

**BOROUGH OF RAMSEY**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 14, 2007**

Mayor Botta called the regular meeting of the Mayor and Council to order. Councilman Heller 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, Vozech, Borough Attorney Peter Scandariato, Borough Administrator Nicholas Saros and Borough Clerk Meredith Bendian

Absent: None

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Vozech, seconded by Dillon, to accept the minutes of January 1, 2007, and January 10, 2007, as submitted. Carried.

**III. COMMUNICATIONS -**

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

1. Bergen County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund, Park 80 West, Plaza One, Saddle Brook, NJ 07663  
letter dated January 19, 2007, advising the meeting schedule for 2007.
2. Residents of Brookfield Lane, Ramsey, NJ 07446  
letter dated January 25, 2006, regarding improvements to Brookfield Lane. (Mayor asked that this letter be referred to the Utilities, Buildings and Grounds Committee for a recommendation and response).
3. Lucille Conzo, Carnival Chairperson, St. Paul's Interparochial School, 187 Wyckoff Avenue, Ramsey, NJ 07446  
letter dated January 29, 2007, requesting permission to hold their annual carnival on Wednesday, May 16 – Sunday, May 20, 2007.
4. Linda Seidman, Dater School Library Media Specialist, Ramsey, NJ.  
letter dated February 2007, inviting the Mayor and Council to be a guest readers on March 2, 2007.

5. Madeline Thumudo, Secretary, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, 30 Wyckoff Ave, P.O. Box 255, Waldwick, NJ 07463 letter dated February 8, 2007, enclosing a copy of the resolution adopting the meeting schedule for 2007.
6. Madeline Thumudo, Secretary, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, 30 Wyckoff Ave., P.O. Box 255, Waldwick, NJ 07463 letter dated February 8, 2007 enclosing the minutes of the NBCUA from January 10, 2007.

#### IV. APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Botta made the following appointments:

Patrick Nerney, Environmental Commission, Chairman  
Angela Stollo, Environmental Commission, Vice-Chairman  
Tim McGill, Ramsey Rescue Squad  
Jordan W. Mistretta, - Volunteer Fire Department as a Jr. Fire Brigade Member

#### V. CONSENT RESOLUTION Introduced by Vozeh, 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
- a1. Resolution: Reserve Transfer Resolution #3
- b. Resolution: Appointing a Municipal Court Security Committee.
- c. Resolution: Approving the proposed changes to the by-laws of the Ramsey Rescue Squad.
- d. Resolution: Authorizing the Mayor and Borough Clerk to execute the Interlocal Agreement with the Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority for the TV Inspection Services of the sanitary sewer system for 2007.
- e. Resolution: Appointing Jordan W. Mistretta to the Ramsey Volunteer Fire Department as a Jr. Fire Brigade Member.
- f. Resolution: Appointing Timothy McGill to the Ramsey Rescue Squad.

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

St. Paul Interparochial School is requesting permission to hold their annual carnival on Wednesday, May 16, 2007 – Sunday, May 20, 2007

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

VI. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

- A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION -Councilman Bruce Vozech  
My congratulations and thanks to the new appointees and the new volunteers.
- B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Council President Arthur M. Nalbandian  
I too would like to congratulate our new volunteers. I look forward to working with both of them. My congratulations to the new chair and vice-chair of the Environmental Commission. My thanks to the Ramsey Road Dept., Buildings and Grounds, and Water Department employees on a job well done tonight plowing and salting the roads. I drove from Ramsey to Warren in Somerset County and the cleanest roads were in Ramsey, that includes Highway 287. Our crew does a terrific job and I hope everyone is safe during the inclement weather.
- C. BUILDING & ZONING – Councilman Andrew Siemsen  
My congratulations to the new appointees on the Environmental Commission. I think they will do a great job and my thanks to the new volunteers.
- D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilman Jeffrey C. Heller  
I spoke several times today with Superintendent Bill Horton and they had an excellent plan going into the day and the Ramsey roads are in excellent shape. I would like to thank the new volunteers and to the new leaders of the Environmental Commission.
- E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Councilman William Jones  
My congratulations to tonight's appointees. I look forward to working with the members of the Environmental Commission. My thanks to the new volunteers. The condition of Ramsey roads is outstanding.
- F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilwoman Deirdre Dillon  
My congratulations to the new appointees on the Environmental Commission. There is no doubt in my mind that they will do a great job. Congratulations

to the new volunteers and I thank them for volunteering. I would also like to thank the Ramsey Education Foundation and the Jr. Women's Club for their successful events this past weekend.

G. MAYOR CHRISTOPHER C. BOTTA

I would like to thank our D.P.W. for their hard efforts today, as well as the Office of Emergency Management, and our volunteer emergency services to keep our town running during today's snowstorm. We considered canceling our meeting this evening but I knew that our Road Department would come through and our roads would be passable. On February 2, Councilwoman Dillon and I attended the dinner for the exchange students at the High School with 12 students from Japan and an advisor who came with them. They spent one week living with families in Ramsey and it was a great opportunity and I know that they enjoyed their time here. This program has been running for about 10 years and it is a great event. We gave each student a Ramsey tee-shirt, a pen, and a keychain as a memento from Ramsey. On March 26, the Borough will be sponsoring a Ready/Set/Relax night. We will make a conscious effort to balance our family time with other activities and on March 26 there will be no homework, no sporting events, no work session. It will be an opportunity for families to relax and unwind. The Youth Guidance Council and the Recreation Commission will be helping us promote that event.

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

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

VIII. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES

1-2007 Ordinance to exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

2-2007 Ordinance to authorize the drainage, reconstruction and repaving of Elbert Street, sections of Morse and Blauvelt Avenues

3-2007 Ordinance to establish a borough policy for the awarding of Public Professional Service Contracts

4-2007 Ordinance entitled Municipal Parking Lots

Ord. 1-2007 Establish a CAP Bank  
Resolution by Vozech, seconded by Heller

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14) 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.

Mayor Botta stated that notice of this ordinance had been published as required by law and it was now time for the public hearing. Not seeing anyone who wished to speak on ordinance 1-2007, Mayor closed the public hearing.

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

Ord. 2-2007 Elbert Street Improvements  
Resolution by Heller, seconded by Nalbandian

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT ORDINANCE NO. 15-2006 WHICH IS ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE DRAINAGE, RECONSTRUCTION, AND REPAVING OF ELEBERT STREET INCLUDING SECTIONS OF MORSE AND BLAUVELT AVENUES IN THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, COUNTY OF BERGEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AND TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$120,000.00 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF" 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.

Mayor stated that notice of this ordinance had been published as required by law and it was now time for the public hearing for ordinance no. 2-2007. Not seeing anyone who wished to speak,

Mayor closed the public hearing.

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

Ord. 3-2007 Policy for awarding public professional service contracts

Resolution by Nalbandian, seconded by Dillon

BE IT RESOLVED that the ordinance entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AND MORE SPECIFICALLY CHAPTER II THEREOF ENTITLED "ADMINISTRATION" IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH A BOROUGH POLICY FOR THE AWARDING OF PUBLIC PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACTS 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.

Borough Attorney stated that the intent of this ordinance always was to decrease the amount that can be contributed to \$300.00. It appears that because of a typographical error the word "County" was left out in various sections; the ordinance that is being approved tonight will have the word County in two sections. That was solely a typographical error and I apologize for any inconvenience.

Doug Rennie, 30 Rose Avenue, asked if county organizations will be affected by this at all, because in recent years, the county organizations have put a lot of money into campaigns. Borough Attorney stated that this would apply to municipal and county committees. Councilman Nalbandian added that county committees and organizations are included in this ordinance. Borough Attorney stated that it is the same rules as last year, but the amount is \$300, not \$400.

Councilman Nalbandian pointed out that this continues to put Ramsey on the forefront of anti-pay to play laws which are more stringent than what the state has passed in State Statutes. I think this is a positive step for this Borough to make it tough for people who make attempts at pay to play.

Councilman Heller stated that this ordinance makes it more difficult for people doing business to use their contributions to influence the government. It is that simple.

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

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

Ord. 4-2007 Municipal Parking Lots  
Resolution by Jones, seconded by Siemsen

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER VIII OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY ENTITLED MUNICIPAL PARKING LOTS AND OFF STREET PARKING AREAS AND MORE SPECIFICALLY SECTION 8-3.1 PARKING RESTRICTIONS AND LIMITATIONS: MUNICIPAL PARKING LOTS 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 pertains to the parking lot across the street to make sure that the parking situation is adequate for the shoppers and the downtown merchants.

Not seeing anyone who wished to speak, Mayor closed the public hearing for ord. 4-2007.

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

#### X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Ord. 5-2007 Ordinance amending Chapter II Administration, and more specifically Borough

Clerk, Powers and Duties

Resolution by Vozech, seconded by Heller

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER II "ADMINISTRATION" OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AND MORE SPECIFICALLY SECTION 2-8 "BOROUGH CLERK" SUBSECTION 2-8.4 "POWERS AND DUTIES" 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 28<sup>th</sup> day of February, 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.

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

6-2007 Ordinance amending Chapter XIV entitled Fire Prevention and Protection Resolution by Nalbandian, 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 SPECIFICALLY CHAPTER XIV THEREOF ENTITLED FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION 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 28<sup>th</sup> day of February, 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.

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

7-2007 Ordinance amending Chapter XXXIV entitled Off Street Parking Resolution by Siemsen, seconded by Dillon

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER XXXIV "ZONING" OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AND MORE SPECIFICALLY SECTION 34-6 "PARKING AND LOADING" SUBSECTION 34-6.1 "OFF-STREET PARKING REQUIREMENTS" AND SECTION 34-19 "R-4 MULTI FAMILY DISTRICT" SUBSECTION 34-19.2 "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 28<sup>th</sup> day of February, 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 will correct some inconsistencies with off street parking.

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

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

XII. NEW BUSINESS

Resolution by Heller, seconded by Nalbandian

- aa. Resolution: Awarding a contract to M. Ingannamorte & Son, Inc. for drainage improvements, new curb, milling and paving a portion of Elbert Street, Blauvelt and Morse Avenue.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Heller, seconded by Nalbandian, to go into executive session. Carried.

Meredith Bendian  
Borough Clerk

/ad