

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, May 11, 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 May 6, 2021, posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building and on the Borough website.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Council President Carra, Councilman Giraldi, Councilwoman Melitsky, Councilman Orozco, Councilman Patente

Also Present: Mayor Bray, Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin, Borough Attorney Robertson

Absent: None

**INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE**

Councilman Patente

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Resolution No. 2021-05-094

Entering Executive Session

1. Personnel  
Public Works, Administration,  
Recreation
2. Contract Negotiations  
Somerset County Improvement  
Authority
3. Attorney Client  
Raritan Town Center

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

Recorded Vote:

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Orozco Melitsky, Patente

Nay: x

Abstain:

Absent: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

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

**MINUTES**

1. April 27, 2021

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilwoman Melitsky, Council moved to Approve the Minutes for April 27, 2021 Regular Session.

Recorded Vote:

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Orozco, Melitsky, Patente

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Absent: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

**OLD BUISNESS**

1. Recreational Cannabis (NC)

Council President Carra said he wanted to continue the discussion of Recreational Cannabis and asked Borough Attorney Robertson to discuss some different options.

Borough Attorney Robertson said the draft ordinances were presented to give Council an idea of the different options they have. He explained one ordinance would be related specifically to medical use while the second ordinance is more generalized and would relate to adult recreational use. Borough Attorney Robertson said the ordinances can be modified in the future.

Council President Carra asked for clarification regarding the Planning Board draft ordinance.

Borough Attorney Robertson said the Planning Board drafted an ordinance to establish zoning as well as several different conditions. He also said a draft ordinance prohibiting adult recreational use as well as an ordinance to permit a treatment center for medical cannabis can be ready for introduction at the next meeting.

**NEW BUISNESS**

1. Borough Hall Meeting Room (EC)

Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin said the Borough has been receiving calls from a few committees and organizations inquiring as to when they can start meeting in person at Borough Hall.

Mayor Bray said he feels no groups should be meeting in Borough Hall until Council has started meeting in person again. He also said he feels he is ready to go back to in person meetings.

Councilman Giraldi said he supports going back to in person meetings.

Council President Carra said he also supports going back to in person meetings.

Councilwoman Melitsky said she supports Council meeting in person.

Councilman Orozco said he would like for the meeting times to be adjusted if the decision is made to go back to in person meetings.

A discussion ensued between Mayor and Council and it was agreed upon to begin holding in person meetings starting in June.

2. Unico Pavilion Request (ZB)

Mayor Bray said Unico is requesting permission to use the Pavilion at Frelinghuysen Park on Wednesday, May 19.

On a motion by Councilman Orozco, seconded by Council President Carra, Council moved to Authorize Unico's Request for Use of the Pavilion at Frelinghuysen Park.

Recorded Vote:

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Orozco, Melitsky, Patente

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Absent: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

3. Firefighter Appointments – Joseph and Kenneth Wise (PO)

Councilman Orozco said Joseph and Kenneth Wise have been appointed to the Fire Department.

Mayor Bray thanked them for their volunteerism and service to the Borough.

4. 16 Anderson Street Repairs (EC)

Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin said Fire Chief Brian Kredatus has obtained quotes to repair the ceiling and roof at 16 Anderson Street. He also said DPW is in the process of obtaining quotes to fix electrical and plumbing in the building.

5. Shrine Chapel Request (EC)

Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin said the Shrine Chapel has requested permission to hold a precession to celebrate the feast of Corpus Christie. He said Chief Nolte has reviewed the request and had no objections.

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilwoman Melitsky, Council moved to Authorize Shrine Chapel Precession.

Recorded Vote:

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Orozco, Melitsky, Patente

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Absent: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

**2021 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

Public Hearing

Resolution No. 2021-05

Adopting 2021 Municipal Budget

On a motion by Councilman Orozco, seconded by Councilwoman Melitsky, Council moved to Open Public Comment to Members of the Public.

Recorded Vote:

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Orozco, Melitsky, Patente

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Absent: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

Mayor Bray opened Public Comment for any member of the Public wishing to be heard.

Neither seeing nor hearing any member of the Public, Mayor Bray closed Public Comment Session.

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilman Orozco, Council moved to Adopt the 2021 Municipal Budget.

Recorded Vote:

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Orozco, Melitsky, Patente

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Absent: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

**ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION**

Ordinance No. 2021-05

An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey Providing for the Construction of a Garage Building and a Police, Fire Department and Office of Emergency Management Building,

Appropriating \$12,500.00 Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of \$11,875,000 Bonds and Notes to Finance a Portion of the Costs Therefor, Authorized in and by Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey

On a motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Council President Carra, Council moved to Introduce Ordinance No. 2021-05.

Recorded Vote:

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Melitsky, Patente

Nay: Orozco

Abstain: x

Absent: x

Motion Carried: 4-1

Ordinance No. 2021-06

An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey Repealing Chapter 82, Article XVI of the Code of the Borough of Raritan

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilman Orozco, Council moved to Introduce Ordinance No. 2021-06.

Recorded Vote:

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Orozco, Melitsky, Patente

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Absent: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

**ORDINANCE – SECOND READINGS & PUBLIC HEARING**

Ordinance No. 2021-04

An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey Establishing A Cap Bank

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilwoman Melitsky, Council moved to Open Public Comment to Members of the Public.

Recorded Vote:

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Orozco, Melitsky, Patente

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Absent: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

Mayor Bray opened Public Comment for any member of the Public wishing to be heard.

Neither seeing nor hearing any member of the Public, Mayor Bray closed Public Comment Session.

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilwoman Melitsky, Council moved to Adopt Ordinance No. 2021-04.

Recorded Vote:

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Orozco, Melitsky, Patente

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Absent: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

**CONSENT AGENDA**

*(Resolution Nos. 2021-05-096 – 2021-05-098)*

Resolution No. 2021-05-096	Appointing David Myers – Electrical Inspector
Resolution No. 2021-05-097	Authorizing Disposal of Various Metallic Materials – Department of Public Works
Resolution No. 2021-05-098	Appointing Assistant Chief Financial Officer

On a motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Council President Carra, Council moved to Approve Resolutions 2021-05-096 through 2021-05-98.

Recorded Vote:

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Melitsky, Orozco, Patente

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Absent: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

**BILL LIST**

Resolution No. 2021-05-099	Approving Bill List
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Mayor Bray asked if any members of the Council had any questions. Neither seeing nor hearing any member of Council, Mayor Bray asked for a motion to approve the bill.

On a motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilwoman Melitsky, Council moved to approve Resolution No. 2021-05-099.

Recorded Vote:

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Orozco, Melitsky, Patente

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Absent: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

**CERTIFICATION OF FUNDS**

1. Lavery, Selvaggi & Abromitis - \$5,535.00 – Legal Services

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

Recorded Vote:

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Orozco, Melitsky, Patente

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Absent: x

Motion Carried:5-0

2. Raritan Food Pantry – One Year Rent & Security - \$14,000.00

On a motion by Councilman Orozco, seconded by Councilwoman Melitsky, Council moved to approve Purchase Order No. 2

Recorded Vote:

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Orozco, Melitsky, Patente

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Absent: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

3. NV5 – Tap Grant - \$45,025.76

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilman Orozco, Council moved to approve Purchase Order No. 3

Recorded Vote:

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Orozco, Melitsky, Patente

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Absent: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

4. American Road Machinery – Leaf Collector - \$57,385.00

On a motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Councilman Giraldi, Council moved to approve Purchase Order No. 4

Recorded Vote:

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Orozco, Melitsky, Patente

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Absent: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

**COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS**

Council President Carra – Council President Carra the Board of Health has a meeting on May 12, at 7pm on Zoom. He said the Planning Board approved a Resolution last month for a lot revision and had an in depth presentation of the Sustainable Economic Development Plan.

Councilman Giraldi – Councilman Giraldi said the date for the Basilone Parade has been tentatively set for September.

Councilwoman Melitsky – Councilwoman Melitsky said Raritan Recreation is running two teams and will be going through June. She said as per DPW, the Borough will have chlorine for the pools and Summer Camp registration is available on Community Pass. For the Building Department, Councilwoman Melitsky said 106 inspections were conducted, 23 certificates were issued, and the total construction cost was \$3,222,375.00. The Councilwoman said \$17,548.00 in certificate fees were collected. The Councilwoman said the Raritan Police Department participated in the Somerset County Road Safety Study as well as “Operation Take Back New Jersey” which focused on the disposal of unused medicine. As a reminder, the Councilwoman said the Raritan Police Department has a drop box for the disposal of unused medication that can be accessed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. She said on April 28, Christopher Wren was sworn in as Sergeant and congratulated him on his accomplishment. Councilwoman Melitsky said there will be a neighborhood watch meeting held on May 21 at 7pm at Frelinghuysen Park with a rain date of May 22 and asked that residents register if they are planning to attend. The Councilwoman said the Raritan Police Department will be participating in the John F. Kennedy School Fourth Grade Emergency Vehicle Parade on June 23.

Councilman Orozco – Councilman Orozco said for the Board of Education is working on a plan to get the students back to five days a week in person learning. For the Fire Department, the Councilman said there have been 11 calls in the month of April bringing the year-to-date total to 55. He said on May 2, the Fire Department answered 3 calls and thanked the Raritan Fire Department for their service to the Borough.

Councilman Patente – Councilman Patente said the Economic Development Committee was not able to get the date for “Discovering Raritan” on the agenda and asked for an informal approval from Mayor and Council for Saturday, July 31. The Councilman said the EDC would be closing Thompson to Nevius Street.

### **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)*

Mayor Bray opened Public Comment for any member of the Public wishing to be heard.

Hugh Giordano (7 Argyle Way Blackwood NJ) – Mr. Giordano said he is the Union representative for UFCW Local 152 which represents Cannabis workers. Mr. Giordano said he would like to commend the Borough for taking a leadership role and supporting Sarah Trent and asked Mayor and Council to look at a merit-based ordinance.

Lefty Grimes (East Hanover NJ) – Mr. Grimes said he is the CEO of Sativa Crossing, a 501c3 advocating for disabled rights, cannabis patients’ rights. He thanked Mayor and Council for being one of the only towns in the state to not implement a “wheelchair tax”.

Marina Bremen (Parlin NJ) – Ms. Bremen said she would like to thank the Borough for not taxing medical marijuana. She explained that she suffers from PTSD and was diagnosed with cancer in 2017 and has been using medical cannabis to help alleviate some of the side effects of her ailments. Ms. Bremen said there are a limited number of medical cannabis facilities available to patients in the state of New Jersey and explained the difficulties that people with disabilities face when attempting to obtain their medication.

Jeffrey King (Eatontown NJ) – Mr. King said he wanted to thank the Borough for not taxing medical cannabis and urged Mayor and Council to reach out to their peers at the state and federal level.

Jaime Van Sciver (Paulsboro NJ) – Ms. Van Sciver said she is an advocate for medical cannabis and patients’ rights and thanked the Borough for considering allowing a medical facility to come to operate in town. Ms. Van Sciver asked if the medical cannabis would be taxed.

Mayor Bray said as it stands, there will be no additional tax on medical cannabis and informed Ms. Van Sciver that it will be discussed in more detail when the Ordinance is on the agenda at the following meeting.

Carriann Youngman (13 Elmer Street) – Ms. Youngman said the Community Pass portal is not on the Borough website. She also asked for clarification regarding the discussion of a cannabis ordinance.

Mayor Bray said there is a Resolution dating back about two years agreeing that any medical cannabis facility that would open within the Borough, be through Middle Valley Partners. He told Ms. Youngman there has been no action taken regarding recreational cannabis.

Jim Foohey (710 Rhine Blvd) – Mr. Foohey said there is still time to register for the town-wide yard sale. He said the registration form can be found on the Library website and must be turned into the Library when completed.

Mayor Bray informed members of the public that Council will be re-entering executive session and upon entering back into public session, formal action may be taken.

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Council, Councilman Giraldi, Council moved to Re-enter Executive Session.

Recorded Vote:

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Orozco Melitsky, Patente

Nay: x

Abstain:

Absent: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

REGULAR MEETING ADJOURNMENT

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

Recorded Vote:

All in favor

Motion Passed: 5-0

Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm

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Ashley Kurbanoglu,  
Deputy Clerk

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