

April 29, 2014
Special Meeting

The Special Meeting of the Raritan Borough Council was called to order by Mayor Liptak at 6:38p.m. The meeting was held in the Coach Barn at Duke Farms, East Gate at Route 206 and Dukes Parkway East, Hillsborough Township, NJ 08844.

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 24, 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 Giraldi, Councilman Lobell, Councilman Sibilia, Council President Tozzi

Absent: XXX

Also Present: Mayor Liptak, Borough Attorney Wenner, Borough Engineer Schrek, Borough Planner Maski, Borough Administrator Jaxel, Borough Clerk Schmitt

FLAG SALUTE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Liptak led the Flag Salute and asked for a moment of silence for those in the Midwest affected by the recent tornadoes and for all our service people.

Mayor Liptak welcomed all distinguished guests and dignitaries.

Mayor Liptak outlined the order of the agenda and thanked all those who participated in making arrangements for the meeting.

PRESENTATION

Borough Engineer Stan Schrek

Mr.Schrek spoke about the precursor to the redevelopment project and stated that Raritan Borough has significant frontage along the river which has great resources to develop an open space recreation area.

Borough Planner Dave Maski

Mr. Maski provided an overview of the riverfront initiative and reviewed some of the plans adopted to date. Mr. Maski stated that the goal is to redirect the riverfront from the previous industrial path toward open space and recreation.

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Ray Brown, Somerset County Park Commission

Mr. Brown stated that this is a great opportunity to open both sides of the Raritan River to all residents of Somerset County and that the Raritan River Redevelopment is a major component of the Somerset County Master Plan.

Robert Bzik, Director of Planning Somerset County

Mr. Bzik complimented Raritan Borough and the Raritan Borough Planning Board for their work over the years and the importance of connecting and repositioning the corridors. Mr. Bzik reviewed the Somerville Landfill and Station Area Planning Study Concept.

Mike Kerwin, President-CEO Somerset County Business Partnership

Mr. Kerwin commented that the communities that strategically respond to the riverfront redevelopment will have a competitive advantage and Raritan Borough and Somerset County have many assets.

Judy Shaw, Director of Sustainable Raritan River Initiative at Rutgers University

Ms. Shaw gave a slide presentation which included compiled data and pictures on the Raritan River Initiative. Ms. Shaw applied this information to compose a book entitled The Raritan River: Our Landscape, Our Legacy.

Mike Catania, Executive Director Duke Farms

Mr. Catania stated that Duke Farms is delighted to participate in this project and he is excited about connecting Duke Farms through an emerging green way and bike way to the river.

John Jengo, Dam Removal Project Manager

Mr. Jengo gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Raritan River Dam Removal Project and summarized the effectiveness of removing dams.

Joe David, President Central Jersey Stream Team

Mr. David proposed a twenty-seven mile "blueway" to make Raritan, New Jersey a gateway to recreation from Clinton, New Jersey downstream to Raritan, New Jersey.

In conclusion, Dave Maski stated that the opportunities for riverfront redevelopment are tremendous and Raritan Borough needs to make their part of the riverfront real.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Ruggieri of the Somerset County Planning Division stated that this is a very exciting partnership and he is proud to support the Riverfront Redevelopment.

Mayor Liptak stated that all the information presented tonight will be available on the Raritan Borough website. Mayor Liptak also stated that Raritan Borough is open for business and very excited about this project. The Mayor thanked everyone for coming to the meeting tonight.

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 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20p.m.

Respectively Submitted,

Marguerite Schmitt, RMC
Borough Clerk

Approved: _____