

The Regular Meeting of the Raritan Borough Council was called to order by Mayor Liptak at 6:30p.m. The meeting was held in the Meeting Room of the Raritan Borough Municipal Building at 22 First Street, Raritan, NJ 08869.

Mayor Liptak announced that the meeting was called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. Notices of this meeting were sent to The Courier News and the Star Ledger on April 14, 2014. In addition, copies of notices were posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building, on the Raritan Borough website and filed in the Office of the Borough Clerk. Notices on the bulletin board have remained continuously posted.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilwoman Carra, Councilwoman Gara,
Councilman Lobell, Councilman Sibilgia,
Council President Tozzi
Absent: Councilman Giraldi
Also Present: Mayor Liptak, Borough Attorney Wenner, Borough
Engineer Schrek (left at 8:00p.m.), Borough
Administrator Jaxel, Police Chief McCormick (left
at 8:47p.m.), Borough Clerk Schmitt

FLAG SALUTE AND INVOCATION

Councilman Lobell led the invocation and flag salute.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Liptak opened public comment.

There being no comments, Mayor Liptak closed public comment.

WORK SESSION

Swaminarayan Mandir Loyadham Temple Parade
Mayor Liptak addressed Sam Swami of the Swaminarayan Mandir Organizing Committee and inquired if there is a religious reason why the parade is scheduled for a Friday afternoon. Mayor Liptak also was concerned with the number of buses coming into town and the impact it may have on parking.

Mr. Swami stated that it is the custom of the religion to show the idol around town prior to inauguration at the Temple. He stated that the Temple organizers have rented a parking lot where they will drop off the worshippers.

Discussion continued on the possible revisions to the route, earlier start time of the parade, the use of floats, and who

would be responsible for expenses. Mr. Swami said that the Temple was flexible to any changes except changing the date. Also, the Temple would encumber all expenses.

Mayor Liptak requested that the Temple organizers draft a final letter to Chief McCormick with a revised route and time.

Borough Administrator Jaxel requested a certificate of insurance with the Borough of Raritan named as an additional insured.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Liptak read a Proclamation into record recognizing Administrative Professionals Week and Administrative Professionals Day.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 14, 2014 - Agenda-Workshop Meeting

On motion by Councilman Lobell, seconded by Councilwoman Gara, it was moved to approve the January 14, 2014 - Agenda-Workshop Meeting Minutes.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Carra, Gara, Lobell, Sibilialia, Tozzi
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

February 25, 2014 - Regular Meeting

On motion by Councilwoman Carra, seconded by Council President Tozzi, it was moved to approve the February 25, 2014 - Regular Meeting Minutes.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Carra, Gara, Lobell, Sibilialia, Tozzi
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

March 11, 2014 - Agenda-Workshop Meeting

On motion by Councilwoman Carra, seconded by Council President Tozzi, it was moved to approve the March 11, 2014 - Agenda-Workshop Meeting Minutes.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Carra, Sibilialia, Tozzi
Nay: XXX
Abstain: Gara, Lobell

Motion Carried 3-0-2.

March 25, 2014 - Regular Meeting

On motion by Councilman Lobell, seconded by Council President Tozzi, it was moved to approve the March 25, 2014 - Regular Meeting Minutes.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Carra, Lobell, Tozzi
Nay: XXX
Abstain: Gara, Sibilialia

Motion Carried 3-0-2.

ORDINANCES - SECOND READING

Ordinance No. 2014-01 - An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey Amending and Replacing Section 320-6 of the Code of the Borough of Raritan to Provide a Minimum Width of Snow Removal from Sidewalks

Mayor Liptak called for a motion to open Public Hearing.

On motion by Councilwoman Gara, seconded by Councilman Lobell, it was moved to open Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2014-01.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Carra, Gara, Lobell, Sibilialia, Tozzi
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

There being no comments, Mayor Liptak called for a motion to close Public Hearing.

On motion by Councilwoman Gara, seconded by Councilman Sibilialia, it was moved to close Public Hearing.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Carra, Gara, Lobell, Sibilialia, Tozzi
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

On motion by Councilman Lobell, seconded by Councilwoman Gara, it was moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2014-01.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Carra, Gara, Lobell, Sibilialia, Tozzi
Nay: XXX

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

Ordinance No. 2014-02 - Calendar Year 2014 - Ordinance to Establish a Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

On motion by Councilwoman Gara, seconded by Councilman Sibilialia, it was moved to table Ordinance No. 2014-02 until the May 13, 2014 Agenda-Workshop Meeting.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Carra, Gara, Lobell, Sibilialia, Tozzi
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2014-04-70 - Award of Contract - Carfax

On motion by Councilman Lobell, seconded by Councilwoman Gara, it was moved to adopt Resolution 2014-04-70.

Recorded Vote on Resolution No. 2014-04-70.

Aye: Carra, Gara, Lobell, Sibilialia, Tozzi
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

Resolution 2014-04-71 - Rejection of Bid - Raritan Home Improvement Program

On motion by Councilwoman Gara, seconded by Councilman Lobell, it was moved to adopt Resolution 2014-04-71.

Recorded Vote on Resolution No. 2014-04-71.

Aye: Carra, Gara, Lobell, Sibilialia, Tozzi
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

Mayor Liptak commented that she is delighted to announce the next Resolution since it is rare to find volunteers. Two young

men, Daniel Memoli and Valentino Rosato are seeking membership in the Raritan Fire Department and both were previously junior volunteer fire members.

Resolution 2014-04-73 - Appointment of Firefighters

On motion by Councilman Sibilialia, seconded by Council President Tozzi, it was moved to adopt Resolution 2014-04-73.

Recorded Vote on Resolution No. 2014-04-73.

Aye: Carra, Gara, Lobell, Sibilialia, Tozzi
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF BILLS LIST

On motion by Councilwoman Gara, seconded by Councilwoman Carra, it was moved to approve the Bills List totaling \$2,378,035.59.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Carra, Gara, Lobell, Sibilialia, Tozzi
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

PURCHASE ORDER REQUESTS

Police Department: QUED (Queues Enforth Development, Inc.) in the amount of \$2,976.00.

On motion by Councilman Lobell, seconded by Councilwoman Gara, it was moved to approve the above listed Purchase Order Request.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Carra, Gara, Lobell, Sibilialia, Tozzi
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

Council President Tozzi reported that the organization of the John Basilone Parade is moving along and the committee is working on funding and participants. The Economic Development Committee is working on the organization of the River Fest event.

Councilman Sibiliala reported that the Recreation Department opened baseball season and the Easter Egg Hunt was a great success. Mr. Sibiliala also reported that the Somerville/Raritan Rescue Squad would like to come to the May 13th meeting to discuss some potential changes.

Councilman Sibiliala also reported that the Public Works Department recently picked up about four truckloads of bulk and brush. Mr. Sibiliala added that it would be helpful to remind residents that Thursdays and Fridays are brush pick up days and to refrain from putting brush out until then. Borough Engineer Schrek stated that there is a large tree on Orlando Drive which needs to be cleaned up also.

Councilwoman Gara reported that the Environmental Commission has finalized its plans for the Raritan River clean-up on Earth Day, April 27, 2014 at 11:00a.m. Local businesses will be contributing water and snacks and everyone is invited to join the event. Councilwoman Gara welcomed Tom Delacruz to the Environmental Commission and inquired if the Environmental Commission is permitted to have an alternate member. Councilwoman Gara requested Council approval to appoint Jerry Kovac as an alternate member. Council was in agreement.

Councilman Lobell reported on the Police Department and stated that the Chief is doing a great job. The Police Department will be co-sponsoring a Drug Trends in Our Community Seminar on Thursday, May 15, 2014 at 7:00p.m. at the Bridgewater-Raritan Regional High School. Also the Historic and Cultural Committee is working on a tour through Raritan. They are postponing tomorrow's meeting and will meet again on April 29th at the Redevelopment Seminar.

Councilwoman Carra reported on the Gannett litigation and stated that there has not been a decision to date on whether the Borough will be required to sequester any funds.

Mayor Liptak announced that she would like to make an amendment to the River Fest AD HOC committee and appoint Councilwoman Carra as co-chairperson. Mayor Liptak also commented that this is a Borough Committee and suggested that the meeting be held in the Municipal Complex.

Mayor Liptak also reported that the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will be held on Thursday, April 24th at 6:30p.m. This year's recipient of the Nicholas Esposito Volunteer of the Year

Award will be Bruce Doorly; he has done tremendous work for the community.

Mayor Liptak also congratulated the Recreation Committee on one of the best Easter Egg Hunts ever. The Mayor suggested that next year an Easter Egg Hunt for special needs children be implemented, along with limiting the age of the participants to children eight years of age and younger.

OLD BUSINESS

Property Maintenance

Councilman Lobell reported that he has been in discussion with Frank Taddeo on ways the Borough can have more authority on habitual offenders and vacant properties. Councilwoman Gara said she is trying to arrange a meeting with Borough officials to discuss this issue and the topic will be revisited.

Mayor Liptak stated that an addition to the agenda for the May 13, 2014 Agenda-Workshop Meeting will be the discussion of the proposed Ordinance on Brush, Grass and Weeds.

Redevelopment Update

Councilwoman Gara reported that the number of speakers and attendees has grown for the special meeting on April 29th, therefore the venue has been changed to the Coach Barn at the Dukes Estate. Ms. Gara stated that the number of attendees is limited to 150 people and she will need a response from all those interested in attending so she can leave their name with the gate guard.

Raritan Public Library

Councilman Lobell inquired about the status of the roof and tree trimming at the Raritan Public Library. Borough Administrator Jaxel said this project was scheduled for the spring and he will follow up on the status.

NEW BUSINESS

Council President Tozzi asked for a list of catch basins and storm sewers that are in need of repair. Mr. Tozzi also inquired if there was a sign ordinance governing display signs in store windows and suggested enforcement to ensure store owners are in compliance.

Borough Engineer Schrek stated that storm water basins are required to file permits and there should be a log to satisfy State requirements.

Councilman Lobell suggested a project to clean up the tunnel under the John Basilone Bridge; maybe incorporating local students to paint murals. Borough Engineer Schrek stated that that is a county bridge and the Borough should contact the County prior to initiating a project.

Mayor Liptak requested that Councilman Lobell also reach out to the County to see if they would cover the remainder of the traffic light boxes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ronald Rispoli of 22 Woodmere Street, Raritan, New Jersey, a representative of the Raritan Public Library Board of Trustees, invited the Mayor, Council, and the Borough Engineer to attend a special meeting of the Library Board of Trustees on Tuesday, May 6, 2014 at 7:00p.m. at the Raritan Public Library. The purpose of the meeting is to present to Mayor and Council and the residents of Raritan Borough a plan to add a community room to the Raritan Public Library.

A brief discussion ensued on the repairs needed on the library roof and the trimming of the trees.

There being no more comments, Mayor Liptak closed Public Comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Liptak read Resolution No. 2014-04-72 into record and included the addition of Attorney Client Privilege to the subject matter.

Resolution 2014-04-72 - Executive Session - Subject Matter: Personnel-Public Works, Contract Grievance-Police, Attorney Client Privilege.

On motion by Council President Tozzi, seconded by Councilwoman Gara, it was moved to adopt Resolution 2014-04-72.

Recorded Vote on Resolution No. 2014-04-72

Aye: Carra, Gara, Lobell, Sibiliala, Tozzi
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

Council convened in Executive Session at 7:34p.m.

On motion by Councilman Lobell, seconded by Councilwoman Gara,
it was moved to come out of Executive Session.

Recorded Vote: AYE: All Ayes.
 NAY: XXX
 Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

Council resumed in open session at 8:00p.m.

Mayor Liptak announced that Borough Administrator Jaxel will follow up with the Raritan Borough PBA Local 82 on Council's direction to deny the grievance.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Councilwoman Gara, seconded by Councilman Sibilgia,
it was moved to adjourn the meeting.

Recorded Vote: AYE: All Ayes.
 NAY: XXX
 Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03p.m.

Respectively Submitted,

Marguerite Schmitt, RMC
Borough Clerk

Approved: _____