

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
February 24, 2010

Mayor Botta called the regular meeting of the Mayor and Council to order and announced that members of Girl Scout Troop 1157 were in attendance and would be assisting with the meeting. 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 retired Borough employee, Bill Fleming. Mr. Fleming was also a member of the Ramsey Fire Department.

I. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – None

III. COMMUNICATIONS

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

1. [Glen Karpovich, 23 Swan Street, Ramsey, NJ 07446](#)
letter dated February 11, 2010, acknowledging the wonderful job the Ramsey Police Department and the Ramsey Volunteer Ambulance Corps did in responding to his mother's injuries.
2. [Madeline Thumudo, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, 30 Wyckoff Avenue, Waldwick, NJ](#), letter dated January 6, 2010, enclosing minutes from December meetings.
3. [Madeline Thumudo, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, 30 Wyckoff Avenue, Waldwick, NJ](#), letter dated February 11, 2010, enclosing resolution adopting their 2010 meeting schedule.
4. [Madeline Thumudo, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, 30 Wyckoff Avenue, Waldwick, NJ](#), letter dated February 11, 2010, enclosing minutes from January 5, 2010 meeting.
5. [Joseph Rotolo, Esq., 50 Summit Avenue, Hackensack, NJ 07601](#)
letter dated February 17, 2010, thanking the Mayor and Council for his appointment as Municipal Court Judge of Ramsey.

6. [Mary Sinacore, Treasurer, Ramsey Senior Center, Inc.](#)
letter dated February 24, 2010, requesting permission to have a 50/50 raffle
at their St. Patrick's Day Luncheon.

IV. APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Botta made the following appointments:

Susan Major, Co-Coordinator Drug Alliance
Richard Falotico, Sergeant, Ramsey Police Department

V. CONSENT RESOLUTION

Introduced by Vozeh, seconded by Jachzel

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:

- | | | |
|----------|-------------|---|
| 055-2010 | Resolution: | Payment of Bills |
| 056-2010 | Resolution: | Authorizing the submission of the Recycling Tonnage Grant application to the NJDEP |
| 057-2010 | Resolution: | Authorizing the tax reimbursement certification for the Recycling Tonnage Program |
| 058-2010 | Resolution: | Awarding the contract for electrical services to JC Electric of Mahwah, NJ |
| 059-2010 | Resolution: | Authorizing the property tax refund to William and Genella Gunfelder in the amount of \$752.91 for Block 1301 Lot 9 |
| 060-2010 | Resolution: | Authorizing the sponsoring of the Ramsey Senior Citizens Transportation Committee, Inc. for insurance coverage through the Bergen County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund |
| 061-2010 | Resolution: | Confirming the promotion of Patrolman Richard Falotico to Sergeant of the Ramsey Police Department |

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

Councilman Jones joined the Mayor to administer the Oath of Office to Patrolman Richard Falotico and officially congratulate him. Mayor stated that Officer Falotico is an excellent police officer and wished him the best. Police Chief Bryan Gurney stated that Officer Falotico is very detail oriented, good with the public, and good with his peers. Chief Gurney thanked everyone involved in the promotion process. Officer Falotico's wife pinned the badge on her husband. Many family members were in attendance. Members of the Council congratulated the new Sergeant.

VI. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION -Councilman Bruce Vozeh

My condolences to the family of Bill Fleming. Congratulations and thanks to Susan Major for volunteering on the Drug Alliance. We have requested budget information from Departments and Emergency Services. We are putting the municipal budget together. The Pool Commission has finalized their fee schedule for 2010 and will be open to out of town members, if they are sponsored by a pool member.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman William Jones

My thanks to the Green Team for attending tonight's work session. I have worked with most of those members on the Environmental Commission and they have all stepped up and are willing to help us achieve our goals. I would also like to thank the Girl Scouts for coming in tonight. My condolences of the family of Bill Fleming. Bill worked hard, despite his health issues. He was a dedicated employee as well as a volunteer fireman for many years. I would also like to welcome Sue Major to the Drug Alliance. I would like to remind everyone that we are discussing the festivities for July 4th weekend. Open Mic night continues on the 4th Saturday of the month at Border's. My sincere congratulations to Sergeant Falotico. There 10 candidates and Sergeant Falotico was the most highly recommended. I would like to commend the DPW for continuing to keep our streets safe and clean. Not every town is as clean as Ramsey. My hat is off to Mr. Horton and his staff.

C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilwoman Deirdre Dillon

I too extend my condolences to the family of Bill Fleming, long-time Borough employee and extremely dedicated volunteer. Congratulations to the new appointees and to Sergeant Falotico. My thanks to the Girl Scouts for coming in tonight. They were a very enthusiastic group. The Planning Board will vote on the Dunkin' Donuts application at their next meeting, March 2.

D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilman Arthur Nalbandian

My condolences to Bill Fleming's family. Congratulations to Sergeant Falotico. Thank you to Susan Major for stepping up to Coordinator of the Drug Alliance. My thanks to the Green Team for their enlightening presentation. We enjoyed having the Girl Scouts here tonight. I want to remind everyone to use good judgment during the snowstorms. The DPW has been doing their utmost in making the streets safe.

- E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilwoman Vanessa Jachzel
I would like to express my condolences to everyone who knew William Fleming.
I would also like to express my condolences to Carol Watson, on the passing of her mother. The Green Team did an excellent job tonight on their presentation.
My thanks to Susan Major for her role as Drug Alliance Coordinator. Congratulations to Sergeant Falotico; I know he will do an outstanding job.
- F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Council President Andrew Siemsen
My condolences to Bill Fleming’s family and my thanks to the Girl Scouts for coming in tonight. Congratulations to Susan Major and thanks to the Green Team for their presentation tonight. Congratulations also to Sergeant Falotico.
- G. MAYOR CHRISTOPHER C. BOTTA - No comments.
- H. BOROUGH ATTORNEY – Peter A. Scandariato, Esq. No comments.
- I. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Nicholas C. Saros
I would also like to express my condolences to the family of Bill Fleming. He was truly an outstanding and dedicated employee.
- J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian No comments.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Doug Rennie, 30 Rose Avenue, stated that the DPW did a fantastic job during the recent snowstorms, keeping the roads open and clear. Ramsey is a lot better than the surrounding communities.

Alan Braggin, 25 Franklin Street, stated that the Borough’s website could be more efficient. When there is an emergency or a notice of a meeting cancellation, that should be at the top. That would be more clear and beneficial to the residents. Mr. Braggin stated that the owner of the property across from the Police Station, facing North Central Avenue, has made application to the Board of Adjustment for townhouses at that location, which was subsequently denied. I suggest that the Borough consider purchasing that property for future use as a possible annex to the Police Department, or an ambulance building, etc. Mayor stated that we will take it under advisement. Mr. Braggin stated he would like to go on public record commending those councilmembers who voted against the appointment of Judge Rotolo and added that he appreciates the independent and intellectual stand of those councilmembers who did not vote for Judge Rotolo. Mr. Braggin stated that although Mr. Rotolo is obviously qualified, he holds a sufficient number of offices that may be prove to be detrimental as far as scheduling and even more so, it sends a message of multiple positions by one individual. Since the Mayor has the right to break a tie, it seems to me that it is a conflict when it is a judge’s position. I would like the Borough Council to alter the authority of the Mayor to rubber-stamp his own appointment. Borough Attorney stated that it is statutory and the Council cannot change that. Mr. Braggin stated that it is a sending the wrong message in these tough economic times.

VIII. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES

[ORDINANCE 02-2010 – An Ordinance amending Chapter XIV of the code of the](#) Borough of Ramsey, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, so as to establish Section 14-6 thereof entitled identifications of structures consisting of trusses or pre-manufactured building components

Resolution by Jones, seconded by Dillon

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled; AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER XIV OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY NEW JERSEY, SO AS TO ESTABLISH SECTION 14-6 THEREOF ENTITLED IDENTIFICATION OF STRUCTURES CONSISTING OF TRUSSES OR PRE-MANUFACTURED BUILDING COMPONENTS 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 by 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.

Alan Braggin, 25 Franklin Street, stated that he did review the notes of the ordinance on line, but not the actual ordinance. Is this ordinance going to be retro-active to any of the existing structures? Councilman Jones stated that this is not a zoning compliance matter and there will be sticker on the electrical box of new buildings indicating what the structure is made of, so that the Fire Department knows what is involved. There is no grandfathering, but older homes will be done by the Fire Prevention Bureau when they do surveys of various neighborhoods. Borough Attorney added that this ordinance was drafted at the request of the Fire Department, in order to identify various types of trusses. It is a lifesaving issue for both residents and firefighters.

Not seeing anyone else who wished to speak, Mayor closed the public comment for ordinance no. 02-2010.

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

IX. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES - None

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

XI. NEW BUSINESS - None

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Nalbandian, seconded by Siemsen, to return to executive session to continue discussions of personnel. Carried.

Meredith Bendian
Borough Clerk