

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 January 6, 2015. 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 (arrived at 6:40p.m.),
Councilman Foohy (arrived at 6:35p.m.),
Councilwoman Gara, Councilman Giraldi, Council
President Lobell, Councilman Sibilgia (arrived at
6:40p.m.)

Absent: XXX

Also Present: Mayor Liptak, Borough Attorney Wenner, Borough
Engineer Schrek (arrived at 7:00p.m.), Borough
Administrator Jaxel, Police Chief McCormick,
Borough Clerk Schmitt

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

Council President Lobell led the invocation and flag salute.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution No. 2015-05-59 - Executive Session - Subject Matter:
Public Works Personnel; Recreation Personnel; Potential
Litigation

On motion by Councilwoman Gara, seconded by Council President
Lobell, it was moved to approve Resolution No. 2015-05-59.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Gara, Giraldi, Lobell

Nay: XXX

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 3-0.

Council convened in Executive Session at 6:33p.m.

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

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

Motion Carried 6-0.

Council came out of Executive Session at 7:00p.m. and resumed in open session.

Mayor Liptak acknowledged the incredible job of the Raritan Fire Department, along with the Fire Departments and all other assisting agencies from the surrounding towns, who assisted in fighting the incredible multi-day fire at a former abandoned warehouse on Orlando Drive.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Donald Tozzi of 38 Glaser Avenue, Raritan, New Jersey distributed a picture to Mayor and Council of a six foot life size standing sign of a Marine that he requested be placed in the Municipal Building lobby to garner support for the Basilone Memorial Foundation. Council supported the placement of the sign. Mr. Tozzi stated that June 23rd is the 3rd Annual Basilone Bowl and the Basilone Memorial Foundation is the charitable recipients of that event. Mr. Tozzi also mentioned the Flag Day Celebration activities at Duke Island Park and requested Council's support.

Richard Yadlosky of Weiss Terrace, Raritan, New Jersey commented on issues concerning the Planning Board secretary position, the televising of Council Meetings and the purchase order for a camera. Mr. Yadlosky voiced his opposition to the taping of Council Meetings and stated that the object here is behavior modification.

Marie Vail of 1087 First Avenue, Raritan, New Jersey stated that she believes televising of the Council Meetings is a bad idea; financially it is too much money. Ms. Vail stated that many times there is no one in attendance and Council will not be themselves.

Debbie Thomas of 36 Canal Street, Raritan, New Jersey stated that she concurs with the Mayor that it was an amazing job done by all firefighters and first responders on the fire last week; it was a great effort by all.

WORK SESSION

1. Engineer's Report (SS)

Stan Schrek, Borough Engineer, delivered the following Engineer's Report:

2015 CDBG Application

Our application has been submitted requesting funding for manhole rehabilitation. Mayor Liptak and I will be presenting our application to the Selection Committee on 5/13.

Orlando Drive, Phase 3

Design is complete. We are in discussions with the County with regard to the abandonment of their ROW where Orlando Drive crosses County parkland in the vicinity of Canal Street. This issue was never resolved when Orlando Drive was realigned back in the late '80s. The County Park is on the Green Acres inventory so a diversion must be approved before the County will discuss the ROW abandonment. We met with Green Acres on 4/9 to discuss alternatives and the municipal park, to the south of the Woolen Mill is the most likely compensation piece. The settled ratio will be 5/1 and this piece of land provides sufficient area. We have had subsequent meetings with the County, Green Acres and Duke Farms and are proceeding with necessary applications.

Victoria Street Sidewalks

A CDBG, in the amount of \$98,405, is in place for side improvements on Victoria Street extending from Frelinghuysen Ave. to Railroad Ave. The County has authorized commencement of work. Design is completed and we will be advertising for bids shortly.

Riverfront Land Use Ordinance

The Ordinance, amending the RCD zone, was discussed by the Planning Board at their March 25 meeting. Revisions were suggested and Dave Maski made revisions which the Board will review at their April 22 meeting. It is expected the Board will send a letter to the Council so that the Second reading can proceed in May.

Granetz Place Vacation

The Planning Board recently approved an application for improvements to Granetz Mall (Raritan Crossing). The approval includes expansion of the rear parking lot which will necessitate a partial vacation of Granetz Place. The Planning Board approval is contingent on the execution of said vacation. The Board should be sending a letter recommending the vacation.

2. Request to Vacate a Portion of Granetz Place (DJ)

Michael Camerino, attorney representing Raritan Crossings gave a presentation on the proposed vacation of Granetz Place which would provide eight additional parking spaces for the shopping area.

Borough Engineer Schrek reviewed the process to vacate this parcel with Mayor and Council and stated that the Planning Board has approved the vacation. Mr. Schrek stated that this is a good site plan and a nice improvement to the property.

Borough Attorney Wenner informed Council that the next step in the process would require the preparation of a Borough Ordinance.

On motion by Councilwoman Gara, seconded by Councilman Foohey, it was moved to move forward with the requested vacation of the property.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Gara, Giralardi, Lobell, Sibilialia

Nay: XXX

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 6-0.

Borough Engineer Schrek stated that he would advise the Planning Board of Council's intent to proceed; this was a requirement of the Planning Board's Resolution.

3. Pool Supervisor Position (GL)

On motion by Council President Lobell, seconded by Councilwoman Gara, it was moved to hire a pool supervisor beginning May 18, 2015 at a base salary of \$8,300.00 for seventeen weeks.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Foohey, Gara, Lobell

Nay: Carra, Giralardi, Sibilialia

Abstain: XXX

The roll call vote resulted in a tie. Mayor Liptak cast an Aye vote to break the tie.

Motion Carried 4-3.

4. Sandwich Board Signs (ML)

Mayor Liptak stated that she has received some complaints from shop owners on Somerset Street regarding the use of

portable signs by businesses. The Mayor reviewed the sign ordinance and questioned why signs outside of shops have not been addressed by property maintenance or the code official. Borough Administrator Jaxel stated that he would bring this to the department's attention.

5. Verizon Cell Tower Lease Request (DJ)

Mayor Liptak reviewed the correspondence from Fastcom Consulting Services, LLC regarding a request to install a mini cell site at the DPW Complex located on Busky Lane. Mayor Liptak expressed some concerns. Discussion ensued on the height of the antenna. Borough Attorney Wenner clarified the intent of the request and stated that the company is requesting Council's opinion on whether this is something the Borough would like to pursue. Council requested more details. Borough Administrator Jaxel stated that he would ask for more information from the company.

6. Hanging of Banners - Somerset Street for 2015 (DJ)

Borough Administrator Jaxel stated that he has the banner for the St. Ann's Festa and since last year there were some concerns with the hanging of banners, he requested Council's input on whether to hang this banner. Councilman Sibilia stated that his concern is that the Borough should only hang banners for town sponsored functions; otherwise the Borough would be compelled to comply with all requests. Discussion ensued on which banners the Borough has hung previously.

Mr. Jaxel suggested that Council come up with a policy going forward and maybe grandfather current organizations for which they have already granted permission.

Mayor Liptak stated that the Festa starts on June 23rd therefore; the Borough should hang the banner on June 8th.

7. Televising of Council Meetings (JF)

Councilman Foohy reviewed his "Proposal to Televis Council Meetings" distributed to Council prior to the meeting. Mr. Foohy addressed in more depth some items and pointed out the benefits of televising. Discussion ensued and Councilman Sibilia inquired if a photo consent form would be required.

Councilman Giraldi stated that he had many questions and concerns on this topic. He commented that if people want to participate in government they will come to a meeting; they won't necessarily turn on the television. Mr. Giraldi was concerned with political grandstanding along with other

issues and felt this project was a waste of tax payer's money. Councilman Foohey rebutted Mr. Giraldi's concerns.

Council President Lobell stated that he disagrees with Councilman Giraldi. Mr. Lobell said that he has spoken to several people on this topic and they agree that they would like to see council meetings televised.

8. Borough Calendar (JF)

Councilman Foohey outlined a plan for a Borough Calendar. He suggested implementing a sixteen month calendar starting this September and then to revert back to a twelve month calendar. He also suggested a monthly theme using Borough photos. Council agreed with his idea.

9. Basilone Park Trees (GL)

Council President Lobell stated that the Recreation Department has requested that the trees between the Basilone pool fence and the bocce court be removed along with the dead trees on the south side of the pool. Council was in agreement to allow the Public Works Department to go ahead and take down the trees down.

10. Orlando Drive Field (GL)

Council President Lobell addressed the problems with the open field next to Total Automotive and stated that Public Works Manager LaVerde has received an estimate from a contractor for \$700.00 to excavate, grade the lot, spread top soil, etc. Borough Engineer Schrek stated that there are limits on where caps are located. Mr. Schrek stated that this is a fair price and he would follow up with a map.

11. Approval of Solicitor's Permit (MS)

Borough Clerk Schmitt requested Council's consent on a solicitor's permit that has been reviewed and approved by the Police Department.

Voice Call:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Giraldi, Lobell, Sibilialia

Nay: Gara

Abstain: XXX

12. Direct Install Energy Program (DJ)

Borough Administrator Jaxel reviewed the costs and proposed replacement locations of the Direct Install Energy Program outline by Donnelly Energy. Mr. Jaxel informed Council that this program is a replacement of existing exterior lighting. Mr. Jaxel requested that Borough Engineer Schrek review the

proposal and stated that if Council agrees with the proposal a Resolution of approval would be on the next meeting's Agenda.

13. Riverfest (PG)

Councilman Giraldi expressed his concern over what if anything is going on with the annual Riverfest and who is running the show. Mayor Liptak stated that she has reached out to a number of people and no one has time to head this event. The Mayor will speak to Don Christensen to see if he knows of anyone who is interested in chairing this event.

ORDINANCES - SECOND READING

Ordinance No. 2015-02 - An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, Amending, Revising and Supplementing the Code of the Borough of Raritan, Chapter 207-126.1, "RC Riverfront Commercial District" in Order to Add Certain Conditional Uses and to Provide for Certain Signage

Mayor Liptak called for a motion open the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2015-02.

On motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilwoman Carra, it was moved to open the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2015-02.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Carra, Foohey, Gara, Giraldi, Lobell,
Sibilia
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 6-0.

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

On motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman Foohey, it was moved to close the Public Hearing.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Carra, Foohey, Gara, Giraldi, Lobell,
Sibilia
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 6-0.

On motion by Councilwoman Gara, seconded by Council President Lobell, it was moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2015-02.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Carra, Foohey, Gara, Giraldi, Lobell,
Sibilia
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 6-0.

Ordinance No. 2015-03 - Calendar Year 2015 - Ordinance to
Establish a Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40a:4-45.14)

Mayor Liptak called for a motion open the Public Hearing on
Ordinance No. 2015-03.

On motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman Foohey,
it was moved to open the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2015-
03.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Carra, Foohey, Gara, Giraldi, Lobell,
Sibilia
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 6-0.

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

On motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Council President
Lobell, it was moved to close the Public Hearing.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Carra, Foohey, Gara, Giraldi, Lobell,
Sibilia
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 6-0.

On motion by Councilwoman Carra, seconded by Councilwoman Gara,
it was moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2015-03.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Carra, Foohey, Gara, Giraldi, Lobell
Sibilia
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 6-0.

PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION OF 2015 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Resolution No. 2015-05-60 - Adoption of 2015 Municipal Budget

Mayor Liptak called for a motion open the Public Hearing on Resolution No. 2015-05-60.

On motion by Council President Lobell, seconded by Councilwoman Gara, it was moved to open the Public Hearing on Resolution No. 2015-05-60.

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

Motion Carried 5-1.

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

On motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman Foohey, it was moved to close the Public Hearing.

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

Motion Carried 5-1.

On motion by Council President Lobell, seconded by Councilwoman Gara, it was moved to adopt Resolution No. 2015-05-60.

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

Motion Carried 5-1.

PURCHASE ORDERS

1. Police Department - Computer Car Mounts - Beyer Fleet in the amount of \$1,935.63.

On motion by Councilwoman Gara, seconded by Council President Lobell, it was moved to approve the above purchase.

Recorded Vote:
Aye: Carra, Foohey, Gara, Giraldi, Lobell, Sibilialia
Nay: XXX

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 6-0.

2. Recreation - Blanket Order Pool Parts - D & B Pools in the amount of \$2,000.00.

On motion by Council President Lobell, seconded by Councilman Foohey, it was moved to approve the above purchase.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Gara, Giraldi, Lobell, Sibilia

Nay: XXX

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 6-0.

3. Administration - Camcorder and Accessories for televising Council Meetings - NJ Accessory in the amount of \$3,056.99.

On motion by Councilman Foohey, seconded by Council President Lobell, it was moved to approve the above purchase.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Foohey, Gara, Lobell

Nay: Carra, Giraldi, Sibilia

Abstain: XXX

The roll call vote resulted in a tie. Mayor Liptak cast an Aye vote to break the tie.

Motion Carried 4-3.

4. Construction Department - Software Support - SDL in the amount of \$2,200.00.

On motion by Council President Lobell, seconded by Councilman Foohey, it was moved to approve the above purchase.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Gara, Giraldi, Lobell, Sibilia

Nay: XXX

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 6-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Liptak reviewed correspondence from the Shrine Chapel of the Blessed Sacrement regarding the feast of Corpus Christi on June 7th. The letter outlined the possession route and a request for patrol cars. The Mayor read a letter from Jamie Fox with the Department of Transportation awarding funding in the amount of \$175,000.00 for Bell Avenue. Mayor Liptak also read a letter from James Ruggieri with the Regional Center Partnership regarding the Driver Feedback Signs and the ownership of such signs to be formalized in an agreement. Discussion ensued on current signs responsibility and maintenance.

Councilwoman Carra stated that she received a call today that the grassy area off LaGrange Street is still filled with garbage. Ms. Carra stated that she is volunteering with Donald Tozzi on the Basilone Foundation and commended the Fire Department and the Somerville Rescue Squad on an outstanding job with the fire.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Donald Tozzi of 38 Glaser Avenue, Raritan, New Jersey inquired about the money budgeted for town events and requested that the money budgeted for the duck race be transferred to the Basilone Parade.

Adele Goetsch of 6 Nevius Street, Raritan, New Jersey inquired about the house at the corner of LaGrange and Thompson with a large amount of debris in the yard. Mayor Liptak said that Frank Taddeo is aware of it and the owners are in the process of getting a private hauler. Ms. Goetsch also inquired about the lights on the bridge and Council President Lobell stated that the lights will be coming down. Ms. Goetsch requested that benches be placed inside the fenced area at Frelinghuysen Pool like they are at Basilone Pool.

Richard Yadlosky of Weiss Terrace, Raritan, New Jersey commented that he is very disappointed that the Mayor went along with the camera purchase. He inquired why Councilman Sibilgia voted no on the Budget and addressed other concerns regarding the Agenda and the decline of the Northeast.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Councilwoman Gara, seconded by Council President Lobell, it was moved to adjourn the meeting.

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

May 12, 2015
Agenda-Workshop Meeting

Motion Carried 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25p.m.

Respectively Submitted,

Marguerite Schmitt, RMC
Borough Clerk

Approved: _____