

**BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
Wednesday, February 10, 2021**

Due to COVID19 this meeting is being conducted telephonically
Dial-In Number (425)436-6365 Access Code 213563#

View Meeting on Ramsey Youtube Channel
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeBnVXBwSn_ILMuAGkSin9w

Council President Kilman called the meeting to order at 7:31pm, led the flag salute and read the Open Public Meetings Act notice.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Dillon (via phone), Councilpersons Cusick (via phone), Gutwetter (via phone), Jones (via phone), Kilman, Weber (via phone) and Woods (via phone)

Also Present: Borough Clerk Bendian, Borough Administrator Vozeh and Borough Attorney Scandariato

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - None

III. **COMMUNICATIONS** -

Motion by Councilwoman Cusick seconded by Councilman Weber. All in favor. Carried.

1. Alison Gordon, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, 30 Wyckoff Ave, Waldwick, NJ, email dated January 29, 2021, attaching a meeting notice for February 16, 2021

IV. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Anyone wishing to address the governing body please press * 6 to be heard and give your name (spelling the last name) and address. Please speak in an audible tone and address your comments to the Chair. There will be a five-minute time limit per speaker, unless reduced because of the volume of business on the agenda. Please note, public comment is your time. Out of respect and fairness to all, there will be no interruptions or questions answered during your time. No time shall be ceded to anyone else and no time shall be saved for later use. Any responses may be given during the governing body's comments later in the meeting, or as directed by the Chair. The Borough Clerk is the official time keeper.

Council President Kilman opened public comment. After several more times with no one wishing to be heard, Council President Kilman closed public comment.

V. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 01-2021 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AND MORE SPECIFICALLY SECTION 2-32 THEREOF ENTITLED POLICE DEPARTMENT

Motion by Councilman Weber, seconded by Councilman Jones

BE IT RESOLVED THAT AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 2 of the Code of the Borough of Ramsey, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey and more Specifically Section 2-32 thereof entitled Police Department final reading by title and that said ordinance be adopted by as an ordinance of the Borough of Ramsey and;

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.

Councilman Weber explained that this ordinance is for the refiling and adoption of all the Police Department policies and procedures to be done on an annual basis. The new requirement is that it be done by ordinance.

Council President Kilman opened the public hearing on Ordinance 01-2021. With no one wishing to be heard, Council President Kilman closed the public hearing.

ROLL CALL:

YAY: Cusick, Gutwetter, Jones, Kilman, Weber, Woods

V. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES (cont'd)

ORDINANCE 02-2021 – ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 19 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AND MORE PARTICULARLY SECTION 19-5 THEREOF ENTITLED STORMWATER CONTROL

Motion by Councilman Kilman, seconded by Councilman Weber

BE IT RESOLVED THAT AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 19 of the Code of the Borough of Ramsey, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey and more Particularly Section 19-5 thereof entitled Stormwater Control final reading by title and that said ordinance be adopted by as an ordinance of the Borough of Ramsey and;

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.

Councilman Kilman explained that this ordinance is being updated according to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection so that all municipalities are in line.

Council President Kilman opened the public hearing on Ordinance 02-2021. Councilman Weber reported that the Environmental Commission reviewed and discussed the ordinance stating the update is adequate. With no one wishing to be heard, Council President closed the public hearing on Ordinance 02-2021.

ROLL CALL:

YAY: Cusick, Gutwetter, Jones, Kilman, Weber, Woods

V. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES (cont'd)

ORDINANCE 03-2021 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 13 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AND MORE SPECIFICALLY SECTION 13-1.2 THEREOF ENTITLED FEE SCHEDULES

Motion by Councilwoman Woods, seconded by Councilwoman Cusick

BE IT RESOLVED THAT AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 13 of the Code of the Borough of Ramsey, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey and more Specifically Section 13-1.2 thereof entitled Fee Schedules, final reading by title and that said ordinance be adopted by as an ordinance of the Borough of Ramsey and;

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.

Councilwoman Woods explained that this ordinance amends the Borough fee codes in compliance with the State changes for installing residential generators, there is no net increase in the fees.

Councilman Kilman opened Ordinance 03-2021 up for public hearing. With no one wishing to be heard, Council President Kilman closed the public hearing on Ordinance 03-2021.

ROLL CALL:

YAY: Cusick, Gutwetter, Jones, Kilman, Weber, Woods

V. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES (cont'd)

ORDINANCE 04-2021 - AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING PARTIAL FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF A REPLACEMENT DUMP TRUCK WITH PLOW AND SALTER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AND TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$75,000 THEREFORE, CONSTITUTING PROCEEDS OF OBLIGATIONS OF THE BOROUGH HERETOFORE ISSUED

Motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Gutwetter

BE IT RESOLVED THAT AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED: An Ordinance Providing for the Purchase of a Replacement Dump Truck with Plow and Salter for the Department of Public Works within the Borough of Ramsey, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey and to appropriate the Sum of \$75,000 therefore, Constituting Proceeds of Obligations of the Borough Heretofore Issues, final reading by title and that said ordinance be adopted by as an ordinance of the Borough of Ramsey and;

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.

Councilman Jones mentioned that this ordinance repurposes an already approved expenditure that was previously allocated in our capital budget. This is not a new budget expenditure.

Council President opened Ordinance 04-2021 for public hearing. With no one wishing to be heard, Council President Kilman closed the public hearing for Ordinance 04-2021.

ROLL CALL:

YAY: Cusick, Gutwetter, Jones, Kilman, Weber, Woods

V. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES (cont'd)

ORDINANCE 05-2021 - AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PARTIAL FUNDING OF PURCHASE OF A REPLACEMENT DUMP TRUCK WITH PLOW AND SALTER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS IN THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AND TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$125,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF

Motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Gutwetter

BE IT RESOLVED THAT AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED: An Ordinance to Authorize Capital Improvements for the Purpose of Partial Funding of Purchase of a Replacement Dump Truck with Plow and Salter for the Department of Public Works in the Borough of Ramsey, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey and to Appropriate the Sum of \$125,000 to Pay the Cost thereof, final reading by title and that said ordinance be adopted by as an ordinance of the Borough of Ramsey and;

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.

With no comment from the council, Council President Kilman opened Ordinance 05-2021 for public hearing. With no one wishing to be heard, Council President Kilman closed the public hearing.

ROLL CALL:

YAY: Cusick, Gutwetter, Jones, Kilman, Weber, Woods

VI. APPOINTMENTS – None

VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION

Motion by Councilman Gutwetter, seconded by Councilwoman Woods

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:

- | | | |
|----------|-------------|--|
| 049-2021 | Resolution: | payment of vouchers |
| 050-2021 | Resolution: | ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number three |
| 051-2021 | Resolution: | authorizing the extension of term of outdoor café licenses |
| 052-2021 | Resolution: | appropriation reserve transfer number two |
| 053-2021 | Resolution: | endorsing the application for West Bergen Mental Healthcare, 1 Cherry Lane, Ramsey for Community Development Block Grant funds for a new HVAC System for the Center for Children and Youth in the amount of \$30,000 |

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

Ramsey Public Education Foundation (RPEF) has requested permission to hang two signs advertising their now virtual race on May 8, 2021. They would like to hang them at the RHS tennis courts and the pool/tennis courts starting April 2, 2021

B. BLOCK PARTY REQUESTS:

ROLL CALL:

YAY: Cusick, Gutwetter, Jones, Kilman, Weber, Woods

VIII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

IX. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

- A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Councilman Michael Gutwetter
The municipal budget will be introduced at the February 24th meeting and a public hearing and adoption will be on March 24th.

Library Board – The Library is offering many programs to serve the entire community, including Mystery Guest Storytime, Grab and Go Crafts, Schitts Creek Trivia, Macrame and Artful Easel classes.

Recreation Commission – Plan for Spring sports and some adult programs. More details to follow as they become available.

- B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Harry Weber
Environmental Commission – Saturday, April 24 will be Clean-Up Day.
The commission is looking to expand on the Styrofoam and thin plastic bag collection. They will be talking with other departments for assistance.

RIFE – The meeting for February was cancelled and are looking to resumes meetings in March and are looking forward to having a Challenger softball season.

- C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilwoman Jane Woods
Board of Health – Discussing COVID-19 vaccine availability and are updating their information on their website. The New Jersey COVID Hotline has suspended booking appointments to give their staff more training.

Ramsey Seniors – Has been coordinating with the seniors, the Board of Health, the Library and the Mayor to develop the best way to get information to the seniors on how to register for a vaccine appointment. The Woodlands residents received their first dose of the vaccine.

- D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilman Peter Kilman
Commended the DPW for their snow removal in the recent snowstorm.

- E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilman William Jones
Thanked the Finance Committee for their work on this year's budget, knowing the work that goes into it.

Ramsey Farmers' Market is looking forward to their upcoming season with expanded hours. They have more ideas for community involvement.

Recognized the DPW for the excellent job on getting the roads safe, clean and passable during the recent blizzard. Thanked the Fire Department for shoveling out the fire hydrants from all of the snow covering them through town.

Reminded everyone to continue to shop local in light of the pandemic. You can visit the chamber of commerce website to find out what is available.

F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilwoman Judith Cusick Planning Board Meeting - A recommendation from Planning Board Attorney, Bruce Whitaker to introduce an ordinance to change our Construction Code on tonight's agenda. Mayor Dillon reported that outdoor dining will resume on March 1st. There was one hearing for Main Plaza Associates. Main Plaza Associates applied for a parking variance with no changes to the property brought forth by a proposal to have a new tenant occupy the spin exercise fitness center on Main Street. The property has 131 parking spaces which will remain. The current parking demand is 152. The parking variance was approved.

Following the approval of the variance, there was one Waiver Application brought forth by Kalea Wine Bar which was approved.

Board of Education - Encouraged residents to keep current with the Board of Education because 69% of Ramsey Residents' property taxes go to the Board of Education.

Councilwoman Woods covered the meeting due to a scheduling conflict. The Board Secretary thanked the custodial staff for snow removal. The financial audit was completed and were some exceptions which are being corrected.

Superintendent's report:

- Ramsey district has one of the largest in-person learning communities in the area.
- The Parent Academy will eventually return but not right away - as too much going on now.
- Encouraged people to check out YouTube videos on mental health.
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion committee met Wednesday, January 27th. There were many applicants for the committee and not all could be accommodated, but there will be an opportunity for sub-committee participation. The 19 member's names as well as the minutes from the meeting, can be viewed under "Quick Links" on the Board of Education Webpage.

Director of curriculum, instruction and assessment report:

There will be a new business exploratory at Smith School which will include Introduction to Money, Saving and Investing, and Personal Finance for grades 6, 7 and 8, respectively.

Ramsey Responds:

Ramsey Responds received a new commercial refrigerator and freezer from the Bergen County Food Security Task Force which now allows them to offer fresh vegetables, fruit, butter and cheese. The 2021 Ramsey Responds Board of Directors and Committee members are posted on the Ramsey Responds Facebook page. Donations are always welcome. Food pantry collection every Tuesday from 4-5:30pm at St. Paul's. The Ramsey Responds Team delivers and distributes on Fridays.

G. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON

Reported on starting outdoor dining on March 1st after speaking with restaurant owners. The resolution passed earlier tonight also waives the permit fees for 2021. Trying to make the process much more streamlined and accessible.

There will be a drive thru COVID-19 testing event on February 24th at the Ramsey Train Station Parking Lot. The Borough of Oakland has made their COVID testing available to Ramsey residents. They test Monday, Wednesday and Saturday at the Oakland Senior Center.

There will be a call with the NJ Department of Health on Thursday February 11th to discuss the COVID-19 vaccination roll out. On the Mayor's call with the Governor's Office, it was mentioned that there is a lot of frustration getting appointments for the vaccine. The County is also working on hotline for seniors who are having trouble registering on the website.

Commended the DPW on the snow removal. They did a great job in a very challenging snow storm as well as snow removal from Main Street.

"Adopt a Storm Drain" Eagle Scout Project is ongoing. Please sign up if interested.

Reported that the Borough received a Sustainable Bronze Certification and thanked everyone who worked on the project.

H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh

Thanked the DPW for all of their effort on the snow removal with a special thanks to Assistant Superintendent Tom Lanning for his leadership.

Municipal Budget Presentation – *See attached

I. BOROUGH ATTORNEY – Peter A. Scandariato, Esq.

Reported that the borough received a letter from the County of Bergen for the annual aerial spraying for mosquitos. With no objection from the governing body, he would prepare a letter to the County.

J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian - No report

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 06-2021 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 20 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AND MORE SPECIFICALLY SECTION 20-1.4 THEREOF ENTITLED DEPOSIT REQUIREMENTS

Motion by Councilman Kilman, seconded by Councilman Gutwetter

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled An Ordinance Amending Chapter 20 of the Code of the Borough of Ramsey, Bergen County, New Jersey and More Specifically Section 20-1.4 Thereof Entitled Deposit Requirements, passed 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 24th day of February, 2020 at 7:30pm prevailing time or as soon after as the matter can be reached in 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 Kilman explained that this ordinance updates the price per tree required to be deposited by owners performing new construction for installation of shade trees to \$550 per tree which is reflective of current prices.

ROLL CALL:

YAY: Cusick, Gutwetter, Jones, Kilman, Weber, Woods

XI. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES (cont'd)

ORDINANCE 07-2021 -AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 34 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AND MORE SPECIFICALLY SUBSECTION 34-4.5 THEREOF ACCESSORY BUILDING

Motion by Councilwoman Cusick, seconded by Councilwoman Woods

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled An Ordinance Amending Chapter 30 of the Code of the Borough of Ramsey, Bergen County, New Jersey and More Specifically SubSection 34-4.5 Thereof Accessory Structure, passed 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 24th day of February, 2020 at 7:30pm prevailing time or as soon after as the matter can be reached in 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.

Councilwoman Cusick explained that this change will bring us into compliance with the recent change made by the State Building Code. The code was changed increasing the square footage for accessory structures to 200 square feet that construction officials are to issue permits for. This ordinance amendment was recommended by the Planning Board and Planning Board Attorney.

ROLL CALL:

YAY: Cusick, Gutwetter, Jones, Kilman, Weber, Woods

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

XII. NEW BUSINESS – None

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Weber, seconded by Councilman Jones. All in favor. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:39pm.

Meredith Bendian, RMC
Borough Clerk