

**BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, August 31, 2022**

This meeting is also being conducted telephonically. The Dial-In Number (425)436-6365 with Access Code 213563#. The meeting may also be viewed on Ramsey YouTube Channel.

Mayor Dillon called the meeting to order at 7:30pm and asked Shade Tree Commissioner Martone to lead the flag salute. Mayor Dillon read the Open Public Meetings Act notice.

I. ROLL CALL:

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

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

Absent: Councilwoman Cusick

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 07-27-22

Motion by Councilwoman Poppe, seconded by Councilwoman Woods.
Councilman Kilman abstained. All in favor. Carried

Mayor Dillon asked for a motion to go out of order to do Special Presentations.
Motion by Councilman Weber, seconded by Councilwoman Poppe. All in favor. Carried.

Mayor Dillon and Councilman Weber recognized Luke Wren, Josh Alto, Nathaniel Ciappina for the Community Project Lemonade Stand donation to Ramsey Recycling

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

Motion by Councilman Weber, seconded by Councilwoman Poppe.

Councilman Weber commented on communication number one, congratulating Eric Jachzel on his Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Councilman Kilman commented on communication number three from a resident recognizing the DPW worker who assisted someone in a car accident, staying with him until the ambulance arrived. Councilwoman Woods commented on communication number six regarding the Meals on Wheels program celebrating 50 years.

Mayor Dillon accepted Officer Struble's resignation with regret, as he is going to be an officer in his hometown of Wayne, NJ.

1. Robert Baxer, Eagle Scout Coordinator, Troop 31
letter dated July 27, 2022, announcing the Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony on August 21, 2022
2. Jack Terhune, President, 200 Club, Hackensack, NJ
letter dated August 1, 2022, informing the governing body that a Ramsey Rescue Squad member was a recipient of this year's 200 Club of Bergen County High School Scholarship
3. Alan Geisenheimer, 79 Windsor Lane, Ramsey
letter dated August 4, 2022, recognizing a Ramsey DPW worker for his assistance during a recent accident that this resident was involved in
4. Officer Zachary Struble, Ramsey Police Department
letter received August 5, 2022, informing of his resignation from the Police Department effective August 16, 2022
5. Lieutenant Vasili Pieratos, Ramsey Police Department
letter dated August 10, 2022, informing of his retirement from the Police Department effective December 10, 2022.
6. John Frey, Meals on Wheels of North Jersey, Westwood, NJ
letter dated August 12, 2022, regarding the 50th anniversary celebration on September 22, 2022 at the Old Tappan Manor
7. Alison Gordon, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority. 30 Wyckoff Avenue, Waldwick, NJ
e-mail dated August 9, 2022, attaching the approved minutes from the June 21, 2022 Meeting
8. Carter Corrison, Attorney, Ramsey Board of Public Works
letter dated August 17, 2022, informing of the approved Board of Public Works rate increases

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, 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 wishing to be heard, in chambers or on the telephone, Mayor Dillon closed public comment.

V. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 13-2022 - AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF 13 NORTH CENTRAL AVENUE IN THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY TO RAMSEY HOUSING, INC. SO AS TO PROVIDE AN INDEPENDENT LIVING FACILITY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES IN THE BOROUGH

Mayor Dillon asked for a motion to table Ordinance 13-2022.

Motion by Councilwoman Woods, seconded by Councilman Gutwetter.

Borough Administrator explained that the reason the borough is recommending the tabling of this ordinance is because Ramsey Housing still has pending grant applications, financing and construction plans that have not been finalized. Until all of that is finalized, we will table the ordinance.

Roll Call:

YAY: Gutwetter, Kilman, Poppe, Weber, Woods

VI. APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Dillon made the following appointments

Justin Taylor, Permanent Police Officer, RPD

Timothy Riley, Permanent Police Officer, RPD

Zachary Struble, Permanent Police Officer, RPD

Liam Grubb, Ramsey Rescue Squad

Dillon Hunt, Ramsey Rescue Squad

David Miller, Ramsey Rescue Squad

Stephen Bennett, Ramsey OEM

Michael Herbst, Ramsey OEM

VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION

Motion by Councilman Gutwetter, seconded by Councilwoman Poppe

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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|----------|-------------|---|
| 165-2022 | Resolution: | payment of vouchers |
| 166-2022 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number sixteen |
| 167-2022 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number seventeen |
| 168-2022 | Resolution: | confirming the permanent appointment of Police Officer Justin Taylor to the Ramsey Police Department, effective July 9, 2022 |
| 169-2022 | Resolution: | confirming the permanent appointment of Police Officer Timothy Reilly to the Ramsey Police Department, effective July 9, 2022 |
| 170-2022 | Resolution: | confirming the permanent appointment of Police Officer Zachary Struble to the Ramsey Police Department, effective July 9, 2022 |
| 171-2022 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Liam Grubb to the Ramsey Rescue Squad |
| 172-2022 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Dillon Hunt to the Ramsey Rescue Squad |
| 173-2022 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of David Miller to the Ramsey Rescue Squad |
| 174-2022 | Resolution: | accepting the resignation of Police Officer Zachary Struble from the Ramsey Police Department, effective August 16, 2022, with regret |
| 175-2022 | Resolution: | approving Board of Public Works recommendation for 2022 sewer rate increase of 1.91% |
| 176-2022 | Resolution: | authorizing tax redemption for Block 4001 Lot 22, C0387 in the amount of \$1,578.04 |
| 177-2022 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Stephen Bennett to Ramsey OEM |

VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION (cont'd)

- 178-2022 Resolution: confirming the appointment of Michael Herbst to Ramsey OEM
- 179-2022 Resolution: accepting the retirement of Lieutenant Vasili Pieratos from the Ramsey Police Department, with regret
- 180-2022 Resolution: authorizing the Borough Administrator to prepay Ramsey Day vendors
- 181-2022 Resolution: awarding a two-year contract for the removal and disposal of leaves to Environmental Renewal, LLC, 27 Andrews Drive, Woodland Park, NJ in the amount of \$524,500
- 182-2022 Resolution: authorizing a refund for overpayment of taxes for Block 4904 Lot 5 in the amount of \$5,815.76

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

Eastwick College, Surgical Technology Department is requesting permission to hold a Walkathon in their parking lot in Wednesday, September 21, 2022. They are raising money for Smile Train Children's Charity

B. BLOCK PARTY REQUESTS:

B. Eyre of Buckingham Dr. is requesting permission to have a block party on Saturday, September 10, 2022 from 2:00pm – 10:00pm

R. Mion of Tulip St. is requesting permission to have a block party on Saturday, September 24, 2022 from 12:30pm – 8:00pm

B. Hasencz of Twinbrook Ct. is requesting permission to have a block party on Saturday, September 17, 2022 from 3:00pm – 10:00pm

Mayor Dillon commented on Resolution 175-2022 which is the approval of the Board of Public Works recommendation of the 2022 sewer rate increase of less than 2%.

Roll Call:

YAY: Gutwetter, Kilman, Poppe, Weber, Woods

VIII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Recognition for Community Project Lemonade Stand donation to Ramsey Recycling

Luke Wren
Josh Alto
Nathaniel Ciappina

IX. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

- A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Councilman Michael Gutwetter
Library Board – Discussed the summer reading program, summer concert series, the Friends of Ramsey Library concerts, the Harvest Festival, a genealogy workshop and September Library Card Sign up month.

Recreation Commission – Discussed softball leagues, the Ramsey Run, Halloween Parade and costume contest as well as Challenger’s soccer program.

Pool Commission – Discussed the final days of the pool season, thanking Manager Bach and all those who helped make it a successful pool season.

Congratulated all of the appointees.

- B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Peter Kilman
Reported on VFW Post 12148 which included a booth at the Farmers’ Market and the upcoming Ramsey Day parade participation.

Congratulated Officers Taylor, Riley and Struble on their permanent appointments, as well as those appointed to the Rescue Squad and Office of Emergency Management.

- C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilwoman Jane Woods
Design Review Board – Approved a sign at the last meeting for Fado, a boutique opening up on Main Street.

Ramsey Seniors – Continue to remain active. The Senior picnic is on September 7th at 12 noon. Things are coming along with the horseshoe pit project. The Senior Olympics are the same day as Ramsey Day and they are trying to get participants. The Crafty Sisters will sell items on Ramsey Day. There are tickets secured for an upcoming trip to New York City.

Congratulated all of the appointees listed on the agenda.

D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilwoman Judy Cusick
In Councilwoman Cusick’s absence Mayor Dillon reported on the Board of Public Works. The lead service line replacement continues as mandated by the state and the Board approved increases to the water and sewer rates of under 2%.

E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilwoman Sara Poppe
Ramsey Day is September 10th. The parade will assemble at 10am on Maple Street.

The Chamber of Commerce continues to organize details for the Taste of Ramsey on September 25th at Finch Park.

The Ramsey Municipal Alliance wrapped up the Parenting and Mental Health Class series in collaboration with HARP and the Board of Health. Municipal Alliance will be at Ramsey Day as well as a table at the Farmers’ Market on October 2nd.

The Parent Academy date was rescheduled to December 9th. Smith School will participate in Red Ribbon Week this October.

Congratulated all of the appointees listed on the agenda.

F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilman Harry Weber
Thanked Luke Wren, Josh Alto and Nathaniel Ciappina for their efforts to raise money over the summer to donate to Ramsey Recycling and thanked Jim Trouf and Tom Lanning for facilitating the project.

RIFE – The annual pool party was on August 17th at the Ramsey Pool with over one hundred people attending. Thanked the Mayor for her help with all of the grilling and many others who helped out, including the Pool Commission and Gary Bach.

The Challenger Soccer season begins on Saturday, September 17th at 3pm at Dater School.

Board of Education – At the last meeting the Board of Education met to appoint Dr. Andrew Matteo as the new Superintendent of Schools who will take office January 2023. Dr. Matteo reviewed the new school curriculum for 2022-2023 school year. All residents are invited to a celebratory event on September 8th at 7pm to check out the renovations at the high school.

Congratulated all of the appointees listed on the agenda.

G. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON

Echoed Councilman Weber's remarks about the RIFE pool party. With so many attendees from around the area, including, Paramus, Fair Lawn, Wyckoff, Mahwah, Franklin Lakes. Thanked Gary Bach and the Ramsey Pool.

Congratulated Justin Taylor, Timothy Riley and Zachary Struble on completing their probationary period.

Thanked and congratulated Liam Grubb, Dillon Hunt and David Miller for joining the Ramsey Rescue Squad and Stephen Bennett and Michael Herbst to the Ramsey OEM.

Recognized Gary Bach and his staff as well as Matthew Latham from the Library for all of the events and programs offered over the summer. It's really incredible the level of programming that comes from the Pool Commission and the Library.

Thanked Luke, Josh, Nathaniel, Ryan and Courtney on the great job on the lemonade sale.

The annual 9/11 Ceremony will be at 5pm on September 11th at the 9/11 Memorial at Finch Park.

H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh

Resolution 175 – Approving the Board of Public Works recommendation for a 1.91% increase to the sewer rate – At the August Board of Public Works meeting they approved recommendations to increase sewer and water rates by just below 2% to help mitigate the inflation in operating costs of the water and sewer system. The Board has not raised rates in three years. The Mayor and Council enacts the rate changes for sewer through a resolution and water rates through an ordinance. This proposed change does not include funding for the new State mandate on replacement of lead or galvanized water service lines. The Board will continue to review the financial impact of this law and identify those service lines needing replacement as well as review rate increases for this capital investment at a later date.

Resolution 181 – Awarding a two-year contract for the removal and disposal of leaves to Environmental Renewal – The bid is for a two-year contract on the removal and disposal of leaves. The contract is for the pickup of leaves at the Ramsey Recycling Center and transportation to the ultimate licensed disposal site of the contractor. Three bids were received and Environment Renewal was the lowest responsible bidder and held the previous contract with the Borough. The Borough QPA, Jack D'Agostaro and Borough Attorney Scandariato, have both reviewed the bids technically and legally and recommended approval.

Ordinance 15-2022 – Ordinance repealing and res-establishing Section 13-1.2 regarding Fee Schedules in the Construction Department - As part of a State recommended three-year fee schedule review, Construction Official Ralph Venturini is recommending some changes in certain fees as well as a reorganization of the calculation of fee schedules. The revised schedule is more simplified, fair and just, and has been designed to be income neutral, with some fees increasing and some decreasing. The result will be more in line with State recommended rate schedules and those of other neighboring towns.

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

J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian - No report

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 14-2022 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 19 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AND MORE SPECIFICALLY SUBSECTION 19-2.1 THEREOF ENTITLED FEES FOR WATER USAGE

Motion by Councilman Kilman, seconded by Councilman Gutwetter

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled An Ordinance Amending Chapter 19 of the Code of the Borough of Ramsey, Borough of Ramsey, Bergen County, New Jersey and more Specifically Subsection 19-2.1 thereof entitled Fees for Water Usage, 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 14th day of September, 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.

Roll Call:

YAY: Gutwetter, Kilman, Poppe, Weber, Woods

XI. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES (cont'd)

ORDINANCE 15-2022 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 13 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY ENTITLED BUILDING AND HOUSING SO AS TO REPEAL AND RE-ESTABLISH SECTION 13-1.2 THEREOF ENTITLED FEE SCHEDULES

Motion by Councilwoman Woods, seconded by Councilman Weber

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled An Ordinance Amending Chapter 13 of the Borough of Ramsey, Bergen County, New Jersey entitled Building and Housing so as to Repeal and Re-establish Section 13-1.2 thereof entitled Fee Schedules, 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 14th day of September, 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.

Roll Call:

YAY: Gutwetter, Kilman, Poppe, Weber, Woods

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

XII. NEW BUSINESS

Shade Tree Appeal of Jonathan and Danielle Krehel, 306 Elizabeth Avenue, Ramsey from the Shade Tree Commission's denial of an application to permit a tree removal so as to allow the expansion of their driveway

Mrs. Krehel made her opening statement followed by the Shade Tree Commission's statement, presented by Attorney Jared Geist.

The Krehels (applicant) made her case as to why the tree removal permit should be issued, maintaining that safety was the primary concern, including the impairment of sight lines when exiting the driveway.

Shade Tree Vice Chairman Russ Martone explained that the main reason why the commission did not issue the permit is that as a policy they do not issue permits to take down healthy trees.

Commissioner Martone, as well as Attorney Geist and Mrs. Krehel, fielded questions from the Governing Body.

Mayor Dillon asked for a motion to go into executive session to discuss potential litigation. Motion by Councilwoman Woods, seconded by Councilman Gutwetter at 8:46pm. Borough Attorney Scandariato read the closed session resolution.

Roll Call:

Present: Mayor Dillon, Councilpersons Gutwetter, Kilman, Poppe, Weber, Woods

Mayor Dillon asked for a motion to adjourn executive session and return to regular session at 9:15pm. Motion by Councilwoman Poppe, seconded by Councilwoman Woods.

The governing body returned to regular session at 9:15pm

Mayor Dillon asked for a roll call.

Roll Call:

Present: Mayor Dillon, Councilpersons Gutwetter, Kilman, Poppe, Weber, Woods

Mayor Dillon asked for a summation from the council. Councilman Kilman explained that there was discussion to approve the appeal due to safety and hardship which are enumerated in the code. Councilwoman Woods agreed about the safety and the hardship requiring an exception. Councilman Weber agreed after listening to the meeting recording and visiting the site. Councilwoman Poppe explained that due to the safety aspect she was in favor of granting the appeal. Mayor Dillon agreed that there is a hardship and a safety issue and the statute allows for it, not therefore not creating a precedent.

Motion to grant the appeal to the Krehel Family to remove the Oak Tree to mitigate hardship and the potential danger to the community by Councilman Kilman, seconded by Councilwoman Woods. It was determined that the Krehels must pay the cost of the removal

of the tree and the replacement of a new tree. They will also work with the Shade Tree Commission to discuss the replacement size and type of tree.

Roll Call:

YAY: Gutwetter, Kilman, Poppe, Weber, Woods

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilwoman Woods, seconded by Councilman Gutwetter. All in favor. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:22pm.