

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
May 12, 2010

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, Vozeh, Borough Administrator Nicholas Saros, Borough Attorney Peter Scandariato, and Borough Clerk Meredith Bendian.

Absent: None

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Jones, seconded by Jachzel, to approve the Council Meeting minutes of April 28, 2010, and the work session minutes of January 27, 2010. (Councilman Nalbandian abstained from the work session minutes of January 27, 2010). Carried.

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

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

1. [Madeline Thumudo, Secretary, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority](#), 30 Wyckoff Avenue, Waldwick, NJ, letter dated April 22, 2010 enclosing the minutes from March 2, 2010.
2. [Patrolman Timothy Shoemaker, Lead Dare Instructor, Ramsey PD](#) letter dated May 1, 2010, informing of the June 8th DARE graduation of 260 fifth grade students from Dater and St. Paul's Schools.
3. [Sherry Sobel, General Manager, TGIFriday's Restaurant, Route 17, Ramsey](#) letter dated May 7, 2010, requesting permission to hold an outdoor event on Saturday, June 26, 2010 and a raindate of Sunday, June 27, 2010 from 1pm until 11pm.
4. [Beth Stitz, Cub Scout Pack 306](#) e-mail received requesting permission to hold a cubmobile race on May 23, 2010, and are requesting to close off Nottingham Road from 12:30pm until 3:30pm

IV. APPOINTMENTS – None

V. CONSENT RESOLUTION

Introduced by Vozech, seconded by Siemsen

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:

- 105-2010 Resolution: Payment of Vouchers
- 106-2010 Resolution: [Authorizing tax refund to Aime Gartenberg in the amount of \\$2,252.92 for Block 4001 Lot 22 C0323](#)
- 107-2010 Resolution: [Authorizing a tax refund to Kolleen O. Ryan in the amount of \\$205,071.96 for Block 5201 Lot 3](#)
- 108-2010 Resolution: [Authorizing the award of contract to Schifano Construction Corp. as the lead agency in the amount of \\$1,469,434.45 to pave various streets in Midland Park, Ho-Ho-Kus, Ramsey, Waldwick, Oakland, Glen Rock, Saddle River and Wyckoff](#)
- 109-2010 Resolution: [Authorizing the award of contract to Veolia Environmental Services for landfill disposal of solid wastes in the amount of \\$65.50 per ton](#)
- 110-2010 Resolution: [A resolution to affirm the Borough of Ramsey's Civil Rights Policy](#)

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

[M. Rothman and Co., Inc. is requesting permission to hold a warehouse sale on Friday, June 18, 2010 and Saturday, June 19, 2010](#)

[VFW Post 682 is requesting permission to collect funds from May 15 2010-May 31, 2010. They will be at Shop Rite, Pathmark and the train station between 7:00 am and 7:00 pm.](#)

[TGI Friday's is requesting permission to have a "Kickoff to Summer" outdoor party in their parking lot on Saturday, June 26, 2010 \(raindate June 27th\) between the hours of 1:00 pm until 11:00 pm. Upon approval from the NJ Division of ABC](#)

Cub Scout Pack 306 is requesting permission to hold a cubmobile race on May 23, 2010, and to close off Nottingham Road from 12:30pm until 3:30pm

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

VI. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

- A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION -Councilman Bruce Vozeh
No comments.
- B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman William Jones
The Shield Awards ceremony will take place on Friday night at the Knights of Columbus. Open Mic night continues on the 4th Saturday of every month.
- C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilwoman Deirdre Dillon
No comments.
- D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilman Arthur Nalbandian
Veterans’ Park is coming along very well. We are planning to have a ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday, May 26. The parade will take place on May 31. Shred-It Day was very successful; there will be another opportunity for shredding on June 12, from 9 to 1:00 p.m. at the same location. I attended the PBA Retirement Dinner last night for Chris Riedel and John McIntyre. It was very well attended.
- E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilwoman Vanessa Jachzel
The new senior bus is in operation and is available for charter trips for seniors over the age of 50, at the rate of \$20.00 per hour plus mileage, tolls, etc. We will try to get the bus running for Memorial Day and the ribbon cutting at Veterans’ Park.
- F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Council President Andrew Siemsen
No comments.
- G. MAYOR CHRISTOPHER C. BOTTA
We anticipate the opening of the Library by late summer. The project is moving along. We met with representatives from NJDOT concerning engineering and railroad safety at the crossing grade at Gertzen Plaza near Finch Park and we have received their recommendations. We hope that the DOT will be doing a lot of these improvements, and the Borough will be redoing a significant amount of re-signage and the Police Dept. will be doing more enforcement.
- 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

Alan Braggin, 25 Franklin Street, asked about the resolution regarding the tax sale certificate and why is the amount so much? Borough Clerk stated that the money is from a mortgage company. Mr. Braggin asked about the contract for the landfill disposal. Borough Administrator stated that there are different amounts for different years. Mr. Braggin spoke about Mayor Botta being the Municipal Prosecutor in Paramus and Park Ridge and the dilemma of town officials who wear multiple hats. Mayor stated that the Council is fully aware of his day job. Borough Attorney added that being Mayor is entirely different than being a Prosecutor. Mr. Braggin spoke about a meeting of the Shade Tree Commission held on 4/15/10 involving the placement of a rock wall on the Todd Zecher property. Mr. Braggin stated that the wall is on town property and it doesn't make any sense; it is giving away the use of property without paying taxes. Mayor stated that it was a discretionary decision with legal backing and a hold harmless agreement. Mr. Braggin then spoke about Veterans' Park and the bidding process. Mr. Braggin stated that there are at least two graduates with horticultural degrees on the Shade Tree Commission and they should be consulted, in order to avoid extra expenditures in making recommendations.

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

VIII. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES

[ORDINANCE 09-2010 An ordinance amending Chapter IV of the Code of the Borough of Ramsey, Bergen County, New Jersey, more particularly Section 4-13.13 thereof entitled Insurance Requirements](#)

Introduced by Jones, seconded by Dillon

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER IV OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, MORE PARTICULARLY SECTION 4-13.13 THEREOF ENTITLED INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS having been brought up for public hearing and all persons interested having been given the 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, instructed 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.

Not seeing anyone who wished to speak, Mayor closed the public hearing for ordinance no. 09-2010.

Councilman Jones stated that this ordinance was done at the recommendation of our insurance consultant and risk manager.

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

IX. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES - None

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Resolution by Vozech, seconded by Siemsen

BE IT RESOLVED that the following statements of revenue and appropriations shall constitute the adopted Municipal Budget for the year 2010:

Current Fund General Appropriations	\$17, 713,500.17
Appropriations Excluded from CAPS	2, 292,179.09
Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	1,767,826.17
Total General Appropriations	21,773,522.26
Less Anticipated Revenues	5,975,442.34
Amount to be raised by Taxes	15,798,079.92
Water/Sewer Utility Fund	6,352,941.24
Swimming Pool Utility Fund	247,000.00

The Governing Body of the Borough of Ramsey does hereby adopt the foregoing as the budget for the year 2010.

Councilman Vozech stated in terms of the total size of the budget before the Reserve for Uncollected Taxes, the total is \$20,005,696.00 which is \$3,657 below last year's budget. There are statutory spending items which we have no discretion over and those are at \$269,000. To get to a flat budget, the change is \$3,657. The total after the Reserve for Uncollected Taxes is up \$56,000.00 from last year or .26%. We lost about \$452,000 in state aid and revenue items are down. The overall budget will have a tax increase of 3.5%, due to the loss of aid.

Councilwoman Deirdre expressed her appreciation to the Finance Committee for their hard work in presenting this budget. Councilman Jones stated that a lot of work went into the budget and it is the most important thing we do as a governing body and I thank the Finance Committee for their effort.

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

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meredith Bendian
Borough Clerk