

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 24, 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 Attorney Peter Scandariato, Borough Administrator Nicholas Saros, and Borough Clerk Meredith Bendian.

Absent: None

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Jones, seconded by Dillon, to approve the minutes of August 27, 2008, as submitted. Carried.

III. COMMUNICATIONS -

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

1. [Frank Agatielli, Fire Inspector, Ramsey Borough](#), letter received September 15, 2008, thanking the Mayor and Council for their condolences on the death of his father.
2. [Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, Wyckoff Ave., Waldwick, NJ](#) letter dated September 10, 2008, enclosing minutes.
3. [Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, Wyckoff Ave., Waldwick, NJ](#) letter dated September 15, 2008, enclosing a meeting notice.
4. [Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority, Wyckoff Ave., Waldwick, NJ](#) letter dated August 22, 2008, advising of a special meeting to bond for various capital improvements.
5. [County of Bergen, Dept. of Public Works, Zabriskie Street, Hackensack, NJ](#) letter dated September 3, 2008, advising of their assistance in ordering salt.
6. [Leonard Nicolosi, CEO, Friendship House, Atlantic Street, Hackensack, NJ](#) letter dated September 4, 2008, informing of the wellness walk postponement and enclosing information about a fundraiser.

7. [Rev. Jonathan B. Whitfield, Executive Director, H.O.P.E. for Ex-offenders,NJ](#) letter received September 18, 2008, announcing his position as Executive Director and announcing the 30 year celebration.
8. [Patricia Bailey, Boy Scouts of America 31, Christmas Tree Coordinator](#) Letter dated September 17, 2008, requesting permission to hold their annual Christmas Tree Sale at the Ramsey High School Tennis Courts on December 6, 7, 13, 14 and 21, 2008 from 9am to 5pm. They would also like to erect banners and signs around town.
9. [Bernadette McPherson, Freeholder Bergen County, Liaison, Bergen County](#) Film Commission, One Bergen County Plaza, 5th Floor, Hackensack, NJ 07601 letter dated September 12, 2008, inviting the governing body and the residents of Ramsey to the Reel Jersey Film Festival from September 25, 2008 through September 29, 2008.
10. [Inez Gioffre, LA Sunset Tan, 27 E. Main Street, Ramsey, NJ 07446](#) letter received September 23, 2008, requesting permission to hold a grand opening in the rear parking lot erecting a number of tents of various sizes.
11. [Charlotte Vandervalk, NJ State Assemblywoman, 220 Kinderkamack Road,](#) Westwood, NJ letter dated September 23, 2008, regarding the recent affordable housing mandates imposed by the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH).

IV. APPOINTMENTS – None

V. CONSENT RESOLUTION – Introduced 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:

- |          |             |   |
|----------|-------------|---|
| 186-2008 | Resolution: | Payment of Vouchers   |
| 187-2008 | Resolution: | <a href="#">Release of escrow in the amount of \$3,000.00 to Nextel,</a><br>Block 5001, Lot 1   |
| 188-2008 | Resolution: | <a href="#">Reduction of the Performance Bond for Masterson Car</a><br>Wash, Block 5102, Lot 5 from \$538,780.00 to \$30,000.00   |
| 189-2008 | Resolution: | <a href="#">Breast Cancer Awareness Month</a><br>(Councilman Jones stated that it is very important to get the message out about this issue. Councilman Nalbandian added that his mother also died from breast cancer). |

- 190-2008 Resolution: [Authorizing the Borough to enter into a grant agreement with Bergen County Community Development in the amount of \\$10,000.00 for improvements to the Ramsey Senior Center](#)
- 191-2008 Resolution: [Authorizing the Borough to enter into a grant agreement with Bergen County Community Development in the amount of \\$72,525.00 for improvements to Finch Park Basketball Courts](#)
- 192-2008 Resolution: [Authorizing the cancellation of taxes for years 2008-2009 for disabled veteran Paul J. McGinley, Block 3510 Lot 1](#)
- 193-2008 Resolution: Awarding the boiler replacement to T.M. Brennan Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$96,513.00
- 194-2008 Resolution: Ratifying the UPS Employees White Collar Contract effective January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2011.
- 195-2008 Resolution: Authorizing the Mayor and Borough Clerk to enter into an agreement with Art Bernard as the Borough's COAH Planner.

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

A. SPECIAL PERMITS:

[Ramsey High School Band and Color Guard Parents are requesting permission to](#) have their annual door to door hoagie sale from October 1, 2008 – October 18, 2008.

[St. Paul School](#) is requesting permission for a one day special permit for social affair to serve beer and wine at their Band Concert on November 22, 2008 from 8:00pm until 12 midnight as granted from the Division of Alcohol and Beverage Control.

[BSA Troop 31 is requesting permission to hold their annual Christmas Tree Sale at the](#) High School on the following dates December 6,7,13,14,20 and 21, 2008 from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.

[LA Sunset Tan is requesting permission to have a grand opening event on October 4,](#) 2008 between the hours of 7:00 pm and 10:30 pm.

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

## VI. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

### A. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION -Councilman Andrew Siemsen

My thanks to everyone involved with the 9/11 memorial ceremony. I received many favorable comments regarding the Taste of Ramsey and my thanks go to the Centennial Committee for organizing that event. Perhaps it should be an annual event.

### B. PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman William Jones

I would echo Councilman Siemsen's comments. The Taste of Ramsey was outstanding and my thanks to the DPW, Borough Hall, and Emergency Services. My thanks to Councilwoman Jachzel for her efforts. My condolences to the family of Ken Major; he will certainly be missed by the DARE program.

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

I would also like to express my appreciation to Councilwoman Jachzel for leading the effort on Taste of Ramsey. It was very well attended and I think people really enjoyed it. I could not attend the 9/11 ceremony but I did get some very positive feedback.

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

I echo the comments of my colleagues regarding the Taste of Ramsey and the 9/11 ceremony. My appreciation goes to Councilwoman Jachzel who put in a lot of time and effort for the Taste of Ramsey. My condolences to the family of Mr. Major.

### E. PUBLIC & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Council President Bruce Vozeh

The Ramsey Run and the Dog Show were both very successful events and my thanks go to the DPW. We approved another union contract tonight which completes the contracts until 2009, other than the PBA which is in arbitration. We continued standardizing provisions among our employees and obtaining contributions for health insurance. The 9/11 ceremony was excellent and my thanks go to the Wind Symphony and everyone involved.

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

My thanks to everyone for the Taste of Ramsey. It could not have been done without the help of so many people. Meredith Bendian was there all day, despite the heat. My thanks to Nick Saros and the DPW, as well as the Board of Ed. Laura Behrmann could not be there due to the birth of her baby but I would love to do this event every year, if at all possible.

### G. MAYOR CHRISTOPHER C. BOTTA

I would like to commend the Finance and Administration Committee for negotiating and finalizing the contract for the White Collar Union, which continues to make our contracts more uniform. It is a great step forward. We have received word from Trenton that the police pension costs will be increasing next year by about 8.87%

That is a mandated cost that the Borough has to deal with and Trenton has said that we can only raise our property tax to pay for this by 4%. I don't know how they figure that we can absorb a cost of 8.8% in our police pensions but yet maintain a cap of 4% increase in our budget. That is something that will have to be addressed in the budget process. The PERS will be 100% funded by the municipalities in 2009. That is an increase of 35%, however, that is an exception to the cap. The events for the Centennial Celebration are moving forward and I would like to thank Councilwoman Jachzel and Laura Behrmann for the Taste of Ramsey. The parade has been rescheduled to Sunday, October 26.

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

[Ordinance 13-2008 An ordinance amending ordinance 28-2007 so as to increase the sum appropriated to \\$280,000.00 for various improvements at the Borough of Ramsey Municipal Building](#)

Resolution by Dillon, seconded by Vozeh

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 28-2007 AUTHORIZING VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS AT THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$280,000.00 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, IN THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, COUNTY OF BERGEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY 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 final consideration. Councilwoman Dillon stated that \$87,000 is coming to us

by a Bergen County Community Development Grant which means that Ramsey's portion amounts to \$193,000 which will come from the Capital Improvement Fund.

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

IX. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

[Ordinance 14-2008 An ordinance to authorize the acquisition, supply of equipment,](#) materials and installation of a boiler system located in a municipal building in the Borough of Ramsey, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey and to appropriate the sum of \$97,000.00 to pay the cost thereof.

Resolution by Dillon, seconded by Nalbandian

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled: AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION, SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS, AND INSTALLATION OF A BOILER SYSTEM LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING IN THE BOROUGH OF RAMSEY, COUNTY OF BERGEN, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AND TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$97,000.00 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF 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 8<sup>th</sup> day of October, 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.

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

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Resolution by Dillon, seconded by Vozech

196-2008 Resolution: [Awarding contract to J. G. Drywall for building façade](#) project in the amount of \$268,800.00

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

Borough Administrator spoke about the Grand Opening of LA Sunset Tans on October 4, 2008. They have requested that alcohol be served that evening and it can be done, as we have been advised by the ABC, since they will have a

catering permit and a licensed liquor establishment serving the liquor. Councilman Nalbandian asked the Borough Attorney if there would be any liability to the Borough. Borough Attorney Scandariato indicated that there would not be any liability to us.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meredith Bendian  
Borough Clerk

/ad