

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 27, 2022

This meeting is being conducted telephonically. The dial-in number is (425)436-6365 Access Code 213563#. You may also view the meeting on the Ramsey YouTube Channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeBnVXBwSn_ILMuAGkSin9w

Mayor Dillon called the meeting to order at 7:37pm, asked Councilman Kilman to lead the flag salute. Mayor Dillon read the Open Public Meetings Act notice.

I. ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Dillon, Councilpersons Cusick, Gutwetter, Kilman, Poppe, Weber and Woods

Also Present: Borough Clerk Bendian, Borough Administrator Vozeh and Borough Attorney Scandariato (via telephone)

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – None

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

Motion by Councilman Weber, seconded by Councilman Kilman. Carried

1. Frank Covelli, Senior Vice President and Managing Director, PIA letter dated April 18, 2022, informing Ramsey of their Bronze Safety Award
2. Alison Gordon, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority 30 Wyckoff Ave, Waldwick e-mail received April 20, 2022, attaching the NBCUA's approved March 15, 2022 Regular and Special Meeting minutes.
3. Alison Gordon, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, 30 Wyckoff Ave, Waldwick, NJ 07463 e-mail received April 22, 2022, attaching a notice relative to a public hearing to be held on May 17, 2022 regarding the Authority's 2022 Sewer Connection Fee.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Anyone wishing to address the governing body please give your name (spelling the last name) and address as a courtesy. 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.

James Sander, 211 Cypress Court, Ramsey – Discussed police enforcing the no lefthand turn on Main Street by the railroad tracks. Mayor Dillon said she would speak to the Police Chief Lyman.

Isabella Alicea, Ramsey, NJ – Commented about the data breach at the police department and inquired if there was a payout and how it will affect the insurance rates as well as who's information was breached. Mayor Dillon replied that there was no payout and anyone who's information was potentially breached were contacted and the matter was considered closed. Ms. Alicea also discussed the email that was sent out to the Ramsey school parents. Mayor Dillon replied that the borough did not send out the email and encouraged her to contact the police department.

With no one else wishing to be heard on the phone or in chambers, Mayor Dillon closed public comment.

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

VI. APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Dillon made the following appointments

Stacey Taylor, Design Review Board, Alt. #1

Stephen Hill, Ramsey Municipal Alliance

VII. CONSENT RESOLUTION

Motion by Councilman Gutwetter, seconded by Councilwoman Cusick

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:

- 105-2022 Resolution: payment of vouchers
- 106-2022 Resolution: ratifying the actions of the governing body for payroll number eight
- 107-2022 Resolution: awarding contract to D & L Paving for the NW Bergen Coop for road resurfacing in Glen Rock, Ho-Ho-Kus, Ramsey, Saddle River and Waldwick
- 108-2022 Resolution: awarding a contract to Cliffhanger Productions, Inc., 161 Park Avenue, Rutherford, NJ to provide and supply entertainment and provides services for the Independence Day event on July 1, 2022 with a rain date of July 2, 2022 in an amount not to exceed \$6,200.00.
- 109-2022 Resolution: confirming the appointment of Stacey Taylor to the Design Review Board as Alt. # 1

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

B. BLOCK PARTY REQUESTS:

Jeanine Moutenot is requesting permission to hold a block party on Elbert St. from Park to Myrtle Ave. on Wednesday, June 22, 2022 from 4:00pm- 7:00pm

Brian Drewes, 37 Elbert Court is requesting permission to hold a block party on Saturday, June 18 from 1:30pm-10:00pm

Roll Call:

YAYS: Cusick, Gutwetter, Kilman, Poppe, Weber, Woods

VIII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS - None

IX. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

- A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Councilman Michael Gutwetter
Library Board – discussed events that are being offered i.e., NJ Maker’s Day, Museum Pass program, take home story time kits and a kid’s writing contest for fourth and fifth graders. The library is also working on a strategic plan throughout the community with the goal to learn more about community interest.

Recreation Commission – Reported on the Spring Egg Hunt, the 50th Home Run Derby, Summer camp registration, lacrosse clinic, softball leagues, the opening day baseball parade rescheduling and the Ramsey Run.

Pool Commission – Starting May 1st fees will increase and pool staff will be available to assist anyone who needs help signing up.

- B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Peter Kilman
Congratulated the new appointees.

The VFW will be accepting donations for the month of May selling poppies.

Public Safety reminder: Please lock your cars and remove your key fobs.

- C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilwoman Jane Woods
Congratulated and thanked the new appointees.

Zoning Board of Adjustment – Reported that the last meeting was a long meeting for the application for the carwash on Route 17 which has still not concluded.

Design Review Board – Approved a sign for AFM Physical Therapy on Main Street.

Ramsey Seniors are busy and active. Acoustic panels will be installed shortly to help with the sound.

- D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilwoman Judy Cusick
Thanked Stacey Taylor for joining the Design Review Board and Stephen Hill for joining the Ramsey Municipal Alliance.

Ramsey Planning Board – At the April 19th meeting three site plan waivers were approved as well as a soil movement permit.

Ramsey Shade Tree Commission - The Commission is doing a tree planting at the Ramsey Pool on Arbor Day. Information on the Shade Tree Commission can be found on the borough website.

Ramsey Board of Public Works – Reminded everyone of the springtime fire hydrant flushing continuing through the week.

- E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilwoman Sara Poppe
Thanked Stacey Taylor for joining the Design Review Board.

Municipal Alliance

Acknowledged the appointment of Steven Hill to the Municipal Alliance as he brings a very valuable perspective to the organization.

DEA National Drug Take Back event is on April 30th. The Ramsey Police Department has a drop box available 24/7.

Alliance is offering a \$350 scholarship to a high school senior who demonstrates leadership in substance abuse prevention and mental wellness. Among other upcoming programs, i.e., PTOs a therapy dog program, a table at the Stigma Free Walk and Talk-a-thon, a presentation by Mark Tomack. LEADS got Talent will be on May 14th at Dater School at 7:00pm. A grant application will be submitted today for DMHAS focusing on identifying peer leaders.

Farmers' Market continues outside at the Ramsey Train Station. Starting in May the hours will be 9am-2pm.

Please remember to shop local and visit the Chamber of Commerce website.

- F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilman Harry Weber
Congratulated the new appointees.

Board of Education – The 2022-2023 budget came in at \$75,751,207 with \$60,875,165 will be derived from taxes. This budget is a 1.45% increase over the prior year. Various construction projects continue. Superintendent Murphy thanked all of the emergency services units that responded to the SWAT event that occurred a couple of weeks ago. There was an update on the curriculum.

RIFE – Softball season has begun. Thanked John Dugan and the RBSA. Art Night is May 6th and June 3rd is Karaoke Night. Other upcoming events are being planned.

Environmental Commission – The ban on plastic bags goes into effect the beginning of May.

- G. MAYOR DEIRDRE DILLON

Announced that the Arbor Day Foundation has recognized Ramsey as A Tree City USA.

Reminded everyone to please lock your cars and do not leave your keys, fobs or any valuables inside.

Thanked Stacy Taylor and Steven Hill for volunteering.

H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh

Resolution 107 – Awarding Contract to D & L Paving – Ramsey is the lead agent in the Northwest Bergen Shared Service Group and annually coordinates a shared service bid for road resurfacing. With five towns included it allows for a more attractive bid package. There were 10 bids received. D&L Paving Contractors was the low bid and has successfully performed the resurfacing in the past. The Borough Engineer/QPA and Borough Attorney have recommended to award the contract to D&L Paving Contractors in the total amount of \$1,777,111.09 collectively for all towns in the bid.

Resolution 108 – Approves the contract to Cliffhanger Productions for the Independence Day Celebration for professional services for entertainment at the Borough’s Independence Day celebration on July 1st. This resolution awards a contract to include two bands in an amount of \$6,200.

Discussion of Future Ordinances to be Introduced at Upcoming Meetings –
The following is a short discussion of ordinances that will be introduced at upcoming meetings of the Mayor & Council

Parking Ordinance – Council Committee has reviewed the issue of overnight parking along with a review of the commuter parking rates. The recommendation will be to introduce an ordinance that will modify the current annual commuter parking permit fees which has not been changed in twenty years and also implement a new temporary (3 to 4 month) permit for overnight only parking in the commuter lots around the Main Street Train Station (Erie Plaza, Mechanic Street and North Central) with a limited number of spots.

Below is summary of commuter fees from other area towns. Ramsey’s commuter parking rates as you will see are significantly below other communities. We are not proposing dramatic increases to match those of other towns but as noted this has been unchanged since 2001/2002.

Current Ramsey Fees - \$15 for household and can be up to 3 permits for same \$15

Town	Annual Resident Fee
Allendale	\$ 75
HoHoKus	\$ 400
Mahwah	N/A
Ramsey – NJ Transit	\$ 480
Ridgewood	\$ 1,325 Premium, \$ 1,000 Non Premium
Waldwick	\$ 250
Wyckoff	\$ 130

H. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Bruce Vozeh (cont'd)

Bond Ordinance for Board of Public Works Service Line Replacement Program
As noted at previous Mayor & Council meetings as well as Board of Public Works meetings, Ramsey is moving forward starting in 2022 with its water service line replacement program in conjunction with State mandate. While the State allows for a 10-year timeframe Ramsey will be making improvements this year to previously identified service lines requiring replacement and beginning with those on Main Street and Wyckoff Avenue as these roadways are scheduled for resurfacing by the County of Bergen later this year. The ordinance would fund the first phase of repairs under this multi-year program.

Bond Ordinance for Park Improvements at Finch Park & North Central Field – Borough is currently working on improvements for both Finch Park and North Central Fields. Finch Park improvements as previously discussed at Mayor & Council meetings will be the renovation of the current street hockey rink area into four new pickleball courts. The North Central Field project involves relocating the field further from the roadway to accommodate a driveway and new parking area off the roadway adjacent to the field. The ordinance will be funding of these projects. Both projects the Borough applied for and received grant funding which will serve as partial reimbursement mitigating the taxpayer cost of the improvements after project completion.

Ordinance Amending and Updating Towing Rates – Borough sets towing and storage rates by Ordinance. These rates have not been updated in a number of years. The Ramsey Police Department in review of other towns and the New Jersey State Police rates has recommended changes to the rates bringing them more in line with surrounding communities and those of the New Jersey State Police.

Ordinance Vacating Borough Property – Borough has a small piece of property that is not usable as buildable lot or for other public purpose. We propose to vacate the property to the only adjacent property owner at 37 Swan Street.

Ordinance & Resolution Amending Board of Public Works Water & Sewer Rates – Board of Public Works (“BPW”) as part of the annual budget discussed an increase of approximately 2% for water and sewer rates for its operating expense increase and annual capital investment program. The rate has not been increased over the last two years, while operating costs have increased. Additionally, the BPW implementation of new legislation from the State on water service line replacements as discussed in a Bond Ordinance earlier will impact future water rates as well with an additional water service increase. The water rates will be done by ordinance and the sewer rates by resolution.

Ordinance for Updating of Certain Construction Code Fees – Upon review of State guidelines and other communities, the Construction Official is recommending updating fee structure and amounts for certain types of building improvements. These require an ordinance to update and will be detailed upon the future introduction of the ordinance.

I. BOROUGH ATTORNEY – Peter A. Scandariato, Esq. – No report

J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian - No report

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

XII. NEW BUSINESS

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilwoman Woods, seconded by Councilwoman Cusick. Meeting adjourned at 8:18pm.

Meredith Bendian, RMC
Borough Clerk