

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 23, 2008

Mayor Botta called the regular meeting of the Mayor and Council to order and announced that members of Cub Scouts Den #6 Pack 175 are attending tonight and would assist the Council during the meeting. 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, Vozech, Borough Attorney Peter Scandariato, Borough Administrator Nicholas Saros, and Borough Clerk Meredith Bendian.

Absent: None

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – None

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

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

1. [Joan Tommaney, Ramsey Area Garden Club](#)
letter dated January 8, 2008, requesting permission to use the Ramsey Train Station for their annual plant sale on Saturday, May 10, 2008 from 9am – 3pm.
2. [Maureen Huggins, Mahwah Regional Chamber of Commerce, 65 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ](#)
fax dated January 11, 2008, informing the Mayor and Council of their luncheon on Tuesday, January 15, 2008.
3. [Madeline Thumudo, Secretary, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, 30 Wyckoff Avenue, Waldwick, NJ 07463](#)
letter dated January 10, 2008, enclosing a copy of the minutes of the NBCUA December 12, 2007 meeting.
4. [Howard Hurwitz, Executive Director, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, 30 Wyckoff Avenue, Waldwick, NJ 07463](#)
letter dated January 10, 2008, enclosing the 2008 water service charges.

IV. APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Botta made the following appointments:

Allison Clark, Environmental Commission
Shawn Kirk, Environmental Commission
Carl Weber, Planning Board, Second Alternate
Nicholas Krazit, Ramsey Fire Department, Associate Member

V. CONSENT RESOLUTION

Introduced by Siemsen, seconded by Vozech

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:

- 038-2008 Resolution: [Payment of Vouchers](#)
- 039-2008 Resolution: [Transfer Resolution](#)
- 040-2008 Resolution: [Tax refunds due to over-payment of taxes in 2007 on various parcels](#)
- 041-2008 Resolution: [Escrow release in the amount of \\$1,257.00 to Felix and Lucia Tuan, Block 5002, Lot 12, 27 New England Drive](#)
- 042-2008 Resolution: [Appointing Fund Commissioner and Alternate Fund Commissioner to represent the Borough in all pertinent Fund affairs](#)
- 043-2008 Resolution: [Escrow release in the amount of \\$715.00 to Michaels Stores for Block 4203, Lot 1-4,8,9-10](#)
- 044-2008 Resolution: Opposing the legislation requiring expansion of survivor recovery for the wrongful death act
- 045-2008 Resolution: [Awarding the contract to Beyer Brothers for Pick-up Truck with plow for \\$44,198.00](#)
- 046-2008 Resolution: [Appointing Nicholas S. Krazit to the Ramsey Volunteer Fire Department as an Associate Member](#)
- 047-2008 Resolution: [Authorizing Ramsey as an official co-sponsor of any and all events planned and executed by the Centennial](#)

Committee and that such co-sponsorship extends the insurance coverage of the Borough to the Centennial Committee and its members.

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

[Ramsey Area Garden Club](#) is requesting permission to use the train station for their annual plant sale on Saturday, May 10, 2008 from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm.

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

VI. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION -Councilman Andrew Siemsen

My thanks to the Cub Scouts for coming in tonight. Congratulations to Carl Weber for his continued service on the Planning Board. I would also like to thank Allison Clark and Shawn Kirk, who have been reappointed to the Environmental Commission. My thanks to Nick Krazik for volunteering to the Fire Department.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman William Jones

I would like to thank Nick Krazik for volunteering. I look forward to working on the Environmental Commission with Allison Clark and Shawn Kirk. My thanks to Mr. Weber for serving on the Planning Board. Last Friday night, we had the Teen Canteen at Smith School for the sixth graders. The DARE Officers were there and the kids had the opportunity to drive the Sydney mobile and use the drunk goggles. I was very impressed with the work that the officers do and the reaction that the children have. Officer Shoemaker is truly a treasure and my congratulations go out to them.

C. BUILDING & ZONING – Councilman Arthur M. Nalbandian

My thanks to Carl Weber, Allison Clark and Shawn Kirk for volunteering to serve and my thanks to Nicholas Krazik for volunteering to the Fire Department. My thanks to the Cub Scouts as well as their leaders and their parents.

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

My thanks to Nicholas Krazik, Allison Clark, Shawn Kirk and Carl Weber for serving the community. We certainly rely upon our volunteers to make the town as wonderful as it is. We hope to have the CMX report on the current state and future capital needs of the Borough's various facilities within a month. Once we have the assessments, we can get down to work on the planning that we need to do.

- E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Council President Bruce Vozech
My thanks to Carl Weber, Allison Clark and Shawn Kirk for their service.
Congratulations to Nicholas Krazik and my thanks to the Cub Scouts.
Bobbi Grissoni is the new Chairwoman of the Recreation Commission and
Bill Patterson is the new Vice-Chairman. Joe Palmer stepped down and we will
recognize Joe at an upcoming Council Meeting for his years of service. Last night,
there was a fund-raiser for a Little League Baseball Team for their trip to Cooperstown
this summer to play in a tournament with 96 other teams from all over the country.
The kids got a big kick out of meeting Bobby Valentine who did a great job.
- F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilwoman Vanessa Jachzel
I would like to thank the Cub Scouts for coming in tonight; they are a great group.
My thanks also to Nicholas Krazik, Allison Clark, Carl Weber, and Shawn Kirk for
volunteering. We had 21 scholars this year. You have to be both in the top 10% of
your class and have scored at least a 1250 or higher on the SAT. We had students who
received the OPUS Literary Awards and we had some very special students at Dater
School in the 4th and 5th grades who formed an Environmental Club and decided to
bring recycling to their school. They gave an excellent presentation and I think we
will be recognizing all of them at an upcoming Council Meeting. The Board of
Education’s Advisory Committee on Student Tolerance and Anti-Bullying gave their
presentation last night. It was a full room and a very well received presentation.
They have done a lot of work over the last several months to really do something to
address the situation. They have made substantial changes and they deserve our
gratitude. It was a job very well done. We are having a collection of aluminum cans
for burned children, sponsored by the DECA club, at the Rescue Squad between 10:00
and 3:00 this weekend. The beefsteak dinner for Kathie Wild was sold out; you can still
donate by sending a check to her sister, Sharon Vogel.
- G. MAYOR CHRISTOPHER C. BOTTA
February 3 -9th is Scouting Anniversary Week. A proclamation will be distributed to the
Boy Scouts. Monday, March 31st, will be Ramsey Family Night. We started this last
year and it was very successful. We cancel all program activities, sports activities,
and there is no homework. Everyone is encouraged to rest and relax at home with their
family. We are continuing with our leaf pick-up.
- 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, asked about his previous recommendation that legislation be passed to prohibit an elected official from holding another elected political office. Was that matter discussed? Dual office holding presents a problem and I don't want the Borough to suffer because someone becomes a Freeholder or County Clerk, etc. One job is enough. Mayor stated that we will refer that to the Public & Governmental Relations. Mr. Keeney spoke about two police officers in Rutherford who recently retired and their accumulated sick leave pay-out. I think it would behoove this Mayor and Council to look into preventing such a practice here in Ramsey. I personally think that the banking of sick days and holidays is not right and it should be stopped. Mayor Botta stated that we have taken precautions here in Ramsey, but that practice has always been a negotiated item with the PBA. Borough Administrator added that most of our contracts now do have caps on sick time. For the last 10 years, we have had a trust fund in place for that purpose; it is called the Retirement Trust Fund. We have close to \$1,000,000.00 set aside for those liabilities, so that we would not have a problem. Mr. Keeney added that at the bargaining table, we should pound away at getting rid of that. Mr. Keeney stated that he went to see the Governor talk about his financial plan on the 14th of January and he would like to know what the Mayor and Council think about his proposal. Is increasing the income tax a better way to go? I am interested in your thoughts about the Governor's program. Mayor stated that it is still developing and he has not seen all of the details. It is a process that we are looking at and I don't think we have any input into it. We have not taken a position as yet. It is something that our legislative committee will be looking at. Mr. Keeney stated that it is not clear as to what they are going to do other than raise tolls on the parkway and the turnpike. This is just a smokescreen to raise the income tax. Councilman Nalbandian stated that they have not spent anywhere near as much time, if any time at all, on looking to cut expenses on the budget side. I think that is the biggest problem right now. Mr. Keeney added that they should go to cost cutting first and expense cutting, and then see where they stand and his business training is far better than any training the State got. You cannot spend more money than you make. They just seem to continue and push it off into another scheme. Councilwoman Dillon added that she disagrees with what they have come out with and the idea of raising tolls. We are paying people to collect state tax and then rebate it back to people. That is an expense right there. You don't get deductions for tolls and people don't realize that. New Jersey is going to become a piranha on the east coast. Mr. Keeney continued that 50% of people who use the NJ Turnpike are out of state and 33% on the parkway are from out of state so, therefore, other people will be paying our debt. I really think the governing body should come out with a resolution opposing it; there are too many loopholes. Thank you.

Larry Stenwall, 28 White Terrace, would like to see Ramsey reduce its carbon imprint as much as possible. Have you considered using any solar power? I live near Tisdale School and the roof of that building facing south would be an ideal spot for some solar panels. Various towns in the area are using solar power and there is another big area at the High School. I would like to see the town contact Rockland Electric and consider reducing our carbon imprint. Another way would be not to paint the entire parking area for parking spots. Valley Hospital paints just the beginning and everybody is parked properly. If you consider all the parking spaces we have in Ramsey, it would be a lot instead of making the line 3 or 4 feet longer than the cars. If you go into the hardware store, the stripes are much shorter. If you just took a portion of Main Street, maybe you could make it an experiment. I am sure it would reduce our carbon imprints.

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

VIII. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES None

IX. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

[ORDINANCE NO. 01-2008](#) - An Ordinance Amending Chapter VII entitled Traffic: Trucks over designated weight excluded from certain streets.
Resolution by Jones, seconded by Jachzel

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER VII OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AND MORE SPECIFICALLY SECTION 7-17 THEREOF ENTITLED TRAFFIC: TRUCKS OVER DESIGNATED WEIGHT EXCLUDED FROM CERTAIN STREETS 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 13th day of February, 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 Jones, to adjourn the meeting. Carried.

Meredith Bendian
Borough Clerk

/ad