

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
Wednesday, October 25, 2023
7:00pm

Volunteer
Recognition
Night

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 7:02pm and asked Officer Beamon 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, Gutwetter, Kilman, Popolo, Poppe and Woods

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – WS 10-11-23

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

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

Motion by Councilman Popolo, seconded by Councilwoman Woods. All in favor. Carried.

1. John Danubio, Assistant Executive Director, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, 30 Wyckoff Avenue, Waldwick
e-mail dated October 16, 2023, including meeting agendas and resolutions for Wednesday, October 18, 2023
2. George Bumiller, 39 Lakeview Terrace, Ramsey, NJ
letter dated October 19, 2023 including suggestion #16

Mayor Dillon asked for a motion to go out of the regular order of business to present the awards for Volunteers of the Year.

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

Mayor Dillon, along with Councilwoman Poppe congratulated all of the Volunteers of the Year and handed them Certificates.

At the conclusion Mayor Dillon asked for a motion to return to the regular order of business. Motion by Councilwoman Poppe, seconded by Councilman Kilman. All in favor. Carried.

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.

Mayor Dillon opened public comment.

Chance Parker, Park Place, Ramsey – Thanked the governing body for continuing to support and inspire volunteerism.

Mayor Dillon reported on the crosswalks on S. Central Avenue. The Ramsey PD Traffic Division has been working with the County department. There is a safety issue at Orchard Place because there is a safety issue due to the curve in the road. They are still looking at Prince and Broad Streets as potential crosswalk locations.

With no one else wishing to be heard, on the phone or in chambers, Mayor Dillon closed public comment.

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

VI. APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Dillon made the following appointments

Thomas E. Reich, Ramsey Fire Department

E. Carter Corrison, Jr. Alternate Prosecutor, Ramsey Court

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:

- | | | |
|----------|-------------|--|
| 196-2023 | Resolution: | payment of vouchers |
| 197-2023 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number twenty-one |
| 198-2023 | Resolution: | authorizing the borough to enter into a grant agreement with Bergen County for tennis/pickleball court resurfacing at East Oak Street Courts in the amount of \$37,500 |
| 199-2023 | Resolution: | authorizing the by-law changes for the Ramsey Rescue Squad |
| 200-2023 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Thomas Reich to the Ramsey Fire Department as an Associate Member |
| 201-2023 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of E. Carter Corriston Jr., as an Alternate Prosecutor for the Ramsey Court |
| 202-2023 | Resolution: | approval of the 2023 Best Practices Check List |

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

St. Paul's RC Church is requesting permission to lead a procession in honor of the Feast of Christ the King from the church to the Ramsey Post Office on Sunday, November 26, 2023 between 1:00pm – 2:00pm

B. BLOCK PARTY REQUESTS:

Roll Call:

Yays: Cusick, Gutwetter, Kilman, Popolo, Poppe, Woods

VIII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Volunteers of the Year

Ramsey Juniors	Morgan Castor
Rescue Squad	Rayna Makkawi
Ambulance Corps	Alana Dolcemascolo
Fire Dept.	Sean Redfern
Seniors	Catherine Dodwell
Ramsey Garden Club	Diane Long
Ramsey Garden Club	Kathleen Peters
Farmers Market	Jackie Gersht
Greater Ramsey Unico	Donna Weber
Knights of Columbus	Mark Alliegro
Environmental Comm	Chance Parker
RIFE	Michael Popolo
RIFE	Glen Popolo
LEAD	Julie Rutigliano
LEAD	Andrea Godwin
LEAD	Sara Poppe
LEAD	Yana Johnson
LEAD	Mary Geisenheimer
Municipal Alliance	George Poppe
Chamber of Commerce	Suzanne Jahn
Girl Scouts	Stacey Hotchkiss
Girl Scouts	Erin Schroeder
Boy Scouts Troop 31	Laura Behrmann
Cub Scout Pack 306	Nicholas DiGenova
RJFA	Scott Bensky

IX. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

- A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Councilman Michael Gutwetter
Library – The HVAC Project will start sometime in November. The Winterfest events will include the Lunar New Year, Makers Day and Glow in the Dark Egg Hunt.

Recreation Commission – The Halloween parade is October 28th kicking off from the Mechanic Street parking lot down Main Street to the firehouse for the costume contest followed by the Trunk or Treat until noon.

- B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Peter Kilman
Congratulated Tom Reich and Carter Corrison, Jr. on their appointments.

VFW Post 12148 – October 26th the VFW resumes serving the annual hot dog, chips and drinks for the young people practicing sports at Finch Park.

Work continues with Netta Architects on the development and finalization of the design for the new station house replacing the seventy-year-old deteriorating structure. The current project schedule has both the design development and construction documents drafted and finalized by early 2024. There is a page on the borough website for this project where anyone who would like can find plans and pertinent information as it becomes finalized. Minutes from past Mayor and Council meetings, specifically outline what's included in Netta's contract of \$1,152,000 over the four main phases of services which will cover a timeline of approximately 2.5 years. Netta's contract fees also incorporate the cost of Netta's outside engineers and professionals working with them on the project. This combined approach with Netta Architects on the project will save the borough money and time and will provide greater proficiency and coordination by having all the disciplines working through Netta.

- C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilwoman Jane Woods
Thanked Tom Reich and congratulated and thanked Carter Corrison on their appointments.

Thanked Borough Clerk Bendian, Deputy Clerk Richards and Kelly Sylvester for tonight's award ceremony and preparing everything as well as Councilwoman Poppe and Mayor Dillon for the presentation.

Thanked all of the volunteers for their contributions to the borough. Their work truly makes Ramsey special and one of the things I love about this town.

Design Review Board – At the October 24th meeting one application was approved.

Ramsey Seniors – The Ramsey seniors have 439 members with eighteen new members recently joining. There are 329 women with 110 men. The average age is 74.9 and 146 members are older than 80 years old. Computer classes, meet the nurse and book group remain popular at the center. Bocce has finally taken off, Bingo and Mahjong are back. The Holiday Luncheon will be on December 5th at 12 noon at the Ramsey Golf and Country Club.

Roger Knauss and Alane O'Hagan attended a conference on aging at Bergen Community College, learning how to make communities more accessible for seniors.

Catherine Dodwell is working with the Ramsey Police Department to set up a presentation on scams that affect the senior population.

At the October 18th Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting, two residential application and one commercial application were approved.

D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilwoman Judy Cusick

Congratulated all of the volunteers, it's so wonderful to see all of the volunteers who spend their time in service to Ramsey. Also congratulated Tom Reich and Carter Corriston on their appointments.

Planning Board – At the meeting on October 17th there were two site waivers and a public hearing to be carried to the November meeting.

Board of Public Works – The Lead service line project continues – The Board continues their planning and implementation regarding the NJ DEP's lead service line replacement legislation. This project requires that lead service lines served by the water system be replaced by the year 2031.

Ramsey Leaf removal started on October 16th and will go through December, weather permitting. Please help make this effort safe and efficient. You can refer to the annual Fall Leaf Pick up posted on the borough website. Leaves can always be brought to the Ramsey Recycling Center located in the rear of the Main Street Commuter Lot. Please be aware that piles of leaves should not be placed in a manner that could impede public safety.

Ramsey resident, United States Army Veteran, VFW member Alex Neely will attempt to break the Worlds' Record for knuckle pushups on Veteran's Day, November 11th The current record is 9,241 – however those are standard pushups...Alex will be doing military-standard pushups on his knuckles.

E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilwoman Sara Poppe

Tonight was a spectacular night and congratulated all of the volunteers who received recognition this evening.

Congratulated Tom Reich and Carter Corriston on their appointments.

Ramsey Municipal Alliance – The alliance has been discussing upcoming ideas for presentations.

Ramsey Journal - The journal is making great progress with the help of Kelly Sylvester. The Journal will be in mailboxes the week of November 13th.

F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilman Glen Popolo
Congratulated all of the volunteers and appointees.

RIFE – The Halloween party on October 20th included over seventy members with their families. Thanked Mayor Dillon and other councilmembers who helped to make it a success. We are hoping to get a soccer game in on October 28th and perhaps extend the season due to weather cancellations.

Board of Education – Ramsey achieved the 2023 AP Gold Award. They also received a Unified Sports Grant in the amount of \$6,000 to help those with disabilities in sports, mainly bowling and track. They started a strategic planning session with results on the Board of Education website.

Environmental Commission – Congratulated Chance Parker on his award for Volunteer of the Year. Planning is underway for the food scrap recycling. Environmental also received the Bronze award for Sustainable Jersey.

G. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON

Congratulated and thanked all of the Volunteers of the Year. Volunteers are truly the backbone of Ramsey and help make it a very special place. As well as the organizations that nominated them.

Congratulations to Tom Reich and Carter Corrison on their appointments.

Congratulated the Environmental Commission for once again attaining the Bronze Award status for Sustainable Jersey.

The Mayor reported that earlier this evening she signed the paperwork transferring 13 N. Central Avenue to Ramsey Housing Inc. Ramsey Housing Inc. along with the United Way is going to build six self-contained housing units for high functioning individuals with special needs.

Announced that the Ramsey Police Department traffic division just finished its Fall Distracted Driving and Pedestrian Safety campaign on Main Street. The biggest issues were failure to yield to pedestrian in a crosswalk, use of cellphone while driving, illegal left turn into Erie Plaza and Church as well as not wearing a seatbelt. There were signs posted on both sides of Main Street to make everyone aware. There were already four pedestrians struck by vehicles in crosswalks this year.

Reminded everyone to please vote on November 7th.

H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh

Resolution 198 – Authorizing the Borough to enter into a grant agreement with Bergen County: The Borough had previously applied for and received a Bergen County Open Space Grant to mitigate the cost of resurfacing the East Oak Street Courts. The grant was awarded by the County, this resolution authorizes the Borough to enter into the

grant agreement. We anticipate work on the courts to be performed in 2024.

Resolution 202 – Approval of submission of Best Practices Inventory: Borough will be submitting to the State its completed 2023 Best Practices Inventory. Best Practice Inventory is developed by the State with rotating questions to NJ Municipalities each year. A municipality's results with a low score could impact their State Aid. Ramsey has always scored very well and never been close to having a low score impacting State Aid and 2023 is consistent with that. The State looks for a score at or above 29 and of the 67 scored questions, Ramsey only has a couple of "No" responses and well exceeds the State threshold.

No Knock Registry: As discussed at previous meetings, the Borough has established a No-Knock List for residents to be provided to peddlers and solicitors. An alert was sent out to residents with a link to register on the Borough website in the News Flash section on the homepage. The list is maintained, updated and periodically provided to any peddlers and solicitors registering with the Borough. These solicitors will be subject to fines for non-compliance. 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. Please understand the ordinance and No-Knock Registry cannot by law prohibit solicitation by non-profit, charitable, religious or political organizations. In the first week of registration, there are 140 households on the list.

Congratulated all of the volunteer recipients as well to all of the volunteers for everything they do for Ramsey.

- I. BOROUGH ATTORNEY – Peter A. Scandariato, Esq.
- J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian
Announced that the next Mayor and Council meeting in on Monday, November 13th at 6:00pm.

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 14-2023 - AN ORDINANCE SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 3 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY SO AS TO ESTABLISH SECTION 3-31 ENTITLED PRIVATELY OWNED SALT STORAGE

Motion by Councilwoman Cusick, seconded by Councilwoman Woods

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance Supplementing Chapter 3 of the Code of The Borough of Ramsey, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, so as to Establish Section 3-31 entitled Privately Owned Salt Storage, 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 13th day of November, 2023 at 6:00pm 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.

Councilwoman Cusick explained that the State of New Jersey is establishing new stormwater regulations. In accordance with these new regulations, they have provided a sample ordinance each municipality is required to adopt to be in compliance with new State Stormwater regulations. The purpose of this ordinance is to prevent stored salt and other solid de-icing materials from being exposed to stormwater. This ordinance establishes requirements for the storage of salt and other solid de-icing materials on properties not owned or operated by the municipality but rather privately-owned, including residences, in the Borough. The purpose is to protect the environment, public health, safety and welfare, and to prescribe penalties for failure to comply.

Roll Call:

Yay: Cusick, Gutwetter, Kilman, Popolo, Poppe, Woods

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

XII. NEW BUSINESS

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilwoman Woods, seconded by Councilman Popolo. All in favor. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:11pm.

Meredith Bendian, RMC
Borough Clerk