

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 10, 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 Jachzel, Jones, Nalbandian, Siemsen, Vozech, Borough Administrator Nicholas Saros, Borough Attorney Peter Scandariato, and Borough Clerk Meredith Bendian.

Absent: Councilwoman Dillon (illness)

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – None

III. COMMUNICATIONS

Motion by Jachzel, seconded by Jones, to receive and file the following:

1. [Michael Russo, Director, NJ State Department of Transportation, Trenton, NJ](#) letter dated November 21, 2008, informing the Borough that they did not qualify for the Municipal Aid grant for Woodland Avenue.
2. [PERMA, BC Municipal Joint Insurance Fund, Park 80 West, Plaza One, Saddle Brook, NJ 07663](#) memo dated November 25, 2008, attaching the approved 2009 Budget for the Bergen County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund.
3. [Michael B. Kates, Chairperson, Friendship House, 125 Atlantic Street, Hackensack, NJ 07601](#) letter dated November 21, 2008, wishing the Mayor and Council sincerest wishes for Happy Holidays.
4. [Robert Genetelli, Superintendent, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, 30 Wyckoff Avenue, Waldwick, NJ 07463](#) letter dated December 2, 2008, announcing when they are conducting their flow meter calibration.
5. [Executive Committee, Bergen County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund, Park 80 West, Saddle Brook, NJ 07663](#) letter received December 8, 2009, inviting the Mayor and Council to the 2009 Reorganization meeting on January 15, 2009.
6. [Wallace Nowowielecki, Treasurer, CFO, Bergen County Utilities Authority, Waldwick, NJ](#), letter dated December 2, 2008, enclosing the 2009 proposed budget.

7. [Andrew Edward McDermott, 416 Shadyside Road, Ramsey, NJ 07446](#)
letter received December 10, 2008 inviting the Mayor and Council to his Eagle Scout Ceremony on Sunday, January 4, 2008
8. [Howard Hurwitz, Executive Director, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, Waldwick, NJ 07463](#)
letter dated December 10, 2008, enclosing the 2009 adopted budget
9. [Howard Hurwitz, Executive Director, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, Waldwick, NJ 07463](#)
letter dated December 9, 2008, including the Preliminary Service Charges

IV. APPOINTMENTS –

Mayor Botta made the following appointment:

Joseph Mazzilli, Ramsey Volunteer Fire Department

V. CONSENT RESOLUTION

Resolution by Siemsen, 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:

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| 223-2008 | Resolution: | Payment of vouchers |
| 224-2008 | Resolution: | Veterans' Deductions to various properties |
| 225-2008 | Resolution: | Various Tax Refunds |
| 226-2008 | Resolution: | Escrow release in the amount of \$50.00 and Performance Bond in the amount of \$5,340.84 for R.C. Jennee Construction Co., Block 5201, Lot 16 |
| 227- 2008 | Resolution: | Transfer Resolution #3 |
| 228-2008 | Resolution: | Appointing Joseph Mazzilli to the Ramsey Volunteer Fire Department |
| 229-2008 | Resolution: | Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to sell Bond Anticipation Notes in the amount of \$490,000.00 |

- 230-2008 Resolution: Approving the change orders for Dewberry for the Main Street project in the amount of \$55,000.00
- 231-2008 Resolution: Approving the change orders for John Garcia Construction for the water valve and service replacement at W. Main Street

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

VI. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

- A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION -Councilman Andrew Siemsen
 Congratulations to the new appointee to the Fire Department. I would like to thank the Ramsey Fire Department for the “Home for the Holidays” parade on Saturday.
- B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman William Jones
 I too would like to welcome Joseph Mazzilli to the Fire Department. I would like to congratulate all the members of the Fire Department and in particular Randy Sterbinsky for organizing the “Home for the Holidays” parade. It continues to be a better event every year and the turn-out was outstanding. I would also like to thank the Police and Rescue Squad for their help in keeping the streets closed and maintaining a safe manner.
- C. BUILDING PLANNING & ZONING – Councilman Arthur M. Nalbandian
 I too would like to thank and congratulate Mr. Mazzilli. COAH has revised its Third Round regulations and Ramsey’s Housing Element/Fair Share Plan regarding the Third Round is scheduled to be filed by the end of the year. The Housing Element itself is up for public hearing on December 16 before the Planning Board. The Borough Clerk has a copy for public inspection. We have retained Professional Planner Art Bernard to assist us and he will be here on December 16 and also at the Dec. 22 Council Meeting.
- D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilwoman Deirdre A. Dillon
 Councilwoman Dillon is ill. Mayor reported that the Borough has collected over 22,000 cubic yards of leaves through the leaf pick-up program.
- E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Council President Bruce Vozech
 I too would like to thank Joe Mazzilli for volunteering his service to the Fire Department. I also would like to thank the Fire Department and Randy Sterbinsky for all their work on “Home for the Holidays”. All of the DPW workers are to be commended also for their effort.
- F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilwoman Vanessa Jachzel
 I would like to note the wonderful job that Randy did organizing the “Home for the Holidays” event. The floats were beautiful and the Ramsey Rockettes were terrific. I attended the annual luncheon for the senior citizens yesterday and it was very well

attended. I want to thank Joe Palmer who is resigning as President of the Seniors. He was presented with a plaque and he has done a great job over the years.

G. MAYOR CHRISTOPHER C. BOTTA

Volunteers from Smith School Service Club have agreed to shovel the sidewalks for senior citizens who sign up through the Senior Center. They will be matched up with seniors so that the sidewalks will be cleared after snowstorms. Denise Liquori has done a great job in coordinating the program. I also attended a check presentation at Glatt Air Techniques, a pharmaceutical company, who received a grant from the State Board of Public Utilities in the amount of \$88,000.00 for their energy efficiency measures. Glatt has been a great corporate neighbor since 1973 and a lot of Ramsey residents work there. There is a lot of talk from Governor Corzine's office with regard to a pension hold-back and it is another pension gimmick from Trenton that we have seen before. They say you can pay it back in 2012 with 8 ¼ percent interest, and your full pension contribution as well. Our Finance Committee will be taking a closer look at this but our initial reaction is, "Thanks, but no thanks to the Governor". We will cut our expenses but we will not be sucked into another gimmick.

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

Joanne Bambrick, 21 Rose Avenue, spoke about the land which nobody uses and it is unfortunate that she cannot walk her dog through there now. She is not interested in a dog park; but she would like to be able to walk her dog on his leash through the undeveloped land which is not used for anything. Nobody notified us and the signs went up. Mayor stated that this law has been on the books for a long time and the signs are to notify of the enforcement of that law with regard to dogs in a developed park. Mayor stated that Councilwoman Dillon has made it a point to put it on her agenda for discussion. Ms. Bambrick stated that it does make sense to not allow dogs where there is playground equipment but the sign at Rose Avenue should be taken down and replaced with a small sign saying, "Dogs must be on a leash". This will remove the eyesore that the sign has brought to our neighborhood. We have a right to walk our dogs.

Pattie Hymans, 32 Rose Avenue, stated that she is confused about a "developed" park and an "undeveloped" park. After the last two times when the grass was mowed, Ms. Hymans stated that she picked up the trash after the leaf blowers blew it to the other side of the split rail fence. There are still beer cans, soda cans, plastic bags, etc. all smashed against her fence. Mayor stated that we see that is better maintained.

John Muller, 28 Bedford Place, asked about how we go about discussing it in an intelligent, cooperative manner, and applying some reasonable evaluation. What is the process?

Mayor stated that the Utilities, Buildings and Grounds Committee will disseminate all the information that it has received and will explore what the available options are, taking into consideration how a change in the ordinance affects the 14,500 people who live in this town. Mayor stated that committees meet on their own and report back to the Council.

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 20-2008](#)An ordinance amending Chapter XXI of the code of the Borough of Ramsey, Bergen County, New Jersey and more specifically section 31-1.9 thereof entitled Applications; procedure for filing; fees for variances within jurisdiction of Planning Board; Borough Engineer's review of all applications

Introduced by Nalbandian, seconded by Jachzel

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER XXI OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AND MORE SPECIFICALLY SECTION 31-1.9 THEREOF ENTITLED APPLICATIONS; PROCEDURE FOR FILING; FEES FOR VARIANCES WITHIN JURISDICTION OF PLANNING BOARD; BOROUGH ENGINEER'S REVIEW OF ALL APPLICATIONS 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 22nd day of December, 2008, at 8:45 p.m. prevailing time or as soon after as the matter can be reached, at the Municipal Building 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 originated based on the recommendation of our Borough Engineer to the Planning Board to add an additional requirement for an application to be deemed complete by the Planning Board and that is provide certain architectural drawings for all structures that are proposed on a site that is presented on a Planning Board application, to show elevations on all sides and a floor plan. The reason for the recommendation made by the Engineer is primarily because there has been some issues as to certain height limitations on structures and there have been a few times when applicants have calculated the height of the proposed structure incorrectly. This additional information will allow the Engineer to determine what heights are proposed, if he has the architectural drawings. If it is determined later on in the application process that the calculation made by the architect is not correct, and therefore does not comply with the ordinance, it ends up delaying the proceedings and the application takes a little bit longer.

That is the reason why the Planning Board recommended it to the Mayor and Council.
AYES: Jachzel, Jones, Nalbandian, Siemsen, Vozech NAYS: None
ABSENT: Dillon

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