

**BOROUGH OF RAMSEY**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

October 8, 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. Members of Girl Scout Troop #1091 assisted in conducting the meeting.

**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 Jones, seconded by Vozeh, to approve the minutes of 9/10/08 as submitted. Carried.

**III. COMMUNICATIONS**

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

1. [Senator Gerald Cardinale, 350 Madison Avenue, Cresskill, NJ 07626](#)  
letter dated September 24, 2008, thanking the Mayor and Council for their resolution regarding Senate Bill S-770.
2. [Scandariato Family , 4 Clearwater Road, Ramsey, NJ 07446](#)  
note thanking the Mayor and Council for their condolences on their brother's passing.
3. [Thomas W. Larsen, Ramsey Police Dispatcher](#)  
letter received October 6, 2008, resigning as dispatcher, effective October 2, 2008.
4. Bergen County Utilities Authority, Merhof Road, Little Ferry, NJ 07643  
received October 7, 2008, enclosing the annual report 2007.

**IV. APPOINTMENTS –**

Mayor Botta made the following appointments:

William Lara, Ramsey Office of Emergency Management  
Anthony Sanchez, Ramsey Rescue Squad

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:

197-2008 Resolution: [Payment of vouchers](#)

198-2008 Resolution: [Corrective Action Plan](#)

199-2008 Resolution: [Appointing William Lara to the Office of Emergency Management](#)

200-2008 Resolution: [Awarding the contract for removal of leaves to Grinnell Recycling at \\$8.25 per cubic yard](#)

201-2008 Resolution: [Appointing Anthony Sanchez to the Ramsey Rescue Squad](#)

202-2008 Resolution: Awarding the contract for two Fire Chief Vehicles to Hawthorne Chevrolet for \$72,600.00.

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

[Saddle River Valley Lions Club is requesting permission to hold their annual fruit, nut, potato and candy sale on Saturday, November 22, 2008 between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm.](#)

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

Councilman Jones joined the Mayor to administer the oath of office to William Lara.

VI. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION -Councilman Andrew Siemsen

My thanks and congratulations to the new volunteers. The Centennial Golf Outing will be held on Monday, October 13, at the Ramsey Golf & Country Club.

- B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman William Jones  
My thanks to the Girl Scouts for joining us this evening. My congratulations to the new volunteers and my thanks to former police dispatcher Larsen for his years of service to the Borough. The Fine Arts Council will continue Open Mic Night on the last Saturday of the month. We discussed a possible holiday event to coincide with Ramsey Responds. It would be an opportunity raise money for Ramsey Responds. Pedestrians need to use the crosswalks and motorists are to yield to the pedestrians. Speed limits are posted throughout the Borough. There is no left turn from Main Street into the Starbucks parking lot. There have been times when traffic is on the train tracks and the gates are coming down because people are trying to turn left at that point.
- C. BUILDING PLANNING & ZONING – Councilman Arthur M. Nalbandian  
My thanks to the Girl Scouts and their Troop Leaders for coming in tonight. My congratulations to the new volunteers who were appointed tonight.
- D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilwoman Deirdre A. Dillon  
I would echo the comments of my fellow colleagues regarding the Girl Scouts and the new volunteers. We are moving forward with the refurbishment of the façade on the Municipal Building and the replacement of the boiler. We are in the early planning stages for the bollards at Church and Island, over by Finch Park as well as the refurbishment of Veterans’ Park.
- E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Council President Bruce Vozeh  
I would echo my colleagues’ comments pertaining to the Girl Scouts and the new volunteers. I would also like to commend Councilmen Jones and Nalbandian for the public safety initiatives on Main Street.
- F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilwoman Vanessa Jachzel  
My thanks to the Girl Scouts. They did a great job tonight. My thanks and congratulations to the new volunteers.
- G. MAYOR CHRISTOPHER C. BOTTA No comments.
- 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 concerns regarding the current economic situation and the effect on municipalities. Unfortunately, there will be people losing their jobs and there may be a reduction in tax collection. Have there been discussions regarding contingency plans for a financial disaster? I ran a business for 40 years and I am suggesting that you give some thought to the worst case scenarios, particularly in tax collection; our cash flow is dependent on it. Mayor stated that we would look into that.

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

VIII. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES

[Ordinance 14 – 2008 An ordinance to authorize the acquisition, supply of equipment,](#) material and installation of a boiler system located in the municipal building in the Borough of Ramsey, County of Bergen, and State of New Jersey and to appropriate the sum of \$97,000.00 to pay the cost thereof.

Introduced by Dillon , seconded by Vozech

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION, SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT, MATERIAL AND INSTALLATION OF A BOILER SYSTEM LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING IN THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, COUNTY OF BERGEN, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AND TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$97,000.00 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF having been brought up for public hearing and all persons interested having been given an opportunity 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. 14-2008.

Councilwoman Dillon stated that we need to replace the boiler in the Municipal Building because the old boiler stopped working rather abruptly earlier this year.

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

## IX. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance 15-2008 An ordinance amending the code of the Borough of Ramsey, Bergen County, New Jersey and more specifically Chapter II, Article III, Section 2-32, Subsection 2-23.1 Thereof entitled Administration: Departments established: Police Department: Appointments

### Ord. 15-2008

Introduced by Jones, seconded by Jachzel

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AND MORE SPECIFICALLY CHAPTER II, ARTICLE III, SECTION 2-32, SUBSECTION 2.23.1 THEREOF ENTITLED ADMINISTRATION; DEPARTMENTS ESTABLISHED; POLICE DEPARTMENT APPOINTMENTS 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 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 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 in the manner provided by law a copy of said ordinance together with notice of introduction and notice when the same will be considered for final passage and adoption.

AYES: Dillon, Jachzel, Jones, Nalbandian, Siemsen, Vozeh NAYS: None  
Councilman Jones stated that this ordinance is reorganizing the table of positions within the police department, specifically reducing one lieutenant's position. It was agreed to last year with the retirement of Lieut. Rapp that when he officially went off the books, his position would be filled in a different capacity with probably a detective/sergeant as is the case in many other departments. This is just to make the reorganization legal and tighten up the numbers.

[Ordinance 16-2008 An ordinance to authorize the acquisition, supply of equipment,](#) materials and installation of a fire suppression system located in the municipal building in the Borough of Ramsey, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, and to appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 to pay the cost thereof.  
Introduced by Dillon, seconded by Nalbandian

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION, SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS AND INSTALLATION OF A FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING IN THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AND TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$25,000.00 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF 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 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 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 same will be considered for final passage and adoption.

Councilwoman Dillon explained that we are putting in a fire suppression system in the lower part of the building.

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

X.      UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

XI.     NEW BUSINESS

Introduced by Vozech, seconded by Jones

203-2008      Resolution:    Authorizing the pay raise for part time employee James Garito (3%)

Councilman Siemsen asked if the opt out continues and Council President Vozech indicated that it would continue.

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

XII.    ADJOURNMENT

Resolution by Jones, seconded by Dillon

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, Jachzel, Jones, Nalbandian, Siemsen, Vozech    NAYS: None

Meeting adjourned.

Meredith Bendian  
Borough Clerk

