

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, May 26, 2021

Due to COVID19 this meeting is being conducted telephonically. The Dial-In Number is (425)436-6365 with Access Code 213563# You may also view Meeting on Ramsey YouTube Channel https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeBnVXBwSn_ILMuAGkSin9w

Mayor Dillon 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, Councilpersons Cusick (via phone), Gutwetter (via phone), Kilman and Weber (via phone)

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

Absent: Councilpersons Jones and Woods

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – WS 05-12-21

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

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

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

1. Jackie Gersht, Leader, Girl Scout Troop 5194
letter dated May 12, 2021, inviting the governing body to the silver awards ceremony on Friday, June 18, 2021 at the Gretchen Dater Memorial Park at 6:00pm
2. George Bumiller, Ramsey, NJ
fax dated May 20, 2021, regarding the reopening of in-person meetings
3. George Bumiller, Ramsey, NJ
fax dated May 22, 2021, regarding an article from the New York Times
4. Beverly Walsh and Joel Katz, 225 Cambridge Drive, Ramsey
letter dated May 19, 2021, thanking everyone involved helping resolve the issue with the tables at the pool pavilion

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.

George Bumiller, Ramsey, NJ

Suggested that the information regarding the re-opening of in person meeting be posted on the website.

Mayor Dillon advised that the borough would follow the CDC guidelines, Department of Health and the Governor's Office.

With no one else wishing to be heard, Mayor Dillon closed public comment.

V. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION 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: A Bond Ordinance To Authorize the 2021 Road Resurfacing Program in, by and for Borough of Ramsey, 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 such bonds, reading by title and that said ordinance be adopted 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 Kilman explained that this bond ordinance is for the funding of the 2021 road resurfacing of various streets in Ramsey.

Mayor Dillon opened the public hearing on Bond Ordinance 11-2021.

George Bumiller, Ramsey, NJ

Requested that the list of roads be posted on the website.

With no one else wishing to be heard, Mayor Dillon closed the public hearing.

ROLL CALL:

YAY: Cusick, Gutwetter, Kilman, Weber

VI. APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Dillon made the following appointments

Austin Reid, Ramsey Rescue, Riding Member

Tabitha Sauer, Ramsey Rescue, Administrative Member

VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION

Motion by Councilman Gutwetter, seconded by Councilman Kilman

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:

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|----------|-------------|--|
| 109-2021 | Resolution: | payment of vouchers |
| 110-2021 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number 10 |
| 111-2021 | Resolution: | authorizing a refund of taxes for tax appeal on Block 2501 Lot 8.03 in the amount of \$2,514.00 for years 2019 and 2020 |
| 112-2021 | Resolution: | authorizing the tax-exempt status of Block 5401 Lot 8 as a totally disabled veteran, effective April 1, 2021 |
| 113-2021 | Resolution: | authorizing the borough enter into a subsidiary contract with D & L Paving Inc., Nutley, NJ in an amount of \$638,971.96 for the resurfacing of Borough streets, in accordance with the terms and conditions established in the Master Contract awarded by Borough Resolution No. 097-2021 |
| 114-2021 | Resolution: | awarding a contract to D & L Paving Contractors, Inc., Nutley, New Jersey 07110 for improvements to Prospect Street, Mechanic Street Park and Ride and Canterbury Drive in the amount of \$559,482.10 with a \$440,000 reimbursement through a NJ DOT grant |
| 115-2021 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Austin Reid to Ramsey Rescue as a Riding Member |
| 116-2021 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Tabitha Sauer to Ramsey Rescue as an Administrative Member |
| 117-2021 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Brian Drewes as a part time plumbing inspector for the Ramsey Building 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:

ROLL CALL:

YAY: Cusick, Gutwetter, Kilman, Weber

VIII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

IX. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

- A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Councilman Michael Gutwetter
Congratulated Austin and Tabitha on their appointments.

Library Board – As of June 1st the Library is restoring full indoor seating as well as reopening the quiet study room. Masks continue to be required as children cannot get the vaccination and they are the community most served. The library is planning a series of outdoor concerts at Finch Park for the summer. The library completed digitization of the yearbooks and microfilmed the local newspapers. Summer reading registration begins at the end of May.

Recreation – Working on updating their by-laws. The Home Run Derby is cancelled for this year. Ramsey Run is being discussed for September as well as Movies in the Park for late summer, early fall. Finch Park summer camp has openings for up to one hundred more campers with registration open until June 7th. The camp will run from June 30th– July 30th.

- B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Harry Weber
Congratulated the new appointees.

The RIFE championship softball game has been changed to Friday, June 11th at MacFarren Field.

Congratulated all of the Girl Scouts that will be receiving their gold awards.

- C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilwoman Jane Woods
Councilwoman Cusick reported in Councilman Woods' absence.

Congratulated Austin Reid and Tabitha Sauer for joining Ramsey Rescue.

Board of Health – At the May 13th meeting discussion continued about Marijuana and COVID vaccines. Ambulance calls are in the normal range. Three marriages occurred in Ramsey and 3 marriage license applications were submitted in April.

Ramsey Seniors – At the Seniors Trustee meeting on Thursday, May 13th they discussed the Senior Olympics which are TBD at this point, but hopeful. The Bocce court design was reviewed and later found to be acceptable. The Certificate of Occupancy has been issued and the seniors can begin to use their new facility. Plans are in the works to have an official opening in June!

Design Review Board - There were no applications so the meeting was cancelled.

- D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilman Peter Kilman
Shade Tree – The Commission continues to warn residents about the Ash borer which is highly destructive.

Board of Public Works – All projects are on schedule

VFW – Post 12148 -The annual poppy fundraiser continues until June 30th with various retail establishments in town. The Memorial Day activities are planned for Monday, May 31st starting at the Union Cemetery, the parade starting at 11am with a memorial service at Veteran’s Park at 11:45 and refreshments at 12:30pm at the VFW Building at Finch Park.

Congratulated the new appointees to the Ramsey Rescue Squad.

- E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilman William Jones
Absent

- F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilwoman Judy Cusick
Congratulated Austin Reid and Tabitha Sauer on their appointments.

Ramsey Planning Board Meeting – At the Planning Board meeting on May 18 new member Michael Palumbo was sworn in. There were 2 waiver applications heard and approved: Teded Ventures LLC and CAVA Messe Grill LLC.

There is a Master Plan & Zoning Committee meeting after the Application Review Committee on Thursday, May 27th.

Ramsey Board of Education – Encouraged 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 25th meeting, the following topics were discussed:

1. Superintendent’s Report - BOE Student & Staff Recognition Night was conducted.
2. Summer program “close to 500 students” in the program
3. The Board interviewed one candidate for the open Board position. Andrew Seltzer was sworn in as the new Board of Education member.

Ramsey Responds – Food pantry donations are always welcome. Food collection occurs every Tuesday from 4-5:30pm at St. Paul’s. Their social media page contains additional information regarding projects and requests for the pantry.

G. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON

Thanked and congratulated Austin and Tabitha for joining Rescue.

Congratulated Liam and James Nelson on earning their Eagle Scout.

Memberships are still available at the Ramsey Pool.

Announced the borough will no longer host COVID testing events. COVID-19 vaccinations are readily available at Walgreens in Ramsey, Dater School, New Bridge Medical Center.

H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh

Resolution 113 – As discussed in April and at May’s work session the Borough collectively

bid for road resurfacing work in 2021 with other Northwest Bergen municipalities. As lead for this cooperative bid, Ramsey awarded the master agreement at the April 28th meeting for

the collective work in all towns. This resolution tonight authorizes the Borough to enter into a subsidiary contract for the contract work to be performed in Ramsey.

Resolution 114 – Borough had applied for and received Municipal Aid Grants in the cumulative amount of \$440,000 for resurfacing of Prospect Street, Canterbury Drive and the Mechanic Street commuter lot. The Borough sought and received public bids on this project. As discussed at the last work session, 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 have been reviewed for technical and legal compliance and recommendation for contract award was made and resolution on tonight’s agenda.

Resolution 117 – Borough has a need for additional part-time plumbing inspector in the Building Department. Brian Drewes is an experienced licensed inspector serving other towns and will also be available now to Ramsey on a part-time basis.

Bond Ordinance 11-2021 - Road Resurfacing 2021 Annual Program – 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 provides 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.

If there is a project planned that will require underground work on the road, for example if Christopher Street has a planned water main upgrade upcoming so the Borough will hold off resurfacing until the project is completed so not to dig up a freshly paved road. As an aside 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.

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

Updates to COVID-19 Protocols

Borough Hall – Effective June 1, the Borough Hall building will be open to the public to come inside to conduct business. Fully vaccinated visitors are not required to wear a mask, however non-vaccinated visitors in accordance with State and CDC guidance should wear a mask when conducting business in Borough Hall. Signs reflecting these protocols will be posted on the doors to the building and posted to the Borough website. Individual departments depending on the physical setup may limit access to one patron at a time from the common area to their specific department.

Public Meetings – Effective starting with June public meetings:

- All Mayor & Council meetings and other Board/Commission Meetings WILL continue to provide a remote option to the public as they have throughout the COVID-19 period, even if the meetings are open for public in-person attendance.
- Mayor & Council Meetings - will be open to the public for in-person attendance starting with June 9th meeting
- Other Boards & Commissions – Status of opening to in-person public attendance will be finalized by each Board based on a number of factors unique to each including, number of members, vaccination status of members, whether they have public hearings that would by definition increase the number of professionals, presenters and in-person attendees, etc. The status of the meetings for in-person attendance will be posted on the Borough website, but again the remote telephonic options currently used will remain available to those of the public who may not be comfortable attending in-person for their own personal reasons.

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

J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian

Reported that board workers are needed for the June 8th Primary and confirmed that there would be in person voting at the Primary Election on June 8th.

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES - None

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

XII. NEW BUSINESS

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Weber, seconded by Councilman Gutwetter. All in favor.
Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.

Meredith Bendian, RMC
Borough Clerk