

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, June 29, 2022  
7:30pm

This meeting is also being conducted telephonically. The Dial-In Number (425)436-6365 Access Code 213563#. The meeting may also be viewed on 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 7:34pm and asked Chief Lyman to lead the flag salute. Mayor Dillon read the Open Public Meetings Act notice.

I. ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Dillon, Councilpersons Cusick, Kilman, Poppe, Weber and Woods

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

Absent: Councilman Gutwetter

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 05-25-22, WS 06-13-22

Motion to receive and file by Councilwoman Cusick, seconded by Councilwoman Poppe  
Councilman Weber abstained from WS 06-13-22. All in favor. Carried.

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

Motion to receive and file by Councilman Weber, seconded by Councilman Kilman  
Mayor Dillon acknowledged Detective Macaluso's retirement and thanked him for his many years of service. All in favor. Carried.

1. Alison Gordon, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, 30 Wyckoff Avenue, Waldwick, NJ 07463  
email received June 17, 2022, attaching agendas for the Authority's June 21<sup>st</sup> work session and regular meetings
2. Detective Adam Macaluso, Ramsey Police Department  
letter dated May 24, 2022, informing of his retirement, effective June 30, 2022

Mayor Dillon asked for a motion to go out of order to do the appointments, consent resolution and special presentations. Motion by Councilman Kilman, seconded by Councilman Weber. All in favor. Carried.

VI. APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Dillon made the following appointment

Jacob Wrede, Ramsey Police Department, Probationary Officer

VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION

Motion by Councilwoman Poppe, seconded by Councilwoman Cusick

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:

- |          |             |   |
|----------|-------------|---|
| 138-2022 | Resolution: | payment of vouchers   |
| 139-2022 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number thirteen   |
| 140-2022 | Resolution: | authorizing the renewal of 2022-2023 liquor licenses  |
| 141-2022 | Resolution: | authorizing the renewal of license 0248-33-013-004 held by GMRI having filed a verified petition in accordance with N.J.S.A 33:1-12.39  |
| 142-2022 | Resolution: | authorizing the renewal of liquor license 0248-36-011-004 Ramsey Liquor LLC, with special conditions  |
| 143-2022 | Resolution: | awarding a two-year contract for shade tree work for the borough awarded to Chris Fix Tree Care, 103 Godwin Avenue, Midland Park, NJ in the amount of \$247,440.00  |
| 144-2022 | Resolution: | accepting the retirement of Officer Adam Macaluso from the Ramsey Police Department effective June 30, 2022, with regret  |
| 145-2022 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Jacob Wrede to the Ramsey Police Department as a Probationary Officer, effective July 1, 2022   |
| 146-2022 | Resolution: | awarding a contract to Sport-Tech Construction for the renovation of the current street hockey area at Finch Park and the installation of four new pickleball courts as well as the relocation of the existing batting cages under the Sourcewell Purchasing Contract #060518-AST in an amount of \$181,504 |

VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION (cont'd)

147-2022 Resolution: awarding a contract to Sport-Tech Acrylics for the surface repair and lining of the four new pickleball courts under the Sourcewell Purchasing Contract #060518-AST in an amount of \$30,000.

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

B. BLOCK PARTY REQUESTS:

Patrick Dobbins of Shuart Lane is requesting permission to hold a block party on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 12 noon until 11:00pm

Mayor Dillon asked if anyone in council chambers or on the telephone wished to be heard regarding resolutions 140 through 142 which are the renewal of liquor licenses. With no one wishing to be heard, Mayor Dillon asked for a roll call.

Roll Call:

YAY: Cusick, Kilman, Poppe, Weber, Woods

VIII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Dillon swore in Officer Wrede with his father holding the bible.

Mayor Dillon presented the Ramsey High School Baseball Team State Champions with Certificates.

#### IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Anyone wishing to address the governing body please give your name (spelling the last name) and address as a courtesy to all present. 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 – Stated his objection of the removal of the hockey rink at Finch Park in place of pickleball courts.

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

Administrator Vozeh replied to Mr. Parker. He explained that this project has been discussed at numerous Mayor and Council meetings over the last two years. We had applied to the county for an open space grant, we held a public hearing and at the last few meetings discussed financing and put it in place. The hockey rink has not been used by any hockey organization, sparingly, if at all. If you look up pickleball, it is the fastest growing sport in the United States. Every town in the area is putting in pickleball courts.

V. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 10-2022 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 8 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AND MORE PARTICULARLY SECTION 8-5 THEREOF ENTITLED RESIDENT STICKER FEE

Motion by Councilwoman Woods, seconded by Councilman Kilman

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled An Ordinance Amending Chapter 8 of the Code of the Borough of Ramsey, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey and more particularly Section 8-5 thereof, entitled Resident Sticker Fee, 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.

Administrator Vozeh explained that as discussed at previous meetings, Ramsey has not increased the rate on the annual commuter parking permits for more than twenty years. This ordinance will increase the annual commuter parking permit fee to \$50 with additional permits in the same household at a rate of \$25 annually. These new rates are a fraction of what NJ Transit annual rates are for their parking in Ramsey at \$480 a year and also well below other towns. Area towns with annual parking charge in excess of \$100 and most are significantly over that and Ridgewood over \$1,000 annually.

Mayor Dillon opened the public hearing on Ordinance 10-2022. With no one wishing to be heard in council chambers or on the phone, Mayor Dillon closed the public hearing on Ordinance 10-2022.

Roll Call:

YAY: Cusick, Poppe, Kilman, Weber, Woods

IX. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Councilman Michael Gutwetter  
Absent

B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Peter Kilman

Recognized Councilwoman Poppe's leadership on the new resident mixer and its success.

Reported on the RIFE gala and what a wonderful event it was.

VFW Post 1148 – Reported on the flag day morning ceremonies at Dater School, participation in the new resident mixer, the annual poppy donations running until June 30<sup>th</sup>. VFW members helped recognize the graduates from Ramsey High School that are entering the military. The VFW will have a BBQ food booth at the Ramsey Independence Day celebration on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Congratulated Jacob Wrede on his appointment to the Ramsey Police Department and Anthony Pallone on his swearing in to the Office of Emergency Management, as well as the Ramsey High School Baseball Championship Team.

C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilwoman Jane Woods

Congratulated the Ramsey High School Baseball Championship Team, the graduates of Ramsey High School as well as Detective Macaluso on his retirement and thanked him for his service. Also congratulated Jacob Wrede on his appointment to the Ramsey Police Department and thanked Anthony Pallone from Office of Emergency Management.

Thanked Councilwoman Poppe on the new resident mixer and all of her work to make it a fabulous event.

The Seniors continue to be active and the horseshoe pit is almost complete.

Design Review Board approved signs for Globe Shoes, Ray's Barber Pole and Glass Doctor.

Zoning Board of Adjustment – The application for the car wash on Route 17 North continues.

D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilwoman Judy Cusick  
Congratulated Councilwoman Poppe on all of her work at the Ramsey New Resident Mixer, it exceeded expectations and was a great time.

The Ramsey Wet Down for Rescue 8 was a great event, enjoyed it with the family!  
Thank you to Ramsey Rescue – so that Others May Live!

Wished Detective Adam Macaluso well on his retirement! Congratulated Jacob Wrede on his appointment to Ramsey Police Department.

Congratulated Anthony Pallone on his appointment to our OEM. Especially having coached him in tee ball!

Also had the honor of attending the Knight of Columbus Shield Awards – another wonderful evening – thank you to this organization and their leadership.

Another school year in the books – congratulations to our graduates, our students, the staff and best wishes for a wonderful summer!

Congratulated the Ramsey Boys' Baseball Team for a successful season! Enjoyed seeing so many of them playing in the Ramsey Baseball and Softball Association – starting from tee-ball and now State Champions! Woohoo from Coach Judy

Ramsey Planning Board - At the June 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, two (2) Site Plan waivers were approved.

Shade Tree Commission – As noted in Resolution 143 – Chris Fix Tree Care will be the maintenance and tree removal contractor for another 2 years. Please note that there is information on Our Borough's website regarding our Shade Tree Commission.

Board of Public Works - Please note that the Borough's latest Water Quality Report for 2021 will be posted online. This report contains information about our drinking water, where it comes from, what is in the water and how our water quality compares to Federal and State Standards. Administrator Vozech will talk about the road resurfacing and the administration efforts for the water line replacement project. Also please note that Ramsey's Water Conservation Program is in effect May 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>.



- E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilwoman Sara Poppe  
Congratulated the Ramsey Boys’ High School Baseball Championship Team, Jacob Wrede on his appointment to the Ramsey Police and Anthony Pallone.

Thanked everyone for their support on the New Resident Mixer. There were about four hundred fifty people in attendance, not including all of the organizations. Especially thanked the governing body for supporting this endeavor.

Municipal Alliance – Congratulated Rebecca Frances on her scholarship from the Alliance, focusing on leadership, mentoring others and recognition for overcoming challenges. Congratulated Father Nick on his new position at Seton Hall. Dr. Matt Bellace will perform a comedy show in February, 2023 to help bring awareness to the mental health crisis.

The Independence Day celebration will be on July 1<sup>st</sup> which will include two bands and fireworks.

- F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilman Harry Weber  
Accepted Adam Macaluso’s retirement with regret and wished him well.

Congratulated Jacob Wrede on his appointment to the Ramsey Police Department and Anthony Pallone to OEM.

Board of Education - Attended the awards night at the high school and presented an Environmental Commission scholarship to Sophia Romero and a RIFE scholarship to Margaret Haskell and Isabella Martino. Congratulated all of the high school graduates. The Board of Education recognized the Boys’ Ramsey Championship Baseball team at their last meeting.

Congratulated and thanked Councilwoman Poppe on the success of the new resident mixer.

RIFE held the championship softball game against the Mahwah Access for All team was a great game. Everyone enjoyed the Gala at the high school. Thanked the Ramsey HS and the gala parents for their generosity. Thanked Mayor Dillon and her daughter, Councilman Kilman and his son, Joe and Dorothy Verdone, Angela and Donna Weber, Humberto Portillo and his son and Lenny and James DiTomasso who all helped with the event. The next event is a Rockland Boulders game and a date in August for a BBQ at the municipal pool.

As a member of the Knights of Columbus Councilman Weber thanked the Mayor and Council for their support of the Shield Awards, making him proud to be a part of both teams.

G. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON

Congratulated the Ramsey High School graduates, after contending not only with COVID but a downpour in the middle of their graduation ceremony, wishing them the best in their futures. Announced that one of graduates is going to West Point, one to the Marine Corp and two to the Navy.

Congratulated the Ramsey High School Boys' Varsity Baseball team on bringing the championship home to Ramsey.

Thanked and congratulated Jacob Wrede on his appointment to the Ramsey Police Department as well as Anthony Pallone to OEM.

RIFE Gala – Commended the high school senior parents on doing such a spectacular job on the decorations. Thanked Councilman Kilman for helping with the food and Councilman Weber for organizing it.

Congratulated Councilwoman Poppe on the newcomer's event, it exceeded everyone's expectations and was a great success.

Recognized the Ramsey Rescue Squad on their wet down, they did a beautiful job.

Congratulated all of the Shield Award recipients and reminded everyone of the Independence Day celebration on July 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm at Finch Park.

H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh

Resolution 143 – Authorizing contract for Shade Tree work to Chris Fix Tree Care – The borough went out for public bid on a two-year contract for Shade Tree work which includes tree maintenance and removal. Utilizing an estimated quantity for a number of different types of work items which the bidders submit unit prices on as actual quantity and type of work will always differ year to year. This allows us to standardize the bid. Three bids were received and Chris Fix Tree Care was the low bidder. After review by the Borough QPA and Borough Attorney, the award of contract will go to Chris Fix Tree Care in an amount of \$247,440 for the two years. Chris Fix bid price was the same as his 2020 successful bid, with no increase.

Resolution 144 – Accepting retirement of Detective Adam Macaluso effective June 30th. We would like to thank Officer Macaluso for his dedicated service to the Borough and its citizens for the Ramsey Police Department as well as his service to the United States Marine Corps.

Resolution 145 – Confirming the appointment of Jacob Wrede to the Ramsey Police Department. Jacob had interviewed after the last testing and interview process. With Officer Macaluso's retirement, Jacob Wrede who was a recommended candidate to the Public Safety committee at the time and was recently hired by the Borough as a full-time dispatcher, is now recommended for appointment as a probationary police officer and will begin the police academy in July.

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

Resolutions 146 & 147 – Authorizing contracts under Sourcewell Purchasing Agreements with Sport-Tech Construction and Sport-Tech Acrylics for construction of four new pickleball courts – As discussed at prior meetings, including the last two when financing was put in place for this project, the borough is converting the old hockey rink at Finch Park into four new pickleball courts. The award of the project to Sport-Tech is being done under the Sourcewell National Purchasing Cooperative Pricing Contract. There are two resolutions awarding different aspects of the project to Sport-Tech companies. The first for the reconstruction of the area, relocation of existing batting cages as well as other fencing, walkway and construction items to Sport-Tech Construction for \$181,504. The second, to Sport-Tech Acrylics will be for the repair, maintenance and striping work to the actual pickleball playing surface in the amount of \$30,000. We are hoping getting this project under way this summer. This project also has an Open Space Grant of \$72,500 which mitigates the taxpayer cost when reimbursed upon completion.

Ordinance 11-2022 – Ordinance amending Chapter 3 of the Borough Code to establish Lightning Warning System – The borough has previously implemented a lightning warning system at a number of locations and athletic fields throughout the Borough. This ordinance defines and codifies that the system has been implemented and allows for enforcement of those violating the rules and policies of the system to be noted at the locations.

Ordinance 12-2022 – Ordinance amending Chapter 2 of the Borough Code and more specifically 2-32.8 regarding Police Department Qualifications of Members – Currently the Borough code allows for police department officers with two years of military service plus at least a two-year college degree or 60 credits at accredited university meet qualification of membership. This amendment would extend qualification to those holding a NJPTC certification, in lieu of the two years of military service, while maintaining the same educational requirements as previously detailed. In addition, it codifies the requirement of an applicant transferring to the Borough to bear the responsibility of any costs incurred to its former employer for training and certification under Title 40A:14-178 which reimburses employers for costs incurred if employee leaves prior to two years of service.

Ordinance 10-2022 – Ordinance amending Chapter 8 of the Borough Code to update Resident Commuter Parking Fees. This ordinance was discussed a number of times at Mayor & Council meetings and introduced at the last meeting. Ramsey has not increased annual commuter parking rate fees for over 20 years. This ordinance will increase the annual commuter parking permit fee to \$50. Additional permits in the same household are available at a rate of \$25 annually. While increased from current, these rates are a fraction of what the NJ Transit (Spring Street) annual rates of \$480 a year and also well below other towns. Other Northwest Bergen towns with annual parking charge in excess of \$100 and most are significantly over that and Ridgewood over \$1,000 annually.

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

2022 Road Resurfacing Program – The annual road resurfacing work has been completed. Board of Public Works Water Service Line Replacement Program - Board of Public Works has awarded a contract for the first phase of service line replacements. Work will be done on service lines on Main Street and Wyckoff Avenue this summer in advance of the County resurfacing those roads this fall. While traffic flow is reduced in the summer, the work will still have periodic traffic detours. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience and ask for everyone's patience and cooperation as we make these necessary infrastructure improvements.

Borough Hall Summer Operating Hours- Normal hours of operation for the public are 8:30 to 4:30 Monday through Friday, for a total of 40 hours. As we did successfully in 2021, we will implement a change in operating hours for the summer starting Tuesday, July 5<sup>th</sup> through Labor Day. Borough Hall will open at 8:00am Monday through Friday starting a half hour earlier than normal and will extend the normal day closing at 5:00pm. On Friday we will close at 12:00 noon.

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

J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian

Reminded everyone of the summer meeting schedule. The next meeting is Wednesday, July 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm and then Wednesday, August 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:30pm.

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 11-2022 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 3 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY SO AS TO ESTABLISH SUBSECTION 3-31 THEREOF ENTITLED LIGHTNING WARNING SYSTEM

Motion by Councilwoman Cusick, seconded Councilwoman Woods

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled An Ordinance Amending Chapter 3 of the Code of the Borough of Ramsey, Bergen County, New Jersey So as to Establish Subsection 3-31 Thereof Entitled Lightning Warning System, 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 27<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2022 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.

Comments on Ordinance 11-2022 were covered in Administrator Vozeh's report.

Roll Call:

YAY: Cusick, Kilman, Poppe, Weber, Woods

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES (cont'd)

ORDINANCE 12-2022 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2 SECTION 2-32 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY ENTITLED POLICE DEPARTMENT AND MORE SPECIFICALLY SUBSECTION 2-32.8 THEREOF ENTITLED QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS

Motion by Councilman Kilman, seconded Councilman Weber

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled An Ordinance Amending Chapter 2 Section 2-32 of the Code of the Borough of Ramsey, Bergen County, New Jersey Entitled Police Department and more Specifically Subsection 2-32.8 Thereof entitled Qualifications of Members, 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 27<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2022 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.

Comments regarding Ordinance 12-2022 were covered in Administrator Vozeh's report.

Roll Call:

YAY: Cusick, Kilman, Poppe, Weber, Woods

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

XII. NEW BUSINESS

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilwoman Woods, seconded by Councilman Weber. All in favor. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:32pm.

Meredith Bendian, RMC  
Borough Clerk