

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
Wednesday, September 14, 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.

Council President Kilman called the meeting to order at 7:32pm, led the flag salute and read the Open Public Meetings Act notice.

I. ROLL CALL:

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

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 08-31-22

Motion to receive and file the minutes by Councilwoman Poppe, seconded by Councilman Weber. Councilwoman Cusick abstained. All in favor. Carried.

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

Motion to receive and file the communications by Councilwoman Cusick, seconded by Councilwoman Woods.

Mayor Dillon accepts the resignation of Eric Mortiz, with regret. He's been an invaluable member of the Board of Public Works and wish his well in his new profession. All in favor. Carried.

1. Eric Moritz, Ramsey Board of Public Works  
letter dated September 6, 2022, informing of his resignation as of September 16, 2022

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.

Council President Kilman opened the meeting to the public. With no one from council chambers or on the telephone wishing to be heard, Council President Kilman closed public comment.

Council President Kilman made a motion to go out of the regular order of business to hear Administrator Vozech's report. Seconded by Councilman Weber. All in favor. Carried.

Administrator Vozech Report

Resolutions 187, 191 & 192 – The Building Department resignation and corresponding appointments for electrical personnel – Larry Kalogera retired as the Borough's electrical subcode official and inspector retired effective August 19th. Construction Official Venturini has recommended Larry's replacement by appointing Leo Belgiovine as electrical subcode official and James Dougherty as a part-time electrical inspector effective August 22, 2022. We wish Larry Kalogera the best in retirement and thank him for his service to the Borough

Resolution 188 – Accepting resignation of Eric Moritz with regret, effective September 16<sup>th</sup>. Eric works in our Water & Sewer Department for the Board of Public Works ("BPW"). In his eight years with the BPW, Eric evolved into an integral member of the team bringing a unique skill set that will be difficult to replace. He is leaving to become a career firefighter, something he has been pursuing since a young age. We wish him the best and thank him for his contributions to the Water & Sewer department and the Borough.

Resolution 190 – Awarding professional services contract to Boswell Engineering for project management and construction inspection services for Main Street Phase I repairs. Earlier this summer we awarded Boswell the engineering and design work for this project which work has been completed and the project is out for public bid. This resolution awards contract to Boswell for construction inspection services for the next phase of the project to completion. Contract in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.

Ordinance 14-2022 – Ordinance increasing the Board of Public Works Water Usage fees Ramsey Housing Inc. – As discussed at the last meeting, the Board of Public Works has recommended a 1.99% increase to the water usage fees. The last increase to the Board's water usage rate was in 2019. This increase will help mitigate the impact of the inflation in operating costs of the water system. As noted previously the State mandated Water Service Line replacement program will have capital investment implications to rates which will be reviewed at a later date

Ordinance 15-2022 – Ordinance repealing and re-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 how the fee schedules are calculated and presented in the code book. 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 the State recommended rate schedules and those of other neighboring municipalities.

Motion to go back into the regular order of business by Councilman Weber, seconded by Councilwoman Cusick. All in favor. Carried.

V. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION 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, Bergen County, New Jersey Entitled Fees for Water Usage, 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.

There was no further comment by Council.

Council President Kilman opened the public hearing on Ordinance 14-2022. With no one wishing to be heard, Council President Kilman closed the public hearing.

Roll Call:

YAY: Cusick, Gutwetter, Kilman, Poppe, Weber, Woods

V. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION 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 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, 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.

There was no further comment by Council.

Council President Kilman opened the public hearing on Ordinance 15-2022. With no one wishing to be heard, Council President Kilman closed the public hearing.

Roll Call:

YAY: Cusick, Gutwetter, Kilman, Poppe, Weber, Woods

VI. APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Dillon made the following appointment

Jennifer DiPilato, Environmental Commission Green Team

VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION

Motion by Councilman Gutwetter, 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:

- |          |             |  |
|----------|-------------|--|
| 183-2022 | Resolution: | payment of vouchers  |
| 184-2022 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number eighteen  |
| 185-2022 | Resolution: | approving the code of conduct changes for the Ramsey Rescue Squad  |
| 186-2022 | Resolution: | approving the by-laws for the Ramsey Rescue Squad  |
| 187-2022 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of “Leo” Panteleo Belgiovine, as Electrical Subcode Official, effective August 22, 2022 |
| 188-2022 | Resolution: | accepting the resignation of Eric Mortiz from the Ramsey Board of Public works, with regret                        |
| 189-2022 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Jen DiPilato to the Environmental Commission Green Team                              |

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 on Wednesday, September 21, 2022. They are raising money for the Smile Train Children’s Charity.

Velocity Ride is requesting permission to hold a bicycle fundraiser through Ramsey for Columbia University Medical Center for Cancer on Sunday, October 2, 2022.

B. BLOCK PARTY REQUESTS:

K. Wurst of Norman Drive is requesting permission to hold a block party on Saturday, October 15, 2022 from 3pm – 11pm

Roll Call:

YAY: Cusick, Gutwetter, Kilman, Poppe, Weber, Woods

VIII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS - None

## IX. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

### A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Councilman Michael Gutwetter

Library Board – Announced that the library held one hundred and three events over the summer with two thousand two hundred seventy-one participants. Discussed the successful reading challenge program, summer concert series, staff trainings, and upcoming events. Check the library website for more details.

Recreation Commission – Upcoming events include, Ramsey Run on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, Fall Soccer Leagues, Challenger Soccer starts September 17<sup>th</sup>, the Halloween Parade is October 29<sup>th</sup> with a costume contest.

Pool Commission – The summer season wrapped up on Labor Day with the highest volume of members and guests.

### B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Peter Kilman

Congratulated Jennifer DiPilato on her appointment to the Green Team.

Encouraged people to call into the Board of Health Meetings on the second Thursday of the month.

### C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilwoman Jane Woods

Wished Eric Moritz and Larry Kalogera well in their future endeavors and Jennifer DiPilato success on the Green Team.

Thanked Administrator Vozech, the DPW and everyone who helped make Ramsey Day a success. It was a wonderful day.

The Senior Group held their picnic last week and have upcoming events such as a computer training, a book club, senior Olympics and the flu clinic.

Zoning Board of Adjustment – Explained the role of the Zoning Board and how they operate. It is a pseudo judicial board that is completely separate from the Mayor and Council. It denies or approves applications for variances, some with conditions based on testimony from applicants, experts and the public. If a variance is granted with conditions those conditions must be adhered and can only be changed with another application to the board. The Mayor and Council may not override the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilwoman Judy Cusick

Reported on what a wonderful event the “Let’s Bag Hunger Event” at Shoprite was earlier in the evening. Congratulated the town for a fantastic Ramsey Day. Reported on what an honor it was to attend the 9/11 Memorial Service Sunday afternoon. May we never forget and God Bless America.

Congratulated Jennifer DiPilato on her appointment to the Environmental Commission Green Team.

Ramsey Planning Board – At the August 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting there was one site plan waiver which was approved. In August, there was also an offline site plan waiver for 4G Mobility (taking the former Organico space). The Chick-fil-A application was carried to the September 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Ramsey Shade Tree Commission - The spotted Lantern fly has been seen in Ramsey, please be aware of this invasive species – the NJ Department of Agriculture encourages us to “stomp it out”. There is information on the Borough’s website under the Shade Tree Commission.

Ramsey Board of Public Works - Ramsey’s Water Conservation Program remains in effect May 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>. The project for the public water systems inventory for the replacement of lead and galvanized water service lines served by the water system continues.

E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilwoman Sara Poppe

Reported that Ramsey Day was a huge success and thanked Administrator Vozech for all of his hard work.

Thanked Councilman Kilman for his heartfelt words at the September 11<sup>th</sup> Memorial Service.

Taste of Ramsey is Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at Finch Park from 12 noon to 3:00pm.

Ramsey Municipal Alliance will be selling t-shirts and providing information at the Farmers’ Market on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

- F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilman Harry Weber  
Thanked Carter McCullough for his third-grade project donating his proceeds to the Ramsey Recycling program.

RIFE – The soccer season starts on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Upcoming events may be an Autumn themed Art Night and a Halloween party at the Community Center.

Board of Education – They have published the entire curriculum on their district website. They had a celebratory ribbon cutting on September 8 for everyone to see all of the upgrades to the facilities.

Thanked everyone who made Ramsey Day a big success. Especially Administrator Vozech on all of his work to make it happen.

Thanked Borough Clerk Bendian, Administrator Vozech and all those who helped put together the 9/11 service.

Ramsey Responds is hosting their “Keep Someone Warm” winter coat drive on Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center.

Thanked Shoprite for being including in the “Help Bag Hunger” event. It is an event that we look forward to every year.

Thanked Jennifer DiPilato on joining the Environmental Green Team.

- G. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON

Echoed everyone’s comments regarding Administrator Vozech on all of his hard work for Ramsey Day, as well as the DPW.

Thanked Administrator Vozech, Borough Clerk Bendian and the DPW for their help on the 9/11 Memorial and recognized Council President Kilman for his moving words.

Thanked Shoprite and the Partners in Caring for inviting us to help “Bag out Hunger”. We are all wearing our aprons tonight to show our support.

Thanked Eric Moritz for his service to the Board of Public Works. Best wishes on becoming a career fire fighter. Thanked Larry Kalogera for his service to the Building Department. Welcomed Jim Dougherty and Leo Belgiovine.

Thanked Jennifer DiPilato for joining the Green Team.

Thanked the Ramsey Volunteer Fire Department for allowing her to participate in the bailout demonstration on Ramsey Day.

H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozech

Thanked all of the volunteers, nonprofit organizations as well as business members, chamber of commerce members for their participation. Everyone worked very well together. Thanked Councilwoman Poppe for her help on Ramsey Day as well as all of the DPW employees who helped make the day a success.

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

J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian - Reported that there were technical difficulties with the live YouTube recording but it would be available in full on the website after tomorrow.

Council President announced that he is so proud to be part of this governing body, He's so proud of the comprehensive reports each person gives.

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES - None

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

XII. NEW BUSINESS - None

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilwoman Woods, seconded by Councilman Weber. All in favor. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:06pm.

Meredith Bendian, RMC  
Borough Clerk