

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
Wednesday, October 12, 2022

This meeting is also being conducted telephonically. The dial-in number is (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 7:30pm and led the flag salute and read the Open Public Meetings Act notice.

I. ROLL CALL:

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

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

Absent: Councilman Weber

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 09-28-22

Motion to file the minutes by Councilwoman Poppe, seconded by Councilman Kilman. All in favor. Carried.

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

Motion to receive and file the communications by Councilwoman Cusick, seconded by Councilwoman Woods. All in favor. Carried.

1. Alison Gordon, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, 30 Wyckoff Avenue, Waldwick, NJ
e-mail dated September 30, 2022 noticing a special meeting on Tuesday, October 18, 2022
2. Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti, Commissioner, State of New Jersey, DOT, Trenton, NJ
letter dated October 3, 2022, announcing the acceptance of applications for fiscal year 2023

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.

Chance Parker, Ramsey – Inquired about EV charging infrastructure and its impact on Land use and Planning Board, the status of the comprehensive traffic circulation transportation element, pedestrian access in the borough, illuminated crosswalk sign on Wyckoff Avenue at W. Oak and the structure of water billing.

With no one else wishing to be heard in chambers or on the telephone, Council President Kilman closed public comment.

V. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES - None

VI. APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Dillon made the following appointments

William Scharff, Associate Member, Ramsey Volunteer Fire Department

Alyse Lorusso, Ramsey Rescue, Explorer Member

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:

- | | | |
|----------|-------------|--|
| 198-2022 | Resolution: | payment of vouchers |
| 199-2022 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number twenty |
| 200-2022 | Resolution: | authorizing the tax redemption for Block 5101 Lot 27 in the amount of \$ 58,777.84 |
| 201-2022 | Resolution: | proclaiming October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month in the Borough of Ramsey |
| 202-2022 | Resolution: | authorizing the tax redemption for Block 4905 Lot 42, Qualifier C0028 in the amount of \$2,959.44 |
| 203-2022 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of William Scharff as an Associate Member of the Ramsey Volunteer Fire Department |
| 204-2022 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Alyse Lorusso to the Ramsey Rescue Squad as an explorer member |

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

Ramsey High School Band and Guard Parent Association is requesting permission to sell hoagies door-to-door from October 3-10 with delivery on October 15, 2022

B. BLOCK PARTY REQUESTS:

Roll Call:

YAY: Cusick, Gutwetter, Kilman, Poppe, Woods

VIII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS - None

IX. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

- A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Councilman Michael Gutwetter
Ramsey Library – Upcoming activities include used book and jewelry fair, Boo Bash, concerts, an author event and trivia night. Check the Library website for details.

Recreation Commission – Halloween parade is Saturday, October 29th at 10am.
Fall sports are going well and Winter sports are registering now.

- B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Peter Kilman
VFW Post 12148 – Upcoming events include resuming serving the annual hot dogs, chips and drinks at Finch Park and selling patriotic items at the Farmers’ Market on October 30th.

- C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilwoman Jane Woods
Thanked the new appointees for their service.

Will have a report at the next meeting after all of her committees have met for the month.

- D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilwoman Judy Cusick
Reported how happy she was to drop off winter coats and winter clothes to our Ramsey Responds organization last Friday. Thanked Councilman Harry Weber for his help with coordination.

Congratulated William Scharff and Alyse Lorusso on their appointments.

Planning Board - The Chick-fil-A application hearing will be continued to November 1st.

Shade Tree Commission – the next meeting is on October 20th. The Commission members are working with a registered consulting arborist/tree expert to maintain their accreditation. There is information on the Borough’s website regarding Shade Tree Commission.

Board of Public Works - The Board of Public Works next meeting is October 17th at 6:30pm.

The 2022 leaf collection will start the week of October 17th. The brochure, including schedule and guidelines, is on the Borough website. Information and updates on progress of pickup will be available during leaf collection on the Borough website main page under “Stay Informed”

E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilwoman Sara Poppe
Congratulated the new appointees.

Chamber of Commerce will hold a networking event on October 20th at Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza. On October 29th, following the Halloween parade there will be a Trunk or Treat at the Fire House from 11am-2pm.

Municipal Alliance was at the Farmers' Market earlier in October to talk about their mission. The November meeting was rescheduled to November 21st.

The Volunteer awards will be held at the October 26th meeting which is a great night to celebrate and recognize our volunteers.

F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilman Harry Weber
Ramsey Is For Everyone (RIFE) - Challenger Soccer is in full swing as we reach the halfway point of the season. We have had 16 – 20 participants each week with a few new team members joining the sessions this year.

The RIFE Halloween Dance Party is scheduled for Saturday, October 29th and will take place at the St. Paul's Cafeteria. The party was such a success last year that we needed a bigger venue to handle the expected turnout for 2022. This may be the most popular RIFE Event of the year.

Environmental Commission - The Second Chance Toy Drive is scheduled for Sunday, November 13th at the Farmer's Market. This has become a very big event with many gently used toys that are collected, cleaned, and donated. Additional coordination of meetings between the Shade Tree Commission and the Environmental Commission are being planned to review and provide updates to tree ordinances in town.

Conversations around Electric Vehicles are gaining traction with interest regarding planned infrastructure. Additional research on grants, incentives, and new legislation will be conducted and discussed at future meetings.

Ramsey Responds – Congratulated the team at Ramsey Responds for orchestrating another incredibly successful Coat and Blanket Drive to 'keep someone warm this winter.' Residents were extremely generous with their donations and many families were served by their generosity. The next Ramsey Responds event will be the Thanksgiving Meal Drive so stay tuned for details.

Ramsey Board of Education - Latest in the "Parent Speaker Series" – on Wednesday, October 12th (tonight) there is a session on "Angst: Raising Awareness on Anxiety" where they will screen an original Indieflix documentary to raise awareness around anxiety and conclude with a panel discussion.

Ramsey Public Education Foundation is holding their Fall Gala at Seasons in Washington Township on Thursday, October 13th. The event is SOLD OUT.

G. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON

Congratulated and thanked William Scharff and Alyse Lorusso for volunteering.

Mayor Dillon replied to Mr. Parker regarding illuminated signs explaining that all county roads require county approval for any signage and will mention Mr. Parker's suggestion to the Ramsey Police Department and will follow up with Mr. Carey regarding the traffic circulation element.

Reported on a call that she, Borough Administrator Vozech, CFO Bartalotta and Councilman Gutwetter participated in a call with representatives throughout the state regarding employee healthcare costs. The state Health Benefits commission voted 3-2 to increase premiums for employees by twenty percent without any notice to local or county governments.

H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozech

Commented on the challenges with the 2023 budget including the large increase in health care and the upcoming solid waste and recycling contracts and of course general inflation rates.

Commented on the water structure of the Board of Public Works. Currently there is a fixed minimum rate and then additional costs for higher usage. The board can look at adding more tiers to the usage portion. Regarding EV charging, we have applied for and received a grant for EV chargers in some of our municipal lots. We are moving forward with that. We've contacted a company that does turn key installation but the longest part is the lead time with the utility company.

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

J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian

Reminded everyone that the borough clerk's office would remain open on Tuesday, October 18th until 9pm for voter registration.

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

XII. NEW BUSINESS

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meredith Bendian, RMC
Borough Clerk