

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
May 27, 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.

I. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Councilman Bruce Vozeh

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - None

III. COMMUNICATIONS

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

1. [Clifford J. Heath, Senior Vice President, Alliance for Action Inc. Edison, NJ](#)
letter dated May 13, 2009, inviting the governing body to attend the BC Alliance for Action Chapter meeting on June 5, 2009 at 8:15am at the Meadowlands Sports Complex Pegasus Hambletonian Room in E Rutherford, NJ
2. [Robert Genetelli, Superintendent, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, 30 Wyckoff Avenue, Waldwick, NJ 07463](#)
letter dated April 19, 2009, notifying of the flow meter calibration conduction
3. [John Scerbo, Chairman, Ramsey Centennial Committee](#)
letter dated May 17, 2009, regarding the Centennial Plaque and the Centennial Logo
4. [Harvey Young, Property Management, Young and Associates, Inc. P.O. Box 125, Wood-Ridge, NJ 07075](#)
letter dated May 21, 2009, asking permission for their Central Park residents to use the municipal parking lot on June 3rd while their parking lot is being resealed.
5. [John H. Dorsey, Fred Semrau, Attorneys at Law, Main Street, Boonton, NJ 07005](#)
memo dated May 21, 2009 regarding reduction in work force and workers compensation claims.

IV. APPOINTMENTS –

Mayor Botta made the following appointments:

Michael La Barck , Ramsey Volunteer Fire Department

Kenneth McGrady, Ramsey Volunteer Fire Department

Jeremy Senanayake, Ramsey Volunteer Fire Department

Colin Watters, Ramsey Volunteer Fire Department

V. CONSENT RESOLUTION

Introduced by Siemsen, seconded by Jones

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:

- | | | |
|----------|-------------|--|
| 121-2009 | Resolution: | Payment of Vouchers |
| 122-2009 | Resolution: | Awarding the purchase of 2 new DPW Trucks from Beyer Brothers in an amount not to exceed \$132,894.00 |
| 123-2009 | Resolution: | Authorizing the participation of the Mayor’s Wellness Campaign |
| 124-2009 | Resolution: | Appointing Michael La Barck to the Ramsey Volunteer Fire Department |
| 125-2009 | Resolution: | Appointing Kenneth McGrady to the Ramsey Volunteer Fire Department |
| 126-2009 | Resolution: | Appointing Jeremy Senanayake to the Ramsey Volunteer Fire Department |
| 127-2009 | Resolution: | Appointing Colin Watters to the Ramsey Volunteer Fire Department |
| 128-2009 | Resolution: | Authorizing a tax refund to the David and Amy Drucker for Block 1302 Lot 7 in the amount of \$ 4,493.10 |
| 129-2009 | Resolution: | Authorizing the tax redemption to Robert Rothman in the amount of \$ 74,013.45 for Block 5201 Lot 10 |
| 130-2009 | Resolution: | Proclaiming June as Scleroderma month in the Borough of Ramsey |
| 131-2009 | Resolution: | Authorizing the increased fees for annual sewer maintenance and operating charges for buildings located within the Borough of Ramsey |

- 132-2009 Resolution: [Authorizing Capital Alternatives Corporation to prepare, assemble and submit the grant application for Woodland Avenue](#)
- 133-2009 Resolution: [Authorizing the submission of the grant application for Woodland Avenue to the NJ Department of Transportation](#)

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

[Bicycle Touring Club of North Jersey, Ramapo Rally is requesting permission to ride through town on Sunday, August 16, 2009 between the hours of 7:00 am and 5:30 pm.](#)

[Don Bosco is requesting permission to erect tents on their property for their graduation on Wednesday, June 3, 2009 pm pending the approval of the State of New Jersey Fire Prevention](#)

B. BLOCK PARTY REQUESTS:

[Sharon Bonanno of Norman Drive is requesting permission to hold a block party on Saturday, July 4, 2009 from 3:00 pm to 11:00](#)

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

VI. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION -Councilman Andrew Siemsen

We are introducing the municipal budget tonight and I would like to thank all of my colleagues on the Council, especially Bruce Vozech and Bill Jones, for their help and the hours of time they volunteered. My thanks also to our auditor, Paul Garbarini. I would also especially like to thank Rich Mathieson and Nick Saros and the Borough staff. Our appropriations are in line with what the actual expenditures have been, so that there isn't a wide gap. In anticipation of some capital projects, we put a reserve for debt service anticipated into the budget and we have about \$200,000 for that. We are not saying that that is what the numbers will be, but we felt that it was prudent planning to at least include something in that as a place holder. We are planning in advance. We actually increased our reserve for uncollected taxes and we are doing that by lowering the percentage (by ½%) of taxes anticipated to collect. We are doing that because of the economic conditions. Obviously, that money will come in at some point. We will have an increase of 3.85% and the tax rate is 53.9 Cents. All in all, we did a decent job of controlling what we could control in the Borough budget. State aid was obviously reduced but I can't use that as an excuse. What we can control is to continue to find grants for projects that we want to do. We are applying tonight for another grant for the continuation of Woodland Avenue and we have to be prudent. We have also have shared services for equipment and for employees. My congratulations to the new appointees of the Fire Department.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman William Jones

This was my first year on the Finance Committee and we spent many hours working on a budget to try and address all of the needs and to continue the level of services our residents have come to expect, while we are getting less money from outside sources, and dealing with various increases. I would like to thank Andrew and Bruce for their help in guiding me through the process. I probably had a lot of questions that they heard before but they were patient. My thanks also go to Nick Saros, Paul Garbarini, and Rich Mathieson, who did a great job. All the department heads and organizations have a good understanding of the services we provide with the dollars that we have. I think we will be in a good position with keeping those services. We have DARE Idol coming Saturday night. The DARE culmination is June 9. Two weeks ago, we had the Shield Awards honoring Firefighters Douglas Harvey and Gary Paul, Colleen Bugala, EMT of the Year, George Halpin, Kelly Blayer, and Tim Shoemaker. I would like to thank the Knights of Columbus; it is a very worthwhile evening. The Memorial Day parade went very well and I would like to thank Mayor Botta for bringing back the essay award. I would like to welcome the new members of the Fire Department.

C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilman Arthur M. Nalbandian

I too would like to congratulate our volunteer Fire Department members who were appointed tonight. My congratulations to all those involved in the Shield Awards and my thanks to the Knights of Columbus for hosting the event. It is always well attended. My thanks to all those involved with the Memorial Day parade. It is a very moving ceremony. Congratulations to the essay winner, Nicole Chiu.

D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilman Bruce Vozeh

Not at this meeting.

E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilwoman Vanessa Jachzel

I too would like to commend and thank the members of the VFW and everyone who organized and participated in our Memorial Day events. It was a very moving ceremony. Friday night will be the Relay for Life event which was organized last year for the first time by Rich Lio, Principal of the Ramsey High School. It was a spectacular event to raise money for cancer research. A large number of the participants are high school students and it shows the caliber of the youth in our town.

F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Council President Deirdre Dillon

Congratulations and thank you to all of the new Fire Department volunteers. Congratulations also to the Shield Award recipients. I would like to thank Andrew, Bruce, Bill, Nick, and Rich Mathieson for all of their hard work on the municipal budget. They did a really great job. Thanks to the foresight of previous members of the Council and current members as well, Ramsey is not facing the budgetary issues that a lot of other towns are facing and having to make some painful choices. Thank you to Bruce and Art for their hard work on the Board of Ed budget. The Board of Ed voted last night (6 -3) to accept the levy that we recommended in light of their budget being defeated in April. Thank you to the VFW for organizing the ceremony at Union Cemetery, the parade, and the service. It was extremely well attended this year. Ms. Chiu's essay was excellent.

G. MAYOR CHRISTOPHER C. BOTTA

I would like to thank the VFW for partnering in the essay contest and thank all of the 7th grade students who participated and the 7th grade teachers who did the evaluations. Nicole Chiu was our winner who read her essay at the Memorial Day ceremony. My thanks to Master of Ceremonies Anthony Bailey who took over for Guy Greene. I would like to commend the Finance and Administration Committee for their hard work on the municipal budget. I think it is a sound and prudent budget that meets our needs now and plans for the future. My thanks to all of the Committee members. In tonight's Consent Resolution, we passed a sewer rate increase to take effect on November 1st. The amount is 12.5%. This is the first increase since 2005. A lot of the cost of sewage flow is related to charges incurred through the Northwest Bergen Utilities Authority. Their rates have increased by 16%. That is what we pay to deliver our sewage to their facility in Waldwick. In addition to other operating costs and the increasing labor costs, those are the reasons for the sewer rate increases. This year, they will take effect on November 1, 2009. The rates were recommended by the Board of Public Works to the Mayor and Council.

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

I. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Nicholas C. Saros No comments.

J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian No comments.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

VIII. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES

[Ordinance 10-2009](#) - Construction, Renovation and Demolition Debris

Resolution by Nalbandian, seconded by Dillon

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled; AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER XVIII OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, SO AS TO ESTABLISH SECTION 18-6 ENTITLED, CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION AND DEMOLITION DEBRIS 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, Jones, Jachzel, Nalbandian, Siemsen
ABSENT: Vozeh

NAYS: None

IX. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

[Ordinance 11-2009 An ordinance amending Chapter III of the Code of the Borough of Ramsey, Bergen County, New Jersey, and more particularly section 3-19 thereof entitled wildlife feeding](#)

Resolution by Dillon, seconded by Jones

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER III OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY NEW JERSEY AND MORE PARTICULARLY SECTION 3-19 THEREOF ENTITLED WILDLIFE FEEDING pass 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 10th day of June, 2009, at 8:45 p.m. prevailing time or as soon after as the matter can be reached at 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.

Mayor Botta stated that ordinance 11-2009 does not apply to enclosed elevated bird feeders. Councilwoman Dillon stated that this ordinance was recommended by Leo Egan, our Health Officer.

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

[Ordinance 12-2009 An ordinance to amend and supplement paragraph a.1, subsection 19-2.1 of Section 19-2, water charges of Chapter XIX, Sewer and Water of the Revised General Ordinance of the Borough of Ramsey, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey](#)

Resolution by Siemsen, seconded by Jones

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT PARAGRAPH a.1, SUBSECTION 19-2.1 OF SECTION 19-2, WATER CHARGES OF CHAPTER XIX, SEWER AND WATER OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, COUNTY OF BERGEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY pass 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 10th day of June, 2009, at 8:45 p.m. prevailing time or as soon after as the matter can be reached, at 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.

Councilman Nalbandian indicated that he will be voting “no” because it is a substantial rate increase and we have not received any long-term plans from the Water Board. We have not had any actual personal discussions nor an opportunity to ask any questions as we did in the past with the former President of the Water Board, Jack Roche. We were told that we were going to receive information between now and our next meeting when this would come up for final reading, so my vote may change. I would rather have the information before I vote, even to introduce this ordinance. Our first meeting in July is the 8th and I appreciate the fact that they want to maximize the revenue by having this ordinance in place for July 1.

Mayor Botta stated that this recommendation was unanimously made by the Board of Public Works to the Mayor and Council. It calls for a 12.5% increase in water rates for the Borough of Ramsey, effective July 1, 2009. This is the first request for an increase in water rates since 2005, and we have completed substantial capital projects including a \$1.4 million arsenic remediation program, a sewer interconnection through Saddle River and Upper Saddle River, and the interconnection at the Ambulance Corps building. In addition, and most importantly, United Water (where we purchase a substantial portion of our water especially during the high season and we have minimum purchase requirements), has increased their rates over the past two years and cumulatively it amounts to 32%, one 16% increase in 2008 and 16% in 2009. The cost to purchase our water has been more expensive. In order to work their budget, the Board of Public Works has requested our support on the water increase rate. Mr. Roche was an independent consultant as part of this and it was his recommendation that it go forward as well.

AYES: Dillon, Jachzel, Jones, Siemsen NAYS: Nalbandian ABSENT: Vozeh

Ordinance 13-2009 REFUSE CONTAINERS/DUMPSTERS

Resolution by Jones, seconded by Jachzel

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER III OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY SO AS TO ESTABLISH SECTION 3-22 ENTITLED REFUSE CONTAINERS/DUMPSTERS pass 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 10th day of June, 2009, at 8:45 p.m. prevailing time or as soon after as the matter can be reached, at 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.

Councilman Jones stated that this has been recommended in order to be in compliance with storm water management regulations and it has been reviewed by Harold Reed, Borough Engineer. The regulations are state mandated.

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

Ordinance 14-2009 FERTILIZER APPLICATION

Resolution by Jones, seconded by Jachzel

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER XX OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY SO AS TO ESTABLISH SECTION 20-6 ENTITLED FERTILIZER APPLICATION pass 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 10th day of June, 2009, at 8:45 p.m. prevailing time or as soon after as the matter can be reached, at 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.

Councilman Jones stated that this comes through Harold Reed and this involves the run-off from fertilizer application and storm water management. This again is required by the State.

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

Ordinance 15-2009 PRIVATE STORM DRAIN INLET RETROFITTING

Resolution by Jones, seconded by Jachzel

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER III OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY SO AS TO ESTABLISH SECTION 3-23 ENTITLED PRIVATE STORM DRAIN INLET RETROFITTING pass 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 10th day of June, 2009, at 8:45 p.m. prevailing time or as soon after as the matter can be reached, at 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.

Councilman Jones stated that this is to be in compliance with storm water management. It has been recommended by the Borough Engineer and reviewed by the Attorney.

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

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Resolution for Introduction of the Municipal Budget
Introduced by Siemsen, seconded by Jones

Be It Resolved that the following statements of revenues and appropriations shall constitute the Municipal Budget for the year 2009. Be It Further Resolved that said Budget be published in the Record in the issue of June 5, 2009. The Governing Body of the Borough of Ramsey does hereby approve the following as the Budget for the year 2009:

Appropriations and Revenues totaling \$21,716,776.34

Notice is hereby given that the Budget and Tax Resolution was approved by the Governing Body of the Borough of Ramsey, County of Bergen, on May 27, 2009, and a hearing on the budget and tax resolution will be held at the Municipal Building on June 24, 2009, at 8:30 p.m. at which time and place objections to said budget and tax resolution for the year 2009 may be presented by taxpayers or other interested persons.

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

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meredith Bendian
Borough Clerk