

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
Monday, November 13, 2023  
6:00PM

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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeBnVXBwSn_ILMuAGkSin9w)

Council President Kilman called the meeting to order at 6:01pm, led the flag salute and 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 – 10-25-23

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

III. COMMUNICATIONS - None

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, Park Place, Ramsey – Discussed crosswalks on S. Central Avenue and asked for a systemic approach to getting crosswalks east and west, as well as no sidewalks in school areas.

With no one else wishing to be heard, Council President Kilman closed public comment.

V. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION 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 entitled 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, 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.

Councilwoman Cusick explained that this a stormwater ordinance provided by the State to comply with new state stormwater regulations for privately owned salt storage as a proactive approach.

Council President Kilman opened the public hearing on Ordinance 14-2023.

With no one from the public wishing to be heard, Council President Kilman closed the public hearing on Ordinance 14-2023.

Roll Call:

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

VI. APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Dillon made the following appointments

Anthony Padilla, Ramsey Fire Department

James Henderson, Ramsey Fire Department

Council President Kilman asked for a motion to go out of order to allow Administrator Vozeh to give his report which will cover items on the agenda. Motion by Councilwoman Woods, seconded by Councilwoman Cusick. All in favor. Carried

Borough Administrator Vozech

Resolution 207 – Ratifying the Collective Bargaining Agreement with Local 125 union for a four-year term through December 31, 2025: The Borough has reached an agreement, subject to Governing Body approval, with Local 125 on a new Collective Bargaining Agreement (“CBA”). I am recommending this agreement to the Governing Body for approval. Local 125 union represents the non-supervisory DPW employees in our Road, Buildings & Grounds and Vehicle Maintenance divisions. The four-year agreement goes back to 2022 and ends on December 31, 2025. The agreement is in-line with the terms of the other five unions representing Borough employees and their CBA agreements. In past rounds of negotiations with unions we had eliminated compensation for unused sick time which remains. We also maintain employee health insurance contributions at the levels the State had implemented with its Chapter 78 legislation. Salary increases in the agreement are 2% annual increases for each year 2022 through 2025.

Resolution 208 – Awarding contract for purchase of one vehicle for Ramsey Police Department under State Contract utilizing American Rescue Plan Funds: Borough will be purchasing one vehicle for the Ramsey Police Department under a State Contract from Nielsen Dodge for \$39,692.90. This vehicle will replace the current Tour Commander Vehicle which will be reassigned to the Traffic Bureau minimizing its idle time and allowing for extended service life of the vehicle. Borough will utilize some of its remaining American Rescue Plan funds for the purchase.

Resolutions 209 & 210 – Awards contracts to LAN Associates for preliminary engineering services for field and lighting improvements at Borough Fields: These two resolutions are regarding professional services contracts with LAN Associates for preliminary engineering services for two potential projects under review. Resolution 209 is to review field improvements including installation of artificial turf multi-sport playing surfaces at MacFarran field. Resolution 210 is to review lighting modernization to existing lighting at Finch Park and a review of adding additional lighting for the basketball/pickleball courts and playing fields #1 and #2 as well as general lighting in the Field 3 gazebo area to eliminate use of generator lighting. The Ramsey Sports organizations have approached the borough about improvements to these fields to meet their expanded programming usage. This would provide the Borough with preliminary engineering to determine what exactly would be needed at the sites and provide cost estimates. The resolutions allow for preliminary due diligence from professionals for subsequent future review and consideration by the borough.

Resolution 211 - Budget Appropriation Transfer #1 -This resolution approves a budget transfer which simply reallocates funding between line items in the 2023 budget. There is no impact on taxes, it shifts funds from lines that are underspent to other lines that expenses exceed what was anticipated. Operating expenses in certain areas including pool utility and water and sewer utility have increased above levels anticipated at the time of the budget adoption. Therefore, we have made offsetting adjustments to other discretionary line items to mitigate these increases and remain with a net neutral budget.

Resolution 214-2023 – Authorizing the submission of a grant application to NJ Department of Community Affairs for Fiscal Year 2024 American Rescue Plan Fire Fighter Grant Program. We are seeking to obtain a grant for \$75,000 for funding for the Ramsey Fire

Department for fire protection, cleaning and sanitation equipment.  
Council President Kilman asked for a motion to return to the regular order of business.  
Motion by Councilwoman Woods, seconded by Councilwoman Cusick. All in favor.  
Carried.

VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION

Motion by Councilman Gutwetter, seconded by Councilwoman Poppe

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:

- |          |             |   |
|----------|-------------|---|
| 203-2023 | Resolution: | payment of vouchers   |
| 204-2023 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number twenty-two   |
| 205-2023 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number twenty-three   |
| 206-2023 | Resolution: | authorizing a tax redemption for Block 1503 Lot 8 in the amount of \$46,026.50  |
| 207-2023 | Resolution: | ratifying the contract for Teamsters Local 125 Union  |
| 208-2023 | Resolution: | awarding a contract to Nielsen Dodge Chrysler Jeep for the purchase of one vehicle for the Ramsey Police Department under State Contract in the amount of \$39,692.90. This purchase will utilize funds the Borough has remaining from the American Rescue Plan |
| 209-2023 | Resolution: | Awarding a professional services contract to LAN Associates for preliminary engineering services for athletic field improvements at MacFarren Field   |
| 210-2023 | Resolution: | Awarding a professional services contract to LAN Associates for engineering services for lighting upgrades at Finch Park  |
| 211-2023 | Resolution: | appropriation transfer #1   |
| 212-2023 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of Anthony Padilla to the Ramsey Fire Department   |
| 213-2023 | Resolution: | confirming the appointment of James Henderson to the Ramsey Fire Department   |

VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION - (cont'd)

214-2023      Resolution:    authorizing the submission of a grant application to the  
New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Fiscal Year  
2024 American Rescue Plan Firefighter Grant Program

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

A.    SPECIAL PERMITS:

B.    BLOCK PARTY REQUESTS:

Roll Call:

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

VIII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS - None

## IX. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

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

Congratulated Anthony and James on their appointments and thanked them for their service.

Thanked the voters for reelecting him and Councilwoman Cusick. We promise to always put Ramsey first.

Ramsey Library – The HVAC replacement project has started and will last through mid-February. Some of the phases of this project may require some temporary closures. Please check the library website for updates. The Boo Bash was a successful event with over seven hundred attendees. The 2024 budget is in discussion stages.

Recreation Commission – The Halloween parade had over one hundred participants. Partnering with the Ramsey Fire Department was a success. Basketball and wrestling registration for grades K-8 is open until December 15<sup>th</sup>. Recreation Director Tyburczy is pleased to announce the new online registration system, Civic Rec.

Congratulated the Ramsey High School Boys Soccer Team won its first State Championship in sixteen years, finishing an unbeaten season with twenty-two wins and two ties and the Ramsey High School Girls Soccer Team who won its first State Championship in twelve years. The JV Girls Soccer Team won the County Championship.

### B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Peter Kilman

Congratulated Councilpersons Cusick and Gutwetter on their reelection to the council.

Congratulated Anthony and James on their appointments.

VFW Post #12148 – Members replaced American Flags on fallen veterans' graves at Union Cemetery in Ramsey and Redeemer Cemetery in Mahwah. On Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup> the VFW held its Veterans' Day Ceremony and the VFW thanks all of those who attended. After the ceremony VFW members congregated at the VFW to witness Alex Neely break the knuckle pushup record. Alex performed 9,250 push ups in 20 hours and beat the record.

Work continues with Netta Architects on the development finalization of the design of the new fire department, rescue squad and OEM station house, replacing the seventy-year-old deteriorating structure on S. Island Road. The current project schedule has design, development and construction documents drafted and finalized by early 2024.

There is a page on the borough website under the community heading on the landing page and is featured in the left column of the sidebar. The folder is entitled "Fire, Rescue and OEM Building Project". Plans and pertinent information is available as it becomes finalized. Additionally, minutes for past Mayor and Council meetings specifically outline what is included in Netta's contract of \$1,152,000 over the four main phases.

As elected officials of this great Borough of Ramsey our main charges are to maintain and protect our desirable community and keep it moving forward to address the needs of the town. Keeping it safe is something we take very seriously. This capital project will help ensure that we have a first-rate emergency services complex that will serve Ramsey for many generations to come.

- C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilwoman Jane Woods  
Congratulated and thanked Councilpersons Cusick and Gutwetter on their reelection.

Thanked Borough Clerk Bendian for her efforts on election day.

Congratulated Anthony and James on their appointments to the Ramsey Fire Department, as well as the Ramsey High School soccer teams.

Design Review Board approved one application for New Jersey Health and Wellness.

Ramsey Seniors – The membership is up to four hundred sixty-four members. The senior trustees would like to thank the Mayor and Council for their volunteer recognition. The community/senior center are in need of more sound proof panels. The holiday luncheon at the Ramsey Golf and Country Club already has one hundred seventeen seniors signed up. Tech workshops continue to be popular. Water color painting will begin in January. Senior Gab sessions are being setting up for seniors in high school to spend time with senior citizens.

- D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilwoman Judy Cusick  
Reported on attending the Veterans’ Day ceremony at Memorial Park. The ceremony and presence of patriots is so appreciated.

Congratulated Anthony and James on their appointments to the Fire Department as well as the Ramsey Soccer Teams.

Thanked the residents of the borough for their support and confidence to select her for another three years and also thanked her husband and son for their support.

Planning Board – There will be an article in the Ramsey Journal on the Planning Board.

Shade Tree Commission – There is information on the borough website.

Board of Public Works – There will be an article in the Ramsey Journal on the lead service line replacement. BPW continues planning regarding the NJ DEP lead service line replacement legislation. This project requires that all lead service line, served by the water system be replaced by 2031.

Leaf Removal – Leaf pick-up continues, please help keep the borough safe. There is an article in the Ramsey Journal. The Annual Fall Leaf Pick-Up is on the website and updated daily. If the leaf schedule does not work for you, leaves may be taken down to the recycling center at the rear of the Main Street commuter lot.

As noted by Councilman Kilman, Alex Neeley broke the push-up record by completing 9,250 knuckle push-ups. Alex received support from family and friends, police, fire fighters, EMTs, sports teams, as well as members of the Mayor and Council.

- E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilwoman Sara Poppe  
Congratulated Councilpersons Cusick and Gutwetter on their reelection.

Reported on the Veterans' Day Ceremony and how well done it was with many touching words said that day. As well as bringing family to watch Alex Neeley break the world record for knuckle push-ups.

The New Resident Mixer will be on January 21<sup>st</sup> at the Ramsey Community Center Ramsey from 10am – 12 noon including bagels and coffee.

The Ramsey Journal will be in mailboxes this week with a special thank you to Kelly Sylvester whose help I could not do without.

Congratulated the Ramsey High School Soccer teams on their State Championships.

- F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilman Glen Popolo  
Congratulated Councilpersons Cusick and Gutwetter on their reelections.

Congratulated Anthony and James on their appointments.

RIFE- Challenger soccer concludes Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>.

Board of Education – Completed their second strategic session. Results are posted on their website.

Congratulated the Ramsey High School Girls and Boys teams on their Championships.

- G. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON

Congratulated Councilperson Cusick and Gutwetter on their reelection.

Congratulated Alex Neeley, it was inspirational watching him achieve the world record, very impressive.

Congratulated the Ramsey High School Boys and Girls Championship soccer teams. We hope they will be marching in the Home for the Holidays parade and we will have them come to an upcoming Mayor and Council meeting to recognize them.

Thanked Borough Clerk Bendian for her work on the election.

Congratulated Anthony and James on their appointments to the Fire Department.

Addressed an anonymous note that she received regarding the credit card fees for the online payments for water and taxes. The Mayor explained that the fees are not set by



the borough and the borough does not receive any of that money, the charges are by the credit companies.

Reported that the Ramsey Police Department Traffic Division is working on the crosswalks on S. Central with the County of Bergen. The determination for no crosswalk on S. Central and Orchard was made due to safety concerns for line-of-sight issues. The Ramsey PD Traffic Division is also working on new signage for no left turn at Erie Plaza.

Wished everyone a happy, healthy and safe Thanksgiving.

H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozech

Congratulated Councilpersons Cusick and Gutwetter on their reelection and thanked all of those who ran for office, who are willing to dedicate their time to serve their communities.

Thanked Borough Clerk Bendian for her efforts on trying to work through the new procedures and improve them as we move forward with a newer voting system, as well as Deputy Clerk Richards and Kelly Sylvester.

I. BOROUGH ATTORNEY – Peter A. Scandariato, Esq.

Congratulated Councilpersons Cusick and Gutwetter on their reelection.

J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian

Reminded everyone that the next meeting is Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES - None

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

XII. NEW BUSINESS - None

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilwoman Woods, seconded by Councilman Popolo. Meeting adjourned at 6:38pm.

Meredith Bendian, RMC  
Borough Clerk