

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 23, 2008

Mayor Botta called the regular meeting of the Mayor and Council to order. Police Chief Gurney 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.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Dillon, seconded by Jones, to approve the minutes of 6/11/08. Carried.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

Motion by Jachzel, seconded by Vozeh, to receive and file the following Communications. Carried. Councilwoman Dillon mentioned that we are in receipt of Mr. Picariello's notice of retirement from the D.P.W. and we thank him for his service.

1. [Michelle Kaczorowski, 5 Morton Drive, Ramsey, NJ 07446](#)
letter dated June 28, 2008 requesting permission to hold a block party on August 31, 2008.
2. [Howard Hurwitz, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, 30 Wyckoff Avenue, Waldwick, NJ, 07463](#)
letter dated June 26, 2008, proposing to issue Utility System Revenue Bonds 2008 Series to finance the undertaking of solar energy improvements.
3. [Christina Allen, 277 Canterbury Drive, Ramsey, NJ 07446](#)
letter dated July 3, 2008 with questions concerning the proposed tax bills.
4. [Shannon McLaughlin, 59 Manor Drive, Ramsey, NJ 07446](#)
letter dated July 9, 2008, requesting a speed limit sign on Manor Drive.
5. [Madeline Thumudo, Secretary, NWBCUA, Wyckoff Avenue, Waldwick](#)
letter dated July 9, 2008, enclosing copies of meeting minutes.
6. [Valerie Williams, Dargan, Bergen County, Director of Senior Services](#)
One Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack, NJ 07601
letter dated July 11, 2008, announcing the annual Bergen County Senior Picnic on Wednesday, September 10, 2008.

7. [Mayor and Council, Borough of Fair Lawn, P.O. Box 376, Fair Lawn, NJ 07410](#)
letter dated July 8, 2008, requesting the Borough's support opposing the County's desire to construct a new roadway.
8. [Ann Denson](#),
e-mail dated July 17, 2008, requesting permission to erect a tent outside of Café Panache in the parking lot on September 20, 2008 for her daughter's wedding.
9. [Thea Suser, Hubbard School Circus Chairperson](#)
letter dated July 11, 2008, requesting permission to hold a circus at Hubbard School on Sunday, September 28, 2008 between the hours of 12 noon and 7pm.
10. [Howard Hurwitz, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, Executive Director, Wyckoff Ave., Waldwick, NJ 07463](#)
letter dated July 7, 2008, discussing the preparation of its 2009 Budget.
11. [Madeline Thumudo, Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, 30 Wyckoff Avenue, Waldwick, NJ 07463](#)
letter dated July 18, 2008, regarding Resolution 56-2008
12. [Ronald Picariello, Department of Public Works employee](#)
letter dated June 30, 2008, informing of his upcoming retirement from the Ramsey DPW, effective November 28, 2008.

IV. APPOINTMENTS –

Mayor Botta made the following appointments:

[Christopher D. Warnet](#), Ramsey Volunteer Fire Department

[David Brown](#), Office of Emergency Management

[Eric Moritz](#), Office of Emergency Management

[Andrew Parneros](#), Office of Emergency Management

[John Rubino III](#), Office of Emergency Management

[Kyle Hasslinger](#), Ramsey Rescue Squad

[Joon Bae](#), Ramsey Rescue Squad

[Jeoung Bae](#), Ramsey Rescue Squad

Councilman Jones and Police Chief Gurney joined the Mayor to present the oaths to the new probationary police officers, Jeffrey Guilfoyle, Michael Parise, Earle Hines, Jaclyn Morris, and Adam Macaluso. Police Chief stated that we had many applicants to consider in the hiring process. We started interviewing candidates and we selected those who rose above and we have the cream of the crop. Councilman Jones congratulated all of the families involved with the new officers stated that we are very impressed. The process started with over 200 applicants and wished everyone the best at the Police Academy.

Police Chief then spoke about Officer Anthony Fiore, who saved a man's life recently. Chief presented Officer Fiore with Honorable Service Award. Congratulations. (Applause). Mayor added that we also have a certificate from the Bergen County Chiefs' Association for Officer Fiore. At this point, Mayor called a short recess.

V. CONSENT RESOLUTION

Resolution 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:

- | | | |
|----------|-------------|--|
| 143-2008 | Resolution: | Payment of Vouchers |
| 144-2008 | Resolution: | Shade Tree Escrow Release for Gabrellian Associates in the amount of \$35,000.00 |
| 145-2008 | Resolution: | Appointing Christopher D. Warnet to the Ramsey Volunteer Fire Department |
| 146-2008 | Resolution: | Authorizing the Borough Administrator to pre-pay Ramsey Day Vendors |
| 147-2008 | Resolution: | Appointing David Brown to the Office of Emergency Management |
| 148-2008 | Resolution: | Appointing Eric Moritz to the Office of Emergency Management |
| 149-2008 | Resolution: | Authorizing that Ramsey Day vendors be non-profit charitable organizations |
| 150-2008 | Resolution: | Authorizing Jeffrey B. Doolittle to provide engineering services for improvements to Woodland Avenue at a cost not to exceed \$15,000.00 |
| 151-2008 | Resolution: | Authorizing and accepting the 2007 Audit Report from the Borough Auditor, Garbarini and Co. |
| 152-2008 | Resolution: | Appointing Kyle Hasslinger to the Ramsey Rescue Squad |
| 153-2008 | Resolution: | Appointing Joon Bae to the Ramsey Rescue Squad |
| 154-2008 | Resolution: | Appointing Jeoung Bae to the Ramsey Rescue Squad |

- 155-2008 Resolution: [Appointing Andrew Parneros to the Office of Emergency Management](#)
- 156-2008 Resolution: [Appointing John Rubino III to the Office of Emergency Management.](#)
- 157-2008 Resolution: [Authorizing the refunds to be paid to the lien holders of blocks and lots B 3701 L 5.2 in the amount of \\$16.91, B 4806 L 12 in the amount of \\$66.09 and B 4803 L 25 in the amount of \\$129.99](#)
- 158-2008 Resolution: [Reducing the Performance Bond for Greenway Commercial Group, LLC, Block 3608, Lot 10 in the amount \\$ 12,300.00](#)
- 159-2008 Resolution: [Releasing the Performance Bond for Friendly Donuts, LLC, Block 4203, Lot 10 in the amount of \\$4,000.00](#)

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

[Bergen Bike Tour is requesting permission to ride through the borough on Sunday, September 28, 2008 between the hours of 7:30 am and 1:00 pm.](#)

[Hubbard School is requesting permission to hold a circus at the school on Sunday, September 28, 2008 between 12 noon and 7:00 pm.](#)

B. BLOCK PARTY REQUESTS:

[Alec Stecyna is requesting permission to hold a block party on July 4, 2008 between the hours of 12:00 pm and 10:00 pm. \(nunc pro tunc\)](#)

[Michelle Kaczorowski is requesting permission to hold a block party on Sunday, August 31, 2008 between the hours of 11:00 am and 8:00 pm.](#)

[Jay McMahon is requesting permission to hold a block party on Saturday, August 30, 2008 between the hours of 2:00 pm and 10:00 pm.](#)

[Maureen Lobmeyer is requesting permission to hold a block party on Saturday, September 13, 2008 between the hours of 9:00 am and 11:00 pm.](#)

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

VI. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

- A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION -Councilman Andrew Siemsen
My congratulations to the Fire Dept., Rescue Squad, and O.E.M. as well as the new probationary officers. Also, congratulations to Patrolman Fiore. I attended the AARL Field Day which is the ham radio operators. A lot of O.E.M. members were in attendance.
- B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman William Jones
My thanks and congratulations to Officer Fiore. I would also like to thank everyone involved in the 4th of July festivities. It was outstanding coordination from everyone. The show itself, the Centennial Committee, the Fine Arts Council, and the D.P.W. are to be commended. Everyone had a wonderful time. My special thanks to Nick Saros, who does an outstanding job. We have two more Thursday night shows. Open Mic night continues to be the last Saturday of the month at Border's. My thanks to all of tonight's appointments for joining the various emergency services.
- C. BUILDING PLANNING & ZONING – Councilman Arthur M. Nalbandian
My congratulations to the new appointees, as well as our five new probationary police officers. Congratulations to Patrolman Fiore for a job well done. Best wishes to Ron Picariello in his retirement and my thanks to him for his many years of service. I would like to thank everyone for a safe and successful 4th of July.
- D. UTILITIES, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Councilwoman Deirdre A. Dillon
I would like to echo the comments of my colleagues to the appointments of the emergency services. My thanks to everyone for volunteering. We truly appreciate all the time. Congratulations to the probationary officers. We look forward to the excellent additions to our police force and a special recognition to Anthony Fiore for going above and beyond the call of duty. Many thanks to Nick Saros for the 4th of July celebration. The request for bids for the façade of the municipal building and the front walkway was advertised. The ramp and the front door will be ADA compliant and we will retain a traffic consultant to help with the design of the curbing at the intersection of Island and Church.
- E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Council President Bruce Vozeh
I would like to echo my colleagues' comments regarding the appointees tonight, and the new probationary officers. I would also like to congratulate Ron Picariello who will be missed. He has been a tremendous employee. The Recreation Commission will be showing Shrek 3 in Finch Park. I would also like to thank the Centennial Committee and Fine Arts Council for the 4th of July celebration.
- F. HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES – Councilwoman Vanessa Jachzel
I would like to congratulate Ron Picariello as well and my thanks to all the new volunteers. Centennial Hall is just about finished and my thanks to Marianne Kaplan, Nick Saros, and Deirdre Woodbyrne for an outstanding job. The 4th of July came off without a hitch. It was perfectly time with the weather and it was a fantastic night.

G. MAYOR CHRISTOPHER C. BOTTA

My thanks to Councilwoman Jachzel for a great job assisting with all of the Centennial events. The 4th of July celebration was one of the largest attended events in Ramsey. The people stretched all the way back to the snack stand, over to the basketball courts. It was a great night. My thanks to the O.E.M. for keeping track of the storms around the area. Having the Wind Symphony, the Dana Fuchs band, and the fireworks and a ton of cakes made it very special. I can't thank Larry Inserra enough for donating the cakes and the Ramsey Auto group for their donation of a car, to be raffled on September 6th. All events are very inclusive. They are open and they are not expensive. I am looking forward to the rest of the year. Centennial Hall will be a permanent addition to our Municipal Building. If you look at some of the pictures, you will see the real heritage of Ramsey. Congratulations to our probationary patrol officers. Our core job is to make people feel safe and welcome by making sure that we have sufficient staffing at our police department.

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

I. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – Nicholas C. Saros

I would like to congratulate our new appointees and police officers. I especially would like to thank Ron Picariello for his 34 years of service to the Borough. I wish him much happiness and success in his retirement. My thanks to Peter and Meredith in coordinating the Centennial events and the 4th of July event.

J. BOROUGH CLERK – Meredith Bendian No comments.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Emily Rennie, 30 Rose Avenue, stated the Ramsey Library is 40 years old and has not had any significant improvements in that time. Presently, the staff is struggling to meet the ever-increasing demands caused by the technology changes. We need to bring the Ramsey Library into the 21st century. On request, the Library Board had a second architectural plan prepared. At that time, it was suggested that a building committee review the plans. That committee changed the design and reduced the cost by \$2 million, leaving \$2.4 million for the cost to modernize the existing structure. In January, we were told that we would have a commitment at the April meeting. It is now July and the Board is still waiting. Since 2002, when the building project was initiated, we have expended \$115,335. We hired a Library Consultant, Leslie Burger, who is now the President of the Princeton Library and also President of the American Library Association. We hired her as a consultant and we took her advice. We interviewed Ramsey residents, determined the community's needs which resulted in a 5 year strategic plan. We are a very dedicated Board of Trustees and we are concerned with the future of the Library and we are anxious to proceed. Thank you.

Mayor stated that certainly budget issues are one of the biggest issues along with taxes in our community. We are considering proposals. We have made a commitment to get back to the Library trustees in September. This is something that cannot be decided by one or two members

of the Council. It is certainly a significant outlay of funds that will be reviewed by every member of this Council. An answer did not come back sooner is due to the school budget be defeated and we had to handle that budget, as well as our budget and that is the reason for the delay. I thank you for your dedication and commitment to the Library. We know your intentions are good.

James Dolan, 463 Island Road, stated that we are planning a meeting with Councilman Jones regarding the Island Road traffic. Councilman Jones stated that we will be meeting to formulate a plan.

Melissa Quast, 67 Airmount Avenue, spoke about the speeding on her road. The speed limit sign is not doing anything to control the problem. This section of Airmount Avenue is a cut-through street to and from Rt. 17. There are about 60 children in the area of Airmount, Roandis, DeBaun and Crest Road. Cars are flying by way past 35 mph. We are looking for help from somebody because there are 60 kids. We have had pets been hit, killed....We are getting tired of asking the police. I have been in the area for 7 years and it is a wonderful town. We need signs that say "Children Playing". Mayor asked if it is mostly residents or does it look like cars from the dealerships? They do test a lot of brakes, etc. Mrs. Quast said it is some people from the dealerships and some are residents in the area. Mayor stated that we can ask the dealerships not to test their cars there and we can meet with the Traffic Officer for enforcement issues.

Jan Emmett, 28 Roandis Court, stated that there is a new complex with 8 more units and even with just one more car per unit, there will be more traffic on that road. It is becoming a big concern for all of us. We just want a more positive environment for children.

Joe Carey, 498 Island Road, stating that traffic problems are not exclusive to Island Road. There was a committee in the past to deal with issues along the borough's right of ways, such as speeding, congestion, etc. I think it might be an advantage to consolidate all of these issues. Mayor stated that Ridgewood has a traffic safety committee and I think it is a good idea.

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

VIII. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES

[Ordinance 09-2008 A bond ordinance to authorize the replacement of Crystal Spring Lake Spillway Bridge](#)

Resolution by Dillon, seconded by Nalbandian

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled: BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE REPLACEMENT OF CRYSTALL SPRING LAKE SPILLWAY BRIDGE AND ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY WITHIN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$732,000.00 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE IN

PART SUCH APPROPRIATIONS AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF SUCH BONDS 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.

Not seeing anyone who wished to speak, Mayor closed the public hearing for ordinance 09-2008. Councilwoman Dillon stated that we did receive a grant from the State that will cover a large portion of the cost to replace this bridge.

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

IX. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

[Ordinance 10-2008 An ordinance amending CHAPTER XXXIV of the code of the Borough of Ramsey, Bergen County, New Jersey and more specifically subsection 34-3 entitled Zoning; Definitions](#)

Resolution by Nalbandian, seconded by Jachzel

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER XXXIV OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AND MORE SPECIFICALLY SUBSECTION 34-3 ENTITLED ZONING; DEFINITIONS 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 27th day of August, 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 the same will be considered for final passage and adoption.

Councilman Nalbandian stated the purpose of Ord. 10-2008 is to modify the definition of boarding houses.

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

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilwoman Dillon, seconded by Jones, to go into executive session. Carried.
Meeting adjourned.

Meredith Bendian
Borough Clerk