

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, May 25, 2022

This meeting is being 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

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

Council President Kilman asked for a moment of silence to honor the nineteen students and two teachers from the Robb Elementary School.

I. ROLL CALL:

Present: Councilpersons Cusick, Gutwetter, Kilman, Poppe and Weber

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

Absent: Mayor Dillon and Councilwoman Woods

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 05-11-22

Motion to approve by Councilman Weber, seconded by Councilwoman Cusick. Councilpersons Gutwetter and Poppe abstained. Carried.

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

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

1. Alison Gordon, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, 30 Wyckoff Avenue, Waldwick, NJ 07463
e-mail dated May 13, 2022, attaching agendas for the Authority's meetings on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 7pm
2. Captain Bill Sheehan, Hackensack Riverkeeper, S. Hackensack, NJ
letter dated May 17, 2022, invitation to the 11th Annual Mayor's Cup Challenge on Saturday, June 4th

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, 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 the meeting to the public. With no one wishing to be heard via the telephone or in person, Councilman Kilman closed public comment.

Public Hearing for the BC Trust Fund Grant

Councilman Kilman referred to Borough Administrator Vozech for the Public Hearing on the 2022 application to the Bergen County Trust Fund in the amount of \$130,000 for the renovation of two basketball courts at Finch Park.

Administrator Vozech explained that the borough has applied for a grant for a project to include the removal of 15,000 square feet of asphalt, laser grading of the site and installation of new asphalt in addition all of the surface line painting along with removal and replacement of the basketball stanchions and the related accessory equipment. The estimated total cost of the project is \$260,000. The Open Space Grant is a 50/50 match. The application request is for \$130,000

Councilman Kilman opened the public hearing on the 2022 application to the Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund. With no one wishing to be heard Councilman Kilman closed the public hearing.

V. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 05-2022 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 4 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AND MORE SPECIFICALLY SECTION 4-13.10 ENTITLED TOWING AND STORAGE FEE SCHEDULE

Motion by Councilman Kilman, seconded by Councilman Weber.

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled An Ordinance Amending Chapter 4 of the Code of the Borough of Ramsey, Bergen County, New Jersey and more Specifically Section 4-13.10 entitled Towing and Storage Fee Schedule, final reading by title and that said ordinance be adopted as an ordinance of the Borough of Ramsey 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 Kilman explained that the borough sets towing and storage rates by ordinance. These rates have not been updated in a number of years and the Ramsey Police Department in review of other towns and the NJ State Police rates have recommended these changes bringing them in line with surrounding communities.

Council President Kilman opened up Ordinance 05-2022 for public hearing. With no one wishing to be heard, Council President Kilman closed the public comment.

Roll Call:

YAY: Cusick, Gutwetter, Kilman, Poppe, Weber

V. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES (cont'd)

ORDINANCE 06-2022 - AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE VACATION OF A PORTION OF SWAN STREET IN THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Motion by Councilman Kilman, seconded by Councilwoman Cusick

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled An Ordinance Providing for the Vacation of a Portion of Swan Street in the Borough of Ramsey, County of Bergen County, State of New Jersey, final reading by title and that said ordinance be adopted as an ordinance of the Borough of Ramsey 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 Kilman explained that the borough has a small piece of property that is not a buildable lot and this ordinance will vacate the property to the only adjacent property owner at 37 Swan Street.

Council President Kilman opened the public hearing on Ordinance 06-2022. With no one wishing to be heard, Council President Kilman closed the public hearing on Ordinance 06-2022.

Roll Call:

YAY: Cusick, Gutwetter, Kilman, Poppe, Weber

VI. APPOINTMENTS

Council President Kilman made the following appointment in Mayor Dillon's absence

John Milligan, Ramsey Rescue Squad

VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION

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:

- | | | |
|----------|-------------|---|
| 118-2022 | Resolution: | payment of vouchers |
| 119-2022 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number ten |
| 120-2022 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of John Milligan to Ramsey Rescue |
| 121-2022 | Resolution: | authorizing the submission of a 2022 Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund Municipal Park Improvement Grant application for in the amount of \$130,000.00 for the renovation of two basketball courts at Finch Park |
| 122-2022 | Resolution: | authorizing change order number 5 in the amount of \$6,746.00 for the first-floor borough hall restroom renovations |
| 123-2022 | Resolution: | approval to submit a grant application and execute a grant agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for East and West Oak Street project. |
| 124-2022 | Resolution: | authorizing Capital Alternatives Corporation to prepare, assemble, and submit the necessary documentation on behalf of the Borough of Ramsey for the East and West Oak Street Project |
| 125-2022 | Resolution: | providing for the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget or any county or municipality pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159), P.L. 1948) in the amount of \$23,325.45 for 2019 Recycling Tonnage Grant |
| 126-2022 | Resolution: | providing for the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget or any county or municipality pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159), P.L. 1948) in the amount \$37,928.23 for the FEMA Emergency Protective Measures Grant Program |
| 127-2022 | Resolution: | urging the swift passage of S-330 which restores energy tax receipts |

VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION (cont'd)

128-2022	Resolution:	confirming the endorsement of the 2022 Community Development Block Grant project for Advanced Housing in the borough
129-2022	Resolution:	authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to enter into a collectively negotiated agreement with Teamsters Local 469 in accord with the agreement for 2022-2025
130-2022	Resolution:	contracting with Pascack Data Services for cyber security updates in compliance with the Bergen County Joint Insurance Fund new tiered compliance structure for cyber coverage for all its municipalities in an amount not to exceed \$111,557.42

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

B. BLOCK PARTY REQUESTS:

John Macri of 53 Balfour Lane is requesting permission to hold a block party on Saturday, June 25th from 12:00 – 6:30pm

Roll Call:

YAY: Cusick, Gutwetter, Poppe, Weber

VIII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS - None

IX. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Councilman Michael Gutwetter

Library Board – Addressing various areas of the physical location for some upgrades. Summer Reading Program is being planned.

Recreation Commission – Finch Park Camp has two hundred fifty registrants. Ramsey Run is September 24th and the 50th Anniversary Home Run Derby event is June 18th.

Pool Commission – Registration is ahead of last year. Regular registration is available. The pool opens Memorial Day weekend. The pool has all of their events listed on their website.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Peter Kilman

Thanked and congratulated Councilwoman Poppe for her leadership on the Ramsey Journal and all of those involved.

Congratulated John Milligan on his appointment to the Rescue Squad.

VFW – The poppy fundraiser continues until June 30th. Planning has begun for the Memorial Day ceremony beginning with the 9:00am service at Union Cemetery and ceremony at Veterans' Park around 11:45am.

Board of Health – The new strain of Covid is on the rise. Although this is a less serious strain than previous strains. The influenza activity is very high compared to this time last year.

C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilwoman Jane Woods

Absent

D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilwoman Judy Cusick

Congratulated John Milligan on his appointment to the Ramsey Rescue Squad.

Commented on the recent acts of violence and how it can affect people in different ways. Expressed sorrow for the those impacted by violence. My prayers are with you. Have your opinions, debate your rights fairly, and respect one another for the greater good.

Planning Board – At the May 17th meeting, there were four (4) Site Plan Waivers which were approved. There were two public hearings for Housing Authority of Bergen County Desimone Court and Gabrellian Associates (Interstate). The Housing Authority project received approval. Gabrellian Associates will come back with some project modifications. At the June 7th meeting the Chick-fil-A hearing continues.

Shade Tree Commission – At the May 19th meeting, there was continued discussion about a potential ordinance change which would include both contractor and homeowner as responsible in the event of a violation. The Shade Tree Commission Attorney will

develop the proposal. The next Commission meeting is June 16th. There is information on the Borough website regarding the Shade Tree Commission.

Board of Public Works – Successful hydrant flushing in April – with the next event in September 2022.

I have been talking about the NJ Public Law P.L. 2021, Chapter.183 was enacted, that requires all public community water systems to replace Lead Service Lines in their service area within 10 years. Crew is preparing and will submit Ramsey’s LSL Replacement Plan to NJDEP due on July 22nd as required by the Law. The plan will include Ramsey’s strategy for investigating and identifying the Unknown water service line materials and the plan for the replacement of all the identified LSLs.

Crew’s on-line inspection survey form, the Borough will ask the individual property owners to collect information on their water service and submit it to the Borough of Ramsey. In situations where the property owner is uncomfortable about performing the survey, they have the option of having the Ramsey Water Department come out to the site to complete the inspection.

E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilwoman Sara Poppe
Congratulated John Milligan on his appointment to Rescue.

The Ramsey Journal hit mail boxes earlier this week, as targeted and thanked Kelly Sylvester for all of her help and Comptime for their hard work on the layout.

Ramsey Farmers’ Market continues at the Main Street Train Station on Sundays.

Municipal Alliance has an event at the Farmers’ Market on June 5th talking about healthy habits and a drug take back event. “LEADS Got Talent” had their show at Dater School on May 14th.

A reminder to visit the Ramsey Chamber of Commerce website and to shop local.

F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilman Harry Weber
Congratulated John Milligan on his appointment to the Rescue Squad.

Board of Education will have their Relay for Life on Friday, June 3rd.

Congratulated the Gutwetters on the birth of their first grandchild.

G. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON
Absent

H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh

Resolution 121 – Authorizing the submission of 2022 Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund Grant Application – the borough identified resurfacing and renovation of the Finch Park basketball courts as the Borough’s open space grant candidate for 2022. The courts have some surface cracks that have developed over the years and require full removal of asphalt and resurfacing. Open Space grants are a 50/50 match with Bergen County and the estimated project cost would be \$260,000, we are seeking a \$130,000 grant from the Open Space Trust Fund. There will be a required public hearing on this project after the general public comment period on tonight’s agenda, in advance of the consent resolutions.

Resolution 122 – Authorizing Change Order #3 to BGD Contracting – Similar to previously approved Change Order on the Bathroom renovation project at Brough Hall for the 2nd floor bathrooms, this is for the first-floor bathrooms which had the same issue with additional concrete subfloor needing to be removed and a new subfloor installed to achieve full ADA compliance.

Resolutions 123 & 124 – Authorizing submittal of 2022 Municipal Aid Grant Application – Ramsey has identified the resurfacing of East and West Oak Street as an upcoming project in future years. Based on the review of the competitive grant scoring system and qualifications by our grant writer on this, Capital Alternatives, we propose to submit these streets for the 2022 Municipal Aid Grant Project. Typically, the Borough would be notified around the end of 2022 calendar year by the State on the grant award and this would then be a 2023 project.

Resolutions 125 & 126 – Approval to insert special items of revenue into the 2022 Municipal Budget – These resolutions are approving the insertion of grants into the 2022 Municipal Budget for certain grants received subsequent to the adoption of the 2022 Budget. Resolution 125 is for a Recycling Tonnage Grant of \$23,325.45 and the other is \$37,928.23 from FEMA through the Protective Measures Grant Program.

Resolution 127 – Urging restoration of energy tax receipts – This resolution supports the efforts of the New Jersey League of Municipalities and a number of State Legislature members looking to reinstate the full level of State Aid to municipalities from the Consolidated Municipal Property Tax Relief Aid (“CMPTRA”) and Energy Tax Receipts Property Tax Relief Aid. In 2009 the State collectively reduced this aid to municipalities across New Jersey by approximately \$331 million based on budget constraints.

Resolution 128 – Endorsement of 2022 Community Development Block Grant for Advanced Housing – This resolution endorses a Community Block Development Grant application from Advance Housing for a grant they seek on a property located in Ramsey. As the host town of the project our endorsement is required. As this award is independent of the Borough’s own application process and also is for a qualified project under the CDBG program with improvements being made in the Borough, the resolution endorses this project.

Resolution 129 – Authorizing agreement with Local 469 on labor agreement for years 2022 through 2025 – Borough has come to an agreement on a new collective bargaining

agreement with the fourth of our six labor unions. This agreement is for managers and supervisors, not including the non-union employees. The agreement is consistent in salary and other contract modifications with terms agreed to with the other unions including a 2% salary increase for 2022. Also prior to the 2022 increase employees would have a 1.95% salary adjustment for 2021, when the Borough and Union agreed to a wage freeze, however there would be no back pay for 2021.

Resolution 130 – Authorizing agreement with Pascack Data for cyber security initiatives in compliance with Bergen County Joint Insurance Fund new tiered coverage standards. The Bergen County Joint Insurance Fund which the Borough is part of with 37 other municipalities across the county, has instituted for 2022 across all towns a new tiered system for cyber risk coverage. This new tier system has different cyber insurance coverage levels for each town based on its cyber tier ranking. Municipalities will fall into Tier I, II or III and have different coverage. Tier III is the highest ranking and most extensive coverage. This resolution authorizes the implementation of new cyber testing, equipment and software for compliance with Tier III status.

Ordinance 07-2022 – Bond Ordinance for funding of a number of Borough improvements as set forth below in total of \$775,000: North Central Field Renovation – Borough has a project underway to add a parking lot to the recreation field on North Central Ave which currently has no off-street parking. This will be added adjacent to the field between the field and the roadway. The field will be shifted further away from the roadway to accommodate the parking. This project will require approvals from NJDEP, County of Bergen and Mahwah before work can begin. We have started the engineering and permitting process to date. Ramsey has previously been awarded an Open Space Grant of \$67,500 which will mitigate some of the cost when reimbursed on completion. Project funding \$225,000 Finch Park Pickleball Courts – The Borough has a project to convert the area at Finch Park which currently has a street hockey rink into a new use with construction of four new pickleball courts. This project also has an Open Space Grant of \$72,500 which will mitigate the taxpayer cost when reimbursed upon completion. Project funding \$232,000 Police and other Emergency Service Vehicles – Purchase of new vehicles including apparatus and equipment for the Police Department, Fire Department and Rescue Squad. Vehicles include a pickup truck for the use of the Ramsey Police Patrol Services Unit and an SUV for police command staff. Ramsey Fire Department and Rescue Squad purchases would also both be one command vehicle for each department. Project funding \$318,000.

Ordinance 08-2022 – Bond Ordinance for Board of Public Works Phase I of the Water Service Line Replacement Program in amount of \$900,000 – As we have discussed at previous Mayor and Council meetings as well as Board of Public Works (“BPW”) meetings, in compliance with the recently enacted New Jersey law requiring water service line replacements by water utilities for all service lines containing galvanized or lead over a ten-year period, The BPW will start the replacement in 2022, beginning with Wyckoff Avenue and Main Street in advance of Bergen County resurfacing those roads later this year. This ordinance is for the first phase and there will be subsequent funding ordinances for future phases through the 10-year replacement timeframe.

Ordinance 09-2022 – Amending Borough Salary Ordinance – Borough sets salaries based on collectively bargained agreements with those employees covered under the applicable agreements and by resolution for those non-union employees. We do however maintain by ordinance a salary range for certain positions which is updated typically annually. The last update to the salary range ordinance was in 2019, this ordinance updates salary ranges for some positions consistent with salary increases in line with those changes to union labor agreements similarly applied to the non-union employees. To reiterate this does not set salary for non- union employees which will be done subsequently by resolution within the ordinance range.

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

J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian

Reported that the next meeting will be on Monday, June 13th at 6:00pm and the second June meeting will be on Wednesday, June 29th at 7:30pm.

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 07-2022 - BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF NEW AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLES, INCLUDING ORIGINAL APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT, IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$775,000 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 Weber

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled Bond Ordinance to Authorize the Making of Various Public Improvements and the Acquisition of New Automotive Vehicles, Including Original Apparatus and Equipment, in by and for the Borough of Ramsey, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, to appropriate the Sum of \$775,000 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 13th day of June, 2022 at 6:00pm 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

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES (cont'd)

ORDINANCE NO. 08-2022 - BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE UNDERTAKING OF PHASE I OF THE WATER SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT IN, BY AND FOR THE WATER-SEWER UTILITY OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$900,000 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 Councilwoman Cusick, seconded by Councilman Kilman

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled Bond Ordinance to Authorize the Undertaking of Phase I of the Water Service Line Replacement Project In, By and For the Water-Sewer Utility of the Borough of Ramsey, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, to appropriate the Sum of \$900,000 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 13th day of June, 2022 at 6:00pm 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

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES (cont'd)

ORDINANCE 09-2022 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 10 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AND MORE SPECIFICALLY, SECTION 10-23 COMPENSATION

Motion by Councilman Gutwetter, seconded by Councilman Kilman

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled An Ordinance Amending Chapter 10 of the Code of the Borough of Ramsey, Bergen County of Bergen, New Jersey and more specifically, Section 10-23 Compensation, 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 13th day of June, 2022 at 6:00pm 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

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

XII. NEW BUSINESS

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Weber, seconded by Councilman Gutwetter. All in favor. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:17pm.

Meredith Bendian, RMC
Borough Clerk