

March 8, 2016  
Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Raritan Borough Council was called to order by Mayor McMullin 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 McMullin 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 28, 2016. 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: Councilman Bray, Council President Carra,  
Councilman Foohey, Councilman Giraldi, Councilman  
Sibilia  
Absent: Councilwoman Danyluk  
Also Present: Mayor McMullin, Borough Attorney Wenner,  
Borough Administrator Jaxel, Borough Engineer  
Schrek

**INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE**

Councilman Giraldi led the invocation and flag.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

John Roglieri of 341 Vones Lane, Raritan, New Jersey and owner of the property at 8 Third Street in the proposed Redevelopment zone commented on the proposed eminent domain stipulation in the Redevelopment study. Mr. Roglieri also requested clarification between a PILOT program and a tax abatement for which Borough Attorney Wenner gave an explanation.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

February 9, 2016 - Executive Session  
February 9, 2016 - Regular Meeting

On motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilwoman Carra, it was moved to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2016, 2016 - Executive Session and Regular Meeting.

**Recorded Vote:**

Aye: Bray, Carra, Foohey, Giraldi, Sibilia  
Nay: XXX  
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

**WORK SESSION**

1. **Engineer's Report (SS)**

Borough Engineer delivered the following report:

**Raritan Library**

We have requested informal quotes, to replace and relocate the electrical panel, from 4 local contractors. Quotes were requested to be submitted on/before March 4.

**Firehouse Generator**

All permits have been secured and work is proceeding.

**Bell Avenue Improvements (2015 NJDOT Local Aid Grant)**

We started field survey work just prior to the last snow storm and subsequently had to stand down due to the snow pack. Work is continuing as weather permits.

**Inflow and Infiltration Study**

Base mapping of the existing sanitary system is completed. We are reviewing past inspection reports to target areas for flow study.

**Sanitary Manhole Restoration (2015 CDBG)**

Design is complete. The project has been advertised for bid with bids to be received later this month.

**Sanitary Manhole Restoration (2016 CDBG)**

We are processing this year's Community Development Block Grant application. The applications are due on 3/18. Applicants are subsequently invited to present the application before the selection committee.

**Redevelopment Area Study**

At their last meeting, the Planning Board interviewed two firms that submitted SOQ's for appointment as the Redevelopment Planner. The Board selected Paul Grygiel, PP, AICP, of the firm Phillips, Preiss and Grygiel, LLC. Paul, and his firm, have extensive experience with similar projects as well as experience in Somerset County. His work expected to commence shortly.

**Traffic and Speeding Concerns on Farrand Street and Vicinity**

Concerns have been raised regarding speeding in the vicinity of Farrand Street. Apparently drivers, in an effort to avoid/circumnavigate the peak hour congestion at the Rt. 202/1<sup>st</sup> Ave. intersection, will charge down 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. then make a right on Farrand or 5<sup>th</sup> Street to intercept their original route and doing all this very quickly. There are traffic calming measures available. We can discuss this at the work meeting.

A discussion ensued on the possible installation and uses of speed humps and the potential impact.

2. Washington School Building and Property (AS)

Councilman Sibilialia stated that a few weekends ago, he, Councilman Foohey, Borough Engineer Schrek and Carl Memoli toured the Washington School building and reported that the building is in bad condition. Mr. Sibilialia stated that the Borough hopes to acquire the building back from the County, pending demolition. Borough Engineer Schrek reported on the current condition of the building and discussion ensued on the issues with the building.

3. River Fest and Duck Race RFP Evaluation (RW)

Borough Attorney Wenner reported on the Request for Proposal authorized and received by the Borough with regard to the River Fest and Duck Race. Mr. Wenner reported that one proposal was received from the Basilone Foundation and reviewed the contents of the proposal.

One motion by Councilman Giralaldi, seconded by Councilwoman Cara, it was moved to adopt Resolution No. 2016-03-58 and approve the Basilone Foundation proposal.

A brief question and answer session ensued and the following roll call vote ensued.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Bray, Carra, Foohey, Giralaldi, Sibilialia

Nay: XXX

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

4. Access to ROW on DeCicco Drive to Remove Dead Trees (SS)

Borough Engineer Schrek reported that it has taken some time to determine that certain dead trees on DeCicco Drive were in the right of way. Borough Attorney Wenner requested that Council pass a motion authorizing the Mayor to execute documents regarding removal of said trees in order to expedite the process.

One motion by Councilman Foohey, seconded by Councilman Giralaldi, it was moved to authorize the Mayor to execute said documents to be drawn up by the Borough Attorney.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Bray, Carra, Foohey, Giralaldi, Sibilialia

Nay: XXX

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

5. Date for 2016 Municipal Budget Workshop (DJ)

Borough Administrator Jaxel requested that Mayor and Council determine a date to hold a Budget Workshop meeting, for purposes of finalizing the Municipal Budget, which is scheduled for introduction at the March 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Discussion ensued and it was decided that a workshop meeting be set for March 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00p.m.

**ORDINANCES-SECOND READING**

Ordinance No. 2016-03 - An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, Granting Non-Exclusive Permission and Consent to Sunesys, Inc., Its Successors and Assigns, to Use the Existing Public Right-Of-Way Along Granetz Plaza and Glaser Avenue in the Borough of Raritan, Somerset County, New Jersey, Above the Surface Thereof for the Installation, Operation, Repair, Maintenance and Replacement of Fiber Optic Cable

Mayor McMullin opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2016-03. There being no comments, Mayor McMullin closed the Public Hearing.

On motion by Councilman Bray, seconded by Councilman Sibilialia, it was moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2016-03.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Bray, Carra, Foohey, Giraldi, Sibilialia

Nay: XXX

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

**ORDINANCES-FIRST READING**

Ordinance No. 2016-04 - An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Acquisition of Real Property Identified as Block 24 Lot 1, 606 First Avenue, on the Tax Map of the Borough of Raritan from the County of Somerset for the Consideration of One Dollar

On motion by Councilman Sibilialia, seconded by Councilman Foohey, it was moved to introduce Ordinance No. 2016-04.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Bray, Carra, Foohey, Giraldi, Sibilia  
Nay: XXX  
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

Mayor McMullin announced that Ordinance No. 2016-04 listed above for first reading 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, April 12, 2016 at 7:00p.m. or at any time and place to which the meeting for the further consideration of the ordinance shall be adjourned.

**RESOLUTIONS**

Resolution No. 2016-03-53 - Resolution of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, Amending the General Rules of Order in Order to Provide For a Consent Agenda

On motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman Sibilia, it was moved to approve Resolution No. 2016-03-53.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Bray, Carra, Foohey, Giraldi, Sibilia  
Nay: XXX  
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

Resolution No. 2016-03-54 - Disposition of Equipment by the Borough Administrator

On motion by Councilman Sibilia, seconded by Councilman Giraldi, it was moved to approve Resolution No. 2016-03-54.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Bray, Carra, Foohey, Giraldi, Sibilia  
Nay: XXX  
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

Resolution No. 2016-03-55 - Taxi License

On motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Council President Carra, it was moved to approve Resolution No. 2016-03-55.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Bray, Carra, Foohey, Giraldi, Sibilialia

Nay: XXX

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

Resolution No. 2016-03-56 - Resolution of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Settlement of Litigation Captioned "Gannett Satellite Information Network, Inc., Et Al v. Borough of Raritan", SOM-L-1798-09, in the Amount of \$650,000.00 and Authorizing the Dismissal of the Complaint Against Action Data Services, SOM-L-1049-15

On motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilman Giraldi, it was moved to approve Resolution No. 2016-03-56.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Bray, Carra, Foohey, Giraldi, Sibilialia

Nay: XXX

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

**PURCHASE ORDER REQUESTS**

1. Administration - Codification of 2015 ordinances and code book supplements - General Code in an amount not to exceed \$2,210.00.

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

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Bray, Carra, Foohey, Giraldi, Sibilialia

Nay: XXX

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

2. Public Works - Removal of 2 dead trees in the ROW on DiCicco Drive - Absolute Tree Experts in the amount of \$2,300.00.

On motion by Councilman Foohey, seconded by Councilman Bray, it was moved to approve the above listed purchase order.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Bray, Carra, Foohey, Giraldi, Sibilgia

Nay: XXX

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Update on Verizon cable channel (JF)

Councilman Foohey reported that tomorrow Verizon will be installing the cables to enable broadcasting of the Borough Council Meetings on FIOS; a channel number will be assigned after installation.

2. Update on Borough calendar (JF)

Councilman Foohey reported that the Borough calendar is complete. It has been printed and copies are available in about twenty different locations throughout the Borough; it is also available on the website.

3. Public Works Employee (PG)

Councilman Giraldi stated that he was initially going to talk about hiring someone full-time to repair the catch basins throughout town; however, there does not seem to be money available at this time. Discussion ensued on the costs to perform catch basin repairs.

**COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS**

Councilman Giraldi had nothing new to report since the last meeting.

Councilman Bray delivered the monthly Court report and stated that the Board of Health would like to recognize March as National Colorectal Awareness Month. The Recreation Department Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at Frelinghuysen Park and an updated on baseball/softball opening day will be discussed at the next Recreation Committee meeting. Councilman Bray also offered his condolences to the Sweeney family on the passing of Billy Sweeney a Raritan icon who will surely be missed.

Council President Carra reported that NJ American Water will be replacing a water main along Reimer Street and also bulk pick up will begin again on March 10<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Foohey publicly thanked Bruce Doorly for his help with the Borough calendar.

Councilman Sibilialia announced that the Regional Center Partnership will meet later this month. Public Properties is working on the acquisition of Washington School and he is also working on a schedule with NJ Venom for use of the fields.

Mayor McMullin announced that at a recent budget meeting he was made aware of approximately \$200,000 in excess funds available for grants that need to be addressed. He requested that Councilman Sibilialia look into this money. Borough Administrator Jaxel gave a report on these funds.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Donald Tozzi of 38 Glaser Avenue, Raritan, New Jersey and founder of the Basilone Foundation thanked Council for awarding the Basilone Foundation the River Fest and Duck Race.

Council President Carra stated that she forgot to bring an item up under old business. Ms. Carra reported that the Mayor, Councilwoman Danyluk and herself met last week with Public Works Superintendent LaVerde and JoAnn Brandt, Administrative Assistant regarding the administrative work load in the Public Works Department. Ms. Carra gave a report on what was observed and read the following Resolution into record appointing JoAnn Brandt, Full-time Administrative Assistant in the Public Works Department.

Resolution No. 2016-03-57 - Administrative Assistant Public Works Department

Borough Attorney Wenner requested a motion to enter into Executive Session for purposes of Attorney/Client Privileges prior to acting on this Resolution.

On motion by Councilman Sibilialia, seconded by Councilman Bray, it was moved to enter into Executive Session for the purposes of Attorney/Client Privilege.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Bray, Carra, Foohey, Giraldi, Sibilialia

Nay: XXX

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

Council entered Executive Session at 8:00p.m. and reconvened in open session at 8:05p.m.

Council President Carra made a motion to hire Joann Brandt as full time Administrative Assistant in the Public Works Department at the annual salary of \$24,960.00 effective March 14, 2016, seconded by Councilman Giraldi.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Bray, Carra, Foohey, Giraldi

Nay: Sibilialia

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-1.

Councilman Sibilialia requested a discussion and stated that he feels this issue is ridiculous. He was just informed of this item a few minutes ago and cannot justify this increase in salary and work load. Mayor McMullin gave an explanation of the issues discussed regarding this position. Since discussion was overlooked, a motion was entered by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman Bray, to rescind the previous motion.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Bray, Foohey, Giraldi, Sibilialia

Nay: Carra

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-1.

Mayor McMullin called for another motion on Resolution No. 2016-03-57.

On motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman Bray, it was moved to approve Resolution No. 2016-03-57.

Councilman Sibilialia inquired if there is 25 hours of extra work for this person and stated that if that is the case this person should be behind with the work. Council President Carra stated that there is more work required in the department that is not currently getting done. Discussion ensued and when asked Borough Administrator Jaxel stated that in his opinion adequate administrative work was being performed in this department.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Bray, Carra, Foohey, Giraldi

Nay: Sibilialia

Abstain: XXX

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Motion Carried 4-1.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor McMullin called for all those in favor of adjourning the meeting.

Recorded Vote: All Ayes

Motion Carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15p.m.

Respectively Submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Marguerite Schmitt, RMC  
Borough Clerk

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