

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES  
Wednesday, May 24, 2023  
7:00pm

This meeting is being conducted telephonically. The Dial-In Number (425)436-6365 Access Code 213563# and may also be viewed on the Ramsey YouTube Channel [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeBnVXBwSn\\_ILMuAGkSin9w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeBnVXBwSn_ILMuAGkSin9w)

Mayor Dillon called the meeting to order at 7:03pm and asked Mr. Knauss to lead the flag salute. Mayor Dillon read the Open Public Meetings Act notice.

I. ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Dillon, Councilpersons Cusick, Kilman, Gutwetter, Popolo, Woods

Also Present: Deputy Borough Clerk Richards, Borough Administrator Vozech and Borough Attorney Scandariato

Absent: Councilwoman Poppe

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 05-10-23

Motion to approve and file by Councilman Kilman, seconded by Councilwoman Woods. All in favor. Carried.

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

Motion by Councilwoman Cusick, seconded by Councilman Popolo

1. John Danubio, Assistant Executive Director, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, 30 Wyckoff Ave, Waldwick, NJ  
e-mail dated May 15, 2023, attaching the agenda for NBCUA's regular meeting on May 17, 2023.
2. Maureen Sullivan, Office Secretary, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, 30 Wyckoff Ave, Waldwick, NJ  
e-mail received May 16, 2023, attaching the 2022 audit

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.

Mayor Dillon opened public comment. With no one in person or on the telephone wishing to be heard, Mayor Dillon closed public comment.

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

VI. APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Dillon made the following appointments:

Francesca Muia, Ramsey Rescue Squad, Explorer Member

Danielle Larsen, Ramsey Rescue, Riding Member

Nancy Boone, Environmental Commission, Regular Member

(filling unexpired term of S. Danz)

Roger Knauss, Environmental Commission, Alternate 1

(filling unexpired term of N. Boone)

VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION

Motion by Councilman Gutwetter, seconded by Councilman Popolo

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:

- |          |             |   |
|----------|-------------|---|
| 123-2023 | Resolution: | payment of vouchers   |
| 124-2023 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number ten  |
| 125-2023 | Resolution: | authorizing a tax redemption for Block 3101 Lot 60 in the amount of \$5,249.14  |
| 126-2023 | Resolution: | appointing Alane O'Hagan to the part-time position of Interim Senior Coordinator  |
| 127-2023 | Resolution: | authorizing the inclusion in the Bergen County Community Development Program  |
| 128-2023 | Resolution: | authorizing the execution of an agreement with the County of Bergen to supersede the cooperative agreement dated July 1, 2021, and amendments thereto, establishing the Bergen County Community Development Program |
| 129-2023 | Resolution: | authorizing the appointment of municipal representatives to the Bergen County Community Development Regional Committee  |
| 130-2023 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Francesca Muia to the Ramsey Rescue Squad as an Explorer Member   |
| 131-2023 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Danielle Larsen to the Ramsey Rescue Squad as a Riding Member   |
| 132-2023 | Resolution: | authorizing the creation of the position of Confidential Assistant to the Chief of Police for the Ramsey Police Department  |

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:

Donny Snyder, 117 Deer Trail is requesting permission to hold a block party on June 17<sup>th</sup> from 2:00pm to 10:00pm

Roll Call:

YAY: Cusick, Gutwetter, Kilman, Popolo, Woods

ABSENT: Poppe

VIII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS - None

IX. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

- A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Councilman Michael Gutwetter  
Congratulated and thanked all of the new appointees.

Ramsey Library – Library Com was held earlier in May and there were over two hundred attendees. The Summer Reading Program will be announced soon and registration will begin on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Recreation Commission – Summer Camp Finch Park registration continues until June 16<sup>th</sup>. The Home Run Derby is Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. The Recreation Commission is looking to implement a new software application for registrations.

Municipal Pool opens May 27<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 7:00pm, weekends only until late June. You can still register for the pool.

- B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Peter Kilman  
Congratulated all of the new appointees.

VFW Post 12148 – the annual poppy donations run through June 30<sup>th</sup>. Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup> is Memorial Day. The preliminary schedule is a service for fallen soldiers at Union Cemetery at 9:00am. The parade will begin to gather for line up at 10:30am on Maple Street with the Memorial Day parade starting at 11:00am down Main Street. At 11:45am is the ceremony at the VFW Memorial.

C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilwoman Jane Woods  
Congratulated all of the new appointees.

Design Review Board – Approved the application NJ Decks and Railings replacing the Comic Book Store on Main Street.

Senior Trustees – Roger Knauss continues to reach out to other senior centers to explore new activities. He also created a new format for the newsletter which is larger and easier to read. The seniors participated in Ramsey Clean-Up Day and sixteen people participated in the hands-on CPR class. There are fifteen new members who joined in the last two weeks.

Resolution 126-2023 – Appointing Alane O’Hagan to part-time position of Interim Senior Coordinator: As discussed earlier in the spring Stephanie Farrar resigned as the part-time Senior Coordinator. Ms. O’Hagan expressed interest in the position and after discussing the position with Roger Knauss, it was recommended that the Borough bring on Ms. O’Hagan in this part-time position. The position is termed interim as we are starting to fully open the Senior and Community Center now for activities and the scope of work or times that we need the coordinator at the Senior Center may change in the future as we see how operations are going. To start, we are looking to have the Senior Coordinator onsite at the center 12 hours a week, for three, 4-hour days when activities are the heaviest and will continue to review and be flexible in addressing needs as they arise.

Reported on her participation on a phone call with the Municipal Committee on Aging from the Rutgers School of Social Work. They discussed the need for seniors and the importance of having a senior board in your town, as Ramsey does. The Ramsey Trustees seem to be doing all of the things that they advocate for.

Zoning Board of Adjustment – Announced that the board approved the Ramsey Housing application. This project will have six units and independent apartments, serving the needs of a greatly underserved population. Ramsey is preparing for the fourth round of COAH which is scheduled to start in 2025. This project is an important part of meeting the borough’s anticipated fourth round of COAH applications.

D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilwoman Judy Cusick

Congratulated all of the new appointees.

Shade Tree Commission – The commission will be contacting Ramsey residents by mail to notify them that they have trees on their property infested with the Emerald Ash Bore and should be removed by a professional. There is information on the borough website.

Board of Public Works – The Lead Service Line Replacement project continues. The project requires that all lead service lines serviced by the water system be replaced by the year 2031. Since the first of May our contractor has been installing test pits in various locations in the borough's water system. There have been rave alerts to notify residents of the road work. H2M has developed a sitewide plan to conduct internal plumbing inspections for homes and businesses on behalf of the borough. The inspections will be performed over several years so that Ramsey can effectively plan for subsequent replacement of any discovered lead service lines. H2M has also begun to tabulate the water quality data for the Ramsey's 2022 Consumer Confidence report.

E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilwoman Sara Poppe

Reported by Councilwoman Cusick

Congratulated the new appointees and thanked them for their service.

Ramsey Municipal Alliance congratulated the finalists from the LEADS Got Talents show. The Alliance also participated in the "Sticker Shock" Campaign this month. On May 25<sup>th</sup> there is a fund raiser at Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza with 20% of your bill going to the Ramsey Municipal Alliance benefitting mental health awareness.

The Annual Meet the Police and Drug Take Back will be held on June 11<sup>th</sup> at the Farmers' Market.

The New Resident Mixer – Eighteen organizations have registered to participate in the mixer on June 20<sup>th</sup>. Residents who have moved to town since 2021 are encouraged to register.

F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilman Glen Popolo

Congratulated the new appointees.

Board of Education – Darryl Derlith received the teacher of the year award and Theresa Kilday was recognized for the Governor's Educational Services award.

RIFE- Challenger softball continues through mid-June. There will be a game on Saturday, Mary 27<sup>th</sup>.

G. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON

Congratulated and thanked all new appointees and thanked them for their service.

The Memorial Day Parade and Service is Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at Veterans' Park.

Thanked the Zoning Board of Adjustment for approving the application of Ramsey Housing Association for Special Needs Housing.

H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozech

Resolutions 127 through 129 – Resolutions renewing Ramsey’s participation in the Bergen County Community Development Program and designating our Representatives. This group of resolutions are provided by the County of Bergen to renew participation in the Community Development Program which ultimately is a Federally funded program the County administers. This renews our participation for three fiscal program years from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027. Resolutions 127 and 128 renew our participation and ability to enter into agreements with the County and Resolution 129 appoints Borough Administrator Vozech as the Borough representative and Borough Clerk Bendian as the alternate representative.

Resolution 132 – Creates the position of Confidential Assistant to the Chief of Police, appointing Gina Leonard to the position. Gina is currently Chief Lyman’s Administrative Assistant and has been with the Borough for approximately 24 years in the police department. Before serving as the Admin Assistant to Chiefs Gurney and Lyman, Ms. Leonard worked in the records area for the department. With new regulations, the increased demand for police records either written or digital video, updated audit procedures from outside offices, Chief Lyman wants to expand Ms. Leonard’s position. With her extensive experience as the records room clerk and administrative assistant Ms. Leonard is the sole uniquely qualified employee for the position.

Reminded everyone that the June, July and August Mayor and Council meetings will begin at 6:00pm.

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

J. DEPUTY BOROUGH CLERK – Sherry Richards - No report

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES - None

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

XII. NEW BUSINESS - None

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilwoman Woods, seconded by Councilman Kilman. All in favor. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:23pm.

Meredith Bendian, RMC  
Borough Clerk