

Approved at the 7-14-10 M & C Meeting

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
June 9, 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

MUNICIPAL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Botta stated that we would not be adopting the budget tonight, pending approval from the Division of Local Government Services, but we will have the public hearing. Mayor introduced Paul Garbarini, Borough Auditor.

Allan Braggin, 25 Franklin Street, spoke about carry-over vacation and sick days, stating that in the private sector, you may be able to carry-over two weeks until the next year but if you don't use it, you lose it. Councilman Vozeh stated Borough employees can carry over vacation until the first quarter of the next year. We have also cut down on the sick leave allowance in all the contract negotiations and are putting caps on the retirement amount of paid sick leave. Mr. Braggin stated that that is a tremendous benefit that you have negotiated and you deserve credit for doing that. It should be made public. We have a major problem in the State. I have an article from the Villadom Times listing the ranges of salaries for various municipal employees in Mahwah. Ramsey does not delineate the salaries and I believe that the residents should know what their primary officers are making, as a matter of public record. I will be requesting those salaries and I will give that information at the next meeting so that it can be published and the residents will know what their municipal people are making. Mayor stated that we do pass a salary ordinance every year that is published and adopted at a Council Meeting, after a public hearing. Certainly, it is public record and it is an ordinance. Councilman Vozeh stated that our health insurance contributions are way passed what the State has. Mr. Braggin stated that there should be some type of communication to get people to come to the meetings and become active participants, because I believe that the fiscal issues that we have are directly related to the apathy of the public in not involving themselves and participating in meetings and knowing what is taking place. I think that this Council should make more of an effort to invite and get more public citizens to the meetings and have an active participation of the public, like town meetings in New England. It would be much more healthy and relieve a lot of issues that may be brewing under the surface.

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – None

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

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

1. [Nancy Boone, Ramsey's Farmers' Market Manager, Ramsey](#)
letter dated May 26, 2010 requesting permission to post a banner at the intersection of Lake Street and Franklin Turnpike on weekends between June 13th and October 31st.
2. [Shirley and George Leonard, Bradenton, Florida](#)
note received June 4, 2010, thanking the governing body for the donation to the Fireman of the Year Award in memory of former volunteer fireman Robert Litchult, Jr.
3. [Guy Green, Resident and Veteran of Ramsey](#)
e-mail received June 6, 2010, thanking the Mayor and Council for the hard work put into the new Veterans' Park.
4. [Vivian Pope and Carmella Gritt](#)
Letter received June, 2010, recognizing the Rebuilding Together Organization and thanking the Mayor for contributing a helping hand to all of the home improvements to help their mother stay in her home.

IV. APPOINTMENTS – NONE

V. CONSENT RESOLUTION

Introduced by Vozeh, 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:

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|----------|-------------|--|
| 116-2010 | Resolution: | Payment of vouchers |
| 117-2010 | Resolution: | <u>Adopting the 2010 Employment Manual</u> |
| 118-2010 | Resolution: | <u>Awarding contract to Garden State Fireworks for a fireworks exhibition on July 4th with a rain date of July 5th in an amount not to exceed \$7,500.00</u> |
| 119-2010 | Resolution: | Authorizing Patricia Gallagher, Payroll Supervisor, to institute a change in employee health contributions from post tax to pre tax deductions |

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

[Ramsey Historical Association is requesting permission to post a banner at the](#) intersection of Lake Street and Franklin Turnpike each weekend from June 13th through October 31st for the Farmer's Market

B. BLOCK PARTY REQUESTS:

[Sharon Bonanno of Norman Drive is requesting permission to have a block party](#) on Saturday, July 3, 2010 between the hours of 2:00 pm and 11:00 pm

[Eileen Thomas of Elizabeth Avenue is requesting permission to have a block party](#) on Saturday, July 24, 2010 between the hours of 2:00 pm and 11:00 pm

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

VI. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION -Councilman Bruce Vozech

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the Memorial Day Parade, especially the V.F.W. for coordinating the day's events.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman William Jones

I would echo Councilman Vozech's remarks and everyone involved did a great job. The DARE Graduation was held last night and next week will be the Smith School graduation, as well as the High School. I wish all the graduates well. The Red, White, and Blues Festival is just around the corner on July 4th.

C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilwoman Deirdre Dillon

I too echo my colleagues' remarks regarding the Memorial Day Parade. Congratulations to Madeline DeRooy Fleming for her award winning essay about Memorial Day; she did a wonderful job. The budget is a very prudent budget and it proves that Ramsey is way ahead of the State and County on controlling our costs and thinking about the future.

D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilman Arthur Nalbandian

I too would like to thank everyone involved in the Memorial Day Parade and ceremony. I thank the Finance Committee for preparing a prudent budget. I wish all the graduates congratulations and good luck in their future endeavors. I also would like to wish everyone a Happy Father's Day.

E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilwoman Vanessa Jachzel

I too would echo everyone's remarks regarding Memorial Day. It was a great turnout and it really does justice to our veterans. The Farmers' Market will have its grand opening this Sunday and the Woman's Club is doing a strawberry festival from noon to 2:00 p.m. The strawberries and shortcake will be donated by Inserra Supermarket.

F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Council President Andrew Siemsen
I would echo everyone’s remarks regarding Memorial Day.

G. MAYOR CHRISTOPHER C. BOTTA

My congratulations to the DARE students who graduated last night and my thanks to the Police Dept. who make the DARE program a very important part of our community. My thanks to the Historical Association for taking the lead on the Farmers’ Market, which will be starting this weekend. It a very good thing for the community and will bring people downtown.

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, expressed his displeasure regarding the May 12 minutes and stated that his point about the Mayor being late was missing from those minutes. Borough Attorney explained the distinctions between public service and public employment. Mayor stated that the minutes were presented and approved by the Council and the public does not approve the minutes. The Council reviewed the minutes and subsequently approved those minutes as the official record. Borough Attorney stated that the Council voted to approve the minutes. Councilman Jones added that the minutes are always summarized.

Not seeing anyone else who wished to speak, Mayor closed the Public Comment.

VIII. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES

[ORDINANCE 10-2010 – An ordinance to amending the code of the Borough of Ramsey, Bergen County, New Jersey and more specifically Sections 1-5.1, 1-5.2 and 1-5.3 of Chapter I entitled general provisions as well as sections 19-4.14, 19-4.15, 19-4.16, 19-4.17, 19-4.20, 19-4.25 AND 19-4.26 of Chapter XIX entitled Water and Sewer](#)

Introduced by Nalbandian, seconded by Dillon

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled; AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN, COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AND MORE SPECIFICALLY SECTIONS 1-5.1, 1-5.2 AND 1-5.3 OF CHAPTER I ENTITLED GENERAL PROVISIONS AS WELL AS SECTIONS 19-4.14, 19-4.15, 19-4.16, 19-4.17, 19-4.20, 19-4-25 AND 19-4.26 OF CHAPTER XIX ENTITLED WATER AND SEWER 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 notice of the date of introduction and adoption of said ordinance.

Allan Braggin, 25 Franklin Street, asked if this ordinance pertains specifically to Ramsey or are other municipalities adopting similar ordinances? Councilman Nalbandian stated that this ordinance applies here and we had our Board of Public Works Counsel draft this ordinance, similar to other municipalities, some of which may have been in the Northwest Bergen area. Borough Administrator added that this ordinance is structured under the Hackensack ordinance and it was done mainly because of the concern of the business areas on Franklin Turnpike which had outdated grease traps. Not seeing anyone else who wished to speak, Mayor closed the public hearing for ord. 10-2010.

ROLL CALL

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

NAYS: None

IX. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

[ORDINANCE 11-2010 – An ordinance to authorize the acquisition, refurbishment,](#) repair, replacement and supply of equipment, materials and facilities for the capital needs of various borough departments and to appropriate the sum of \$451,000.00 to pay the cost thereof, in the Borough of Ramsey, County of Bergen and State of New Jersey

Introduced by Vozeh, seconded by Jachzel

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled: AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION, REFURBISHMENT, REPAIR, REPLACEMENT AND SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS AND FACILITIES FOR THE CAPITAL NEEDS OF VARIOUS BOROUGH DEPARTMENTS AND TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$451,000.00 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, IN 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 23rd day of June, 2010, at 8:45 p.m. prevailing time or as soon after as the matter can be reached in the Municipal Building of 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.

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

NAYS: None

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

XI. NEW BUSINESS - None

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meredith Bendian
Borough Clerk