

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 12, 2008

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

Absent: None

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – None

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

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

1. [Ruth Barton, Corresponding Secretary Ramsey Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary, P.O. Box 164, Ramsey, NJ 07446](#)
letter dated February 28, 2008, requesting permission to hold an outdoor flea market on Sunday, June 29, 2008 from 9am – 5pm.
2. [Friendship House, 125 Atlantic Street, Hackensack, NJ 07601](#)
letter received March 3, 2008, looking for volunteers to help with the paint, painter and primp weekend.
3. [St. Paul Interparochial School, 187 Wyckoff Avenue, Ramsey, NJ](#)
letter February 24, 2008, requesting permission to hang banners advertising the school carnival May 2-May 19, 2008.
4. [John Reinke, Director of Development, Interreligious Fellowship for the Homeless of Bergen County](#)
letter dated March 4, 2008, requesting permission to hold their 15th annual Bike Bergen through the Borough of Ramsey.
5. [Sergeant Kevin Kelly, Ramsey Police Department](#)
letter dated March 5, 2008, announcing his retirement from the Ramsey Police Department effective September 1, 2008.

6. [Doris and Peter Griffin, Ramsey Residents](#)
letter dated March 11, 2008, raving about the March 10th Centennial Celebration explaining how proud they are to be citizens of the community.
7. [Madeline Thumudo, Secretary, NWBUA, 30 Wyckoff Ave., Waldwick, NJ](#)
letter dated March 5, 2008, enclosing meeting minutes.
8. [Ramsey Area Garden Club, P.O. Box 132, Ramsey, NJ](#) letter dated March 12, 2008, asking permission for a small plot of land at the Ramsey Pool for brownie troops to plant a “butterfly garden”.

Councilman Jones stated that Sgt. Kelly’s letter of retirement was being accepted with regret and we thank him for his many years of service to the community.

Councilwoman Dillon expressed her appreciation to Doris and Peter Griffin for the positive feedback about the March 10 Centennial Celebration.

IV. APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Botta made the following appointments:

[George H. Fosdick](#), Ramsey Volunteer Fire Department
[Robert R. Taub](#), Ramsey Volunteer Fire Department

V. CONSENT RESOLUTION

Introduced by Siemsen, seconded by Vozeh

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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|----------|-------------|---|
| 064-2008 | Resolution: | Payment of Vouchers |
| 065-2008 | Resolution: | Granting AboveNet permission to install
telecommunications facilities on utility poles and within
underground conduits located in the public right-of-way in
the Borough |
| 066-2008 | Resolution: | Endorsing the submission of the recycling tonnage grant
application to the NJ Department of Environmental
Protection |
| 067-2008 | Resolution: | Opposing the failure of the governor’s proposed state
budget to treat property tax relief as our priority |
| 068-2008 | Resolution: | Accepting Sergeant Kevin R. Kelly’s letter of retirement
effective September 1, 2008 |

- 069-2008 Resolution: [Appointing Robert R. Taub to the Ramsey Volunteer Fire Department](#)
- 070-2008 Resolution: [Release of Performance Bond for Kramer Construction Block 1201, Lots 3 and 4 in the amount of \\$44,815.00](#)
- 071-2008 Resolution: [Release of escrow for Armand Avakian for Block 4810, Lot 12 in the amount of \\$600.00.](#)
- 072-2008 Resolution: [Awarding the bid to Shifano Construction Corporation for the NW Bergen Cooperative Program for Resurfacing of streets within towns in Northwest Bergen County](#)
- 073-2008 Resolution: [Awarding the bid to Ward Diesel Filter Systems for a vehicle exhaust system](#)
- 074-2008 Resolution: [Appointing George H. Fosdick to the Ramsey Volunteer Fire Department](#)

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

[Ramsey Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary is requesting permission to use the train station parking lot for an outdoor flea market on Sunday, June 29, 2008.](#)

[St. Paul's Interparochial School is requesting permission to hang 2 banners](#) advertising the school carnival from May 2-May 19, 2008.

[The Interreligious Fellowship for the Homeless of Bergen County is requesting permission to ride through the borough on Sunday, May 4, 2008.](#)

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

VI. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION -Councilman Andrew Siemsen

My thanks to Sgt. Kelly for his years of service and congratulations on his retirement. Congratulations to the new volunteers and my thanks to the Centennial Committee for the March 10 event.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman William Jones

My thanks to Dr. Iorio for his efforts in coordinating the Centennial event and to the many people who contributed to making it a very successful evening. The event moved along so nicely and was not slow and boring. I thought it was excellent and the historical perspectives were great. Former Mayor Scerbo, Councilwoman Jachzel, Deirdre Woodbyrne, and everyone on the high school staff including Principal Lio are to be commended for their efforts. I think this is an example of one of the things that makes Ramsey a special place. I also would like to say that there were about 20 calls for the Fire Department on Saturday night, due to the storm. Rescue Squad was out 16 to 20 hours and there were 4 Ambulance calls within a 20 minute time span. It was tremendous coordination. I also would like to welcome the new volunteers and thank them for joining the volunteers. Fine Arts Council is looking for a volunteer to update their website. Please send information to Rennie Pincus or me.

C. BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Councilman Arthur M. Nalbandian

I would echo the sentiments of my colleagues. I also would like to thank the DPW for the work they are about to do with respect to the storm damage. I really did enjoy the Centennial program and everyone did a great job.

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

I would like to echo the comments of my fellow councilmembers regarding Monday. It was spectacular and I would like to thank former Mayor Scerbo, Dr. Iorio, and Councilwoman Jachzel, as well as Marianne Kaplan who went above and beyond the call of duty. We accept with regret Sgt. Kelly's letter of retirement and congratulations on his retirement. Congratulations also to the new volunteers.

E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Council President Bruce Vozeh

I would like to thank our new volunteers and thanks to Kevin Kelly for his length of service with the Ramsey Police Department. On the Centennial event, I would like to thank Dr. Iorio and Councilwoman Jachzel, Deirdre Woodbyrne and to Tom Dater. Some of the old photos brought back a lot of different memories.

F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilwoman Vanessa Jachzel

I too would like to thank the new members for volunteering. The Centennial kick-off event was a tremendous success and it really could not have been done without the combined efforts of so many people and organizations throughout the town. Of course, special thanks to Dr. Iorio who conceived the idea and put it all together and to Principal Lio for coordinating the groups. The Ramsey Wind Symphony was wonderful and the High School Jazz Band were terrific. There were so many people who came together to make it a special night and there are too many to thank. They did a lot and we have received very positive feedback. The New Year's Eve Gala is now on-line and you can start purchasing your tickets. Thanks to Keith Kaplan, the website is up and running.

G. MAYOR CHRISTOPHER C. BOTTA

The Centennial Event was a great night and every segment of our community was well represented – from senior citizens to young families and teenagers. That is a great testament to the Centennial organization and also our community spirit. I want to thank the Road Department, Fire Department and Rescue Squad as well as O.E.M. and Ambulance for a great job during the recent windstorm. The Road Department will be doing a special branch pick-up this week. Congratulations to Sgt. Kevin Kelly on his retirement and my thanks for all of his service to the community. Our arsenic treatment for our wells is progressing nicely. We have been having regular status meetings with the contractor and I can report that the project is about 60% complete and on schedule. Municipal State Aid is being cut and our numbers are going down by \$176,000.00. That is direct money that could have been used to offset tax increases and that money is being taken out of our budget from last year. The Governor misses the boat on how smaller municipal governments work well and that is indicated tonight by our resolution for the shared bid for the paving contract among the 10 towns. I don't see big towns, such as Newark and Camden, getting together and doing that where they could be saving money, however, they still continue to receive the state aid.

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

Doug Rennie, Rose Avenue, congratulated everyone for getting the Centennial event going and for the success of the event. The man who impersonated President Roosevelt was excellent. I am very proud of this community and the other activities will go well and I know how much work the staff did. We need to get more information out about the state aid cut. All of our costs are going up. The paving contract is a very good example of getting involved with other towns.

VIII. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES

[ORDINANCE NO. 03-2008 – An Ordinance to exceed the Municipal Budget](#) appropriation limits and to establish a CAP bank

Resolution by Siemsen, seconded by Dillon

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.

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

IX. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES None

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Vozeh stated that the Board of Education did not receive the same state aid cut and it is important that we get that out to the public.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Nalbandian, seconded by Dillon, to return to executive session. Carried.

Meredith Bendian
Borough Clerk

/ad