

A Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Raritan was called to order by Mayor McMullin at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was held in the Meeting Room of the Raritan Municipal Building, 22 First Street, Raritan, NJ 08869.

Mayor McMullin announced that the meeting was called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Notices of the meeting were sent to *The Courier News* and *The Star Ledger* on January 28, 2016. In addition, notices also were posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building, on the Borough website and made available in the Office of the Borough Clerk. Notices on the bulletin board have remained continuously posted.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor McMullin, Council President Carra, Councilman Foohey, Councilman Giraldi and Councilman McGinley
Absent: Councilman Bray and Councilman Sibilgia
Also Present: Borough Administrator Jaxel, Borough Attorney Wenner, Borough Engineer Schrek and Borough Clerk Colvin

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

Councilman McGinley led the Invocation and Flag Salute, recognizing the men and women in the Armed Forces around the world and praying for their safe return.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution No. 2016-07-118 - Executive Session

Personnel

Contract Negotiations

On a motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman McGinley, Council moved to approve Resolution No. 2016-07-118.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Giraldi, McGinley

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 4-0

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

On a motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman McGinley, Council moved to leave executive session.

Recorded Vote: All in Favor

Motion Carried: 4-0

Council came out of Executive Session at 7:01 p.m. and resumed in Regular Session at 7:03 p.m.

On a motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman McGinley, Council moved to authorize Attorney Wenner to prepare the retirement agreement with Police Chief McCormick.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Giraldi, McGinley

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 4-0

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor McMullin opened the meeting to the public for comment.

Don Tozzi, 32 Glaser Avenue: Mr. Tozzi said 27 Raritan residents died fighting for our country. He would like individual flags made with the soldiers' names on them. Individuals can sponsor a flag for \$100.00. The Foundation currently has 20 sponsors in place, leaving 7 flags still in need of sponsorship.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 12, 2016 - Executive Session

July 12, 2016 - Regular Session

On a motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman Foohey, Council moved to approve the Minutes of July 12, 2016 - Regular Session and July 12, 2016 - Executive Session.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Giraldi, McGinley

Nay: x

Abstain: *McGinley from July 12, 2016 - Executive Session

Motion Carried: 4-0, Regular Session

Motion Carried: 3-0, Executive Session

WORK SESSION

1. Rescind Purchase Order No. 16-00354 - Absolute Tree Experts - \$2,300.00

On a motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman McGinley, Council moved to rescind Purchase Order No. 16-00354.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Giraldi, McGinley

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 4-0

2. Gaston Avenue Brook

Engineer Schrek said he visited the site. He said a project started in 1979 to install a 60-inch pipe along Gaston. The project was not completed. He said about 15 years ago there was another project to make up for the uncompleted project. There has been erosion since. Residents Cookie Commandini and Florence Russo, 24 Gaston Avenue and 20 Gaston Avenue, respectively, addressed Mayor and Council. The women said they believe the stream and issues related to maintaining it should be the responsibility of the Borough, not the residents.

Engineer Schrek suggested a project to assist with maintaining the stream. A discussion ensued between Mayor, Council, the residents and Engineer Schrek about how best to proceed.

All were in agreement that more research into the situation was needed, including visiting the site and the matter would be revisited at the next Regular Meeting, August 9, 2016.

3. Use of Lobby on Saturday, Sept. 17 - Bruce Doorly, Wall of Heroes - Dennis Crane

Mayor McMullin said he received a notice requesting use of the Municipal Lobby on Sept. 17 to have a ceremony to honor a Raritan war hero who is not currently on the Wall of Heroes. The Mayor said he would like coordination between various groups in the Borough so all have the opportunity to be involved.

4. Compliance Report - Tax Assessor - Acknowledge Receipt of Plan

Mayor McMullin said he explored different options through conversations with County representatives and Attorney Wenner and his firm related to various tax assessments in the Borough. He said County action would require acknowledgement of receipt of the plan.

* A brief conversation was had between Administrator Jaxel and members of the Governing Body related to work on the Anderson Street Firehouse. Administrator Jaxel said the work is in the architect's hands. He said a purchase order exists to pay the architect. Members of the Governing Body were in agreement that they want a schedule from the architect.

ORDINANCES - FIRST READING

Ordinance No. 2016-10 - An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, providing for various

capital improvements and related expenses in and for the Borough of Raritan and Appropriating \$625,200.00 therefor and providing for the issuance of \$593,940.00 in bonds or notes of the Borough of Raritan to finance the same

On motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman McGinley, Council moved to Introduce Ordinance No. 2016-10.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Giraldi, McGinley

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 4-0

Ordinance No. 2016-10 - An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, amending the Code of the Borough of Raritan in order to add a new Chapter 260 entitled Properties, Upkeep of Vacant and Abandoned Residential Properties to the Code of the Borough of Raritan

Council President Carra said the Ad Hoc Housing Committee met on July 19 and the meeting was very productive. She thanked new Councilman Bob McGinley for being on the committee, as well as the Borough's Housing Official Lou Gara, who she said brought insight and valuable information. The Committee will make recommendations at a later date.

On motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilman Giraldi, Council moved to Introduce Ordinance No. 2016-11.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Giraldi, McGinley

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 4-0

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution No. 2016-07-119 - Hiring Full-Time Assistant to the Chief Financial Officer and Tax Collector

Resolution No. 2016-07-120 - Authorizing Refund - Railroad Parking

On motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman Foohey, Council moved to Approve the Consent Agenda.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Giraldi, McGinley
Nay: x
Abstain: x
Motion Carried: 4-0

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

Resolution No. 2016-07-121

On motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman McGinley, Council moved to Approve the Bill List.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Giraldi, McGinley
Nay: x
Abstain: x
Motion Carried: 4-0

PURCHASE ORDER REQUEST

Recreation - Services for Disabled Residents - Somerset County Park Commission - \$2,030.00

On motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Council President Carra, Council moved to Approve the Purchase Order Request for the Somerset County Park Commission for \$2,030.00.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Giraldi, McGinley
Nay: x
Abstain: x
Motion Carried: 4-0

OLD BUSINESS

None

COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Giraldi said he had nothing to report and would attend the upcoming Basilone meeting this week.

Council President Carra said the trees that have been discussed in recent meetings would be taken down the following day. They are located on DeCicco and Route 202. Also, tax bills were sent out later than usual this year so the deadline will be extended from Wednesday, August 10 to Thursday, August 25.

Councilman Foohey said local historian Don Esposito will give a presentation at the Raritan Library on August 4. He said Mr. Esposito was instrumental in establishing the Library years ago.

Mayor McMullin said he met with the new Superintendent of Schools for the Bridgewater/Raritan system at Borough Hall and also gave him a tour of the Borough. Also, in regards to the Manville catch basin, the Mayor asked for a follow-up. Additionally, he said he spoke with Don Esposito, who told him the County was interested in receiving a grant request in regards to the Firehouse.

Attorney Wenner said it would be appropriate to acknowledge, by a motion, Assessor Stives' submission of the Compliance Report.

On motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman McGinley, Council moved to Acknowledge Receipt of Compliance Report.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Giraldi, McGinley

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 4-0

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor McMullin opened the meeting to members of the public wishing to speak.

Don Tozzi, 32 Glaser Avenue: Mr. Tozzi questioned whether certain commercial property owners are current on their taxes. Mayor McMullin said the properties in question are current.

Seeing no additional hands, the Mayor closed the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman McGinley, Council moved to Adjourn the Meeting.

Recorded Vote: All in Favor

Motion Carried: 4-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Eric M. Colvin, RMC, CMR
Borough Clerk

Approved: _____