

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
April 22, 2009

Mayor Botta called the regular meeting of the Mayor and Council to order. Council President led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor read the Open Public Meetings law notice. Mayor asked for a moment of silence in memory of former Councilwoman Nancy Hall, who passed on last week in Louisiana. Mrs. Hall was a long-time Ramsey resident who was a candidate for Mayor and also served on the Zoning Board of Adjustment for many years.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Botta, Councilmembers Dillon, Jachzel, Nalbandian, Siemsen, Vozech, Borough Attorney Peter Scandariato, Borough Administrator Nicholas Saros, and Borough Clerk Meredith Bendian.

Absent: Councilman Jones

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Siemsen, seconded by Vozech, to approve the minutes of March 25, 2009, as submitted. (Councilman Nalbandian abstained). Motion carried.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

Motion by Jachzel, seconded by Dillon, to receive and file the following Communications. Carried.

1. [Rachel Chiarot, Camp Ramsey, New York Sports Club, 1150 Route 17 North,](#) Ramsey, NJ 07446 letter dated April 13, 2009, requesting permission to erect three tents on their premises from June 15 through September 4, 2009.
2. [Madeline Thumudo, Secretary, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority,](#) 30 Wyckoff Ave., Waldwick, NJ 07463 letter dated April 8, 2009, enclosing minutes of the March 4, 2009 NBCUA meeting.
3. [Michael Thumm, Cub Mobile Chairperson, 38 Deer Trail, Ramsey, NJ 07446](#) letter received April 15, 2009, requesting permission to hold their annual cub mobile races on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009 with a rain date of May 17<sup>th</sup>.
4. [Donna Sack, Member, Scleroderma Foundation, 35 Louise Lane, Tenafly, NJ](#) 07670 letter dated April 1, 2009, requesting that the governing body adopt a proclamation declaring June Scleroderma Awareness Month.

5. [Lucy Vandenberg, Executive Director, NJ Council on Affordable Housing, 101 South Broad Street, Trenton, NJ 08625-0813](#) letter dated April 13, 2009, notifying the Borough that objections were received during the 45 day comment period for the substantive certification with COAH back in December 2008.
6. [Jack Terhune, President, The 200 Club of Bergen County, 560 Hudson Street, Hackensack, NJ 07601](#) letter dated April 13, 2009, inviting the Mayor and Council to the BC Valor Award honoring Ramsey Police Officer Timothy Shoemaker on May 7, 2009
7. [Kim Single, Walk Chairperson, Northern New Jersey](#) letter received April 20, 2009, requesting permission to hang a banner on the fence at the high school from May 1, 2009 through June 7, 2009.
8. [Fatima Middlebrooks, Community Director, March of Dimes, New Jersey Chapter, Pine Brook, NJ](#), letter dated April 3, 2009, requesting permission to close off certain streets in Ramsey in order to hold their March for Babies walk on Sunday April 26, 2009.
9. Matthew Miller, Environmental Commission Member e-mail resigning from the Environmental Commission due to time constraints and business responsibilities. Councilwoman Dillon expressed her gratitude to Mr. Miller for his service on the Environmental Commission.

#### IV. APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Botta made the following appointments:

[Donna Miller](#), Environmental Commission

[James Peterson](#), Rescue Squad

[Jacqueline Gersht](#), Rescue Squad

[Michael McMahon](#), Rescue Squad

#### V. CONSENT RESOLUTION

Resolution by Siemsen, seconded by Nalbandian

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:

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 104-2009 | Resolution: <a href="#">Payment of Vouchers</a>  |
| 105-2009 | Resolution: <a href="#">Authorizing tax reimbursement certification for the Recycling Tonnage Program</a>                              |
| 106-2009 | Resolution: <a href="#">Authorizing tax refund for Block 4001 Lot 22 CO394 to Plymouth Park Tax Services in the amount of \$776.33</a> |

- 107-2009 Resolution: [Emergency Temporary Budget Addition](#)
- 108-2009 Resolution: [Appointing James Peterson to the Rescue Squad](#)
- 109-2009 Resolution: [Appointing Jacqueline Gersht to the Rescue Squad](#)
- 110-2009 Resolution: [Appointing Michael McMahon to the Rescue Squad](#)
- 111-2009 Resolution: Authorizing Landscape Perceptions, 130 Ryerson Avenue, Wayne, NJ, to design Veterans' Park

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

[The Woman's Club of Ramsey are requesting permission to hold their annual](#) Tomato Sale on May 16, 2009 at the Masonic Temple parking lot at 24 N. Franklin Turnpike and advertise by posting signs in front of Borough Hall and by the Main Street Train Station

AYES: Dillon, Jachzel, Nalbandian, Siemsen, Vozeh      ABSENT: Jones  
 NAYS: None

VI. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Councilwoman Jachzel joined Mayor Botta for the following presentations to recognize former Board and Commission Members:

- Russell Johnson, Library Board (14 years)
- Kenneth Englishman, Shade Tree Commission (17 years)
- Joseph Melso, Shade Tree Commission (11 years)

Mayor stated that the willingness of our citizens to volunteer contributes to making our town so vibrant. They give back to the town and put in their time and talent to the community without hesitation. I would like to congratulate each of the volunteers who are being recognized tonight.

VII. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION -Councilman Andrew Siemsen

We are currently awaiting some additional information from Department Heads before moving forward with the budget. I would like to thank the new appointees; it would be very difficult to operate this town without the tremendous input from the volunteers on the various boards and commissions. I would also like to congratulate the winners of the election on the Board of Education; Richard Muti, John Nunziata, and Richard Snyder. All of the candidates should be proud of going through the election process. I would like to thank those volunteers who were recognized tonight for their service to the Borough. My condolences to the Hall Family.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman William Jones (Not at this meeting).

C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilman Arthur M. Nalbandian  
I too would like to express my sympathy to the family of Nancy Hall. I would like to recognize Matt Miller and thank him for his service on the Environmental Commission. My thanks also to James Peterson, Jackie Gersht and Michael McMahon on their appointments tonight. My congratulations to the winners of the Board of Ed election. My thanks to Ken Englishman, Russ Johnson and Joe Melso for their service to the Borough.

D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilman Bruce Vozeh  
My thanks to Ken Englishman and Joe Melso for their long-time service to the Shade Tree Commission. My father was a member and Chairman of the Shade Tree Commission and I have many memories of painting x's on trees with him. I also thank Russ Johnson for his work as a Library Trustee. My condolences to the family of Nancy Hall. Congratulations to the Board of Education members. My thanks to the new volunteers who were appointed tonight. We will be making our recommendations for the 2009 capital projects at Monday's work session.

E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilwoman Vanessa Jachzel  
My thanks to all of the volunteers; those who are starting out and those who have recently retired. My sympathies to the family of Nancy Hall; I was fortunate to have known her and serve with her on the Board of Adjustment.

F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Council President Deirdre A. Dillon  
I echo and concur with the remarks of my fellow Councilmembers. Over the weekend, the blood drive and the town clean-up were very successful events. Angela Strollo and the Environmental Commission are to be commended for arranging the clean-up effort. It was a very good turn-out. The Board of Education Reorganization Meeting will be next Thursday, April 30.

G. MAYOR CHRISTOPHER C. BOTTA

The Mayor and Council will be facing an analysis and recommendation of the School Budget which was defeated yesterday. I think from the turn-out and the percentage of voters, it is apparent that the budget that was presented is not a budget that the citizens of this community want. It is incumbent upon us to work with the Board of Education and make recommended cuts to that budget. I have appointed a committee to work with the Board of Education consisting of Councilmembers Vozeh, Jones and Nalbandian, who will review the audit, the proposed budget and the line items. I also recommended that the committee utilize the services of the Borough's auditor,

Paul Garbarini, to analyze the budget and make recommended cuts and come back to us with those recommendations. We have a very short timeframe (45 days) as to when this can be done by State statute. The Board of Education is in the process of putting all the required information together. The improvement project at North Central and West Main Street and also the light at Darlington Avenue have gone out to bid from the

County and they will be accepting bids on April 30. Hopefully, by the end of June, the projects will be underway.

H. BOROUGH ATTORNEY – Peter A. Scandariato, Esq. No comments.

I. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Nicholas C. Saros  
My condolences to the Hall Family. I had the privilege and honor to work with Nancy Hall and she was a wonderful woman who provided many contributions to the Borough, and the non-profit organizations.

J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian No comments.

### VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ray DiMeglio, 169 Pine Street, stated that he was very disappointed in the turn-out for the Board of Education election. The people in this town need to wake up and see what they will be missing for their children's education because they moved here for the education system that is in this town. Either leave the budget the way it is, or cut it hard so that it is a noticeable cut. I am not happy with the results.

Doug Rennie, spoke about former Councilwoman Nancy Hall who was elected as a Councilwoman in 1976 and ran for Mayor against former Mayor Emil Porfido. Mrs. Hall was also a Commissioner on the Northwest Bergen Utilities Authority for approximately 18 years. She was also involved with the West Bergen Mental Health Center and she was a real Southern lady. We will miss her.

James Keeney, 655 Richmond Court, suggested taking last year's budget from the Board of Education, adjust it for inflation, and present that as the new budget. That would be fair and it would send the appropriate message. Councilman Vozech stated that their budget is already lower than that.

Not seeing anyone else who wished to speak, Mayor closed the public comment.

### IX. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES

[Ordinance 08-2009 An ordinance amending Chapter VIII of the Code of the Borough of Ramsey, Bergen County, New Jersey and more specifically Section 8-4 thereof entitled issuance of resident sticker](#)

Ord. 08-2009  
Resolution by Dillon, seconded by Nalbandian

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER VIII OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, AND MORE SPECIFICALLY SECTION 8-4 THEREOF ENTITLED ISSUANCE OF RESIDENT STICKER having been brought up for public

hearing and all persons interested having been given an opportunity to be heard, pass 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 a notice of the date of introduction and adoption of said ordinance.

Not seeing anyone who wished to speak, Mayor closed the public hearing.

AYES: Dillon, Jachzel, Nalbandian, Siemsen, Vozech NAYS: None

ABSENT: Jones

[Ordinance 09-2009 An ordinance amending the code of the Borough of Ramsey](#), Bergen County, New Jersey and more specifically Chapter XIV thereof entitled fire prevention and protection

Resolution by Siemsen, seconded by Nalbandian

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AND MORE SPECIFICALLY CHAPTER XIV THEREOF ENTITLED FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION having been brought up for public hearing and all persons interested having been given an opportunity to be heard, pass 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 a notice of the date of introduction and adoption of said ordinance.

Not seeing anyone who wished to speak, Mayor closed the public hearing.

AYES: Dillon, Jachzel, Nalbandian, Siemsen, Vozech NAYS: None ABSENT: Jones

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES - None

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

XII. NEW BUSINESS - None

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Nalbandian, seconded by Dillon, to adjourn the meeting. Carried.

Meredith Bendian  
Borough Clerk

