

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
June 13, 2007

Mayor Botta called the regular meeting of the Mayor and Council to order. Council President Nalbandian led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor read the Open Public Meetings Law notice.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Botta, Councilmembers Dillon, Heller, Jones, Nalbandian, Siemsen, Vozeh, Borough Administrator Nicholas Saros, Borough Attorney Peter Scandariato, and Borough Clerk Meredith Bendian.

Absent: None

Motion by Heller, seconded by Jones, to go out of the normal order of business. Carried. Councilman Jones joined Mayor Botta to accept a check from Paul Scarduffa on behalf of Commerce Bank to sponsor the summer concert series.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Dillon, seconded by Nalbandian, to approve the minutes of May 9, 2007, as submitted. Carried.

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

1. Alex Stecyna, 39 Shuart Lane, Ramsey
letter dated May 30, 2007, requesting permission to hold a block party on Sunday, July 1, 2007 between the hours of 1pm and 10pm.
2. Maureen Lobmeyer, 19 Poplar Street, Ramsey
e-mail dated May 30, 2007, requesting permission to hold a block party on Saturday, August 4, 2007 between the hours of 10am and 11pm.
3. Patrolman Timothy Shoemaker, Ramsey DARE Officer, Ramsey Police Department
letter dated May 31, 2007 inviting the governing body to the DARE graduation ceremony on June 12, 2007 at 7pm in the Ramsey High School Auditorium.
4. Lynn Ascione, Hubbard School PTO Co-President
letter dated May 28, 2007, requesting permission to use the Ramsey Pool Parking Lot for parking on Sunday, September 23, 2007.

5. Rick Jahnke, 212 Momar Drive, Ramsey
letter dated June 8, 2007, requesting permission to use the Ramsey Pool Parking Lot for parking on Friday, August 31, 2007 from 5pm until midnight. (Mayor requested Borough Administrator to advise Mr. Jahnke to locate a different parking lot in the Borough).
6. Lucille Bell, Ramsey Municipal Alliance for the Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse
letter dated June 6, 2007, thanking the Mayor and Council for their support during their campaign against the danger of teenage drinking.
7. Alyson Bolton, 83 Elm Avenue, Ramsey
letter dated June 12, 2007, requesting permission to have a Girl Scout outing at Suraci's Pond on Sunday, June 24, 2007 from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

IV. APPOINTMENTS

Mayor made the following appointments:

Diane Tumulty, Fine Arts Council, (1 yr. term until 12/31/07)

V. CONSENT RESOLUTION

Resolution by Vozech, seconded by Nalbandian

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:

- a. Resolution: Payment of vouchers
- b. Resolution: Authorizing Extended Stay America's renewal application to operate a hotel in the Borough of Ramsey.
- c. Resolution: Appointing Diane Tumulty to the Fine Arts Council.
- d. Resolution: Supporting Upper Saddle River in their litigation against the Ramapo Sewer Authority.
- e. Resolution: Authorizing the Borough Administrator to execute the applications for NJDEP in connection with Airmont Commons townhomes.

- f. Resolution: Authorizing the retention of Gerald C, Escala of Herten, Burstein, Sheridan, Cevesco, Bottinelli, Litt and Harz, LLC as a Hearing Officer relative to a disciplinary matter.
- g. Resolution: Authorizing the execution of the Mahwah/Ramsey Sewer Service Agreement.
- AA. Resolution: Authorizing the retention of Edward W. Cillick of Cillick & Sprague appointed as a Special Prosecutor for the Borough of Ramsey.

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

Cury's Sport Shop is requesting permission to hold their annual tent sale on Thursday, June 14 - Saturday, June 16, 2007 between the hours of 9:00 am and 9:00 pm.

Ramsey Outdoor Store is requesting permission to hold their annual sidewalk sale on Saturday, September 8 – Saturday, September 15, 2007 between the hours of 9:00 am and 6:00 pm.

Girl Scout Troop 1283 is requesting permission to have a picnic and row boating at Suraci's Pond on Sunday, June 24, 2007 between the hours of 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

B. BLOCK PARTY REQUESTS:

Alec Stecyna of Shuart Lane is requesting permission to have a block party on Sunday, July 1, 2007 between the hours of 1:00 pm and 10:00 pm.

Maureen Lobmeyer of Poplar Street is requesting permission to have a block party on Saturday, August 4, 2007 between the hours of 10:00 am and 11:00 pm.

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

VI. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

- A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION -Councilman Bruce Vozeh
Congratulations to Diane Tumulty on her appointment to the Fine Arts Council. She has volunteered in many different areas in the past, especially Ramsey Hockey. Recreation Commission will have the Home Run Derby at Finch Park, registration is at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday. On July 13, the outdoor movie will be “Night at the Museum” at Finch Park. We are in receipt of capital budgets from emergency services and Building & Grounds. We will be going through them and presenting them to the full Council for approval.
- B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Council President Arthur M. Nalbandian
I too would like to congratulate Diane Tumulty on her appointment. I would like to thank Commerce Bank for their generous contribution to the Fine Arts Council. We really appreciate their support of the community. My thanks to Rennie Pincus and Helene Cohen, members of the Fine Arts Council, who are here tonight. Last night was the graduation of the DARE students, 5th graders, which was held at the high school auditorium. Mayor Botta, Councilwoman Dillon and Councilman Jones were also in attendance. I would like to recognize and thank Officer Tim Shoemaker who devotes a tremendous amount of time and energy and commitment to the children of our community. He really needs to be commended for his efforts, as well as Officer Paul Vassallo who assists with the DARE program, and Chief Gurney and Capt. Bailey. I think we have the best DARE program in the area, if not the State. It was demonstrated again last night. We also had the Ramsey DARE Idol awards last week, and the winner was Kelly O’Keefe. That was a fun event and it took a lot of time and effort. We would like to recognize Eileen Thomas for all the work that she does as a DARE volunteer.
- C. BUILDING & ZONING – Councilman Andrew Siemsen
I would also like to thank Diane Tumulty for her service to the Fine Arts Council and my thanks to Commerce Bank.
- D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilman Jeffrey C. Heller
I too thank Diane Tumulty and Commerce Bank. The façade renovation at Borough Hall will begin in August/September. A handicapped ramp will be installed on the south side of the front lawn to the front door. New doors and an electric entrance will also be installed.

E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilman William Jones
I would like to thank Commerce Bank for their \$10,000 donation to the Fine Arts Council. The open mic night is June 23 at 7:00 for sign-ups at Border's. I would like to thank Diane Tumulty. She has been working with the Fine Arts Council for their entire year, although not as an appointed member. The 4th of July fireworks and concert will be coming up on 4th of July. Last Friday, I attended Hero Day at Tisdale. I would like to thank everyone who was involved with the DARE graduation. It was a wonderful event.

F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilwoman Deirdre A. Dillon
I would like to echo the remarks and Council President Nalbandian and Councilman Jones with regard to Diane Tumulty, Commerce Bank, and Ramsey DARE culmination event last night. My congratulations to the Board of Health, especially member Joan Waring for the Walk at Work event last week. There is a photo in the Villadom Times. This Friday night is Friday Night Fitness, sponsored by the County. It is directed at kids, ages 15 to 18. The grand re-opening of the senior center was a great success on Sunday. The new kitchen looks great and a special thanks to Nick Saros who got the parking signs installed. Brian Ridings will be doing his Eagle Scout project, cleaning up around Suraci Pond, on Saturday and Sunday mornings, and he would greatly appreciate any help with this project.

G. MAYOR CHRISTOPHER C. BOTTA
My thanks to Commerce Bank for their generous donation to the Fine Arts Council for the summer concert series. The new members, as well as the members who have stayed on, have done a great job in putting new programs together and I commend them for their hard work.

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

Doug Rennie expressed his thanks on behalf of the senior citizens for the expansion and renovations at the senior citizens center. It is greatly appreciated. My thanks also to the office staff who are always very helpful, especially, Irene, Sherry and Meredith. I am very proud to have been associated with them.

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

VIII. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES

Ord. 17-2007 - An ordinance amending Chapter XIX entitled Sewer and Water, Subsection 19-2.4 Meter Inspection and Service Calls

Resolution by Heller, seconded by Vozech

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER XIX OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY ENTITLED SEWER AND WATER AND MORE SPECIFICALLY SECTION 19-2 WATER CHARGES SUBSECTION 19-2.4 METER INSPECTION AND SERVICE CALLS 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, Mayor closed the public hearing for ord. 17-2007.

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

ABSENT: None

IX. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Ord. 18-2007 - An ordinance amending and supplementing the Code of the Borough of Ramsey, more specifically Chapter XXXIV Zoning Section 34-29 B-3 Highway Commercial District Subsection 34-29.2 Outdoor Storage.

Resolution by Siemsen, seconded by Jones

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AND MORE PARTICULARLY CHAPTER XXXIV ZONING, SECTION 34-29 B-3 HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL DISTRICT SUBSECTION 34-29.2 OUTDOOR STORAGE 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 27th day of June, 2007, 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.

Councilman Siemsen stated that this improvement was recommended by the Borough Engineer and the Master Plan Committee of the Planning Board regarding the buffer zone and outdoor storage.

AYES: Dillon, Heller, Jones, Nalbandian, Siemsen, Vozeh NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

Ord. 19-2007 – An ordinance amending and supplementing Chapter XXXIV Zoning of the code of the Borough and more particularly section 34-29 entitled B-3 Highway commercial district subsection 34-29.4 required conditions and section 34-33 entitled I.P. Industrial Park district subsection 34-33.3 required conditions.

Resolution by Siemsen, seconded by Jones

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER XXXIV ZONING OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, AND MORE PARTICULARLY SECTION 34-29 ENTITLED B-3 HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL DISTRICT SUBSECTION 34-29.4 REQUIRED CONDITIONS AND SECTION 34-33 ENTITLED I.P. INDUSTRIAL PARK DISTRICT SUBSECTION 34-33.3 REQUIRED CONDITIONS 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 27th day of June, 2007, 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.

Councilman Siemsen stated that this was also recommended by the Planning Board. This pertains to the height of facades in commercial buildings.

AYES: Dillon, Heller, Jones, Nalbandian, Siemsen, Vozeh NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

Ord. 20-2007 – An Ordinance amending the code of the Borough of Ramsey entitled Land Use Procedures Section 31-1 Planning Board Subsection 31-1.9 applications: Procedures for filing; fees for variances within jurisdiction of planning board; Borough Engineer's Review of all applications g. Plat specifications.

Resolution - Introduced by Siemsen, seconded by Jones

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AND MORE PARTICULARLY CHAPTER XXXI THEREOF ENTITLED LAND USE PROCEDURES SECTION 31-1 PLANNING

BOARD SUBSECTION 31-1.9 APPLICATIONS; PROCEDURE FOR FILING; FEES FOR VARIANCES WITHIN JURISDICTION OF PLANNING BOARD; BOROUGH ENGINEER'S REVIEW OF ALL APPLICATIONS g. PLAT SPECIFICATIONS 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 27th day of June, 2007, 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.

Councilman Siemsen stated that this ordinance was also recommended by the Borough Engineer concerning the checklist and requirements for a tree inventory.
AYES: Dillon, Heller, Jones, Nalbandian, Siemsen, Vozech NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

Ord. 21-2007 – An ordinance amending and supplementing the code of the Borough of Ramsey, Bergen County, New Jersey to provide for the establishment of towing and wrecking services for the Borough.

Resolution – Introduced by Nalbandian, seconded by Vozech

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TOWING AND WRECKING SERVICES FOR THE BOROUGH 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 27th day of June, 2007, 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.

Councilman Nalbandian stated that this ordinance was recommended by the Police Dept.
AYES: Dillon, Heller, Jones, Nalbandian, Siemsen, Vozech NAYS: None

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

XI. NEW BUSINESS None

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Heller, seconded by Nalbandian, to return to closed session. Carried.

Resolution by Heller, seconded by Nalbandian

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.) permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist; and

WHEREAS, the governing body wishes to discuss matters of litigation, personnel, and contract negotiations; and

WHEREAS, minutes will be kept and once the matter involving the confidentiality of the above no longer requires that confidentiality, then the minutes can be made public;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Ramsey, Bergen County, New Jersey, that the public be excluded from this meeting.

AYES: Dillon, Heller, Jones, Nalbandian, Simesen, Vozech NAYS: None

Meeting adjourned to executive session.

Meredith Bendian
Borough Clerk

/ad