

**BOROUGH OF RAMSEY  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
Wednesday, February 13, 2019**

Council President Jones called the meeting to order at 7:30pm and asked Officer Warnet to lead the flag salute. Council President Jones read the Open Public Meetings Act notice.

**I. ROLL CALL -**

Present: Mayor Dillon, Councilmembers Gutwetter, Jachzel, Jones, Kilman, Verdone and Weber

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

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – None**

**III. COMMUNICATIONS - None**

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Anyone wishing to address the governing body please step up to the microphone and give your name (spelling the last name) and address as a courtesy to all present. 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 present, 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 and will hold up a sign when you have 30 seconds remaining.

Larry Hitlin, 1 W. Main Street, Ramsey  
Discussed health and safety issues at his property behind Brady's.

Chance Parker, 11 Park Place, Ramsey  
Discussed water quality and protecting the water supply in the borough, the Pleasant Brook in Upper Saddle River, the firing range in Mahwah, the master plan, the discharge of firearms ordinance and the Gertzen Plaza railroad crossing.

George Bumiller, Ramsey  
Discussed the security at the pool project construction site and the difference between the work session meeting and regular meeting.

Mr. Braggin, Ramsey

Discussed the approved minutes from the January 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, videotaping of Mahwah meetings, the pollution of 83 Grant Street, safety issues on the railroad tracks at Morano's, proposed the Bergen County SWAT team use Cherry Ridge Long Distance Range in Highland Lakes, NJ, a lightning arrestor system and the explanation of the introduced fee ordinance at the Planning Board meeting.

Not seeing anyone else wishing to be heard, Council President Jones closed public comment.

V. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES - None

VI. APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Dillon made the following appointments

Joseph Carey, Planning Board Class IV member

Joseph Carey, Environmental Commission, Planning Board Liaison

VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION

Motion by Councilwoman Jachzel, seconded by Councilman Jones

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:

- 043-2019 Resolution: payment of vouchers
- 044-2019 Resolution: ratifying the actions of payroll number three
- 045-2019 Resolution: awarding contract to USA Security Services for a handicapped door operator system at borough hall on the first and second floors for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor stairwell entry

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

B. BLOCK PARTY REQUESTS:

ROLL CALL:

YAY: Gutwetter, Jachel, Jones, Kilman, Verdone, Weber

VIII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS - None

## IX. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

### A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Councilwoman Vanessa Jachzel

Library Board – Are working on getting the new website up and running shortly. A delegation of Chinese Archivists gifted the library with a beautiful silk painting of their province. The first trivia night was a great event. There will be a celebration of the Chinese New Year on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Finance – The finance committee met to go over the 2019 budget. The plan is to introduce at the February 27<sup>th</sup> meeting and have the adoption at the second meeting in March. The tax increase will be 1.86% with one of the lowest municipal tax rates in Bergen County. There will be more bonding in 2019 with the five year outlook bringing us back to about \$10 million with the third lowest debt in Northwest Bergen County.

### B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Harry Weber

Police Department – Two probationary police officers Justin Garcia and Mike Hamersma have successfully completed the probationary period and are being recommended to make their appointments permanent.

Ramsey Rescue – Submitted by-law changes for 2019 and will be placed on the next meeting agenda for approval.

Ramsey Fire Department – Announced the passing of former Chief Rich Strangfeld.

RIFE Calendar of Events –

February - Valentines' Dance

March - Karaoke Night – Basketball Clinic

April Karaoke Night and another Art Night

June – Gala

Municipal Alliance – Tonight there is a seminar “How to Talk to your Kids about Drugs and Alcohol” They are also putting together a program for Drunk Driving for Teens and the Elk Leadership Conference being held in South Jersey.

The borough is hosting the monthly Sustainable Jersey Bergen Hub meeting at borough hall on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

### C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilman Joseph Verdone

Planning Board – The special meeting to hear Baseline Associates was cancelled due to inclement weather and was rescheduled to February 5<sup>th</sup>. They are proposing a major subdivision at 425 Island Road consisting of sixteen single family homes. The meeting will be continued on or about March 5<sup>th</sup>.

VFW Post 12148 had discussed merging Allendale with Ramsey but no post wants to lose their designation. Both posts agreed to participate in mutually appropriate VFW events.

D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilman Peter Kilman

Board of Public Works- Well activation and new water treatment system project will be discussed by Administrator Vozeh.

There will be a presentation on the Ramsey Sewer System on February 28<sup>th</sup> led by Mike Skorupa at the Ramsey Library.

Dog Parks - Discussed preliminary research after speaking with some veterinarians and trainers. Mainly focusing on urban environments versus a suburban environment, a suitable location and other factors to consider. Will report back after further research.

E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilman William Jones

Ramsey Journal – requests for submissions has been sent out and are looking at a target date of mid-April

Independence Day – Finalizing the date.

Farmers' Market continues in Smith School through March.

Councilman Jones addressed Mr. Bumiller's inquiry on the new meeting structure which now creates a more productive arena, allowing the public to speak before any action is taken. Best practices suggest two to three minutes for public comment. Ramsey has established five minutes.

Councilman Jones addressed Mr. Parker's claims about Pleasant Brook in Upper Saddle River. That property was cleared long ago by the NJ DEP. The recent reports were found to be erroneous. Mr. Vozeh added that there is a NJ DEP approved LSRP assigned to that and he would be the one in charge of enforcement and monitoring.

F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilman Michael Gutwetter

Board of Education – Earlier this month they approved their school calendar for the next couple of years.

Board of Health – They are working on an ordinance considering rules and regulations regarding vaping and other related products.

Healthy Bones discussion had great attendance at their recent class.

On February 22<sup>nd</sup> there will be two CPR/AED classes offered at Borough Hall with an overwhelming response with no cost to the borough.

February 28<sup>th</sup> Board of Public Works Supt. Mike Skorupa will be speaking on Ramsey Sewers at the Ramsey Library.

G. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON

Earlier this month she and Chief Gurney met with Captain Love of the Prosecutors Office and Director Blohm of the Bergen County Law and Public Safety Institute to discuss and tour the gun range. The Mayor also met with Mayor Roth from Mahwah to discuss bringing their concerns and potential solutions to the County Freeholders. A meeting with Freeholder Amoroso and a representative from County Executive Tedesco's office was rescheduled due to weather. They would like to recommend bringing in a professional to do a sound study and have a sound engineer review the situation and make remediation recommendations and also adding some sound barriers. Will update more after next meeting.

At the Northwest Bergen County Mayor's Association Meeting the Mayor of Saddle River discussed the successful deer cull in his town.

Mayor Dillon offered to Mr. Hitlin to meet with him, Chief Gurney, Borough Administrator Vozeh and a Board of Health representative regarding his issue.

H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh

The borough received a Community Development Block Grant for a handicapped door operator system for the stairwell doors. The resolution is on tonight's agenda for approval. The grant offsets the cost by about 82%.

The borough is installing a lightning detection system borough wide. There will be a resolution at the next meeting to award the contract to Commercial Recreation Specialists in an amount of \$47,794.90. The Board of Education will also be installing the same system at their facilities.

The NJ Minimum wage law will increase to \$10 per hour July 1<sup>st</sup> and then a \$1 increase every January to \$15. It will impact the pool and recreation budgets. The Pool and Recreation will need to review their fee schedules accordingly.

2019 Budgets:

Municipal – A presentation with an overview of the 2019 budget was made including major changes from 2018 and comparisons to Ramsey's municipal portion of taxes to other Bergen County towns. Presentation will be posted on Borough website.

Board of Public Works – Board passed by resolution their draft budget at their January 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

Pool – Met with Manager Bach and Commission Chair Haskell who presented a draft to Commission at January meeting, we will revise based on the new Min Wage Law and present to Pool Commission for approval at their February meeting.

2019 Independence Day Celebration – The borough is looking to host the fireworks on July 6<sup>th</sup> with the rain date of July 7<sup>th</sup>. A resolution will be on the next meeting agenda awarding the contract to Garden State Fireworks in the amount of \$8,000.

Main Street Streetscape Project Update – The initial bids for the Main Street Streetscape were rejected. We are readvertising and rebidding the project.

2019 Road Resurfacing Program – As the lead agency of the Northwest Bergen Paving Coop we have begun putting together the joint bid. We are looking to receive bids mid-April. The preliminary borough investment is about \$700,000.

Municipal Aid Island Road Project – Final plans are being worked on for the Island Ave. Island Road resurfacing and sidewalk work. The borough received a total of \$383,627 in grants. Due to the potential future development of the area we are modifying the scope of work and hold that section from Addison to Route 17 for the future. It is anticipated that the grants will cover close to 100% of the work but will include the amount in a bond ordinance because it is a reimbursable grant.

Board of Public Works - Well Reactivation Treatment Project – Board is moving forward with a significant capital investment project over the next two years. The project reactivates two supply wells increased Ramsey’s owned water supply by 36% or approximately 600,000 gallons a day. Also included in the project is an implementation of a new Arsenic Treatment system at six wells providing an estimated \$475,000 annual operating cost savings. Project cost preliminary estimates are \$6.5 million and a Bond Ordinance will be introduced this spring.

Community/Senior Center Pool House Project Update – Mr. Vozech, and Councilmen Kilman and Verdone have met with Architect Eric Kiellar and Grant Lewis from Dresdner Robin to finalize the sitework layout around the new senior center. Including moving the bocce courts closer to E. Oak. Mr. Lewis will prepare final submissions of a complete package for the DEP permit.

NJDOT Sanitary Sewer Easement – Board of Public Works is requesting an easement from the NJ DOT for their Arrow Road property. NJ DOT is granting the easement with payment of \$1. A resolution and ordinance will be needed.

- I. BOROUGH ATTORNEY – Peter A. Scandariato, Esq.
  - 1. Executive Session - Litigation
- J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian - No report
  
- X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES - None
- XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None
  
- XII. NEW BUSINESS - None

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to go into executive session by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Weber to discuss litigation. Borough Attorney Scandariato read the executive session resolution.

ROLL CALL:

YAY: Gutwetter, Jachzel, Jones, Kilman, Weber, Verdone

Meredith Bendian, RMC  
Borough Clerk