not be included in Ramsey’s current year program. For example, if it is a County road like Wyckoff Avenue or Main Street where the County is responsible for resurfacing. Also, if there is a project planned that will require underground work on the road, for example Christopher Street has a planned water main upgrade upcoming so the Borough will hold off resurfacing until the project is completed so we are not digging up a freshly paved road. The two County roads mentioned Main Street and Wyckoff Avenue, the County has told us they will be resurfacing in 2021. This ordinance authorizes \$750,000 of funding for this annual resurfacing program in 2021.

**Municipal Aid Grants & Resurfacing Project** – The Borough had applied for and received Municipal Aid Grants in the cumulative amount of \$430,000 for resurfacing of Prospect Street, Canterbury Drive and the Mechanic Street commuter lot. The Borough just received bids on this project last week. The project had 11 bidders with D&L Paving the apparent lowest responsible bidder for the project at \$559,482, so the grants received will offset approximately 77% of the project’s cost to the Borough. A funding ordinance was put in place in 2020 for this project as well. Bids are being reviewed for technical and legal compliance and recommendation for contract award will be made for the May 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. Just to reiterate the Borough’s commitment in working to obtain outside funding thereby mitigating taxpayer’s cost for programs and infrastructure improvements, just in this meeting alone, we have discussed projects where Ramsey has collectively received over a half million dollars in grants.

I. BOROUGH ATTORNEY – Peter A. Scandariato, Esq.

J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian

Announced that there will be in-person voting for the June 8<sup>th</sup> Primary Election. The polling locations are The Ramsey Library, Masonic Lodge, Adorno Fathers, The community center and the VFW building at Finch Park. You can find your voting location on the sample ballot that will be mailed to your house or by calling borough hall.



X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 11-2021 - BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE 2021 ROAD RESURFACING PROGRAM IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$750,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH 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 Gutwetter

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled Bond Ordinance to authorize the 2021 Road Resurfacing Program in, by and for the Borough of Ramsey, in the County of Bergen, New Jersey, to appropriate the sum of \$750,000 to pay the cost thereof, to make a down payment, to authorize the issuance of bonds to finance such appropriation and to provide for the issuance of bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the issuance of such bonds, 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 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 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.

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 8:03pm.

Meredith Bendian, RMC  
Borough Clerk