

**BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 26, 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.

Mayor Dillon called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and asked audience member Tom Lanning to lead the flag salute. Mayor Dillon 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 – WS 10-12-22

Motion to receive and file by Councilwoman Poppe, seconded by Councilman Kilman. Councilman Weber abstained due to absence. All in favor. Carried.

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

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

1. Alison Gordon, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, 30 Wyckoff Avenue, Waldwick, NJ 07463
e-mail received October 14, 2022, attaching agendas for the Authority's October 18, 2022 meetings
2. Alison Gordon, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, 30 Wyckoff Avenue, Waldwick, NJ 07463
e-mail received October 20, 2022, attaching approved minutes from July 19, 2022 and September 20, 2022.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Anyone wishing to address the governing body please give your name (spelling the last name) and address as a courtesy. 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 present, 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 the meeting to the public. With no one wishing to be heard on the telephone or in council chambers, Mayor Dillon closed public comment.

Mayor Dillon asked for a motion to go out of order of regular business for special presentations. Motion by Councilman Kilman, seconded by Councilwoman Woods. All in favor. Carried.

Mayor Dillon and Councilwoman Poppe presented the Volunteers of the Year with certificates of appreciation and thanked them for their service.

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Volunteer</u>
Seniors	Snow Chu June Krakosky
Leisure Club	Rosemary Galvin
Ramsey Garden Club	Denise Walter Ann Plaisted
Farmers Market	Sharon Vogel
Greater Ramsey Unico	Dorothy Verdone
Rescue Squad Ambulance Corps Fire Dept.	David Brown Cassandra Ernst Sam Englishman
Knights of Columbus	Michael Gaffney
Environmental Comm	Lisa Kundriat
RIFE	Humberto Portillo Marco Portillo
Municipal Alliance	Charlene Menshikov Stephen Hill
Chamber of Commerce	Adam Sroczynski
Ramsey Jr. Woman's Club	Vicki Ade Jasmine Cacace
Girl Scouts	Joanne Andreassi Cseh Dana Reinke
Boy Scouts Troop 31	Adam Sroczynski

After a five-minute break, Mayor Dillon asked for a roll call.

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

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

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

VI. APPOINTMENTS - None

VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION

Motion by Councilman Gutwetter, seconded by Councilwoman Woods

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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|----------|-------------|---|
| 205-2022 | Resolution: | payment of vouchers |
| 206-2022 | Resolution: | ratifying the action of the governing body for payroll number twenty-one |
| 207-2022 | Resolution: | receipt of the 2021 borough audit |
| 208-2022 | Resolution: | 2022 Best Practices Check List |
| 209-2022 | Resolution: | authorizing to enter into a grant agreement with Bergen County Community Development for Senior Center improvements at 75 E. Oak Street in the amount of \$43,356 |
| 210-202 | Resolution: | authorizing to enter into a grant agreement with Bergen County Community Development for Improvements to Finch Park in the amount of \$22,500 |
| 211-2022 | Resolution: | authorizing the extension of the term of the outdoor café licenses for 2022 |

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

B. BLOCK PARTY REQUESTS:

VIII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Volunteers of the Year Recognition

IX. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

- A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Councilman Michael Gutwetter
Ramsey Library – Halloween Boo Bash was a great success and a special thanks to Library Board President and Mayor Dillon for volunteering. There were about three hundred people in attendance. For more upcoming events go to the library’s website. There are some ongoing capital projects for a replacement of the HVAC system and they have engaged a design studio firm for a redesign of the library interior.

Recreation Commission – Halloween parade is October 29th at 10am.

- B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Peter Kilman
VFW Post 12148 – They will be serving hot dogs and soft drink for those practicing sports at Finch Park. On October 29th members will be replacing flags at Union and Redeemer Cemeteries. On Sunday, November 6th members will set up a booth for fund raising.

Councilman Kilman commented that he always looks forward to the volunteer recognition meeting as it is always an uplifting event.

- C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilwoman Jane Woods
Commented that the volunteer awards night is always one of her favorite nights of the year and offered her heartfelt thanks to all volunteers for all that they give to Ramsey. Thanked Meredith Bendian, Sherry Richards, Kelly Sylvester and Bruce Vozeh who make the night possible.

Ramsey Seniors welcomed a new board member, Georgia Silverman. The new Book Discussion group has been very successful with twenty members. Computer courses begin October 27th. NJ Senior Olympic winners will be recognized at the November 14th Mayor and Council meeting. The annual holiday party will be at the Ramsey Country Club Tuesday, December 6th.

Design Review Board approved four applications at their last meeting.

Zoning Board of Adjustment there were two homeowner applications that were approved and the Ramsey Golf and Country Club filed an amended site plan regarding the hours and dates of operation for the pool concession and bar facility that was approved.

- D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilwoman Judy Cusick
Congratulated all of the 2022 volunteer award winners and stated that she is incredibly grateful to all of our volunteers and to those who provide service to our Town. Their contributions and care for our Town is so appreciated.

Planning Board – At the October 18th meeting there were four waiver applications which were all approved. The Chick-fil-A application hearing will be continued to November 22nd.

Shade Tree Commission – The commission members are working with a registered consulting arborist/tree expert to maintain accreditation. There is information on the Borough's website regarding our Shade Tree Commission

Board of Public Works - The Lead Service Line Phase 1A work is completed. The water department continues to work with the consulting engineers on this project.

The 2022 leaf collection continues. The brochure, including schedule and guidelines, is on the Borough website. Information and updates on the progress of pickup are available on the Borough website main page under News Flash.

- E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilwoman Sara Poppe
Congratulated all of the volunteers of the year. It is always a lovely evening and so great to see what all of the volunteers are accomplishing each year.

Municipal Alliance – Will hold an event on December 7th which alliance member Stephen Hill and his father will talk about addiction.

Chamber of Commerce – Held a networking event on October 20th which was very well attended.

- F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilman Harry Weber
Echoed everyone's remarks about volunteer night saying it is a feel-good night.

RIFE – The Halloween party is Saturday, October 29th at the St. Paul's cafeteria starting at 6:30pm.

Ramsey Responds will hold their annual Thanksgiving drive for families in need. Packages will be delivered on Saturday, November 19th

G. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON

Congratulated all of the volunteer of the year recipients. It is one of the nicest evenings of the year. Thanked Borough Clerk Bendian, Deputy Clerk Richards and Councilwoman Poppe for their help putting together the volunteer recognition.

The Library Boo Bash had three hundred forty-five people in attendance which was a great turn out. It was a wonderful event.

Mayor Dillon gave some updates that were brought up in public comment from the last meeting.

Mayor Dillon spoke to Chief Lyman and Office Canonico about lighted pedestrian crossing signs at all crosswalks. It was not recommended for several reasons. However, the location of a blinking sign at Oak and Wyckoff Avenue is recommended because it will help slow down drivers that have built up speed on Wyckoff Avenue. The lights have already been ordered.

Mayor Dillon spoke to Mr. Carey from the Planning Board regarding the Traffic Element and he asked her to share the following statement.

“I’ve heard concerns from residents on traffic and want to make sure they are addressed. What we are taking is a new approach. We have circulation plans from Ramsey going back to the 1970s all saying the same thing. Traffic will continue to grow and it was our job to figure out what we should do to accommodate all those extra cars and trucks. All the towns around us are growing and Ramsey is your central business district. Giving priority to motor vehicles circulation above all other modes will ultimately result in inferior places and an overall poor quality of life. We are taking steps right now to create a walkable Ramsey which is safe for everyone who lives, shops, visits or works in town. The circulation plan is complex and it will serve as a visioning document for the next twenty-five years. Many of our roadways are owned by the county or state. We must make sure that whatever we come up with aligns with their goals and plans so that we can access funding or assistance to help our vision come true.”

H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh

Resolutions 207 – Receipt of 2021 Borough Audit – Borough audit for 2021 was completed by independent auditors, Garbarini & Co. Auditors found no significant deficiencies, material weaknesses or instances of noncompliance related to the borough's financial statements. The Borough received an audit comment/recommendation regarding two instances where collective purchases throughout the year for a vendor surpassed the bid threshold for bidding. This was unanticipated as during the year the collective purchases for different types of items were purchased. Corrective action will be taken moving forward.

Resolution 208 – 2022 Best Practices Inventory – Borough will be submitting to the State its completed 2022 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 2022 is consistent with that. The State looks for scores at or above 24 and of the 42 scored questions, Ramsey only has five No responses. Even with these No responses, in most cases, we have policies in place that comply with the practice but based on specific aspects of how the question was asked, we could not answer yes. For example, one question involved nepotism, we have the language that the state is looking for in our policy and procedure manual and employee handbook, however the Best Practice question asked if we had it in the borough ordinance code. So, while we follow the stated practice through other governing documents, we couldn't answer yes given the way the question was stated. Another question was if our audit was completed by the state deadline. While the audit was completed on time, the question asks inclusive of the date the resolution is adopted which is tonight and is post the date in the question.

Resolutions 209 & 2010 – These two resolutions authorize the borough to enter into the formal contract with the County for two previously awarded grants. The first is for improvements to the Senior/Community Center which have already been completed and the borough will be submitting for reimbursement of the \$43,356 awarded. The second is for improvements to Finch Park for bleachers and seating area improvements under a prior year open space grant application for \$22,500.

Resolution 211 – This resolution extends outdoor dining through December 31st for those with approved plans as we have done in the past couple years to help our local restaurants impacted.

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

J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian

Reminded everyone of the November meeting schedule which will be Monday, November 14th at 6:00pm and Monday, November 28th at 7:30pm.

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 8:33pm.

Meredith Bendian, RMC
Borough Clerk