

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
Wednesday, September 27, 2023
7:00pm

This meeting is being conducted telephonically. The Dial-In Number (425)436-6365 Access Code 213563# and may also be viewed on the Ramsey YouTube Channel https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeBnVXBwSn_ILMuAGkSin9w

Mayor Dillon called the meeting to order at 7:03pm and asked Roger Knauss from the Ramsey Seniors to lead the flag salute. Mayor Dillon read the Open Public Meetings Act notice.

I. ROLL CALL – FLAG SALUTE – OPEN PUBLIC MEETING LAW NOTICE

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

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – WS 09-13-23

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

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

Motion by Councilwoman Cusick, seconded by Councilwoman Woods. All in favor. Carried.

1. George Bumiller, 39 Lakeview Terrace, Ramsey
letter dated September 20, 2023, including suggestion #14
2. John Danubio, Assistant Executive Director, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority,
30 Wyckoff Ave, Waldwick
e-mail dated September 19, 2023, attaching the agenda for the September 20, 2023 meeting

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.

Roger Knauss, Ramsey Seniors – On behalf of the Ramsey Senior residents expressed his thanks to the Mayor and Council for sponsoring the grand opening of the Ramsey Senior/Community Center on September 17th with a special thanks to Councilwoman Woods, Senior Liaison for helping organize it.

Matthew Gannon, Bergen County Prevention Coalition, 22-08 Route 208 South, Fair Lawn, NJ (via telephone) – Requested the governing body’s time and attention to the agency’s tobacco and nicotine audit in Bergen County, asking the borough to help prevent youth access to vape and tobacco products in Ramsey. As well as access to free naloxone packets that can be placed within any AEDs in the borough. Mayor Dillon said that someone would reach out to him.

George Bumiller, Ramsey, NJ (via telephone) – Inquired about the suggestions he submitted to the governing body. Mayor Dillon replied that they are still under consideration.

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

V. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES

VI. APPOINTMENTS

VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION

Motion by Councilman Gutwetter, seconded by Councilman Popolo.

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:

- | | | |
|----------|-------------|---|
| 183-2023 | Resolution: | payment of vouchers |
| 184-2023 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number nineteen |
| 185-2023 | Resolution: | authorizing the extension of the Northwest Bergen Cooperative Pricing Program with Ramsey to serve as lead agency |
| 186-2023 | Resolution: | corrective action plan for the 2022 audit |

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

Inserra Supermarkets/Shop Rite of Ramsey is requesting permission to hold a rummage sale for a fundraiser for local food banks in the parking lot on Saturday, September 30, 2023, 9:00am–3:00pm

Ramsey High School Band and Guard Parents' Association are requesting permission to hold their annual hoagie sale starting September 27, 2023 with delivery on October 21st

B. BLOCK PARTY REQUESTS:

S. Bensky of Dogwood Terrace is requesting permission to hold a block party on Saturday, October 7, 2023, 11:00am–11:00pm

J. Fisher of Birch Street is requesting permission to have a block party on Saturday, October 21, 2023, 2:00pm–10:00pm

D. Mortorano of Poplar Street is requesting permission to hold a block party On Saturday, October 28, 2023, 2:00pm-11:45pm

Roll Call:

Yay: Cusick, Gutwetter, Kilman, Popolo, Poppe, Woods
All block party requests were approved until 10pm.

VIII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS - None

IX. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Councilman Michael Gutwetter

Ramsey Library – The HVAC renovation project will begin mid-November and finish around February. Updates will be sent to alert the community throughout the project. There is a poster printer service available, a laptop lending program, a VHS conversion service, internet hotspot borrowing and the Harvest Festival is Saturday, September 30th.

Pool Commission – Reported that the 2023 season had the best numbers to date and are already hard at work game planning for next summer.

Recreation Commission – The Ramsey Run is September 30th starting off at the pool complex. Soccer season is underway with wrestling and basketball to follow. Halloween parade, partnering with the Ramsey Fire Department is Saturday, October 28th.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Peter Kilman

VFW – Ramsey resident Alex Neely will attempt to break the world record for military standard knuckle push-ups on November 11, 2023, Veterans’ Day at Finch Park. We wish him luck.

Emergency Services Project Update

The work continues with the Building Committee, Fire Department, Rescue Squad and OEM and the Borough with Netta Architects on development and finalization of a design for the new Stationhouse, replacing the seventy-year-old deteriorated structure. This is a large long-term capital investment which will serve the Borough, not only in the near future but through many generations of our residents. The current project schedule has both the design development and construction documents drafted and finalized by early 2024. As Borough Administrator Vozech and I have discussed at previous meetings, we have setup a page on the website for this project where you can find the plans and pertinent information as it becomes finalized. Netta Architects is the firm the Borough has awarded the contract to for the Design Consulting Services of the project. We have discussed this project at prior meetings but it bears repeating, Netta was selected through a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) process from four firms with experience in emergency service building design. The firms submitted proposals and went through in-depth interviews and presentations with the Building Committee. After review it was the consensus and recommendation of all involved that the Borough retain Netta Architects, LLC as the firm for Design Services. Netta’s contract is for the amount of \$1,152,000 encompassing four main phases of services and work from project initiation to construction documents as well as construction observation, assessment and administration through completion which will cover a timeline of approximately two and a half year. Netta’s contract fees also incorporate the costs of Netta’s outside engineers and professionals working with them on the project including; Geotechnical Engineer, Environmental Engineer, Surveying, Structural Engineer, Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing & Sprinkler Engineer, Low Voltage Systems Consultant, Emergency Radio and Cellular Communications Systems and Lighting Design. This combined approach with Netta Architects on this project will save the Borough money and time and will provide greater project efficiency and coordination by having all these different disciplines working through Netta. Netta’s contract amount is \$1,152,000, encompassing project work through all phases until project completion and closeout, as well as inclusive of compensation to the

mentioned engineers and other outside professionals. In each meeting we will keep you up to date.

C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilwoman Jane Woods
Design Review Board – Two applications were approved.

Ramsey Seniors – the Borough hosted the Senior/Community Center grand opening on September 17th. Thanked the Mayor and Council for attending and serving lunch and the Mayor, Joe Verdone and Roger Knauss for their comments. Thanked Roger and Alane O’Hagan for their help organizing the event and Morano’s for the delicious food.

Zoning Board of Adjustment – One residential application was approved and one commercial application was tabled to a later meeting.

D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilwoman Judy Cusick
Planning Board – At the last meeting, six waiver applications were all approved. The October 3rd meeting is cancelled.

Shade Tree Commission – The borough received a grant for \$15,000 to address the Spotted Lantern Fly invasion. Thanked OEM for providing reflective vests for the commissioners for when they go out to do tree assessments.

Board of Public Works – The lead service line replacement project continues. The BPW plan regarding the NJ DEP requirement that all lead service lines served by the water system are replaced by 2031. The Borough of Ramsey strives to provide our residents with the highest quality water and best possible service. The existing watermain on Pine Street between Wyckoff Ave and Hickory Place is being proactively replaced as it is nearing its useful life. This project also includes a lead service line replacement. Construction for this improvement will be completed by November, weather permitting. Hydrant flushing begins September 27th with information on the borough website.

Leaf Removal – This service begins in October and continues through December. Please refer to the updated schedule on the borough website. If the leaf pick up does not meet your schedule, leaves can always be taken to the recycling center located at the rear of the Main Street commuter lot.

E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilwoman Sara Poppe
Ramsey Journal - Reminded everyone that the journal is accepting submission for the Fall Edition. Submissions are due October 20th with the journal expected to be delivered to mailboxes the week of November 13th.

Chamber of Commerce – October 4th will be their fall networking event at Anthony’s Coal Fired Pizza.

Municipal Alliance – On October 10th the Black Poster Project will be sponsored by Ramsey Schools and Municipal Alliance. Ramsey Police Sergeant Thormann and Mayor Dillon will be speaking at the event.

- F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilman Glen Popolo RIFE – Soccer began on September 16th and will continue through November. The Halloween party is scheduled for October 16th in the St. Paul cafeteria.

Board of Education – Addressed their board mindset strategy conducted by Matt Lee, which included a planning strategy. All parents will be receiving a communication to help with their strategy planning, moving forward. Back to School nights will conclude this week. They also discussed Saddle River building a middle school.

- G. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON

Thanked Councilwoman Woods and Mr. Knauss for the grand opening at the Senior/Community Center, it was a wonderful event.

Reminded everyone about the borough ordinance about leaf piles, as it is dangerous, especially around schools.

- H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh

Resolution 185 – Extension of the Northwest Bergen Cooperative Pricing Program: The thirteen towns of Northwest Bergen County have a long established a Cooperative Pricing Program registered with the State. This program typically is approved by the State for a five-year period. It is time for renewal of the Cooperative Pricing Program and this resolution authorizes Ramsey to submit the renewal as the lead agent of the Cooperative. This allows our municipalities to collectively bid or enter into purchase contracts where we see opportunities for more efficient pricing. For example, a number of towns collectively bid road resurfacing each year to take advantage of economies of scale in a collective bid.

Resolution 186 – Corrective Action Plan of 2022 Municipal Audit: As mentioned at the last meeting, Borough audit for 2022 was completed by independent auditors, Garbarini & Co. Auditors found no significant deficiencies, material weaknesses nor instances of noncompliance related to the Borough’s financial statements. CFO Denise Bartalotta has prepared the corrective action plan related to the audit comments mentioned at the last meeting. That plan is included as Resolution 186 and will be implemented accordingly

No Knock Registry - The Borough previously enacted an ordinance regarding regulations and policies for door-to-door peddling and soliciting. The ordinance provides for the ability of the Borough to establish a No-Knock List. The Borough will start on-line registration by residents to be on the No Knock list in mid-October. An official start date will be provided at the October 11th Mayor and Council meeting. The list will be updated periodically and provided to any peddlers and solicitors registering with the Borough. These solicitors will be subject to fines for non-compliance with the No Knock List. In addition to appearing on the No Knock List, the Borough has designed a small No Knock decal which those registering may display on their front door. Final details on the program roll-out will be provided at the October 11th meeting.

Reported on the Pine Street water main upgrade project and some lead service line replacements. There will be some road closures and detours over the next few weeks.

There are two milling and paving projects that are going on. Milling and paving half of Williams Drive and Island Road from Addison to Route 17. Alerts will be sent out. There is also the regular paving project that will be starting in mid-October and will post the schedule each day.

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

J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian - No report

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES - None

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

XII. NEW BUSINESS - None

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilwoman Woods, seconded by Councilwoman Poppe. All in favor. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:34pm.

Meredith Bendian, RMC
Borough Clerk