

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, December 21, 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 December 17, 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 Hutzler, Councilwoman Melitsky, Councilman Orozco, Councilman Patente

Also Present: Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin, Borough Assistant Administrator/Assistant CFO Cook-Vitale, Borough Attorney Robertson, Borough Engineer Schrek

Absent:

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

Councilman Orozco

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution No. 2021-12-184

Entering Executive Session

1. Personnel
Administration, DPW, Municipal Court
2. Attorney Client
Hidden Pond, Alpine Way, Columbus Avenue, Public Buildings, Old York Road Property, NJ Transit Lease, License Agreement

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilwoman Hutzler, Council moved to Enter Executive Session.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

Council convened in Executive Session at 6:33 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Councilman Ifon, 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 7:06 p.m.

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Mayor Bray wanted to honor some of our community members: Pop-Warner Cheerleaders, JV Level 2 Large National Champions who went to Florida this year, where they won their National Championship. The Governing Body congratulates them on this achievement and are really happy to have them represent our community. Mayor Bray then goes on to list out all the names, coaches and cheerleaders.

Mayor Bray then went on to announce that on behalf of the Governing Body, as the Mayor of Raritan, Zachary Bray, he has declared December 21st as the 2021 Pop-Warner JV Level 2 Large National Champions Day in the Borough of Raritan.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Drop Box Vinyl Wrap (EC)
Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin stated that the box is being completed, the wrap consists of a nice picture of John Basilone and the American flag.
2. 2022 Meeting Schedule (EC)
Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin stated that at the last Council meeting it was decided that everyone wanted the meeting dates to change to the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month instead of the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. That would make the first meeting of 2022 two days after the reorganization meeting, Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin wanted to ask if Council wanted to postpone/skip the first January 4th meeting since the reorganization meeting will be two days before. There was a brief discussion between the Governing Body which ended in agreement to skip the January 4th meeting and just have the reorganization meeting on January 2nd, 2022 and the regular meeting on January 18th, 2022. Mayor Bray also confirmed that for summer and winter there will only be one meeting a month.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Probationary Officer – Kosinski (EC)
Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin reported that Raritan Chief of Police Nolte stated that Officer Kosinski has done a good job and is ready to come off his 6-month probation. Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin is asking for a motion to lift Officer Kosinski's probation on behalf of Chief Nolte.

On a motion by Councilwoman Melitsky, seconded by Councilman Orozco, Council moved to Lift Officer Kosinski's Probation.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x
Motion Carried: 6-0

2. Welcome to Raritan Signage (MP)
Councilman Patente said that the Historical and Cultural Committee have been putting up signs but have one they cannot place, they wanted to put it at the Nevius Street Bridge but are running into restrictions. Councilman Patente said that Borough Engineer Schrek suggested they donate it to the County and ask them to place it, an idea that Councilman Patente agrees with totally. It was unofficially agreed by the Governing Body to donate the sign to County for placement.
3. Library Snowplow Agreement (EC)
Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin stated that this is on the consent agenda for this meeting as a resolution to renew the library's annual snowplow agreement for snow removal for them this winter. Councilman Giraldi asked if snowplowing meant to snowplow the street since the library doesn't have a parking lot and a brief conversation ensued between the Governing Body and Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin, which ended in the Mayor stating that there should be clarification that the DPW will clear the sidewalks of snow in front of the Library when Borough Hall is open.
4. Somerset County Helping Hands Request (EC)
Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin stated that this request was received from Chief Nolte through the County who would like to set up through their community outreach program mobile units at the train station periodically because we have a lease with the transit that wasn't for our approval *PLEASE HELP, I CANNOT TELL WHAT YOU SAY HERE*. Councilman Giraldi stated that he would like to see the agreement we have with the train station since he has never seen it, he would like to see what our responsibilities are.
5. Department Head Meeting Schedule 2022 (EC)
Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin stated that he was asked to put together a schedule for 2022 to have the Department Heads come in, something they have been doing for several years now to get Council an overview of what's happening in their departments and he wanted to see if Council wanted it to be in the first meeting of the month or the second meeting going forward, his suggestion is the second meeting. Councilman Giraldi said that which ever meeting is picked, the schedule has to list which department head is coming at each meeting and it has to be followed, adding that people tend to miss their turn to speak due to sickness or vacation. A brief conversation ensued between the Governing Body.
6. Borough Calendars (EC)
Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin stated that every year the Council authorizes the amount not to exceed for the Borough calendars, he stated that there hasn't been much talk this year about doing the Borough calendars so he wanted to see if there was interest in doing the calendars this year, and if so, he wanted to ask for a motion to approve the

amount not to exceed – which is typically around \$1,500 but Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin quoted around \$2,000 this year with inflation. Mayor Bray said that the past few years they have been getting the calendars printed at FedEx Office at the circle which has been around the \$1,500.00 mark.

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilman Orozco, Council moved to Approve \$2,000 2022 Calendar Budget.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

7. Garbage Container Ordinance (EC)

Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin stated that we received a request from Councilman Giraldi and our director of Public Works, Vincent LoMedico, has been involved as well, that the current trashcan size is very large and for insurance purposes, its cumbersome and potentially dangerous to have our DPW guys lifting up 100lb trash bins. Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin stated that since there is an absence of a bin lift, it is recommended that the trash bins be limited to a 45 gallon-sized bin. Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin said that they would need to amend the Ordinance to reflect the 45 gallon can limit, which would require a Council Vote. Councilman Orozco said that he has been these bins all over the place and when he first joined Council, he remembers talk about trash bag thickness to keep the animals out. Councilman Orozco also said that the big cans are the only cans that don't blow over in the wind, adding that he has never seen a DPW worker lift one of those cans – that they reach in and pull out each individual bag and toss them out. Councilman Giraldi said that he had a 90-gallon can but he realized how heavy it was and went out and bought a 45-gallon can, adding that not everyone puts bags inside their cans. Councilman Giraldi said that it is an insurance issue and needs to be looked at, he added that perhaps they should bring in DPW Director Vincent LoMedico, who has made this transition before in Manville. It was decided that DPW Director Vincent LoMedico would be asked to attend the first Council meeting in January.

ORDINANCE – SECOND READING & PUBLIC HEARING

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

Mayor Bray asked Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin to elaborate on this for the public, to which Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin stated, this second reading is in reference to bringing the Borough of Raritan's Personnel Policy up to current standards and different guidelines, as it hasn't been updated for a quite while.

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, Hutzler, Melitsky, Orozco, Patente

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

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.

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilman Giraldi, Council moved to Adopt Ordinance No. 2021-15.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

CONSENT AGENDA

(Resolution Nos. 2021-12-185 – 2021-12-191)

Resolution No. 2021-12-185	Renewing Snowplowing Agreement – Raritan Public Library
Resolution No. 2021-12-186	Awarding Contract – Elevator Services
Resolution No. 2021-12-187	Authorizing DPW Advertising Hire – Laborer
Resolution No. 2021-12-188	Authorizing Disposal of Surplus Property – Police Department and Administration
Resolution No. 2021-12-189	Authorizing Execution of Agreement – Payroll Services – R&L DataCenters, Inc.
Resolution No. 2021-12-190	Authorizing Amount Not to Exceed - \$2,000.00 – 2022 Borough Calendars
Resolution No. 2021-12-191	Authorizing Execution of Subordination Agreement for 49 Quick Avenue

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

Recorded Vote

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

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

BILL LIST

Resolution No. 2021-12-192

Approving Bill List

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

Recorded Vote

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

PURCHASE ORDER REQUESTS

1. Borough of Manville – Interlocal Agreement – DPW Shared Service – \$20,000.00

On a motion by Councilman Orozco, seconded by Councilwoman Hutzler, Council moved to Approve DPW Shared Service PO.

Recorded Vote

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

2. Central Jersey Nurseries, LLC. – Snowthrower – DPW – \$5,198.00

On a motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilwoman Melitsky, Council moved to Approve Central Jersey Nurseries PO.

Recorded Vote

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

3. Absolute Fire Protection – Engine 52-2 Repair – Fire Department – \$7,660.29

On a motion by Councilwoman Hutzler, seconded by Councilman Giraldi, Council moved to Approve the Absolute Fire Protection PO.

Recorded Vote

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

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

4. Relief Hose Company – Clothing Allowance, Rent, Salaries, Physicals – \$25,151.33

On a motion by Councilwoman Melitsky, seconded by Councilman Orozco, Council moved to Approve the Relief Hose Company PO.

Recorded Vote

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

COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Giraldi – Councilman Giraldi said that as this is the last meeting of the year, he didn't have anything to report.

Councilwoman Melitsky – Councilwoman Melitsky reported that the Police Department has received a very generous donation from the Duke Farms Foundation. Councilwoman Melitsky stated that the Police Officers assisted at the Bridgewater-Raritan School's Athletic Bonfire on November 4th. Councilwoman Melitsky also stated that the Police Department would like to thank Mangia Buono Caterers, the WHAT?? Columbites, and WHAT?? Laundry Systems for providing delicious lunches during the month of November.

Councilwoman Melitsky reported that for the Building Department there were 138 inspections conducted, 28 certificates were issued, the total construction costs were \$2,749,767.00 and \$375.00 in certificate fees were collected.

Councilwoman Melitsky reported that Raritan Recreation participated in the EDC's Christmas in Raritan event and they would like to thank all of the volunteers and all who visited to make free children's crafts and as well those who used the QR code to expand their email list. Councilwoman Melitsky added that Raritan Recreation wishes everyone a safe and healthy Holiday.

Councilwoman Melitsky stated that for her own update, she is pleased to announce that during this past week our Veterans Preferred parking area was designated and she is extremely proud that our Borough is demonstrating its respect. Councilwoman Melitsky also stated that since the last Council Meeting, she feels honored that she was able to work at the Raritan Food Pantry and she would also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Holiday.

Council President Carra – Council President Carra stated that the Board of Health's meeting was cancelled this month and they will be having a meeting in January, different day than usual but same time – January 5th at 7pm, and as of right now it will be on Zoom, you can get the zoom information from the Board of Health's secretary Connie DelRocco. Council President Carra reported that the Planning Board didn't meet due to lack of business, he didn't get a conformation on when they'll be meeting in January, so Council President Carra stated to keep your eye on the

Borough website. Council President Carra reported that for Court in the month of November, there were 174 cases filed, 278 were disposed, the Borough collected \$9,932.23 of which \$4,625.98 were allotted to the Borough. Council President Carra went on to thank Councilman Michael Patente, saying that it's his last Council meeting and that he has been on council for two years and it has been a pleasure working with him and Council President Carra thanked him for his service. Council President Carra also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Councilman Patente – Councilman Patente said that he didn't have any meetings this month and had nothing to report there but he wanted to say the two committees he has been liaison for did a really great job this year and he is really proud of them.

Councilman Patente said the Historical and Cultural Committee are continuing to keep the vibrant life of our history alive and they do a really great job, they had a couple good events this year and he really appreciates them and he hopes they continue to do that next year.

Councilman Patente said the EDC also did a great job this year, saying that they had two different fairs/events, Discovering Raritan and Christmas in Raritan, which were both extremely successful, and he hopes Council will consider putting money in the budget so they can continue those things next year. Councilman Patente wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Councilwoman Hutzler – Councilwoman Hutzler said she attended the Environmental Commission meeting last week and a good part of that meeting was devoted to the electric vehicle charging stations. Councilwoman Hutzler stated that the state is now requiring municipalities to pass an enabling Ordinance for electric vehicle infrastructure. Councilwoman Hutzler stated that the group had discussed approaching the owner of a large retail complex on the Somerville Circle as a likely location for the charging station. Councilwoman Hutzler reported that the Board of Public Utilities still has grant funding available to reimburse private owners up to 80% of the installation costs, the Environmental Commission is more than willing to help the owner prepare the application. Councilwoman Hutzler stated that since the last meeting she has been advised that Borough Engineer Schrek has been involved in discussions on this subject, so they will need to get input from him.

Councilwoman Hutzler said that Mr. Alvarez, the chair of their committee, had attended the Planning Board meeting and shared engineering drawings from two proposed developments, plans on both of these are still in very early stages. Councilwoman Hutzler reported that an Environmental Impact Statement was prepared for the building next to Borough Hall but has not yet been provided to the Environmental Commission.

Councilman Orozco – Councilman Orozco said he wanted to say thank you again to the Fire Department, this year once again they have pulled their strings for the children of Raritan and got Santa to come out and ride around on their Firetruck. Councilman Orozco added that his kids along with all the kids in the neighborhood greatly appreciate that every year, its something they all look forward to every year and we thank the Fire Department for pulling those strings to get Santa to come out for us, greatly appreciated.

Councilman Orozco said the second thing he wanted to talk about is something not quite as cheery, but Raritan recently lost a longtime resident and volunteer coordinator of our

Recreation Department, Councilman Orozco said that he thinks himself, Council President Carra and Mayor Bray, have all benefited from Mr. Andricheck's devotion to this town, which Councilman Orozco said is the best way to put it. Councilman Orozco also said Mr. Andricheck was an example to everyone and would always give back, even though he didn't have children all those years in the recreation department, he still gave back to the rest of the community and Councilman Orozco wanted to say thank you to his family and thank you to Mr Andricheck for all the memories and with deepest condolences to his family.

Mayor Bray – Mayor Bray stated that he would like to echo Councilman Orozco's sentiments and that his father had started as the recreation Chair for many years under Rich Bartilucci and Bob Andricheck, adding that this is a big loss for our community

Mayor Bray said that he wanted to echo Council President Carra's sentiments, addressing Councilman Patente, Mayor Bray stated it's been an honor working with him these two years, adding that he always put the people of Raritan first, no matter how unpopular that may have made him, saying that he commends Councilman Patente for 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.

Jeffery Hill, 1200 Old York Road: Mr. Hill stated he was wondering about the Borough buying property. To which Mayor Bray stated was a topic discussed in executive session and handed the question off to Borough Engineer Schrek, who answered by saying he would speak to the resident after the meeting.

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 Councilwoman Hutzler, Council moved to Adjourn the Regular Meeting.

Recorded Vote:

All in Favor

Motion Passed: 6-0

Regular Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Alyssa Cornella
Administrative Assistant
Office of the Borough Clerk

Approved: _____
Eric M. Colvin
Borough Clerk/Administrator

Date: _____