

September 23, 2014  
Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Raritan Borough Council was called to order by Mayor Liptak at 7:00p.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 March 3, 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, Councilman Giraldi,  
Councilman Sibilgia, Council President Tozzi  
Absent: Councilwoman Gara, Councilman Lobell  
Also Present: Mayor Liptak, Borough Attorney Wenner, Borough  
Engineer Schrek, Borough Administrator Jaxel,  
Police Chief McCormick, Borough Clerk Schmitt

**FLAG SALUTE AND INVOCATION**

Council President Tozzi led the invocation and flag salute.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Christine Connors of the Raritan Laundromat, 4 Thompson Street, Raritan, New Jersey addressed Mayor and Council about a delinquent sewer bill notice that she received on September 16, 2014. Ms. Connors explained that she never received any bills prior to this notice and once it was received she paid the bill immediately. Ms. Connors also stated that when she inquired at the Borough Tax Office why she had never received a bill, Ms. Kneafsey explained that there was a glitch in the computer software that generates the bills. Ms. Connors requested that Mayor and Council consider reversing the accrued interest on the bill due to this error.

Mayor Liptak explained to Council that this item will be on the Agenda later in the meeting; however, the Mayor advised Ms. Connors to speak during Public Comments.

Thomas Brown of 18 Elmer Street, Raritan, New Jersey requested that Mayor and Council consider reevaluating the impact of the closed streets during the Basilone Parade. Mr. Brown reported that upon returning from church on the day of the parade, the officer on duty refused to let anyone through to their homes.

September 23, 2014  
Regular Meeting

Mr. Brown requested that consideration be given to residents who need to return home during the parade. Police Chief McCormick advised Council that this issue will be addressed during a Police Department debriefing.

Anthony DeCicco of 10 Anderson Street, Raritan, New Jersey stated that he is very pleased with the development that has been occurring in the Borough and that the town looks great.

Richard Yadlosky of 267 Weiss Terrace, Raritan, New Jersey inquired as to the absence of Councilwoman Gara and Councilman Lobell. Mayor Liptak explained that Ms. Gara has not been feeling well and Mr. Lobell was on vacation.

There being no more comments, Mayor Liptak closed the first portion of Public Comments.

**RESOLUTION**

Resolution No. 2014-09-130 - Amendment to Resolution No. 2014-09-129 Appointment of Probationary Patrol Officer

On motion by Council President Tozzi, seconded by Councilman Sibilgia, it was moved to adopt Resolution No. 2014-09-130

Recorded Vote: Aye: Carra, Giraldi, Sibilgia, Tozzi  
Nay: XXX  
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

**OATH OF OFFICE**

Probation Patrol Officer Christopher Wren

Mayor Liptak administered the Oath of Office to Patrol Officer Christopher Wren. Mayor and Council congratulated him on his appointment.

**PROCLAMATION**

Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

Mayor Liptak read the Proclamation into record and commented that ten years ago, this past Sunday, a friend who was very dear to her heart, passed away from undiagnosed ovarian cancer.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

August 26, 2014 - Regular Meeting

September 23, 2014  
Regular Meeting

On motion by Councilwoman Carra, seconded by Council President Tozzi, it was moved to approve the August 26, 2014 - Regular Meeting minutes.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Carra, Giraldi, Sibilialia, Tozzi  
Nay: XXX  
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

August 26, 2014 - Executive Session

On motion by Councilman Sibilialia, seconded by Councilman Giraldi, it was moved to approve the August 26, 2014 - Executive Session minutes.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Carra, Giraldi, Sibilialia, Tozzi  
Nay: XXX  
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

**ORDINANCES - SECOND READING**

Ordinance No. 2014-06 - An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, Amending Chapter 207, Land Use and Development, Part 6, Zoning, to Add a New Section 207-90.1 Regulating the Outdoor Storage of Firewood in Residential Areas of the Borough

Mayor Liptak requested a motion to table the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2014-06 until the meeting of October 28, 2014.

On motion by Councilwoman Carra, seconded by Council President Tozzi, it was moved to table the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2014-06 until October 28, 2014.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Carra, Giraldi, Sibilialia, Tozzi  
Nay: XXX  
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

**ORDINANCES - FIRST READING**

Ordinance No. 2014-09 - An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, Concerning Health Benefits

September 23, 2014  
Regular Meeting

WHEREAS, the Borough of Raritan is enrolled in the State Health Benefit Plan ("SHBP") which plan provides medical coverage to the employees and retirees of Raritan Borough; and

WHEREAS, the coverage for the surviving spouse of a deceased enrollee terminates at the end of the month in which the enrollee (primary member) passes; and

WHEREAS, although the surviving spouse can elect to continue the SHBP coverage and be re-enrolled without a break in coverage upon the receipt of a completed and signed application, the Mayor and Council find that surviving spouses in such situations should not have to be concerned with worrying about the source of funding for payment of same for the month following their spouse's departure; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council wish to assist as best they can in the surviving spouse's time of need and grief; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council believe that the payment on behalf of the surviving spouse of one month of premium for the SHBP benefits is proper and would not only assist the surviving spouse in his or her time of need, but will also serve to demonstrate the Borough's appreciation for the years of service to the Borough by the deceased member.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset and State of New Jersey, that it shall be the policy of the Borough of Raritan to pay the health benefits premium on behalf of the surviving spouse of a deceased member for one month, said month constituting the first full month subsequent to the date of death of the deceased member.

Section B

All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistencies.

Section C

If any section, subsection, paragraph, phrase or sentence of this ordinance is, for any reason, declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, such section, subsection, paragraph, phrase or sentence shall be deemed severable.

Section D

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final publication as provided by law.

On motion by Councilman Sibiliala, seconded by Council President Tozzi, it was moved to introduce Ordinance No. 2014-09.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Carra, Giraldi, Sibiliala, Tozzi

Nay: XXX  
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

Mayor Liptak announced that this ordinance will be considered for final passage after public hearing thereon at a meeting of said Borough Council to be held in the Municipal Building, 22 First Street, Raritan, New Jersey, on Tuesday, October 28, 2014 at 7:00 PM or at any time and place to which the meeting for the further consideration of the ordinance shall be adjourned.

**RESOLUTIONS**

Resolution No. 2014-09-131 - Award of Contract for Various Road and Sidewalk Improvements

On motion by Council President Tozzi, seconded by Councilman Giraldi, it was moved to adopt Resolution 2014-09-131.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Carra, Giraldi, Sibilialia, Tozzi  
Nay: XXX  
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

Resolution No. 2014-09-132 - Resolution Authorizing Award of Networked Digital Copier Lease Under the State of New Jersey Contract

On motion by Councilman Sibilialia, seconded by Councilman Giraldi, it was moved to adopt Resolution 2014-09-132.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Carra, Giraldi, Sibilialia, Tozzi  
Nay: XXX  
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

Resolution No. 2014-09-133 - Railroad Monthly Parking Refund

On motion by Councilman Sibilialia, seconded by Councilwoman Carra, it was moved to adopt Resolution 2014-09-133.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Carra, Giraldi, Sibilialia, Tozzi  
Nay: XXX  
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

**MOTIONS**

Library Board of Trustee Appointments to Unexpired Terms

1. Justin Boyle to fill unexpired term of James Brick ending December 31, 2016.
2. Susan Sappington to fill unexpired term of Fred Mountjoy ending December 31, 2014.

Councilwoman Carra asked Mayor Liptak for some background information on the above nominees.

Mayor Liptak explained that Mr. Boyle is the Librarian at Kennedy School and Ms. Sappington is the Librarian at St. Ann's School. Mayor Liptak stated that she chose these individuals because she believes that there needs to be some triangulated cooperation between the schools and the Borough Library.

On motion by Council President Tozzi, seconded by Councilwoman Carra, it was moved to approve the above listed Library Board of Trustee Appointments.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Carra, Giraldi, Sibilialia, Tozzi  
Nay: XXX  
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

Social Affair Permit

H.S.A. St. Ann School - Monte Carlo Night  
February 21, 2015 - 6:00p.m. to 11:00p.m.  
Proceeds to benefit St. Ann School

On motion by Council President Tozzi, seconded by Councilman Sibilialia, it was moved to approve the above listed Social Affair Permit.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Carra, Giraldi, Sibilialia, Tozzi  
Nay: XXX  
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS LIST**

Mayor Liptak called for a motion for approval of the Bills List.

On motion by Councilwoman Carra, seconded by Council President Tozzi, it was moved to approve the Bills List totaling \$3,450,249.21.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Carra, Giraldi, Sibilialia, Tozzi  
Nay: XXX  
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

**PURCHASE ORDER REQUESTS**

1. Sanitation Department - Emergency Generator Repair at the Municipal Building and Cardinal Woods Pump Station in the amount of \$1,946.47.

On motion by Council President Tozzi, seconded by Councilman Giraldi, it was moved to approve the above listed purchase order.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Carra, Giraldi, Sibilialia, Tozzi  
Nay: XXX  
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

**COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS**

Council President Tozzi reported that the Basilone Parade was very nice. Mr. Tozzi thanked the Public Works Department for all the work they did on the Basilone statue and also along the river for the upcoming River Fest celebration. Mr. Tozzi also thanked the Police Departments for doing a great job during the parade. Councilman Giraldi thanked Mr. Tozzi and the Basilone Group for donating the funds for the concert. Mr. Tozzi announced that the Duck Race is this Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Sibilialia reported that the donations to the Rescue Squad are being utilized to buy an oversized stretcher. Donations are still coming in and the Rescue Squad is always looking for volunteers. Mr. Sibilialia commended the Public Works Department for all their work on the Basilone Parade. He also reported that the Recreation Department has several programs currently open for participants to sign up and he thanked the Basilone Group for donating shirts for flag football.

Councilman Giraldi had no report on the Board of Health, the next meeting is in two weeks. Contract negotiations are still on-going with the Police Department.

Councilwoman Carra thanked John Pacifico and the Basilone Parade Committee for another great Basilone Parade weekend and also thanked the Police Department for doing a wonderful job. Ms. Carra also reported that the Planning Board Meeting for September 24<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled.

Mayor Liptak congratulated the Department of Public Works, the Police Department and the Basilone Parade Committee for a wonderful job on the parade; along with the Garden Club for all their work by the Basilone statue. Mayor Liptak also stated that she received a number of positive responses from residents about the garbage cans that were placed on top of the grates where the trees were cut.

Mayor Liptak reported that the Bridgewater-Raritan Youth Services Program has received a \$5,000.00 check from the Somerset County Freeholders for various youth programs. Mayor Liptak requested Council's approval to compose a letter to Tom Pacino at the Department of Transportation to solicit funds for the bikeway project. Mayor Liptak added that the Planning Board Meeting is cancelled due to the upcoming holiday and lack of applications.

Borough Engineer Schrek suggested that Dave Maski, Borough Planner contact Tom Pacino prior to sending the letter to the NJDOT in order to provide supporting documentation.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### 1. Approval of River Fest expenditures (DJ)

Council President Tozzi requested that Borough Administrator Jaxel announce the bills to be paid from the River Fest funds.

On motion by Councilman Sibilia, seconded by Councilman Giraldi, it was moved to approve the requested expenditures for the River Fest.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Carra, Giraldi, Sibilia, Tozzi  
Nay: XXX  
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

Borough Administrator Jaxel added that the summer help position in the Department of Public Works had previously been extended to October 1<sup>st</sup>; however, currently there is an employee out on worker's compensation. Mr. Jaxel inquired if Council was

agreeable to extending the summer employment position past October 1<sup>st</sup> and until the employee returns. Mr. Sibiliala stated that this was brought to his attention and it makes sense to maintain the current manpower. Council agreed that it was a good idea to maintain the summer employment until the return of the full-time employee.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### 1. Sewer Bill - 2009 Delinquent Charges (DJ)

Mayor Liptak reminded Council that this item is regarding the sewer bill that Mrs. Connors addressed Council about during public comments. Mayor Liptak asked if Council had any questions or concerns. Mr. Sibiliala stated that his only concern is that a bill wasn't generated; personally he feels that the interest should be waived. Mayor Liptak announced that there were a number of other accounts that didn't receive bills during this time, due to a computer glitch. Council was in consensus to refund the interest on this bill.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Richard Yadlosky of 267 Weiss Terrace, Raritan, New Jersey inquired why a repair is needed on an emergency generator when the unit is very rarely used? Police Chief McCormick and Borough Administrator Jaxel gave an explanation for the purchase order request. Mr. Yadlosky also asked which employee is on disability. Mayor Liptak informed Mr. Yadlosky that there would not be a discussion on an employee. Mr. Yadlosky also commented on the Health Benefits Ordinance which was introduced on first reading. Mr. Yadlosky referenced a story on a local radio station regarding the State pension fund to which Mayor Liptak responded that Mr. Yadlosky was misinformed on the purpose of the ordinance introduced tonight.

Tracey Cavallaro of 1038 Old York Road, Raritan, New Jersey inquired if Mayor and Council are considering broadcasting the Council Meetings so senior citizens who may have a problem getting out at night can view the meetings. Mayor Liptak responded that it is not an item that Council is currently considering. Councilman Giraldi responded that Council is considering starting the meetings a little earlier, so senior citizens don't have to walk home late at night. Ms. Cavallaro also inquired about a historic sign that is missing in the vicinity of the Nevius Street Bridge and also if benches could be installed along the river. Mayor Liptak stated that she would call the County regarding the missing sign. With regard to the benches, the Mayor stated that not all the property by

the bridge belongs to the Borough; therefore the Borough is not permitted to install benches in this area.

Jim Foohey of 710 Rhine Boulevard, Raritan, New Jersey stated that as a follow up to the broadcasting of Council Meetings; there is a device in the Municipal Building, which was previously installed by Cable Vision, that could televise Council Meetings. Mr. Foohey thinks that this would be a very good idea for those who cannot get out to the meetings. Mayor Liptak stated that there are pros and cons to broadcasting Council Meetings and discussion developed on this topic.

There being no more comments, Mayor Liptak closed the second portion of Public Comments.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Resolution No. 2014-09-134 - Executive Session - Subject Matter:  
Public Works Contract Negotiations; Attorney-Client Privilege

On motion by Council President Tozzi, seconded by Councilwoman Carra, it was moved to adopt Resolution 2014-09-134.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Carra, Giraldi, Sibilialia, Tozzi  
Nay: XXX  
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

Council convened in Executive Session at 7:52p.m.

On motion by Councilman Sibilialia, seconded by Council President Tozzi, it was moved to come out of Executive Session.

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

Motion Carried 4-0.

Council resumed in open session at 8:06p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Councilman Sibilialia, seconded by Councilwoman Carra, it was moved to adjourn the meeting.

Recorded Vote: AYE: All Ayes  
NAY: XXX

September 23, 2014  
Regular Meeting

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07p.m.

Respectively Submitted,

---

Marguerite Schmitt, RMC  
Borough Clerk

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_