

Approved at the 4-28-10 Meeting

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
April 14, 2010

Mayor Botta called the regular meeting of the Mayor and Council to order. Council President led the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for a Moment of Silence in memory of Corporal Michael Jankiewicz, who was killed in Afghanistan. Mayor read the Open Public Meetings law notice.

I. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Dillon, seconded by Jones, to approve the minutes of 3/24/10 as submitted. Carried.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

Motion by Jachzel, seconded by Siemsen, to receive and file the following Communications. Carried. Councilman Jones pointed out letter #6 from Assemblyman Schroeder, complimenting Ramsey's emergency services as well as police, fire, and DPW during the recent snowstorms.

1. [Sergio and Maryke Baruffaldi, 60 Cleveland Street, Ramsey, NJ 07446](#)
letter dated March 10, 2010, asking for assistance resolving the assessment of their property.
2. [George Georgiades, Executive Chef, Varka Restaurant](#)
letter dated March 25, 2010, notifying the Borough that they will be cooking on the outside patio on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2010.
3. [200 Club, 560 Hudson Street, Hackensack, NJ 07601](#)
invitation received on March 26, 2010, to the 24th annual valor awards luncheon on Thursday, April 29, 2010
4. [Richard Lamont, Real Estate Development Manager, Quick Check, 3 Old Highway 28, P.O. Box 600, Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889](#)
requesting the release of bonds and escrow funds being held by the borough
5. [200 Club of Bergen County, Jack Terhune, President, 560 Hudson Street, Hackensack, NJ 07601](#)
letter dated March 29, 2010, informing that certain Ambulance Corps members will be the recipients of the Distinguished Service Award at the 200 Club luncheon on Thursday, April 29, 2010.

6. [Robert Schroeder, Assemblyman, District 39, Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677](#)
letter dated March 31, 2010 commending the extraordinary efforts of the Ramsey Police and Fire Departments and the DPW and all Emergency Services for the handling of the storm that hit the area on March 13, 2010.
7. [Maria Keniuk, St. Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church, 79 Cherry Lane, Ramsey](#)
letter dated April 5, 2010, requesting permission to hold a picnic on Sunday, May 23, 2010 between the hours of 12:00 pm and 6:00 pm.
8. [Blue Water Divers, 806 Rt. 17 North, Ramsey, NJ 07446](#)
letter received April 7, 2010, requesting permission to have a tent sale on Saturday, April 17th and Sunday, April 18, 2010 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.
9. [Kim Single, Walk Chair, Bergen County, Greater NY Chapter ALS Association](#)
letter received March 29, 2010, requesting permission to hang banners around town for their annual ALS walk from May 2 until June 6, 2010
10. [Assemblyman Robert Schroeder, Legislative District 39, 123, Broadway, Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677](#) memo dated April 6, 2010, offering information for Disaster Assistance from the recent storm.
11. [Bruce Anton, Development Office, Family Promise, Bergen County, Maitland Avenue, Teaneck, NJ](#) letter dated March 24, 2010, requesting permission to hold their annual walk and Bike Bergen ride through town on Sunday, April 25, 2010 from 8am until 1pm.
12. [Rocco Guglielmello, General Manager, Model Electronics, Route 17 South, Ramsey, NJ](#) Letter received April 13, 2010, requesting permission to host a car show at their Corporate Headquarters 615 E. Crescent Avenue on June 19, 2010 with a raindate of June 20, 2010
13. [Assemblywoman Charlotte Vandervalk, District 39, Kinderkamack Road, Westwood, NJ](#) letter dated April 8, 2010, thanking the Governing Body for notifying her of their stance on Senate Bill #458.

IV. APPOINTMENTS - None

V. CONSENT RESOLUTION

Introduced by Vozech, 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:

080-2010 Resolution: Payment of vouchers

- 081-2010 Resolution: [Authorizing the tax refund to Robert Singer,](#)
Block 4401 Lot 16.02 due to a tax court judgment in the
amount of \$2,805.66
- 082-2010 Resolution: [Designating April as Autism Awareness month in the](#)
Borough of Ramsey
- 083-2010 Resolution: Authorizing the Utilities Buildings and Grounds
Committee to spend up to \$15,000 on sod for the Veterans'
Park Project to be determined by the Borough Administrator
- 084-2010 Resolution: [Authorizing the tax refund to Gerard and Eileen Turano,](#)
Block 3605 Lot 2 in the amount of \$29,089.89
- 085-2010 Resolution: [Awarding contract to Coppola Services for Brookfield](#)
Lane Sewage Pumping Station in an amount not to exceed
\$276,677.00
- 086-2010 Resolution: [Authorizing the release of escrow in the amount of](#)
\$1,335.00 to Robert J. Cellini, Block 2501, Lot 3
- 087-2010 Resolution: [Awarding contract to Commercial Furniture Interiors,](#)
Inc. for library furniture in an amount not exceed
\$34,753.52
- 088-2010 Resolution: [Awarding contract to Arnold Kolax for furnishings to the](#)
Ramsey Library in an amount not to exceed \$143,302.86
- 089-2010 Resolution: [Awarding contract to Telecom Support Specialist for data](#)
cabling purchase, installation and service in an amount
not to exceed \$16,449.92
- 090-2010 Resolution: [Awarding contact to Commercial Furniture Interiors, Inc.](#)
for purchase and installation of furniture fixtures at the
Ramsey Library in an amount not to exceed \$ 202,811.26

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

[Family Promise of Bergen County is requesting permission to bike through town](#) for their Annual Bike Bergen Bike-A-Thon on Sunday, April 25, 2010.

[March of Dimes is requesting permission to walk through town for their March](#) of Dimes for Babies on Sunday, April 25, 2010.

Zurab Abashidze is requesting permission to apply for a limousine service license.

Knights of Columbus is requesting permission to collect funds at various locations around town on Friday, April 16th – Sunday, April 18, 2010.

The ALS Association is requesting permission to hang a banner at the high school advertising the ALS Annual Walk from May 2nd until June 6, 2010.

Blue Water Divers are requesting permission to hold a tent sale on Saturday, April 17 and Sunday, April 18, 2010 between the hours of 10:00 am and 5:00 pm.

Woman's Club of Ramsey is requesting permission to have their Annual Heirloom Tomato and Plant Sale on Saturday, May 15, 2010 between the hours of 10:00 am and 4:00 pm. They would also like to hang signs at the Borough Hall, Interstate Shopping Center, Franklin Turnpike and S. Central Ave. and Oak Street Advertising the sale.

St. Paul Ukrainian Church is requesting permission to hold a picnic at the church on Sunday, May 23, 2010 between the hours of 12:00 pm and 6:00 pm.

Ramapo College Car Wash on Saturday, April 24, at Cury's Sports Shop (subject to approval by Ramsey Police Department)

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

VI. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION -Councilman Bruce Vozech

My condolences to the family of Michael Jankiewicz for his great sacrifice. We are continuing to meet with regard to the budget and introduction will be at the next meeting or the first meeting in May. The baseball parade will take place on Saturday at 9:00 a.m.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman William Jones

My condolences also to the family of Michael Jankiewicz. Fighting for our freedom and giving his life for what we enjoy every day is truly the ultimate sacrifice and I am very sorry to have to see anyone lose their life. My sympathy goes out to his family. The Fire Department, Police Department, and emergency services will do all they can to make it a fitting honor and tribute tomorrow. The funeral will be over the weekend and I want to thank the Chiefs in advance. The annual clean-up day is Saturday at 10:00 a.m. The clean up assignments will be distributed at the Rescue Squad on Saturday morning.

- C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilwoman Deirdre A. Dillon
My deepest condolences to the family Corporal Michael Jankiewicz who so bravely served his country and gave his life to insure our freedom. May he rest in peace. My thanks to Police Chief Gurney for his assistance with the funeral arrangements. I will be signing a letter tonight for the Upper Saddle River Board of Adjustment regarding the application on Route 17 of the former Chevrolet dealership, expressing our concerns to protect the residents whose properties abut that property.
- D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilman Arthur Nalbandian
My condolences and deepest sympathies to the family of Corporal Jankiewicz. It certainly cannot be understated; he made the greatest sacrifice of all for the freedom of this country and the world. I am sure he will be remembered for that.
- E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilwoman Vanessa Jachzel
I too wish to express my sincere condolences to the family and friends of Corporal Michael Jankiewicz who paid the ultimate price in the service of our country. He died fighting for our freedom and was taken much too soon. My heart goes out to the family and to his friends. I did want to mention that on April 20, the school board and school budget will be up for vote. I would urge everyone to please vote. It is one of the most important votes that you can make as a citizen of a municipality and it certainly is your right to exercise that vote. I hope everyone will do so.
- F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Council President Andrew Siemsen
I too wish to express my condolences to the family of Corporal Jankiewicz. My thoughts and prayers are with them at this difficult time. April 20 is the Board of Education election and the school budget. I would encourage everyone to go out and vote for it. I am voting yes for it. Based on the cuts and everything that has happened my position is that it is an important vote this year and it is the year that we really need the support of everyone for a yes vote to keep up the quality of our schools. We want to keep Ramsey as a destination for families with children and a good place to live for senior citizens as well. We want to maintain property values.
- G. MAYOR CHRISTOPHER C. BOTTA
Tomorrow will be the procession through town with the remains of Corporal Jankiewicz. Our Chief of Police is making the arrangements with the family and we want to carry out the family's wishes. I encourage our residents to attend and to pay tribute to a hometown hero. My condolences go out to the family.
- 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

Allan Braggin, 25 Franklin Street, spoke about the refurbishment of the Borough Hall. Mr. Braggin indicated that any such project should be curtailed and put off until another time, due to diminished state funding. It seems inappropriate to spend money on refurbishing when we are losing money from the State which may cause further tax increases for the residents. Mayor stated that we have not gone beyond just looking at it and no funds have been expended. Mr. Braggin stated that he would like to recommend that a reference be put on the meeting's minutes when a suggestion is made that it is carried forward until such time as an answer comes back, not to put the onus on the citizen who asked the question or made the recommendation originally to follow-up. It would be more efficient and serve the public better. Mayor stated that a lot of times questions are handled on a personal basis and there are issues that are referred out, but it is a good suggestion. A lot of times such issues are discussed in the work session. Mr. Braggin suggested a footnote at the bottom of the minutes. Councilman Jones stated that we receive hundreds of suggestions and we don't take action on every one. We don't answer every single one. Mr. Braggin stated that he would just like to know what the result of the analysis was, one way or another. Mayor stated that we will try to implement something to make that happen.

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

VIII. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES

[ORDINANCE 07-2010 An ordinance amending Chapter X of the Code of the Borough of Ramsey, Bergen County, New Jersey and more specifically section 10-36 thereof entitled policies and procedures on sexual harassment](#)

Resolution by Vozeh, seconded by Siemsen

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER X OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AND MORE SPECIFICALLY SECTION 10-36 THEREOF ENTITLED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT 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.

Councilman Vozeh stated that this is a clarification of language in Chapter X to match up with language that is already in our policy manual. Not seeing anyone who wished to speak, Mayor closed the public hearing for ordinance 7-2010.

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

IX. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 08-2010 An ordinance amending Chapter X of the Code of the Borough of Ramsey, Bergen County, New Jersey and more specifically section 10-13 thereof entitled retiree insurance benefits sub section (a) and (b)

Resolution by Vozeh, seconded by Siemsen

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled; AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER X OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AND MORE SPECIFICALLY SECTION 10-13 THEREOF ENTITLED RETIREEE INSURANCE BENEFITS SUB SECTION (a) AND (b) 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 28th day of April, 2010, 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 Vozeh stated that this is a clarification of language in Chapter X for the insurance benefits for retirees. There was a question on one of the sections brought up by an employee and this clarifies who is qualified and entitled to receive certain insurance benefits upon retiring.

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

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Introduced by Siemsen, seconded by Jachzel

Resolution: 091-2010 Adopting the updated Borough Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual from April 2010

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

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meredith Bendian
Borough Clerk

