

This Regular Meeting of the Borough of Raritan Council was called to order by Mayor Charles McMullin in the Meeting Room of the Raritan Municipal Building, 22 First Street, Raritan, NJ 08869 at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 14, 2017.

Mayor McMullin announced this Regular Meeting was called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Adequate notice was communicated to *The Courier News* and *The Star Ledger* on January 5, 2017 and posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building, on the Borough website and made available in the Office of the Borough Clerk.

ROLL CALL

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

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

Councilman Foohey led the Invocation and Flag Salute.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution No. 2017-02-40

Executive Session:

1. Personnel
2. Contract Negotiations
3. Attorney Client Privilege

On a motion by Councilman Bray, seconded by Councilman Carra, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2017-02-40.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Bray, D. Carra, N. Carra, Foohey, Giraldi
Nay: x
Abstain: x
Motion Carried: 5-0

Council convened in Executive Session at 6:32 p.m.

On a motion by Councilman Bray, seconded by Councilman Carra, Council moved to Reconvene in Regular Session.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Bray, D. Carra, N. Carra, Foohey, Giraldi
Nay: x
Abstain: x
Motion Carried: 5-0

Council exited Executive Session and resumed Regular Session at 7:03 p.m.

Mayor McMullin said tonight is a special night for the police officers being promoted and hired, as well as for the Borough of Raritan.

RESOLUTIONS & OATHS OF OFFICE

Resolution No. 2017-02-41 – Appointing Chief of Police – Raymond Nolte

Resolution No. 2017-02-42 – Appointing Police Patrol Officer – Bryan Benites

Oath of Office – Chief of Police – Raymond Nolte

Oath of Office – Police Lieutenant – Craig Monda

Oath of Office – Police Sargent – James Raniere

Oath of Office – Police Patrol Officer – Bryan Benites

On a motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Council President Carra, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2017-02-41.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

On a motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman Carra, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2017-02-42.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

Mayor McMullin read the following biographies for each of the four police department members being sworn into office. He also recognized several current and retired police chiefs from surrounding municipalities who were on hand to support the Raritan Police Department.

Following the reading of the biographies, Mayor McMullin called each of the four Police Department members to the front of the room to administer the Oaths of Office. First was Raymond Nolte, who was sworn in as Police Chief; next was Craig Monda, who was sworn in as Police Lieutenant; then was James Raniere, who was sworn in as Police Sargent; and lastly was Bryan Benites, who was sworn in as Police Patrol Officer.

Following the Oaths of Office, Mayor and Council took a five minute intermission to allow those in attendance to head to the meeting room downstairs for refreshments. The break began at 7:36 p.m. and Mayor and Council resumed normal proceedings at 7:42 p.m.

Biography for
Chief Raymond Nolte

Chief Raymond Nolte is a 22 year veteran of the Raritan Police Department, who has assumed the role of Officer in Charge of the Raritan Police Department since October 2016.

During his career, Chief Nolte served in the Patrol Division, Detective Bureau and Traffic Safety. Chief Nolte taught D.A.R.E for 15 years and served as a negotiator with the Somerset County Emergency Response Team from 2008-2012. Chief Nolte was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 2008 during which time he supervised a patrol squad. Chief Nolte was promoted to the rank of lieutenant in 2014 and has served as the supervisor in charge of the patrol division and as the administrative lieutenant in charge of the detective bureau.

Chief Nolte is a 2015 graduate of the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police 14 week Command and Leadership Academy.

During his career, Chief Nolte has received several awards:

In 2015, he was the recipient of the Harry Wilde Academic Achievement Award. The award is given to the student with the highest academic average enrolled in the Command and Leadership Academy.

In 2011, he was the recipient of a Three Year Exceptional Service Award that was bestowed upon him by the Somerset County Emergency Response Team.

In 2007, he received an award from the Resource Center for Women and their Families for Outstanding Service to Victims of Domestic Abuse in Somerset County.

In 1999, he was awarded a Silver Life Membership card by the New Jersey State Police Benevolent Association.

Chief Nolte and his wife Kristine, an elementary school teacher, have been married for 22 years. They have a 21 year old daughter, Alexandra, who is currently a senior at James Madison University studying International Business and Spanish.

Chief Nolte holds an Associates in Science Degree from Ocean County College and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Seton Hall University.

Biography of Lieutenant Craig Monda

Lieutenant Craig Monda is a 22 year Veteran of Law Enforcement with 16 years of service to the Raritan Borough Police Department. He graduated from the Ocean County Police Academy in 1997 and was hired by Raritan Borough in 2001. Lieutenant Monda started his law enforcement career with Hunterdon County Department of Corrections and he later worked for the Hunterdon County Sheriff's Office, while also working part-time for the Delaware Twp. Police Department. Lieutenant Monda is a former member of the Hunterdon County SWAT Team and he served 8 years in the United States Army Reserves as a Military Police Officer, where he attained the rank of Sergeant.

During Lieutenant Monda's career with the Raritan Borough Police, he was assigned to Criminal Investigation Unit as a Detective, tasked with investigating crimes, supervision/registration of Megan's Law Offenders and he served as the juvenile officer.

As a Sergeant, Lieutenant Monda was responsible for the direct supervision of on-duty officers assigned to his shift and officers assigned to special duties.

Lieutenant Monda serves as the department's Rangemaster/Supervising Firearms Instructor responsible for training, weapons qualifications, weapons maintenance and the safety of the members of the department.

Lieutenant Monda has received numerous awards including:

A Raritan Police Department CPR Lifesaving Award and a Chief's Exceptional Service Award for a felony motor vehicle stop and apprehension of an armed person wanted out of Hunterdon County, New Jersey.

Lieutenant Monda is married to his wife of 18 years, Corinne Monda. They have two children together, Kyle 16 year of age and Amanda 14 years of age.

Upon his promotion, Lieutenant Monda will be assigned to administration as the Patrol Lieutenant.

Biography for
Sergeant James Raniere

Sergeant James Raniere is a 12 year veteran of the Raritan Police Department. He graduated from the Monmouth County Police Academy in 2003 and was hired by the Raritan Police Department in 2005, where he began his career as a patrolman.

During his tenure as patrolman, Sergeant Raniere received numerous awards including:

A Raritan Police Department CPR Lifesaving Award

A MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) DWI Enforcement Award

He is the recipient of the Valor and Dedication Award that was bestowed upon him by the Somerset County 200 Club

He is the recipient of the Raritan Police Department Medal of Honor and the Raritan Police Department Exceptional Duty Award for his DWI Arrests.

In 2014, Sergeant Raniere was assigned to the Criminal Investigation Division, as a detective. During his time as detective, Sergeant Raniere attended numerous specialized training classes and he investigated a countless number of cases. While a detective, Sergeant Raniere received a Letter of Accommodation from the Raritan Police Command Staff for a thorough investigation into a theft that led to the arrests and indictments of four subjects.

Upon his promotion, Sergeant Raniere will be assigned to the patrol division where he will supervise a patrol squad.

Sergeant Raniere and his wife Lauren have been married for 10 years. They have two children Gianna and James.

Biography for
Probationary Officer Bryan Benites

Bryan Benites is a 2011 graduate of Point Pleasant Beach High School, Bryan received an Associates in Science Degree from Ocean County College in 2014. After graduating the Ocean County Police Academy in 2016, Bryan has worked as a Class II Special Law Enforcement Officer for the Point Pleasant Beach Police Department. Upon being appointed Probationary Police Officer, Bryan will be assigned to a field training officer during which time he will go through Raritan Police Department 9 week Field Training Program. Starting in June 2017, Bryan will periodically attend the Monmouth County Police Academy as a waiver trainee. The additional training is required for officers who hold Class II PTC Certifications in order for them to become fulltime officers.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor McMullin opened this Public Comment portion of the meeting for members of the public wishing to speak.

Don Tozzi, 38 Glasier Avenue: Mr. Tozzi said he would like to go out to bid for the Duck Race soon and would like permission from the Mayor and Council. Mayor McMullin and Attorney Wenner said they will look into it and have a reply for Mr. Tozzi within a month.

HABITABILITY HEARING

1. 13 East Somerset Street

Attorney Wenner said this is the continuation of the hearing from January 10, 2017 that was a continuation from a Regular Meeting held November 22, 2016. He said Construction Official Lou Gara gained access to the structure and is present to provide testimony.

CO Gara said the structure seems sound, but has not been occupied for many years. There was some obvious areas of water damage and no utilities: electric or water.

He said to determine the true nature of the structural integrity, an expert would be needed.

Council President Carra asked whether there was mold. CO Gara said he did not see any mold or rodent issues.

Mayor McMullin asked whether the building is secure. CO Gara said there are some partially opened windows and the roof appears to be intact. Most of the doors are padlocked. The ground floor is secured. CO Gara said the back of the building on the exterior needs some repair.

CO Gara said he is concerned about the integrity of the entranceway.

Attorney Wenner called Mr. Mulinowski to the front to testify.

Mr. Mulinowski said the building is unoccupied and does need to be redone. He has two people interested in purchasing the property. He has owned the property for about ten years. There were some environmental issues that he believes are almost done.

Mayor McMullin asked whether he has a compliance plan with the State of New Jersey. Mr. Mulinowski said yes and that the testing has shown slightly above compliance numbers.

Mayor McMullin said Mr. Mulinowski needs to secure the front of the building for the safety of all residents and all those who pass by. It is a matter of public health and safety. It is an attractive nuisance.

Mr. Mulinowski said he could put a barrier around the front.

Attorney Wenner said 30 days is a sufficient amount of time to have a structural report conducted.

All parties agreed the continuation would happen March 14. Also, Mr. Mulinowski would have until Feb. 16 at noon to put up a fence.

On a motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman Carra, Council moved to Continue the Hearing until March 14 at which time Mr. Mulinowski will present a structural analysis.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. January 24, 2017 – Executive Session
2. January 24, 2017 – Regular Session
3. February 1, 2017 – Special Budget Meeting

On a motion by Councilman Bray, seconded by Councilman Foohey, Council moved to Approve the Executive and Regular Session Minutes listed above.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

WORK SESSION

1. Engineer's Report (SS)

Engineer Schrek presented the following report on behalf of the Engineering Firm:

Bell & Sherman Avenue Improvements

We will be advertising for bid, later this week, with the intent to award the project in March. This will allow for an early spring start up.

Anderson Street Fire House

Interior work is proceeding. The project as received SHPO approval allowing exterior work to proceed as weather permits

401 Tillman Street

The building demolition is completed and the property is stabilized with topsoil, seed and mulch. All incurred costs have been forwarded to administration.

Ortho Drive Pump Station

Design of the new Pump Station is complete. The project has been advertised for bid.

Sewer Odor at Bell Ave./Cornell Blvd.

The Borough has been issued a Notice of Violation related to extraneous sanitary sewer flow at Bell Ave. and Cornell Blvd. This is an intermittent flow into the storm system. NJDEP is aware that the investigation is continuing.

Sewer Main Collapse on Richard Street

As earlier reported, the sanitary sewer main, on Richard between Elizabeth Street and Rhine Blvd., had collapsed. This was a transite (asbestos) pipe and completely deteriorated with age as accelerated by gas discharge from the Rt. 28 pump station. The main had to be replaced. Work proceeded under an emergency contract with Montana Construction. Bypass pumping was provided by Pumping Services, Inc. and tanker service was provided by Russel-Reid. Police, DPW overtime and engineering/inspection costs were incurred. Final costs will be forwarded to administration once all invoices are submitted.

The repair trench has not been topped with asphalt. This will occur in the spring. DPW will monitor the trench and add stone as needed throughout the remaining winter. That section of Richard Street will remain closed to through traffic.

2. Mayoral Appointments to the Environmental Commission (CM)

Mayor McMullin said these appointments will happen later in the meeting.

3. 16 Anderson Street Firehouse (PG)

Councilman Giraldi asked what direction the Firehouse is headed. He said he was of the understanding through conversations with Council that the structural issues would be taken care of and then the second floor would be used for storage. The Councilman questioned whether the Borough really needs the second floor to be a meeting room, as is currently being discussed, especially when considering the costs that would go into it, with air conditioning, sprinklers, etc. The Councilman said he feels the Borough is lacking for storage and believes the space should be used in that manner. The Councilman said a number of conversations took place last year and a meeting room was never the plan.

Mayor McMullin questioned using a historic building for storage.

A brief exchange between Mayor McMullin, Councilman Giraldi and Councilman Bray ensued regarding the best use of the second floor.

All parties agreed the Borough should continue to explore the potential grant money available for an elevator and then determine the best way to proceed.

Engineer Schrek said the current project stabilizes the structure. He recommended a comprehensive look into the entire area, including the recreation building.

4. Payment for Firetruck (DJ)

Administrator Jaxel said the Fire Department would like to pay Pierce Manufacturing would like to be paid for the fire truck, which is arriving Friday. They would like a pre-release of the check, i.e. before approved on the bill list of February 28. Administrator Jaxel asked for approval to do so.

On a motion by Councilman Foohey, seconded by Councilman Bray, Council moved to Authorize Pre-Release of a Check in the amount of 479,295.49 to Pierce Manufacturing.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

5. Frederick Street One Way (JF)

Councilman Foohey said the new building being built behind the post office is creating a traffic issue. He said the entrance by the drop off box is one way, now that the new building has gone up, vision is impaired and drivers aren't aware a car could be coming towards them because it is assumed the road is a one way all the way around. It is not.

A back and forth between the Councilman, Mayor and other members of Council ensued.

Engineer Schrek said there is no clear distinction between one and two way in that location. He suggested proper signage.

APPOINTMENTS

1. 2017 Community Development Committee – Daniel Jaxel and John Orecchio
2. Environmental Commission – Diana Russo and Mark Clark
3. Community Programs and Events Committee – Amy Guld

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilman Bray, Council moved to Approve Appointments As Listed Above.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING & PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance No. 2017-03

An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey Amending Chapter 167, Fire Prevention, of the Code of the Borough of Raritan Regarding Fees

Mayor McMullin opened the Public Hearing portion of the meeting to any members of the Public wishing to heard concerning Ordinance No. 2017-03. Seeing no hands, the Mayor closed the Public Hearing.

Council President Carra said there is a substantial amount of surplus. Both the Council President and the Mayor so no reason to increase fees to property owners if there is a surplus.

On motion by Councilman Bray, seconded by Councilman Carra, Council moved to Adopt Ordinance No. 2017-03.

Recorded Vote:

Yea: x

Nay: Bray, D. Carra, N. Carra, Foohey, Giraldi

Abstain: x

Motion Defeated: 0-5

Ordinance No. 2017-04

An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey Appropriating and Authorizing the Expenditure of \$150,000.00 to be Financed through the Use of Capital Surplus

Mayor McMullin opened the Public Hearing portion of the meeting to any members of the Public wishing to heard concerning Ordinance No. 2017-04. Seeing no hands, the Mayor closed the Public Hearing.

On motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilman Giraldi, Council moved to Adopt Ordinance No. 2017-04.

Recorded Vote:

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

ORDINANCE – INTRODUCTION

Ordinance No. 2017-05

An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey Fixing and Determining the Salaries, Wages or Compensation to be Paid to Certain Officers and Employees of the Borough of Raritan

On motion by Councilman Bray, seconded by Council President Carra, Council moved to Introduce Ordinance No. 2017-05.

Recorded Vote:

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution No. 2017-02-43

Authorizing 2017 Special Temporary Appropriations

Resolution No. 2017-02-44

Authorizing Disposition of Certain Borough Equipment

Resolution No. 2017-02-45

Authorizing 2016 Municipal Budget Appropriation Transfers

Resolution No. 2017-02-46

Refunding Tax Overpayment

Resolution No. 2017-02-47

Refunding Tenant Occupancy Inspection Fee

Resolution No. 2017-02-48

Approving Towing Applicants for 2017

Resolution No. 2017-02-49

Authorizing New Website Design and Webmaster

Resolution No. 2017-02-50

Authorizing Redemption of Tax Sale Lien

Resolution No. 2017-02-51

Hiring Technical Assistant to the Construction Official / Tax Assessor Clerk

Mayor McMullin asked members of Council if anyone would like to remove any items from the Consent Agenda in order to discuss and consider them separately.

On motion by Councilman Carra, seconded by Councilman Bray, Council moved to Approve the Consent Agenda.

Recorded Vote:

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

PURCHASE ORDER REQUESTS

1. Various Departments – 2017 Computer Software – Spatial Data Logic – \$9,600.00

On motion by Councilman Bray, seconded by Councilman Foohey, Council moved to Approve Purchase Order Request No. 1

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Bray, D. Carra, N. Carra, Foohey, Giraldi
Nay: x
Abstain: x
Motion Carried: 5-0

OLD BUSINESS

None

COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Foohey – The 2017 Borough calendars are now available. They can be picked up at any sponsor and also at Borough Hall and the Library. Councilman Foohey said he went to a JFK PTO meeting recently. The group is extremely organized. They will hold an event on Friday, March 24 at the school. Also, next Friday will be the Michael's Miracles fundraiser. Lastly, the County installed the new stillway canal bridge.

Councilman Carra – The finance committee is working on the budget and plans to have the budget ready earlier this year. Working with CFO Kneafsey and Administrator Jaxel.

Mayor McMullin asked whether another meeting/work session on the budget would be needed. Council President Carra said something would be scheduled after the auditor comes back with the numbers.

Council President Carra – Interviews for property maintenance officials will be tomorrow. Three interviews will happen, possibly four. Resumes would be available to all members of Council wishing to review.

Councilman Bray – Read the statistics from the court and vital statistics for the month. The Councilman commended DPW workers for a great job done clearing the streets after the snow storm last week. Condolences to the friends and family of former borough attorney and judge Rich DeLuca who passed away.

Councilman Giraldi – Environmental Commission will meet next week and the Basilone Committee. The Councilman has the police statistics for the month if anyone would like to view them.

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.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Recorded Vote

All in Favor

Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Eric M. Colvin
Borough Clerk

Approved: _____