

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
February 27, 2008

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 Jachzel, seconded by Jones, to approve the minutes of January 1, 2008, as amended. Carried.

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

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

1. [Larry Stenwall, 28 White Terrace, Ramsey, NJ 07446](#)
letter dated February 12, 2008, following up on his comments made at a January council meeting about reducing the Borough's carbon foot print.
2. [Assemblywoman Charlotte Vandervalk, 220 Kinderkamack Road, Westwood, NJ, 07675](#) letter received February 15, 2008, requesting that the governing body oppose the Governor's Toll Hike Proposal.
3. [Yoo-Nah Park, Ramsey High School Student](#)
letter dated February 15, 2008, regarding the school calendar.
4. [Bergen County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund](#)
letter dated January 31, 2008, advising of the 2008 meeting dates.
5. [Paul J. McGinley, 154 Forest Avenue, Ramsey, NJ 07446](#)
letter dated February 20, 2008, requesting an exemption for his 2008 municipal taxes.
6. [Sgt. Francis J. Alcaro, Ramsey Police Department](#)
letter dated February 22, 2008, retiring from the Ramsey Police Department, effective October 1, 2008.

7. [Lt. Robert Rapp, Ramsey Police Department](#)
letter dated February 20, 2008, retiring from the Ramsey Police Department,
effective October 1, 2008.

Councilman Jones stated that with regard to the letter from Assemblywoman Vandervalk, the only way to get anything truly under control is to cut spending and not just keep coming up with creative ways to burden the taxpayers and the residents of the State.

Councilman Jones stated that the letters of retirement from Sgt. Francis Alcaro and Lt. Robert Rapp are accepted with regret. Both men have been in service to the community for a number of years and their contributions will be long remembered and sorely missed.

Councilwoman Dillon added that she echoes Councilman Jones' comments regarding the letter from Assemblywoman Vandervalk, as well as accepting the police retirements of Sgt. Alcaro and Lt. Rapp with regret.

Mayor thanked Lt. Rapp and Sgt. Alcaro for their services to the Police Department. They will be missed. Also, I would like to refer letter #3 to the school board liaison and thank Mr. Park for his letter.

IV. APPOINTMENTS – None

V. CONSENT RESOLUTION

Introduced by Siemsen, seconded by Vozeh

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:

- 056-2008 Resolution: [Payment of Vouchers](#)
- 057-2008 Resolution: [Tax refund for Block 3901, Lot 11, 170 Williams Drive to ACE-170 Williams Drive, LLC & Zipp and Tannenbaum, LLC in the amount of \\$29, 500,00.](#)
- 058-2008 Resolution: [Tax exemption for tax year 2008 to Paul McGinley in the amount of \\$5,072.63.](#)
- 059-2008 Resolution: [Accepting the resignation of Detective Sergeant Francis J. Alcaro from the Ramsey Police Dept. effective October 1, 2008.](#)
- 060-2008 Resolution: [Accepting the resignation of Lt. Robert Rapp from the Ramsey Police Dept. effective October 1, 2008.](#)

- 061-2008 Resolution: [Accepting the Bergen County Community Development grant of \\$10,000.00 to install insulation at the Ramsey Senior Center.](#)
- 062-2008 Resolution: Authorizing the execution of the Road Department Contract
- 063-2008 Resolution: Authorizing the acceptance of a resolution of disciplinary action.

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

[Ramsey High School Band and Guard Parents is requesting permission to hold a hoagie sale from Wednesday, March 19, 2008 – Saturday, April 5, 2008 from 9:00am until 9:00pm.](#)

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

VI. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION -Councilman Andrew Siemsen

My thanks to Sgt. Alcaro and Lt. Rapp for their years of service to the Police Department. Also, the Road Department has been working without a contract since December 2002 and I give a lot of credit to Councilman Vozeh for his work on getting a new contract for them. Last night, I attended a presentation by COAH at Bergen Community College and it was very informative.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman William Jones

The DPW did an outstanding job last week during the snowstorm. Also, in the previous two weekends I attended the Fire Department installation and the Ambulance Corps installation of officers and I would like to thank everyone involved in our volunteer services for the wonderful job they do. The Ambulance Corps has not dropped a call in 4 years. That is something to be very proud of and one member, Steve Ahlstedt, made 476 calls last year. It was an excellent evening.

C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilman Arthur M. Nalbandian

I would like to echo everyone's sentiments regarding Sgt. Alcaro and Lieut. Rapp. It has been a pleasure to work with them and I wish them well. I would also like to congratulate and thank the Road Dept. for executing their agreement. Much of the credit goes to Council President Vozeh who spent a quite a bit of time in bringing that to fruition. Mayor Botta also deserves a lot of credit for his involvement. I think it is an excellent arrangement.

D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilwoman Deirdre A. Dillon

We are going to do the final reading for ord. 2-2008 which is basically adding the

East Oak well pumping station to the arsenic remediation plan. We are hoping to get the report from CMX on the state of the Borough's physical facilities by next week. A resounding well done to Council President Vozeh, Mayor Botta, and the members of the negotiating team from the Road Dept. for getting that contract done.

- E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Council President Bruce Vozeh
I would echo everyone's sentiments regarding Sgt. Alcaro and Lieut. Rapp for their service to the community. I would also like to thank the DPW for an outstanding job of clearing the streets, after last week's storm. We do not always see eye to eye when negotiating with our employees but tonight we have approved a new contract for Local 945. This contract provides many benefits for the Borough, including employee contributions towards health benefits, reduced sick leave, capped longevity pay, caps on sick pay upon retirement and a number of other items. On the flip side, the Union wanted fair wages in order to maintain a full coverage health plan even if they contribute to the cost of it. This contract negotiation started in 2003 with former Mayor Muti. The key ingredient was the structure of an employee health insurance contribution plan that worked for both sides. The employees have a choice now in health plans, however, the more coverage they chose, the higher the premiums. This is the first time where we have everyone contributing, either single coverage or family. I want to thank the Road Department and their negotiators, Bill Ackerson and Rich Malestein for their time and effort.
- F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilwoman Vanessa Jachzel
I would like to echo Councilman Jones' comments about the Fire Department and the Ambulance Corps. They do a wonderful job and they put together some great events. I am sorry to see Sgt. Alcaro and Lieut. Rapp leaving. It is definitely a loss and I thank them for their service. I also would like to thank Joyce Steel for helping to resurrect the Ramsey Town Journal. That is an excellent way to keep our residents informed. It will reach a segment of the population who does not look at the website or internet. I would like to remind everyone that March 10 is coming up shortly and we are expecting a great turn-out and it will be a great kick-off for the Centennial Year.
- G. MAYOR CHRISTOPHER C. BOTTA
March 10, 1908, is the official date that Ramsey became an independent Borough and the Mayor and Council and the Centennial Committee is sponsoring the first major Centennial event on Monday, March 10, at Ramsey High School. The event is free and is open to the public, starting at 6:00 p.m. and ending at 9:00 p.m. We have asked the schools to minimize homework so that as many as possible can attend. The program includes a reception at 6:00 p.m. in the High School cafeteria, Refreshments will be served. Former Mayors and Councilmembers will be attending and the Jazz Band will play. We will then move into the auditorium where the Ramsey Wind Symphony will perform and Tom Dater, Borough Historian, will present a power point presentation of historical Ramsey. Former President Theodore Roosevelt will be our guest speaker and we recognize our community organizations and our emergency services. The evening will conclude with free raffles for a Wii, a camera and a GPS system. Nine towns have

coordinated their efforts to do cooperative pricing for road repaving and resurfacing in their communities. The towns include Allendale, Midland Park, Ho-Ho-Kus, Ramsey, Waldwick, Mahwah, Wyckoff, Glen Rock and Saddle River. We opened bids from six different contractors and they will be reviewed. That is an example of how small towns can get together and go out for a large bid in order to save money. I would like to thank the Road Department employees for their efforts on the new contract and also thank Councilmen Vozech and Nalbandian for their involvement in getting this contract completed. I think it is a watershed contract for our community and it has benefits for everyone. My thanks and congratulations to Sgt. Alcaro and Lieut. Rapp and accept their retirements with regret. I wish them good luck in their future endeavors.

H. BOROUGH ATTORNEY – Peter A. Scandariato, Esq. No comments.

I. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Nicholas C. Saros
I would like to congratulate Lieut. Rapp and Sgt. Alcaro on their retirement. They have been assets to our community and I wish them much happiness and success in the future.

J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian No comments.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Joyce Steel Grzybek, 51 Bedford Place, expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to volunteer as the new editor of the Ramsey Journal.

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

VIII. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES

[ORDINANCE NO. 02-2008 – Bond Ordinance to amend section one of Bond Ordinance 15-2007](#) to authorize the construction of arsenic treatment systems at various public water supply facilities.

Resolution by Dillon, seconded by Nalbandian

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled: BOND ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 1 OF THE BOND ORDINANCE (ORD. No. 15-2007) ENTITLED; “BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE CONSTRUCTION OF ARSENIC TREATMENT SYSTEMS AT VARIOUS PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY FACILITIES IN, BY AND FOR THE WATER-SEWER UTILITY OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$1,923,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS” ADOPTED MAY 9, 2007 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 a notice of the date of introduction and adoption of said ordinance.

Not seeing anyone who wished to speak about ord. 2-2008, Mayor closed the public hearing. Councilwoman Dillon stated that this ordinance adds the East Oak well pumping station to the arsenic remediation plan. Councilman Nalbandian added that it is the same amount of money as originally appropriated.

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

IX. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

[ORDINANCE NO. 03-2008 – An Ordinance to exceed the Municipal Budget](#) appropriation limits and to establish a CAP bank

Resolution by Siemsen, seconded by Vozeh

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled: ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14) 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 12th day of March, 2008, at 8:45 p.m. prevailing time or as soon after as the matter can be reached, at 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.

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

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

XI. NEW BUSINESS None

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meredith Bendian
Borough Clerk

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