

This Regular Meeting of the Borough of Raritan Governing Body was called to order by Mayor Zachary Bray in the Meeting Room of the Raritan Municipal Building, 22 First Street, Raritan, NJ 08869 at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 23, 2021.

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 November 19, 2021, 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 Bray, Council President Carra, Councilman Giraldi, Councilwoman Melitsky, Councilman Patente
Also Present: Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin, Borough Assistant Administrator/Assistant CFO Cook-Vitale, Borough Attorney Robertson, Borough Engineer Schrek
Absent: Councilman Ifan, Councilman Orozco

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

Councilwoman Melitsky

RESOLUTION & OATH OF OFFICE

Resolution No. 2021-11-172 Appointing Council Member

On a motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Councilwoman Melitsky, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2021-11-172.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Melitsky, Patente
Nay: x
Abstain: x
Motion Carried: 4-0

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution No. 2021-11-173 Entering Executive Session

1. Personnel
Administration, DPW, Planning Board,
Municipal Court
2. Attorney Client
GOGov, Recreation Ordinance, Hidden Pond,
Alpine Way, Columbus Avenue, Committees

On a motion by Councilwoman Melitsky, seconded by Councilman Patente, Council moved to Enter Executive Session.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Hutzler, Melitsky, Patente
Nay: x

Abstain: x
Motion Carried: 5-0

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilman Ifon, seconded by Councilwoman Melitsky, Council moved to Reconvene in Regular Session.

Recorded Vote

All in Favor
Motion Carried: 5-0

Council exited Executive Session and resumed Regular Session at 7:08 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Drop Box Vinyl Wrap (EC)
Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin said he wanted to share an update; the PO is in hands of the wrap company and the wrap should be here in a few weeks.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Engineer's Report (SS)
Borough Engineer Schrek said that for the Tap Grant they would like to do a public hearing meeting on the second meeting in January.

On a motion by Councilwoman Melitsky, seconded by Councilman Giraldi, Council moved to Approve Preparation for Driveway Easement.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Melitsky, Patente
Nay: x
Abstain: Hutzler
Motion Carried: 4-0

2. Master Plan Amendment (NC)
Council President Carra said that at the last Planning Board Meeting they had their own economic development presentation for downtown, which had to be adopted into the Master Plan by the Planning Board. He stated that there was a public hearing and although it wasn't a formal passing and there were no zoning changes, just recommendations, a lot of residents were concerned about the 3-4 person housing units. He reported that other than those complaints, it was passed by the Planning Board. Councilman Giraldi asked if they had copies of the Master Plan, to which Mayor Bray stated that the Master Plan can be found at any time on our website. Mayor Bray also explained that Council President Carra was reporting that the recommendations that Angela Knowles suggested were being adopted into the master plan but didn't mean that those recommendations needed to be made, they will just be there for options in the future. Councilman Patente also added that

he had an issue with the multi-family housing since Raritan already has a multi-family housing issue that needs to be fixed prior to adding more multi-family housing. Borough Engineer Schrek stated that if they decide to anything it needs to be officially approved first, which means certain parameters need to be met.

3. Reorganization Date & Time (EC)

Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin said that he wanted to open it up to Council themselves to pick a date and time for the 2022 Reorganization meeting. Mayor Bray stated that since Councilwoman Melitsky and Councilwoman Hutzler are being sworn in, he would like to try and accommodate them. Councilwoman Melitsky stated that they were thinking Sunday, January 2nd, 2022. It was agreed upon by the Governing Body that they would meet on Sunday, January 2nd, 2022 at 12pm.

4. Meeting Schedule 2022 (EC)

Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin stated that Council used to meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, but there has been a suggestion to change it to the 1st and 3rd of the month. Mayor Bray stated that this suggestion came up in order to allow members of other Borough Committees and Boards to attend the Council Meetings. A brief discussion ensued between all and it was agreed that the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month would be the new Council Meeting dates. Mayor Bray also stated that the months of July, August, November and December would only consist of one meeting per month.

5. Wolf Den – Cub Scouts Collection Box (EC)

Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin stated that we received a request from a local Cub Scout group that wanted to put a collection box in the Municipal Building for donations to an animal shelter. This request was unofficially agreed upon by the Governing Body.

ORDINANCE – INTRODUCTION

Ordinance No. 2021-15

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF
RARITAN, COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE
OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING CHAPTER 45
OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF
RARITAN

On a motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilwoman Melitsky, Council moved to Introduce Ordinance No. 2021-15.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Melitsky, Patente

Nay: x

Abstain: Hutzler

Motion Carried: 4-0

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING & PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance No. 2021-13

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF
RARITAN, COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE OF
NEW JERSEY PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND THE
ACQUISITION OF VARIOUS CAPITAL
EQUIPMENT, APPROPRIATING \$342,000
THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE
ISSUANCE OF \$324,900 BONDS AND NOTES
TO FINANCE A PORTION OF THE COSTS
THEREOF, AUTHORIZED IN AND BY THE
BOROUGH OF RARITAN, IN THE COUNTY OF
SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY.

Mayor Bray asked Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin to elaborate on what various capital equipment meant, to which Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin listed: police, public works, a dump truck, a tractor and fireman turnout gear – all items which have been budgeted for.

Mayor Bray then asked for a motion to open Public Hearing for any member of the Public wishing to be heard.

On a motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Council President Carra, Council moved to Open Public Hearing.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Melitsky, Patente

Nay: x

Abstain: Hutzler

Motion Carried: 4-0

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

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

On a motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilwoman Melitsky, Council moved to Adopt Ordinance No. 2021-13.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Melitsky, Patente

Nay: x

Abstain: Hutzler

Motion Carried: 4-0

Ordinance No. 2021-14

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF
RARITAN, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET,
STATE OF NEW JERSEY PROVIDING FOR
VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND
APPROPRIATING \$58,900 THEREFOR FROM
THE BOROUGH'S CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT
FUND

Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin explained that these funds are going towards police radios, Public Works replacement items from storm damage - all of which have been budgeted for.

Mayor Bray then asked for a motion to open Public Hearing for any member of the Public wishing to be heard.

On a motion by Council President Carra seconded by Councilwoman Melitsky, Council moved to Open Public Hearing.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Melitsky, Patente

Nay: x

Abstain: Hutzler

Motion Carried: 4-0

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

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

On a motion by Councilwoman Melitsky, seconded by Council President Carra, Council moved to Adopt Ordinance No. 2021-14.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Melitsky, Patente

Nay: x

Abstain: Hutzler

Motion Carried: 4-0

CONSENT AGENDA

(Resolution Nos. 2021-11-174 – 2021-11-183)

Resolution No. 2021-11-174

Resolution No. 2021-11-175

Resolution No. 2021-11-176

Resolution No. 2021-11-177

Resolution No. 2021-11-178

Approving Budget Transfers

Refunding Daily Train Parking

Approving Change in Title, Text or Amount of
Appropriation Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-85

Authorizing Refund of Tax Overpayment B 84 L 8

Authorizing Refund of Tax Overpayment B 32 L 4

Resolution No. 2021-11-179	& B 32 L 6 Authorizing Execution of Somerset County Commodity Resale Agreement 2021-2026
Resolution No. 2021-11-180	Authorizing Release of Redemption Funds – Evolve Bank & Trust
Resolution No. 2021-11-181	Authorizing Revenue Insertion – Chapter 159 – Body Armor Replacement Fund
Resolution No. 2021-11-182	Authorizing Revenue Insertion – Chapter 159 – Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund
Resolution No. 2021-11-183	Authorizing Submission of the Fiscal Year 2022- 2023 Bridgewater/Raritan Municipal Alliance Request for Application with Somerset County Board of Commissioners - \$22,575.84

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

Recorded Vote

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Melitsky, Patente
Nay: x
Abstain: Hutzler
Motion Carried: 4-0

BILL LIST

Resolution No. 2021-11-184 Approving Bill List

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

Recorded Vote

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Melitsky, Patente
Nay: x
Abstain: Hutzler
Motion Carried: 4-0

PURCHASE ORDER REQUESTS

1. Absolute Fire Protection – Repair of Fire Engine 52-2 – \$7,092.50

On a motion by Councilwoman Melitsky, seconded by Council President Carra, Council moved to Approve Absolute Fire Protection PO.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Melitsky, Patente
Nay: x
Abstain: Hutzler
Motion Carried: 4-0

2. Midas Lighting, LLC. – Holiday Lighting & Setup – \$12,858.00
(This is for the EDC's Christmas in Raritan event – funded by a grant)

On a motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Council President Carra, Council moved to Approve Midas Lighting LLC PO.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Melitsky, Patente

Nay: x

Abstain: Hutzler

Motion Carried: 4-0

3. Train Tix – Rental of Holiday Decorations – \$5,129.00
(This is for the EDC's Christmas in Raritan event – funded by a grant)

On a motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Council President Carra, Council moved to Approve Train Tix PO.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Melitsky, Patente

Nay: x

Abstain: Hutzler

Motion Carried: 4-0

4. Sanitation Equipment Corp. – Garbage Truck Repair – \$9,767.00

On a motion by Councilwoman Melitsky, seconded by Councilman Giraldi, Council moved to Approve Sanitation Equipment Corp. PO.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Melitsky, Patente

Nay: x

Abstain: Hutzler

Motion Carried: 4-0

5. KRS IT Consulting – Computer IT Services – \$6,384.87

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilman Giraldi, Council moved to Approve KRS IT Consulting PO.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Melitsky, Patente

Nay: x

Abstain: Hutzler

Motion Carried: 4-0

6. Onooama Consulting – Annual Computer Services – \$6,000.00

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilwoman Melitsky, Council moved to Approve Onooama Consulting PO.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Melitsky, Patente

Nay: x

Abstain: Hutzler

Motion Carried: 4-0

COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Giraldi – Councilman Giraldi said that everything he had for DPW he ran through during Executive Session and that the John Basilone Committee voted on bylaws and passed them.

Councilwoman Melitsky – Councilwoman Melitsky reported that November 6th, Mayor Bray, Councilwoman Hutzler, and herself represented the town in dedicating a tree in the memory of Malathi Kanche, whose life was lost during tropical storm Ida. Councilwoman Melitsky said that with the assistance of our wonderful DPW a Dogwood tree was planted in Frelinghuysen Park.

Councilwoman Melitsky reported that on November 11th she attended Memorial Day Ceremony at our Veterans Park.

Councilwoman Melitsky reported that last week she attended the League of Municipalities Convention with Councilwoman Hutzler in Atlantic City, which was extremely valuable, and she came back with some great ideas.

Councilwoman Melitsky reported that on October 7th Police members received Valor Reward from the Somerset County 200 Club for an incident involving a suicidal female in 2020.

Councilwoman Melitsky reported that on October 23rd the Police participated in the DEA's National Take Back Day, during which medications are allowed to be disposed. Councilwoman Melitsky reported that on October 23rd the Police attended the Fall Festival at The Learning Experience. Councilwoman Melitsky reported that also on October 23rd the Police attended the Halloween Trunk-or-Treat event at JFK School.

Councilwoman Melitsky reported that for the Building Department 32 certificates were issued, \$267,363.00 was the total construction cost, and 136 inspections were conducted.

Councilwoman Melitsky said that Recreation will be teaming up with the EDC for the December 11th Christmas in Raritan. Councilwoman Melitsky reported that Recreation is looking for a gym to use for winter activities and that Recreation is working on the Frelinghuysen pool to fix the potential leak.

Council President Carra – Council President Carra stated that Board of Health didn't meet this month and their next meeting will be on December 8th at 7pm. Council President Carra reported that Municipal Court had 167 cases filed last month, 136 cases were disposed, and the Borough collected \$6,917.24 in fees. Council President Carra said that for the Planning Board he had already discussed the amendments to the Master Plan, so the only other thing to mention would be the building next to the Municipal Building, the Planning Board had an application come forth and without saying too much, they will be back, nothing was approved yet.

Councilman Patente – Councilman Patente said in the Reginal Center Partnership's last meeting of the year, they elected new officers and they set up the calendar for the new year and the budget for the new year. Councilman Patente reported that Economic Development is busy working on Christmas in Raritan, which is on Saturday, December 11th from 1pm-6pm, there will be vendors, food, beer, lots of Christmas gifts and carolers – Councilman Patente encouraged everyone to please come out, stating that it will be similar to the Discovering Raritan event, but Christmassy with vendors.

Councilman Patente reported that the Historical and Cultural Committee had their last meeting in November, they will not have one in December. Councilman Patente went on to say that the Historical and Cultural Committee had a program at the Library called Spies of WWII, where they had an actor there performing and they all said it went over very well. Councilman Patente went on to say that the Historical and Cultural Committee are looking into getting "Past Interviews", where they interview people in the town who have been here for a long time to get information because slowly but surely we are losing some of those people. Councilman Patente said that the H&C have interviews on tape, and they are looking to get them up on YouTube so they are out there for anybody, forever. Councilman Patente added that H&C is still trying to get a sign up at the Nevius Street Bridge, he noted that it's frustrating, it takes a long time to get these signs up, there are a lot of regulations. Councilman Patente assures everyone that there will be a sign up at some point in time, adding that he hopes its this year, saying "Welcome to Raritan" and "Goodbye from Raritan" when heading into Duke's Estates.

Mayor Bray – The Mayor addressed Councilwoman Hutzler saying that he knows she has just joined the Council and they are very excited for her to get back to work and he congratulated her. To which Councilwoman Hutzler thanked Mayor Bray and said she is looking forward to getting to work.

Mayor Bray said that he wanted to comment on something Councilwoman Melitsky brought up earlier. Mayor Bray went on to say that when they dedicated the tree at Frelinghuysen Park to Malathi Kanche, it was a pretty overwhelming experience. Mayor Bray said that Malathi Kanche's family and a lot of her friends came out and it was a touching experience. Mayor Bray then said he wanted to irradiate what Councilwoman Melitsky said, saying that the two gentlemen from DPW, Tim & Jeff, went above and beyond doing a wonderful job. Councilwoman Melitsky said that they were very respectful as well. Mayor Bray then said he wanted to give a little back story, he then explained that the hole for the tree was dug a week prior but then we had a huge rainstorm causing the event to be pushed back a week, but when they got there, the hole was still pretty full of water, causing DPW to fill in the hole with bags of mulch – but it wasn't enough so

Jeff ran out to get more to make it look nice. Mayor Bray said that when Jeff came back, Malathi Kanche's family had some of her family from India on facetime on their phones and wanted everyone to be in the picture, so Jeff became cameraman for a couple minutes as well, Mayor Bray adding that our DPW does an unbelievable job as always and thanked them for making that day what it was.

Mayor Bray then said he wanted to publicly thank Councilman Justice Ifan who is no longer with us as Councilwoman Hutzler won the election and is sitting with them this evening, but Mayor Bray said wanted to thank him for his services last year to town, he was came prepared to meetings, always had reasonable things to add into the discussion and was good to work with, so thank you for your service.

Mayor Bray said that every time we lose a Raritan Legend he likes to mention it, and he added to forgive him for indulging in his own family, but earlier this month Raritan lost his grandmother, Thresa Bray. Mayor Bray said that if you have been in Raritan the last 80+ years or were born in Raritan, you probably knew her. Mayor Bray said she was very involved in town, between Saint Ann's and their Festa, 3 years on the Board of Health, Senior Citizen Organization and involvement in the schools. Mayor Bray then said he wanted to thank his Council Members for showing their support that day and the Borough for coming out and also gifts, flowers and everyone reaching out has been lovely and he appreciates that.

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.

David Seijas: Mr. Seijas stated that he is Sergio's younger son and he wanted to take a quick moment on behalf of his dad and mom, he wanted to thank everyone for their time and their commitment seeing through this piece of the process, he knows its been a process, and there are still some steps to sort out but they appreciate their time and commitment to seeing this through. Mr. Sehas also added that since he does have the time he will indulge as well, he said that as most people know his dad is a Raritan business owner for over 30 years, his dad loves it here, loves the people, loves his customers and he deeply values the friendships and relationships he has built here over the years, including the Governing Body, Roger and Judy. Mr. Sehas then said that speaking for his dad and his mom, they are very excited to make this their permanent home and Mr. Sehas thanks them all for help in this little piece of the process in making that a reality and wished them all a great Thanksgiving and great Holidays. Mayor Bray then addressed Sergio saying, his restaurant was the last place they took his grandmother to eat before the pandemic.

Johnny Gramer, 13 (inaudible) Drive: Mr. Gramer said that him and his wife moved here about a year ago, from a rather different town in Princeton, New Jersey and he just wanted to say that they love the town. Mr. Gramer said that they just love the people, it's been friendly, welcoming and they would both like to be involved somehow, so if there are any committees that need help, they are here to help. The Governing Body all reacted well to this, saying thank you. Mr. Gramer then joked, if he said this in Princeton he would have been kicked out. Mayor Bray said thank you

and welcome to Raritan. Councilman Patente said that there is information to be found on the Borough's website.

Mayor Bray then addressed everyone in saying he wishes them all a Happy Thanksgiving, with some of the Council doing the same.

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

REGULAR MEETING ADJOURNMENT

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

Recorded Vote:

All in Favor

Motion Passed: 5-0

Regular Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Alyssa Cornella
Administrative Assistant
Office of the Borough Clerk

Approved: _____
Eric M. Colvin
Borough Clerk/Administrator

Date: _____