

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Annual Reorganization Meeting of the Raritan Borough Council was called to order by Mayor Charles McMullin at 12:30 p.m. The meeting was held in the Meeting Room of the Borough of Raritan Municipal Building at 22 First Street, Raritan, NJ 08869.

**STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT**

Mayor McMullin read the following statement:

This Annual Reorganization Meeting was called pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act. Adequate notice of this meeting was posted in the Municipal Building, made available on the Borough website and communicated to *The Courier News* and *The Star Ledger* on November 29, 2016.

**PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Relief Hose Company No. 2 Presented the Colors. All those in attendance then participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INVOCATION**

Monsignor Michael Corona, of the Catholic Church of St. Ann, delivered the Invocation.

**OATH OF OFFICE – COUNCIL**

Mayor McMullin administered the following Oaths of Office:

Councilman Nicolas Carra

Councilman Paul Giraldi

Councilman Robert McGinley

**ROLL CALL – MAYOR & COUNCIL**

Borough Administer Jaxel called the following names for Roll Call:

Present: Councilman Bray, Councilwoman Carra, Councilman Carra, Councilman Foohey, Councilman Giraldi, Councilman McGinley

Absent: x

Also Present: Borough Administrator Jaxel, Borough Clerk Colvin

**ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT & OATH OF OFFICE**

Mayor McMullin called for a nomination for Council President.

On motion by Councilman McGinley, seconded by Councilman Giraldi, Council moved to Elect Councilwoman Carra to the position of Council President

**Recorded Vote**

Yea: Bray, D. Carra, N. Carra, Foohey, Giraldi, McGinley

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

Mayor McMullin administered the Oath of Office to Council President Carra.

**OATH OF OFFICE – RELIEF HOSE COMPANY NO. 2**

Mayor McMullin administered the following Oaths of Office:

Chief – Brian Kredatus

Deputy Chief – Tom DeSantis

Captain – Ron Link

1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant – Ian Insley

2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant – Jordan Wheeler

**STATE OF THE BOROUGH**

Mayor McMullin delivered the following address:

Distinguished Guests, Families and Friends. As I stated in my State of the Borough comments in January, 2016, the voters cast their ballots for a change and a new direction in Raritan. Over the past year. I was blessed to work with a very productive Borough Council in forging ahead with “the peoples’ business” and truly putting “Raritan First!” I am happy to report that our financial condition is sound, our credit rating is very good, our assessed to true value is 96% for tax purposes and our tax collection rate is excellent.

Raritan truly is a great community with great potential. This was evident when I personally observed Borough Employees, the business community and the many civic-minded residents working together to renew and improve our town.

Prior to listing notable events of 2016, I want to first mention a very special award recognizing our Raritan Historic and Cultural committee. The Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission selected this group to receive an award for their Historic Tour of Raritan informative booklets. I congratulate them for their good work for our community and thank them for preserving our rich history.

The year began with our Special Projects legal counsel, Difrancesco/Bateman, providing important background to me and my colleagues about Raritan’s earlier OPRA lawsuit. The Governing Body analyzed and debated before it decided it was time to cut our losses and put an end to this litigation. Then came the big snowstorm in January 2016 that slowed down all of Somerset County. I congratulate our Public Work Department for again rising to the challenge of a significant snowstorm. Members of private sector also graciously assisted in a meaningful way. Three residents - John Paternoster, Fred Sinagra and Dave Esposito - worked ‘shoulder-to-shoulder’ with our Public Works men to clear our downtown. These business men donated their time AND their much-needed equipment from their respective companies to help Raritan. That is what I call “Service to your Community”. Thank you!

It seemed that as soon as the snow was cleared, JMF Properties came to the Governing Body and Planning Board with a proposal to invest tens of millions of dollars in our community. Wow! Redevelopment of this area will provide a major economic boost to Raritan so we can address our much-needed emergency services and recreational facilities.

I’d like to pause for a moment to make clear that the work of our Governing Body involves the coordination and cooperation of Somerset County and the State of New Jersey, members of our many Boards and Special Committees as well as consultants. Please keep this in mind as we together revisit some of the important initiatives and events of 2016:

- 1) Establishment of Raritan River Park. Councilmen Giraldi and Sibilgia contacted me, as Mayor elect at the end of 2015, to join them at the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders. We requested their consideration to preserve the river waterfront in Raritan for the enjoyment and use by all Somerset County residents. Throughout 2016, we continued our efforts to make this a reality.
- 2) Raritan Renew – The entire Governing Body recognize the need to renew certain properties throughout our community. Five sites are working their way through the renewal process.

The Route 202/Second Avenue and 401 Tillman Street are successful efforts. While the so-called United Dying site, 413 Raritan Ave and 13 Anderson Street sites are progressing and we expect complete resolution in 2017. We will be focusing on additional sites in 2017 as we continue to improve our community.

- 3) The return of the Washington School property to Raritan. Many years ago, the children of Bridgewater and Raritan were educated in schools located in Raritan. Time has progressed and the townships have grown substantially. Washington School became surplus property in the 1980s and, at that time, the school district transferred ownership to Somerset County. Over thirty years later, Somerset County no longer requires the facility/property and are returning it back to Raritan. The Governing Body plans to maintain this property in public use.
- 4) The realignment and extension of the First Avenue/202 jug handle. There were multiple meetings with the NJDOT in Ewing to discuss extending the First Avenue/202 jug handle further to the north. We've made substantial progress and are now jointly focused on realigning the jug handle. I want to especially thank Senator Doherty and Al Gaburo for making the time to join me at these meetings. I also want to acknowledge the professionalism and openness of the NJDOT staff and its consultants to our request.
- 5) The adjustment of First Avenue traffic flow. I want to thank Somerset County and especially their traffic engineering professionals who continue to collaborate with Raritan to address traffic signal timing along First Ave. This fine-tuning effort continues as we seek to keep traffic moving on First Ave.
- 6) Security enhancements during the 2016 Basilone Parade. For me, this was very "eye opening look" at our law enforcement. I am thankful for the fast thinking judgement of our Raritan Police Department who responded to a security threat targeting the Marines and Marine related events. The Department requested additional resources to better secure the parade route. Our Somerset County Sheriff Department lead by Sheriff Frank Provenzano provided huge support in concert with our Somerset County Prosecutor's Office lead by Mike Robertson. Their efforts in supporting Raritan Police made our community safe and the Parade was a great success. At this time, I want to acknowledge and thank Freeholder-Director Pat Walsh and her colleagues for the design and construction of Veterans Park – across from the Basilone Statue – that is scheduled for completion in 2017.
- 7) Improvements in Raritan's housing-related ordinances. Mid-year a committee of citizens, landlords and members of Council was formed to evaluate our housing inspection program and housing related ordinances. Denise Carra chairs this prolific committee that is enhancing enforcement authority and increasing fines for problem landlords, owners and lenders. The committee also recommended a Noise Ordinance that the Governing Body adopted. Many thanks to people involved in this process including Rich Wenner, our Borough Attorney, for crafting these multiple new Ordinances. The committee's work will continue in 2017.
- 8) The restart of the historic preservation work at the Firehouse on Anderson Street after many years. Special thanks to the Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission for supporting this work and we are working diligently to implement these improvements to this historic building.
- 9) Development of plans to construct Senior Citizen housing. The Governing Body in conjunction with the Planning Board have designated a tract of land for Senior housing. We are hoping for a neighborhood fit of between 10 and 20 units appropriate for senior citizens. It's a great location and I want to congratulate the Planning Board and Governing Body on such progressive action.

On behalf of the Governing Body, I thank the many individuals who came forward to serve on Raritan's Boards and Committees. With the support of our residents, employees, professionals and colleagues at all levels of government, Raritan is poised in 2017 to further enhance its recreational, economic and quality of life.

I sincerely thank you for the opportunity to serve as Mayor and I wish you a Healthy, Safe and Prosperous New Year. May God continue to bless Raritan and our great country.

Mayor McMullin asked Council members if they wished to speak.

Councilman Giraldi did not have any comment.

Councilman Bray wished everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Council President Carra congratulated the newly elected and re-election members of Council, Councilman Nicolas Carra, Councilman Paul Giraldi and Councilman Robert McGinley. The Council President said she is looking forward to chairing the Public and Private Properties Committee to continue the good work started in 2016. Council President Carra thanked all the volunteers in the community and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilman Foohey wished all those in attendance, and watching at home, a Happy and Healthy New Year. The Councilman said he is committed to making Raritan a better place to live in every way. He recognized the Police and Fire departments for their fast response times and thanked them for their service. The Councilman welcomed Councilman Carra. He said Council worked well together in 2016 and looks forward to the same experience in 2017. He is also looking forward to serving as liaison to his committees and boards.

Councilman Carra said he is ready and looking forward to serving as Councilman. He congratulated Councilmen McGinley and Giraldi. The Councilman said he believes in the vision of Mayor McMullin and the Council concerning the future of Raritan and believes he can bring a fresh perspective to the table. He wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilman McGinley thanked everyone who supported him during the election season last fall. He congratulated Councilmen Carra and Giraldi on their victories also. The Councilman vowed to do the best he can for the people of Raritan and to help move the Borough in the best direction.

#### **ADOPTION OF 2017 GENERAL RULES OF ORDER**

Mayor McMullin called for a motion on the Adoption of the 2017 General Rules of Order, Resolution No. 2017-01-01.

On a motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman Bray, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2017-01-01.

#### **Recorded Vote**

Yea: Bray, D. Carra, N. Carra, Foohey, Giraldi, McGinley

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

**2017 COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES**

Mayor McMullin acknowledged the following 2016 Standing Committees:

Administration & Personnel	1. Councilman McGinley 2. Councilman Carra
Engineering & Public Works	1. Councilman Bray 2. Council President Carra
Finance	1. Councilman Carra 2. Councilman Bray
Police	1. Councilman Giraldi 2. Councilman Foohey
Public & Private Properties	1. Council President Carra 2. Councilman McGinley
Public Safety	1. Councilman Foohey 2. Councilman Giraldi

**2017 COUNCIL LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS**

Mayor McMullin acknowledged the following 2017 Council Liaison Assignments:

Board of Health Municipal Court	Councilman Bray
Building Department Property Maintenance	Council President Carra
Solid Waste Advisory Somerset County Waste Water Management	Councilman Carra
Board of Education Historic & Cultural Committee Office of Emergency Management	Councilman Foohey
Basilone Parade Committee Environmental Commission	Councilman Giraldi
Regional Center Partnership	Councilman McGinley

**MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS *without Consent of Council***

Mayor McMullin announced the following appointments that do not require consent of Council:

Environmental Commission 3-year term – 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2019	Muni Land Use Board Liaison – Rick Zack
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Historic and Cultural Committee  
3-year term – 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2019

Member – Alphonse Capetta  
Member – Tim Rack  
Alt. No. 1 – Edward Ruzbarsky  
Alt. No. 2 – Joyce Tronolone

Municipal Land Use Board  
Terms Vary

Class II Member – 1-year term – 1/1/2017 to  
12/31/2017 – William Cunningham  
Env. Comm. Member – 4-year term – 1/1/2017  
to 12/31/2019 – Rick Zack  
Class III Member – 1-year term – 1/1/2017 to  
12/31/2017 – Councilman Bray  
Alt. No. 1 – 1-year term – 1/1/2017 to  
12/31/2017 – Michael DeCicco  
Alt. No. 2 – 1-year term – 1/1/2017 to  
12/31/2017 – David Forkus  
Alt. No. 3 – 1-year term – 1/1/2017 to  
12/31/2017 – Adele Goetsch

Regional Center Executive Board  
1-year term, 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2017

Member – Mayor McMullin  
Member – Councilman Carra  
Member – Angela Knowles

Sold Waste Advisory  
1-year term, 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2017

Member – Councilman Carra  
Member – Recycling Coordinator, Robert  
Fulminante

Somerset County Municipal Water Waste  
Management Plan Committee  
1-year term, 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2017

Elected Official Rep – Councilman Carra  
Planning Board Chair – Rick Miller  
Borough Engineer – Stan Schrek  
RSA Member – Edward Machala  
Recycling Coordinator – Robert Fulminante

**MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS *with Consent of Council***

Mayor McMullin announced the following appointments requiring the consent of Council:

Board of Health  
3-year term, 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2019

Member – Paula Machala  
Member – Katherine Mastice  
Member – Preni Nair

Library Board of Trustees  
5-year term, 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2021

Member – Megan Pyrrl  
2017 BOE Rep. – Russell Lazovick

Somerset Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority  
5-year term, 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2021

Member – Richard DeLuca

On a motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman Bray, Council moved to Approve the Appointments Listed Above.

Recorded Vote

All in Favor

Motion Carried: 6-0

**ORDINANCE – INTRODUCTION**

Ordinance No. 2017-01

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 Replace the Recreation Committee with a Team Sports Committee and a Community Programs and Events Committee

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilman McGinley, Council moved to Introduce Ordinance No. 2017-07.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Bray, D. Carra, N. Carra, Foohey, Giraldi, McGinley

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Resolution No. 2017-01-02	Appointment of Borough Attorney
Resolution No. 2017-01-03	Appointment of Bond Counsel
Resolution No. 2017-01-04	Appointment of Special Counsel
Resolution No. 2017-01-05	Appointment of Registered Municipal Accountant
Resolution No. 2017-01-06	Appointment of Insurance Agent
Resolution No. 2017-01-07	Appointment of Municipal Prosecutor
Resolution No. 2017-01-08	Appointment of Public Defender
Resolution No. 2017-01-09	Appointment of Administrative Officials
Resolution No. 2017-01-10	Appointment of Depositories/Financial Institutions
Resolution No. 2017-01-11	Appointment of Custodians of Accounts
Resolution No. 2017-01-12	Adoption of 2017 Temporary Budget
Resolution No. 2017-01-13	Resolution Fixing the Rate of Interest on Delinquent Taxes and Sewer

Resolution No. 2017-01-14	Resolution Cancelling 2016 Property Tax Open Balances Less Than \$10.00
Resolution No. 2017-01-15	Designation of Official Newspapers
Resolution No. 2017-01-16	Designation of Paid Holidays
Resolution No. 2017-01-17	Establishment of 2017 Calendar of Meetings
Resolution No. 2017-01-18	Appointment of Borough Engineer

On a motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Council President Carra, Council moved to Approve the Consent Agenda.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Bray, D. Carra, N. Carra, Foohey, Giraldi, McGinley

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor McMullin opened this Public Comment portion of the meeting for members of the public wishing to speak. Seeing no hands, the Mayor closed this Public Comment portion of the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Recorded Vote

Yea: Bray, D. Carra, N. Carra, Foohey, Giraldi, McGinley

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

2017 Reorganization Meeting adjourned at 1:14 p.m.

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Eric M. Colvin  
Borough Clerk

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