

November 24, 2015
Regular Meeting

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, Councilman Foohey,
Councilwoman Gara, Councilman Giraldi, Council
President Lobell
Absent: Councilman Sibilia
Also Present: Mayor Liptak, Borough Attorney Wenner, Borough
Administrator Jaxel, Borough Engineer Schrek
(arrived at 7:00p.m.), Police Lt. Molina (arrived
at 7:00p.m.), Borough Clerk Schmitt

FLAG SALUTE AND INVOCATION

Councilwoman Carra led the invocation and flag salute and also requested a moment of silence in remembrance of the victims of the Paris attacks.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution No. 2015-11-120 - Executive Session - Subject Matter:
Administrative Personnel; Probationary Police Officer;
Attorney/Client Privilege

On motion by Councilwoman Gara, seconded by Council President Lobell, it was moved to approve Resolution No. 2015-11-120.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Gara, Giraldi, Lobell
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

Council convened in Executive Session at 6:35p.m.

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

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Gara, Giralardi, Lobell
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

Council came out of Executive Session at 6:48p.m. and resumed in Regular Session at 7:00p.m.

On motion by Council President Lobell, seconded by Councilwoman Gara, it was moved to authorize Mayor Liptak to sign a Hold Harmless Agreement with Quick Check.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Gara, Giralardi, Lobell
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

PRESENTATION

Rain Garden and Rain Barrel Rebate Programs - NJ Water Supply Authority

Robert O'Neil, Principal Watershed Protection Specialist from the New Jersey Water Supply Authority, 1851 State Route 31, Clinton, NJ reviewed highlights of the 2013-2015 Rain Garden & Rain Barrel Rebate Programs. Mr. O'Neil informed Mayor and Council about workshops and rebates available for residents who install rain gardens and rain barrels.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 27, 2015 - Executive Session

On motion by Councilwoman Carra, seconded by Council President Lobell, it was moved to approve the October 27, 2015 - Executive Session minutes.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Gara, Giralardi, Lobell
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

October 27, 2015 - Regular Meeting

On motion by Councilwoman Gara, seconded by Councilman Foohey, it was moved to approve the October 27, 2015 - Regular Meeting minutes.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Gara, Giraldi, Lobell

Nay: XXX

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 2015-11-121 - Railroad Parking Permit

On motion by Council President Lobell, seconded by Councilwoman Gara, it was moved to adopt Resolution No. 2015-11-121.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Gara, Giraldi, Lobell

Nay: XXX

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF BILLS LIST

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

On motion by Councilwoman Carra, seconded by Councilwoman Gara, it was moved to approve the Bills List for the period of October 26, 2015 through November 20, 2015 in the amount of \$2,026,385.90.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Gara, Giraldi, Lobell

Nay: XXX

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

PURCHASE ORDER REQUESTS

1. Administration - Licensed Computer Software Upgrades for Construction, Property Maintenance and Fire Prevention - Spatial Data Logic in the amount of \$6,750.00

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

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Gara, Giraldi, Lobell

Nay: XXX

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

2. Administration - Route 28 Pump Station water pump repair - Warshauer in the amount of \$2,309.95.

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

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Gara, Giraldi, Lobell

Nay: XXX

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

Council President Lobell delivered the Public Works Department monthly report and also stated that the department is working hard on leaf collection. Mr. Lobell announced that the Economic Development Committee has scheduled a meet and greet for December 8th from 6-8p.m. at Nik's Raritan Pub. Also, the Recreation Committee will be hosting Santa Comes to Raritan on December 6th at 2:00p.m.

Councilwoman Carra wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and safe travels.

Councilwoman Gara reported the following: Senior Citizens will be hosting a Medicine Drop-off at their December 9th meeting, additional information can be found on the Borough website. The Municipal Land Use Board has approved an application for the Raritan Valley Professional Center on Route 28. In addition,

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the Municipal Land Use Board will hold a special meeting on Monday, November 30th to hear the continuation of an application by the Raritan Orlando Drive Associates. This is an open meeting and all concerned residents are encouraged to attend to have any questions answered by the proper professionals. Ms. Gara also reported that there will be a round table meeting for all Somerset County municipalities regarding Waste Water Management to discuss new rules going into effect. Ms. Gara also delivered the Police Report and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Councilman Giraldi stated that he was not able to make either the Basilone or Historic and Cultural meeting, therefore he did not have anything to report.

Councilman Foohey announced that the Environmental Commission changed their meeting night to the 3rd Thursday of the month for 2016. The Board of Education is continuing their search for a new superintendent and the Bridgewater-Raritan Panthers who are now 11-0, led by Coach Scott Bray, will play Westfield High School for the State Championship on December 3rd at 8:00p.m. in Met Life stadium. Mr. Foohey also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a successful Black Friday shopping.

Mayor Liptak wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and thanked the local Fire Departments who responded to a structure fire on Somerset Street. The Mayor also mentioned that she received a phone call from a good friend on the Freeholder's Board informing her that two Raritan councilmembers and the Mayor-elect appeared during the public comment portion of the a Freeholder's meeting regarding the Orlando Drive Project. Mayor Liptak noted she was under the impression that this was a private meeting and it was not.

In addition, Mayor Liptak stated that she has received correspondence from the Middle Earth Station House Adjustment Program requesting contributions to support their programs for teens in need of guidance and the Municipal Land Use Board will meet this Monday instead of Wednesday night.

Mayor Liptak also addressed Council President Lobell regarding a rumor circulating that the Mayor elect and sitting Councilmembers are planning to dissolve the Recreation Committee, after the first of the year. Council President Lobell and Councilman Giraldi both stated that these rumors are not true.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Library State Grant (DJ)

Borough Administrator Jaxel stated that since the State wishes to review all grant expenditures, an award for the Library work will most likely be at December 15th meeting.

2. Council President Lobell requested that Mr. Jaxel look into the status of the street light at Anderson and Somerset Streets.

3. Councilwoman Gara stated that the Verizon box on the pole outside the Municipal Building parking lot needs attention.

4. Mayor Liptak stated that the 2015 photograph of Council will be framed in time for the December 15th meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Date for 2016 Reorganization Meeting (DJ)

Borough Administrator Jaxel requested that Council provide information as soon as possible on a date for the 2016 Reorganization Meeting. Councilwoman Carra stated that she has spoken with Mayor-elect McMullin and he is requesting Sunday, January 3, 2016 at noon. Councilman Giraldi stated that Raritan is the only town in the County that has Reorganization on Sunday; the other towns have their meeting during the week. Councilman Giraldi stated that he will discuss his concerns with Mayor-elect McMullin.

2. 2016 Council Meeting Format (DJ)

Borough Administrator Jaxel opened for discussion the possibility of changing the current meeting format. Mr. Jaxel inquired if Council wished to stay with the current format or to combine both the Agenda-Workshop and Regular meetings thereby making each meeting both a discussion and action meeting. Mr. Jaxel described the advantages of combining the meetings and elaborated on this style. Discussion ensued.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Recorded Vote: All Ayes

Motion Carried 5-0.

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Meeting adjourned at 7:45p.m.

Respectively Submitted,

Marguerite Schmitt, RMC
Borough Clerk

Approved: _____