

This Regular Meeting of the Borough of Raritan Governing Body was called to order by Mayor Zachary Bray utilizing the Zoom virtual platform, as a result of the COVID-19 health pandemic, on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 6p.m.

The Mayor announced this Regular Meeting was called pursuant to applicable portions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Adequate notice was communicated to *The Courier news*, *The Star Ledger*, and *The Breeze* on March 19, 2021, posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building and on the Borough website.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Council President Carra, Councilman Giraldi, Councilwoman Harris, Councilwoman Melitsky, Councilman Orozco, Councilman Patente  
Also Present: Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin, Borough Attorney Robertson, Borough Engineer Schreck

Absent: Mayor Bray

**INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE**

Council President Carra

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Resolution No. 2021-02-062

Entering Executive Session

1. Personnel  
Police, Public Works, Administration
2. Attorney Client  
Meeting Protocol, Improvement  
Authority License Agreement, Food  
Pantry

On a motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Councilman Giraldi, Council moved to Reconvene in Regular Session.

Recorded Vote:

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Harris, Orozco Melitsky, Patente

Nay: x

Abstain:

Absent: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

Council exited Executive Session and resumed Regular Session at 6:31 p.m.

**MINUTES**

1. March 9, 2021

On a motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman Patente, Council moved to Approve the Minutes for March 9, 2021 Regular Session.

**Recorded Vote:**

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Harris, Melitsky, Orozco, Patente

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Absent: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

**PRESENTATION**

1. Raritan Borough CDBG 2021

Borough Engineer Schrek said the focus for CDBG 2021 is going to be stormwater maintenance in and around the vicinity of Bell Avenue.

Council President Carra opened Public Comment for any member of the Public wishing to be heard.

Hearing none, Council President Carra closed the Public comment section.

**OLD BUISNESS**

1. GoGOv (PO)

Councilman Orozco said he would like to begin the process of executing a contract with GoGov if there is no objection.

Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin said he wanted to remind Council that the Borough is still on a temporary budget and that although authorizing the approval of the contract can move forward, the payment will have to wait until the budget is formally adopted.

On a motion by Councilman Orozco, seconded by Councilman Giraldi, Council moved to Approve the GoGov Contract.

**Recorded Vote:**

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Harris, Melitsky, Orozco, Patente

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Absent: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

**NEW BUISNESS**

1. Proposed Vaccination Clinic (EC)

Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin said the County has contacted the Borough regarding holding a vaccination clinic for Raritan Residents ages 65 and older which they would like to hold on Tuesday April 6<sup>th</sup>. He said Councilwoman Melitsky has been working with the County on this project to compile a list of eligible individuals.

Councilwoman Melitsky said she has been making calls to the Raritan Senior Citizen Group as well as asking individuals to contact her if they are Raritan residents who are at least 65 years of age and in need of the COVID-19 vaccine. The Councilwoman said she has filled approximately 60 of the 100 spots and asked that anyone who is interested in receiving the vaccine contact Borough Hall.

Council President Carra asked if any member of Council had an objection to the Vaccination Clinic.

Hearing none, a consensus was reached to hold the Vaccination Clinic at Borough Hall on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

## 2. Recreational Cannabis (NC)

Council President Carra said he would like to follow up with Borough Attorney Robertson

Borough Attorney Robertson said if the Borough does not take action to limit or prohibit Recreational Cannabis Establishments within 180 of the adoption of the Recreational Cannabis law, these establishments will be permitted to operate in the retail and commercial and industrial zones of the Borough.

## 3. Easter Event for Recreation (EC)

Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin said there will be an Easter Bunny event held on Sunday from 1-3p.m. in Frelinghuysen Park. He said this is a free event courtesy of the Recreation Department.

## 4. Temporary Use of 34 Thompson Street (EC)

Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin said the Borough has received a request from Somerset County to use the municipal parking lot at 34 Thompson Street while they conduct their road safety audit in the Borough on March 31.

On a motion by Councilman Orozco, seconded by Councilman Giraldi, Council moved to Authorize Temporary Use of 34 Thompson Street

### Recorded Vote:

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Harris, Melitsky, Orozco, Patente

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Absent: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

5. Recreation Appointments (NC)

Council President Carra named the 5 individuals being appointed to serve on the Recreation Committee.

On a motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman Orozco, Council moved to Approve Appointments to Recreation Committee

Recorded Vote:

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Harris, Melitsky, Orozco,

Nay: x

Abstain: Patente

Absent: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

**ORDINANCES-INTRODUCTION**

Ordinance No. 2021-02

An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan,  
County of Somerset, State of New Jersey  
Amending One Purpose of Bond Ordinance  
No. 2018-10

On a motion by Councilman Orozco, seconded by Councilman Giraldi, Council moved to Introduce Ordinance No. 2021-02

Recorded Vote:

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Harris, Melitsky, Orozco, Patente

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Absent: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

Ordinance No. 2021-03

An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan,  
County of Somerset, State of New Jersey  
Revising the Length of Service Awards  
Program for Members of the Raritan Fire  
Department

On a motion by Councilman Orozco, seconded by Councilwoman Melitsky, Council moved to Introduce Ordinance No. 2021-03

Recorded Vote:

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Harris, Melitsky, Orozco, Patente

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Absent: x  
Motion Carried: 6-0

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Resolution No. 2021-03-063 | CDBG Supporting Resolution  |
| Resolution No. 2021-03-064 | Additional Titles – Assistant Administrator<br>& Deputy Clerk           |
| Resolution No. 2021-03-065 | Authorizing Settlement of Tax Appeal –<br>Raritan Center SPE Owner, LLC |

Council President Carra asked if anyone would like to pull any Resolution on the Consent Agenda to discuss separately.

On a motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Councilman Orozco, Council moved to approve Resolutions 2021-03-063 Through 2021-03-065.

**Recorded Vote:**

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Harris, Melitsky, Orozco, Patente  
Nay: x  
Abstain: x  
Absent: x  
Motion Carried: 6-0

Two Resolutions were added to the Agenda.

On a motion by Councilwoman Harris, seconded by Councilman Orozco, Council moved to approve Resolution 2021-03-067 – Authorizing the Borough of Raritan to Reimburse the Raritan Food Pantry for Rental Payments.

**Recorded Vote:**

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Harris, Melitsky, Orozco, Patente  
Nay: x  
Abstain: x  
Absent: x  
Motion Carried: 6-0

On a motion by Councilwoman Harris, seconded by Councilman Orozco, Council moved to approve Resolution 2021-03-068 – Authorizing Execution of Contract – Police Chief

**Recorded Vote:**

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Harris, Melitsky, Orozco, Patente

Nay: x  
Abstain: x  
Absent: x  
Motion Carried: 6-0

**BILL LIST**

Resolution No. 2021-03-066

Approving Bill List

Council President Carra asked if any members of the Council had any questions. Neither seeing nor hearing any member of Council, Council President Carra asked for a motion to approve the bill.

On a motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Councilman Orozco, Council moved to approve Resolution No. 2021-03-066.

**Recorded Vote:**

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Harris, Orozco, Melitsky, Patente  
Nay: x  
Abstain: x  
Absent: x  
Motion Carried: 6-0

**CERTIFICATION OF FUNDS**

1. Legal Fees – Lavery, Selvaggi, Abromitis and Cohen- \$5,382.50

On a motion by Councilwoman Harris, seconded by Councilman Giraldi, Council moved to approve Purchase Order No. 1

**Recorded Vote:**

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Harris, Orozco, Melitsky, Patente  
Nay: x  
Abstain: x  
Absent: x  
Motion Carried: 6-0

**COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS**

Council President Carra – Council President Carra said for finance, he went over the preliminary budget with Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin and and Assistant Administrator Cook-Vitale. He said the Planning Board will hold a meeting on March 24<sup>th</sup> at 7p.m. For the Board of Health, Council President Carra said the total for the month of February was \$800.06 and in the Month of March there were 205 copies of marriage certificates and death certificates totaling \$761.04. The Raritan Food Pantry is looking for pre-packaged food as well as pantry items and can be contacted at [raritanfoodpantry@gmail.com](mailto:raritanfoodpantry@gmail.com). The Council President also said the Food Pantry will

be starting their food pick up for students on Tuesdays and Thursdays between the hours of 1:30 and 2:30. The Little Food Pantry is currently waiting for hear back from the County Board of Health. The Council President said the County Health Department is working with the Raritan DPW to try to provide employees with vaccines.

Councilwoman Melitsky – Councilwoman Melitsky said for the Building Department there were 15 certificates issued, total construction cost was \$79,625,665.00 and 119 inspections were conducted. For the Recreation Department, the Councilwoman said the Easter Bunny Celebration will be from 1-3pm on Sunday in Frelinghuysen Park. The Councilwoman said there are still slots open within the Recreation Committee and asked anyone who is interested to apply. Councilwoman Melitsky also said the Recreation Committee has set up a new account. Finally, the Councilwoman said Capital plants are being discussed.

Councilman Giraldi – Councilman Giraldi said the Basilone Parade Committee meeting was cancelled and they are waiting on a rescheduled date.

Councilwoman Harris – Councilwoman Harris said she spoke with the Environmental Commission who will be meeting on March 19 and are working on their certification as well as several different events.

Councilman Orozco – Councilman Orozco said the Board of Education is being held.

Councilman Patente – Councilman Patente said the Regional Center Partnership had a review by an outside company of the new Economic Development Recovery Act Program. For the Historical Committee, the Councilman said they are working on the Knox-Porter display and planning for a Revolutionary and Civil War equipment display at the library. For the Economic Development Committee, he said the adoption of trees along Somerset Street have been very successful and their social media views have increased by 130%. Finally, the Councilman said there have been new businesses that have opened in town.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

*(In accordance with Section 29-1 of the Code of the Borough of Raritan, there shall be a five-minute limit per speaker)*

Council President Carra opened Public Comment for any member of the Public wishing to be heard.

Marissa Marton-Sarao (254 Weiss Terrace)-Ms. Marton-Serao said she would like to speak on behalf of herself and various concerned citizens regarding the relocation of the DPW building. She said she would like to know specific numbers as far as costs and savings and asked if Council could share with the public the specific plans that are being laid out. She asked several questions and said she would also be putting them in an email and sending them to Mayor and Council for their review.

Council President Carra said DPW would not be combining their service with another town and explained the reason for the move is because the Borough no longer owns the land that the DPW

building sits on. He said this has been a topic of discussion for about 2 years and is being brought up again now because there is a need for an emergency services building in the Borough. and the idea was to combine the two projects together.

Borough Attorney Robertson said there was a joint licensing agreement that was entered into and approved after public discussion in January 2019 as well as an Ordinance adopting this agreement. He said there was also an amendment to the Ordinance done which was opened for public discussion.

Bryan Kroeckel (132 Weiss Terrace)- Mr. Kroeckel asked for clarification regarding the agreement for the DPW building.

Council President Carra said the DPW agreement was tied in with the Washington School Project and the land in Hillsborough was sold to the Borough for \$1.00. He explained that in return for the land, the Borough turned over the golf range as well as the land that DPW sits on to the County.

Borough Attorney Robertson explained that the joint licensing agreement between the Borough and the County permitted the County to use certain Borough property and the Borough was then given a parcel of land in Hillsborough that is owned by the Somerset County Improvement Authority.

Tom Brown- Mr. Brown asked for an update on the presentation given by La Grange Street L.L.C. that took at the February 23 Regular Governing Body Meeting.

Borough Engineer Schrek said the applicant was unprepared to present at this meeting.

Mr. Brown asked how the public will know when this topic will be discussed again.

Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin said it will be on the Agenda once the applicants provide a date they would like to present.

Sheila Sloben (55B La Grange St)- Ms. Sloben said about 20 years ago she asked the Borough if she could purchase a portion of the land next to her residence so that a garage could be built. She said the Borough informed her that the piece of land was not able to be purchased. Ms. Sloben asked if that had changed and if so, could she purchase a portion of the street.

Jim Foohey – Mr. Foohey provided an update regarding the town wide garage sale. He said they will no longer be using the basketball courts in the park and asked if Borough Attorney Robertson was able to review the release form that was sent over.

Borough Attorney Robertson said he did get a change to look the release form over and has a few comments he would like to add.

Colleen Kempe (114 Sherman Ave.) – Ms. Kempe asked Councilwoman Melitsky if there was a way for Senior Citizens without computers to be made aware that the Borough will be holding a COVID-19 Vaccine clinic.

Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin suggested sending an alert out on Swift Reach as well as putting up a posting in the kiosk downtown.

Council President Carra said would like to make a correction regarding the question that was asked regarding DPW. He said he the land was not sold; it was leased for 99 years.

Council President Carra asked if there were any other members of the Public wising to be heard.

Neither seeing nor hearing any member of the Public, Council President Carra closed Public Comment Session.

REGULAR MEETING ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilwoman Melitsky seconded by Councilman Orozco, Council moved to Adjourn the Regular Meeting.

Recorded Vote:

All in favor

Motion Passed: 6-0

Regular Meeting adjourned at 7:22pm

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Ashley Kurbanoglu,  
Deputy Clerk

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