

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 26, 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 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 Jachzel, seconded by Dillon, to accept the minutes of 2/13/08 (as amended) and 2/27/08 as submitted. Carried.

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

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

1. [Ramsey Seniors, Finch Park,](#) letter received March 13, 2008, thanking the Mayor and Council for helping to fund the Broadway Show “Curtains”. They had a wonderful time.
2. [Charlotte Vandervalk, NJ General Assembly, 39<sup>th</sup> District, 220 Kinderkamack](#) Road, Suite E, Westwood, NJ 07675 letter dated March 12, 2008, thanking the Mayor and Council for their support Opposing Revisions of the Wrongful Death Statute.
3. [Cynthia Porter, Former Ramsey Councilwoman, 11 Edgewood Street, Tenafly,](#) NJ 07670 letter dated March 14, 2008, commending the Mayor and Council for such a spectacular kickoff to Ramsey’s centennial year.
4. [Tyler Buysse, 20 Lillian Court, Freshman, Ramsey High School](#) letter dated March 17, 2008, thanking the Mayor and Council for allowing him participate in the Centennial Event.
5. [Senator Gerald Cardinale, 350 Madison Avenue, Cresskill, NJ 07626](#) letter dated March 18, 2008, informing the borough that they are receiving \$16,037.75 from the Fiscal Year 2008 Clean Communities Grant.

IV. APPOINTMENTS –

Mayor Botta made the following appointment:

David Stitz, Lieutenant, Ramsey Police Department

V. CONSENT RESOLUTION

Resolution 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:

- |          |             |  |
|----------|-------------|--|
| 076-2008 | Resolution: | <a href="#"><u>Payment of Vouchers</u></a>   |
| 077-2008 | Resolution: | <a href="#"><u>Authorizing the tax refund to Paul McGinley, Block 3510, Lot 12 in amount of \$5,072.63.</u></a>  |
| 078-2008 | Resolution: | <a href="#"><u>Amending the 2008 Temporary Budget</u></a>  |
| 079-2008 | Resolution: | <a href="#"><u>Authorizing the application for \$3,000.00 for the Shade Tree Commission to the State of New Jersey</u></a>   |
| 080-2008 | Resolution: | <a href="#"><u>Opposing S-770 and A-1645 mandating the appointment of a qualified agent and the attendant reorganization of the Borough of Ramsey purchasing functions</u></a> |
| 081-2008 | Resolution: | <a href="#"><u>Authorizing the promotion of David Stitz to Lieutenant of the Ramsey Police Department (Councilwoman Dillon abstained)</u></a>                                  |
| 082-2008 | Resolution: | <a href="#"><u>Appointing Professional Insurance Associates as the risk management consultants for the Borough</u></a>   |
| 083-2008 | Resolution: | <a href="#"><u>Authorizing the award of contract to PMK Group for stormwater services - illicit connection follow-up investigation</u></a>                                     |

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

Councilman Jones stated that the Public Safety Committee had interviewed several candidates for the Lieutenant's position and David Stitz distinguished himself in his initiatives and different things already on his record. He is a very valuable member of the Police Dept. He came highly recommended by his fellow officers as well and I congratulate him.

Councilman Nalbandian added that David Stitz has always been a model police officer and I congratulate him and thank him, as well as wish him the best of luck.

Councilwoman Jachzel added her congratulations and thanks, as well.

## VI. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Councilman Jones joined the Mayor to administer the oath to Sgt. Stitz, promoting him to Lieutenant, and congratulating him on his promotion. Everyone congratulated newly appointed Lieut. Stitz.

## VII. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

- A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION -Councilman Andrew Siemsen  
Congratulations to Lieut. Stitz. The new memberships for the pool will be going out this week and there are some increases in the fees. This is due to the improvements.
- B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman William Jones  
I think the promotion of Dave Stitz is something that we will be very proud of for a long time. In keeping with the Police Department, Chief Gurney has recommended that we add 4 officers for the spring/summer academy which will bring our number back to 31 officers. Our annual clean-up day will be April 12<sup>th</sup> in Ramsey.
- C. BUILDING PLANNING & ZONING – Councilman Arthur M. Nalbandian  
I would echo my previous sentiments about now Lieut. Stitz and congratulate him and wish him well. The Borough of Ramsey has submitted its objections to the Council on Affordable Housing for the revised Third Round regulations. There were a significant number of flaws in those proposed regulations and many municipalities will be objecting to them. There will be more to come on that.
- D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilwoman Deirdre A. Dillon  
I want to congratulate Lieut. Stitz. Ramsey Clean-Up day is scheduled for April 12 and the starting point is the Ramsey Rescue Squad. If anyone has an idea of a site that should be cleaned up, please let me know. So far, we will be concentrating on the bike path, the Old Stone House, and the sidewalk from the Lutheran Church to St. Paul's. We have received the CMX study regarding the state of our facilities and future capital needs. We are also hoping to apply for a school grant to improve existing sidewalks leading to Hubbard, Dater, Smith and Tisdale. It is an extremely competitive process.
- E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Council President Bruce Vozeh  
I too would echo my colleagues' comments on Lieut. Stitz. He has some glowing recommendations and I think he will be a terrific role model for the Police Dept.
- F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilwoman Vanessa Jachzel  
I would like to congratulate Dave Stitz again and wish him well. The budget hearing for the school board is scheduled for tomorrow night at the high school.

G. MAYOR CHRISTOPHER C. BOTTA

My thanks to everyone for the March 10<sup>th</sup> Centennial event; I have received very positive feedback from the public. It was great to see everyone and my hat is off to the Centennial Committee. My congratulations to Lieut. Stitz. I think he will do a great job. The Baseball parade will be held on April 5<sup>th</sup>. It will start at the Mechanic Street parking lot at 9:00 a.m. Cablevision is running their Neighborhood Journal on Channel 78 at various times. It is basically a look at the Ramsey Centennial Celebration, not only our March 10 event but also upcoming events. There is also an interview with Tom Dater about the historical aspect. I would like to congratulate Michael Gwon who was named the North Jersey Hockey Athlete of the Year, by the Bergen Record. Family night is scheduled for March 31<sup>st</sup>. All homework has been cancelled. It is a night for families to not have any planned activities. Ready-set-relax.

H. BOROUGH ATTORNEY – Peter A. Scandariato, Esq. No comments.

I. BOROUGH ADMINITSRATOR – Nicholas C. Saros No comments.

J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian No comments.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Keeney, 655 Richmond Court, asked about the governing body's opinion of the Governor's new budget. How will the reduction in federal aid affect the Borough? Mayor stated that as a general matter, we are losing \$176,000.00 in municipal aid and other communities who are smaller than Ramsey are losing even more. In my opinion, the smaller communities are doing things better than the larger communities which have so much waste and corruption and overspending. For the Governor to punish the communities that are doing it right and reward those towns who are not doing it right, is totally backwards. Yes, it will have an impact on us. That doesn't stop insurance, energy and pension costs from increasing. On our consent resolution is another state mandate where we have to appoint a purchasing agent and send them for training. We don't have any purchasing problems but the State comes in and says you are mandated to do this and then sticks the cost on us. Our budget pressures don't get any better by a reduction in state aid, especially \$176,000. The Ramsey Civic Association feels the same way. The bigger towns are not doing things right. Councilman Vozech added that the \$176,000 represents a 1 ½ percent increase in municipal taxes without us even doing anything else. We are going up without any changes in salaries, utilities, etc. Councilman Nalbandian stated that there does not seem to be any rhyme or reason. You cannot tell how they came up with their figures. There is no reasonable rationale coming out of Trenton. Most of the waste and problems are in Trenton. Councilman Jones stated that you cannot fix budget problems if you keep doing the same thing.

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

IX. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES None

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES None

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

XII. NEW BUSINESS None

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jones, seconded by Nalbandian, to adjourn the meeting. Carried.

Meredith Bendian  
Borough Clerk

/ad