

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 27, 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 Attorney Peter Scandariato, Borough Administrator Nicholas Saros, and Borough Clerk Meredith Bendian.

Absent: None

Motion by Heller, seconded by Nalbandian, to go out of the normal order of business. Carried. Council President Nalbandian and Councilwoman Dillon joined the Mayor to present a certificate to Eileen Thomas for her work with the DARE program.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – None

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

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

1. Iolanda Scola, Ramsey Municipal Court employee
letter dated June 19, 2007, requesting family leave.
2. Robert M. Genetelli, Superintendent, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, 30 Wyckoff Avenue, Waldwick, NJ
letter dated May 31, 2007, advising of the flow meter calibration and verification dates.
3. Philip J. Murphy, Chair Steering Committee, Bergen Bike Tour Volunteer Center of Bergen County, 64 Passaic Street, Hackensack, NJ 07601
letter dated June 18, 2007, requesting permission to ride through the borough during the Bergen Bike Tour on Sunday, September 30, 2007.
4. Linda Canavan, Tax Collector, Borough of Ramsey
letter dated June 21, 2007, advising that estimated tax bills be mailed out to residents.

5. Howard Hurwitz, Executive Director, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, 30 Wyckoff Avenue, Waldwick, NJ 07463
letter dated June 21, 2007, regarding water usage and EDU data figures used for preparing the 2008 budget.

IV. APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Botta made the following appointment:

Kyle J. Van Gelder – Ramsey Volunteer Fire Department as a Jr. Fire Brigade Member

V. CONSENT RESOLUTION

Introduced by Vozech, seconded by Heller

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 professional services of a fireworks exhibitor to conduct a fireworks display for the July 4th celebration.
- c. Resolution: Requesting all municipalities and school districts within the State of New Jersey pass legislation imploring the State of New Jersey to convene a study of the Abbott-Burke Funding Program.
- d. Resolution: Appointing Kyle J. Van Gelder as a Jr. Fire Brigade Member.
- e. Resolution: Awarding a contract to Rapid Pump & Meter Service for generator replacement at Sauna Road Sewage Pump Station.
- f. Resolution: Authorizing the tax collector to prepare and mail 3rd quarter estimated tax bills.
- g. Resolution: Release of Performance Bond for the Okonite Company, Block 3702, Lots 5,6 and 7 in the amount of \$1,250.00.
- h. Resolution: Release of Cash Bond for Kryer Homes, Inc., Block 2701, Lots 1.01,1.02 and 1.03 in the amount of \$5,662.50.

- i. Resolution: Approval and Renewal of Liquor Licenses for July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008.
- j. Resolution: Refund of Tax Certificate #2002-6, Block 5002 Lot 12 to Bergen Eastern Pension Trust FBO George Barnes in the amount of \$93,298.61.
- k. Resolution: Authorizing the Mayor and Borough Clerk to enter into the 2007-2008 Municipal Snow Plowing Agreement with Bergen County.
- l. Resolution: Authorizing Capital Alternatives Corporation to prepare the application for aid under the New Jersey Trust Fund Authority Act for Woodland Avenue Rehabilitation.
- m. Resolution: Authorizing Capital Alternatives Corporation to prepare, assemble and submit the application for aid under the New Jersey Trust Fund Authority for Ramsey Bikeway Interconnect (Phase II) Bikeway Program.
- n. Resolution: Approving the renewal of Rand Motel Corp. Liquor License Renewal 2007-2008 with conditions.
- o. Resolution: Approving the family leave act request for Iolanda Scola
- p. Resolution: Authorizing Lichtenstein, a lighting expert for engineering services

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

Bergen Bike Tour is requesting permission to ride through the Borough for their annual bike tour on Sunday, September 30, 2007 between the hours of 7:30 am and 1:00 pm.

Bicycle Touring Club of North Jersey – Ramapo Rally is requesting permission to ride through the Borough for their annual bike tour on Sunday, August 26, 2007 between the hours of 7:00 am and 5:30 pm.

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

Mayor Botta asked if there were any public comments regarding the approval of the liquor licenses.

Doug Rennie asked what are the conditions for resolution n? Borough Attorney stated that restrictions have been on that license for quite some time. Mayor offered a copy of the resolution to Mr. Rennie.

VI. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

- A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION -Councilman Bruce Vozeh
Congratulations to Eileen Thomas on her contributions to the DARE program. Congratulations also to Kyle on his appointment to the Jr. Fire Brigade. Also, the High School graduation went very well and my congratulations to all the graduating seniors and Tom Melville, retiring principal. The graduation at Smith School could not be held outside due to the weather but it went off very well. The home run derby was very well attended and the Ramsey winners will be moving to regional competition in Lacey Township and then on to Philadelphia. We will start the approval process for capital projects at the next meeting, in terms of equipment and emergency services capital requests.
- B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Council President Arthur M. Nalbandian
I too would like to congratulate Eileen Thomas on her hard work and dedicated service to the DARE program. She is a tireless worker. I would also like to give credit to Officer Tim Shoemaker who recommended Eileen for the award. I received a copy of a letter from Tony Kemps, Assistant Superintendent of the Ramsey Schools, thanking the Police Department for allowing Tim to be a presenter at Senior Wellness Day at the high school. Thanks to Kyle Van Gelder for serving as a volunteer on the Jr. Fire Brigade. I would like to thank the Board of Education for their gracious invitation and acknowledgement at the Ramsey High School graduation. I wish all the graduates the best of luck in the future. I would like to acknowledge Chris Brady for his service to the Board of Education. Chris is moving to Florida, due to his job. I would like to remind everyone about the 4th of July fireworks and concert at Finch Park.
- C. BUILDING & ZONING – Councilman Andrew Siemsen
I too would like to congratulate Eileen Thomas for her efforts with regard to the DARE program. My thanks to Kyle for volunteering on the Jr. Fire Brigade.
- D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilman Jeffrey C. Heller
Congratulations to Eileen Thomas for her work with the DARE program. I also attended the graduation at the Ramsey High School and it was an outstanding night for Ramsey. I was very pleased to be there. The Pool Commission met last night at the pool and it is in top-notch shape. There are over 100 children in swim team activities and we have an expanded swim team competition, thanks to Joe Collins.

E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilman William Jones
Congratulations to Kyle for his service to the Jr. Fire Brigade, as well as Eileen Thomas for her work with the DARE program. The 4th of July festivities start at 6:00 p.m. at Finch Park with jugglers and entertainment. There will be buses from the train station parking lot to Finch Park. Fine Arts Council will present the Sgt. Pepper’s tribute on July 20. My congratulations to all of the graduates and wish them well in their future endeavors.

F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilwoman Deirdre A. Dillon
Congratulations to Kyle and a very special thank you to Eileen Thomas for all of her hard work on behalf of the DARE program. The Ramsey High School graduation was a lovely ceremony and congratulations to the graduates and their families. Thank you for Chris Brady for serving on the Board of Education and congratulations to Keith Kaplan on his appointment to that Board.

G. MAYOR CHRISTOPHER C. BOTTA

I attended the opening ceremonies for AARL field day, organized by our metroplex radio club in O.E.M. We are applying for two grants; one is the second phase of the Woodland Avenue repaving and sidewalk project; and the other is to expand bikepaths in Ramsey.

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

James Keeney, 655 Richmond Court, expressed his appreciation for the support from the Mayor and Council at Saturday’s opening of the radio field day It was very much appreciated.

Mr. Kenney then spoke about Resolution C in the Consent Resolution. Mr. Kenney urged the governing body to write regarding the Abbott district. It is a sink-hole for money that is being wasted. It is high time that something is done to help push this along and if the State really looks into it, there will be some big time indictments for corruption, mismanagement, etc.

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

VIII. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION 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 Dillon

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 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.

Councilman Siemsen stated that this ordinance improves the language regarding buffer zones in the B-3 Highway commercial district. This ordinance was recommended by the Master Planning and Zoning Committee of the Planning Board. Not seeing anyone who wished to speak, Mayor closed the public hearing for ordinance no. 18-2007.

AYES: Dillon, Heller, Jones, Nalbandian, Siemsen, Vozeh NAYS: 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 Dillon

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 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.

Councilman Siemsen stated that this ordinance was recommended by the Master Planning and Zoning Committee of the Planning Board. This ordinance provides for height regulations. Not seeing anyone who wished to speak, Mayor closed the public hearing.
AYES: Dillon, Heller, Jones, Nalbandian, Siemsen, Vozech NAYS: 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 by Siemsen, seconded by Dillon

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 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.

Councilman Siemsen stated that this ordinance was recommended by our Borough Engineer and this ordinance goes more in depth into the tree inventory specifications with regard to development applications. Not seeing anyone who wished to speak, Mayor closed the public hearing for ordinance 20-2007.

AYES: Dillon, Heller, Jones, Nalbandian, Siemsen, Vozech NAYS: 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.

Ord. 21-2007

Resolution by Nalbandian, 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 TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TOWING AND WRECKING SERVICES FOR THE BOROUGH 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.

Councilman Nalbandian stated that this ordinance establishes the guidelines for towing and wrecking services for the Borough. This ordinance was recommended by the Police Department. Not seeing anyone who wished to speak, Mayor closed the public hearing for ordinance 21-2007.

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

IX. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES None

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

XI. NEW BUSINESS None

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Heller, seconded by Jones, to adjourn the meeting. Carried.

Meredith Bendian
Borough Clerk