

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, March 1, 2022.

Mayor Bray 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 January 27, 2022, 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 Fritzingler, Councilman Giraldi, Councilwoman Hutzler, Councilwoman Melitsky, Councilman Orozco

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

Absent:

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

Councilwoman Hutzler

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution No. 2022-03-035

Entering Executive Session

1. Personnel
Administration, DPW, Police, Chapter 88, BOH
2. Attorney Client
Hidden Pond, Tillman & Old York Properties, Public Buildings, Seagrave, Alpine Way, Columbus Avenue, NJ Transit

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

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilwoman Hutzler, Council moved to Reconvene in Regular Session.

Recorded Vote

All in Favor

Motion Carried: 6-0

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. August 8, 2021

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilwoman Melitsky, Council moved to Approve the August 8, 2021 Minutes.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Melitsky, Orozco

Nay: x

Abstain: Fritzinger, Hutzler

Motion Carried: 4-0

2. September 28, 2021

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilwoman Melitsky, Council moved to Approve the September 28, 2021 Minutes.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Melitsky, Orozco

Nay: x

Abstain: Fritzinger, Hutzler

Motion Carried: 4-0

3. October 12, 2021

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilwoman Hutzler, Council moved to Approve the October 12, 2021 Minutes.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Melitsky, Orozco

Nay: x

Abstain: Fritzinger, Hutzler

Motion Carried: 4-0

4. November 23, 2021

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilman Orozco, Council moved to Approve the November 23, 2021 Minutes.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Hutzler, Melitsky, Orozco

Nay: x

Abstain: Fritzinger

Motion Carried: 5-0

5. December 21, 2021

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilman Fritzinger, Council moved to Approve the December 21, 2021 Minutes.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Carra, Giraldi, Hutzler, Melitsky, Orozco

Nay: x

Abstain: Fritzinger

Motion Carried: 5-0

NEW BUSINESS

1. Proposed World War II Display (EC)

Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin stated that Bruce Doorly is here to give a presentation, he is looking to have a World War II display in the basement community room.

Bruce Doorly started off his presentation by saying a big part of Raritan's identity is it's WWII history, starting with John Basilone and then with the 24 men who gave their lives. Mr. Doorly said a list was found of all those who served in WWII from Raritan and would like to create a memorial display in the Community Room. Mr. Doorly said he found the list hidden in an old book at the Raritan Library, adding that the list of everyone who served in the war was once posted outside the post office in 1943-1953, this list was called the Honor Roll and they used to do patriotic events around it.

Mr. Doorly said the memorial would cost around \$3,000 and asked for Council's permission to proceed, adding he would budget \$750 for someone to professionally install the display.

On a motion by Councilwoman Melitsky, seconded by Councilwoman Hutzler, Council moved to Approve the World War II Basement Display.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

2. Anderson & Thompson Streets Closures (EC)

Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin stated that we received word from the DMP that why will be replacing the double tracks on the transit line by Anderson & Thompson, so both of those roads will be closed for a week separately. Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin stated that they plan on starting with Anderson Street on Thursday, March 10th keeping that closed through March 17th and once that reopens, they plan on closing Thompson Street – there will be detours and have more information 2-weeks in advance, which is now, so they should start putting out signs to let people know which direction they should go. Mayor Bray asked how much of the street/s would be closed, to which Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin answered there will be no through-traffic from Anderson to Sherman, then they will close from Thompson to Second. Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin stated added that he will also have something posted online for people to see.

ORDINANCE – SECOND READING & PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance No. 2022-01

An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey Amending Chapter 217, Section 4, "Garbage Receptables; Collection", of the Code of the Borough of Raritan to Limit the Size of Garbage Receptables

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

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

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

On a motion by Councilwoman Melitsky, seconded by Councilwoman Hutzler, Council moved to Adopt Ordinance No. 2022-01.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

Ordinance No. 2022-02

An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey Amending & Modifying Chapter 5, Boards, Committees & Commissions, of the Code of the Borough of Raritan

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

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

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilman Fritzinger, Council moved to Adopt Ordinance No. 2022-02.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

Ordinance No. 2022-03

An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey Creating an Affordable Housing Overlay Zone (AH-1) for Block 2, Lots 6.01, 7, 8, 9 and 10

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

Jim Fidacaro, Lynwood Street: Mr. Jim asked where Block 2 is located. Council President Carra stated it is property that Ortho and J&J own, adding its more of the zone being designated than the actual property lot. Mr. Jim asked if it was the property off Vanderveer Road, to which Council President Carra replied yes, the wooded area behind the Raritan Health.

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

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilman Fritzinger, Council moved to Adopt Ordinance No. 2022-03.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

Ordinance No. 2022-04

An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey Creating an Inclusionary Residential District (IRD-4) for Block 2, Lot 11.

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

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

On a motion by Councilman Fritzinger, seconded by Council President Carra, Council moved to Adopt Ordinance No. 2022-04.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

Ordinance No. 2022-05

An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey Creating an Inclusionary

Residential District (IRD-2) for Block 2, Lot 12.01 in
the vicinity of the Raritan Extended Care Facility

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

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

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilman Fritzingler, Council moved to
Adopt Ordinance No. 2022-05.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

CONSENT AGENDA

(Resolution Nos. 2022-03-036 – 2022-03-040)

Resolution No. 2022-03-036

Authorizing the Hiring of Full-Time

Department of Public Works Employee

Resolution No. 2022-03-037

Designating an Area in Need of Redevelopment

Resolution No. 2022-03-038

Authorizing Execution of Hold Harmless & Right of
Entry / Maintenance Agreement

Resolution No. 2022-03-039

Authorizing Disposal of Surplus Police Equipment

Resolution No. 2022-03-040

Authorizing Performance Bond Release

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

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

BILL LIST

Resolution No. 2022-03-041

Approving Bill List

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

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

PURCHASE ORDER REQUESTS

1. Police Department - \$29,360.65 – Two, 2021 Ford Utility Vehicles – NCL

On a motion by Councilwoman Melitsky, seconded by Councilman Fritzingler, Council moved to Approve Police Department PO.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

2. Department of Public Works – \$11,515.75 – Backhoe Repair – Foley Machinery Parts, Inc.

On a motion by Councilwoman Melitsky, seconded by Councilwoman Hutzler, Council moved to Approve Public Works PO.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

On a motion by Councilman Orozco, seconded by Council President Carra, Council moved to Approve Increase Amount not to Exceed to \$1,500.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Giraldi – Councilman Giraldi reported that he had nothing to report.

Councilman Orozco – Councilman Orozco said that for the Environmental Committee, they did not a meeting last month, their next meeting is this Thursday. Councilman Orozco reported that Board of Education had a WHAT meeting about two weeks ago and it had a lot to do with the future of our school districts so he recommends that everyone go on the Board of Education website, it's a lot more involved than what a liaison report can give credit to.

Councilman Fritzingler – Councilman Fritzingler reported that Historic and Cultural had their first meeting of the 2022 calendar year, they have a \$750 temporary budget. Councilman Fritzingler stated that Historic and Cultural are proceeding along with the wrapping of the benches on Main Street, there are seven benches left to be completed yet at a cost of \$2,345 and they are 90% done with the artists renditions of the wraps to be used. Councilman Fritzingler also stated that Historic and Cultural

have confirmed the date for the Civil War reenactment, October 1 & October 2 which will be conducted by the Second NJ Brigade. Councilman Fritzingler asked Mayor Bray about the construction of the “Welcome to Raritan” sign for Nevis Street Bridge, to which Mayor Bray asked Borough Engineer Schrek if he has talked to Jim Fidacaro about this, Borough Engineer Schrek stated that at the last meeting it was agreed to donate the sign back to County, Councilman Fritzingler thanked him and Borough Engineer Schrek added that there were two “Welcome to Raritan” signs they wanted to put up, one went up on Somerset Street near 206 but the sign for Nevis Street Bridge was somewhat problematic with location. Councilman Fritzingler said the historic sign that Councilman Orozco had managed to retrieve H&C is being resorted back to its natural/original condition to be replaced at an appropriate time and their next meeting will be March 16, 2022, at 7 p.m. here at Borough Hall.

Councilman Fritzingler reported that the building department has been busy this month between 215 and 228, they have issued 4 building permits, 11 plumbing permits, 11 electrical, 5 fire, 1 elevator and 1 mechanical, totaling 33 with fees procreated total of \$3,136.00. Councilman Fritzingler stated that he was hoping to get with Andy, Raritan Recreation Director, to see about the lighting in the recreation building and the JFK pool but he couldn't get any information from him yet, but hopefully he will have some by the second meeting of this month.

Council President Carra – Council President Carra stated that at last week's Planning Board meeting both applications were carried to March 23rd at 6pm and they will be carried without further notice, that's for a property on Colfax Street and the property adjacent to the building here. Council President Carra reported that the Planning Board also approved amendments to the master plan in accordance with our Affordable Housing Agreement with Fair Share Housing and those ordinances will be passed tonight at the second reading. Council President Carra stated that the Regional Center Partnership's next meeting is March 16th, Wednesday at 5pm, which will be on Zoom. Council President Carra reported that he needs to report a motion from the Council for the Discovering Raritan event, they are looking to do it July 30th, so they need to make a motion to close Main Street on July 30th. Mayor Bray stated that they are probably following the same plans as last year and to have them submit them to the Police Chief so it can be added to the next agenda. Council President Carra added that the EDC would also like everyone to know that from March 13-March 19, 2022, will be “Supporting Raritan Restaurants” week, so please check on the EDC's Facebook and Instagram pages for specials, discounts, offers and a list of participating restaurants, their next meeting will be Tuesday, March 8th at 7pm here at Borough Hall. Council President Carra stated that for the Finance Committee they will be meeting this Monday to do a preliminary budget to bring to Council next meeting.

Councilwoman Melitsky – Councilwoman Melitsky stated that for the Board of Health, Somerset County BOH will be opening a COVID-19 vaccine and testing site, and it will be located where Plato's Closet was in the Raritan Mall. Councilwoman Melitsky reported that during the month of January the following were issued, 4 marriage licenses, 15 marriage certified copies, 132 certified death certificates and the total of fees collected were \$743.05. Councilwoman Melitsky reported that in regard to the Department of Public Works, potholes have been routinely patched, a catch basin was repaired at Hidden Pond, a bolder donated from Duke Estates along with a plaque honoring the person who died during hurricane Ida was placed at Frelinghuysen Park and many other various work details were completed and Councilwoman Melitsky has a detailed list of those if anyone needs to see them or discuss that. Councilwoman Melitsky reported that Property Maintenance, in the last month 36 inspections were done and 13 notices of violation were sent. Councilwoman Melitsky stated that

regarding the Senior Citizens, because of the Mayor's profession of teaching, she took his place at the Senior Meeting, during which the members were very interested in hearing our council update and it was great to see that there is a large number of new members. Councilwoman Melitsky also said that since the last council meeting she had attended a John Basilone Parade Committee meeting and that is progressing well.

Councilwoman Hutzler – Councilwoman Hutzler stated that for the Municipal Court, she does not yet have a February court report, so she will have it at the next council meeting. Councilwoman Hutzler stated that Recreation would like to remind parents who want to sign their child up for baseball, they should do so as soon as possible as registration will be ending soon – registration forms can be found on the Borough website. Councilwoman Hutzler also added that Recreation is currently working on scheduling a self-defense class and they are waiting to hear from our contact at the Somerset County Prosecutors Office. Councilwoman Hutzler reported that Recreation's Easter egg hunt will be held at Frelinghuysen Park on April 9th with a rain date of April 16th, Recreation is also working on opening the pool and the summer camp, which we will offer this year, with details being worked on at this time. Councilwoman Hutzler reported that Recreation is also working on numbers and obtaining information needed to apply for the County grant for the splash-pool at Basilone Park.

Mayor Bray – Mayor Bray stated that he wanted to mention the town-wide yard sale set up with the friends of the Raritan Library and the JFK's PTO but he believes Jim Foohey will be speaking about it in public comment which is item thirteen.

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.

Jim Foohey, 714 Rhine Blvd: Mr. Foohey stated that the Friends of the Raritan Library and the JFK PTO are once again partnering to present the Third Annual Town-wide Yard Sale, this year we are going back to May, with the first Saturday in May. Mr. Foohey added that it was his original idea three years ago to have (the yard sale) the first Saturday in May every year, so people get it in their minds that the first Saturday in May would be the sale. Mr. Foohey stated that they started accepting applications today, March 1, 2022, and they will be taking applications the next seven weeks, applications can be found here at Borough Hall, at the Raritan Library or on the library's website – www.raritanlibrary.org. Mr. Foohey said it's going to be a big event, adding that last year they had 57 houses participate, which is pretty good in the middle of a pandemic – which is better than he had thought. Mr. Foohey reported that the first year they had over 80 houses and he is optimistic, and he thinks it will be a good thing.

Council President Carra asked Mr. Foohey if they were going to offer a location for people who didn't want to have the yard sale at their house. Mr. Foohey responded that no, they haven't done that yet – they did it last year due to the pandemic. Mayor Bray added that last year they entertained having that option at JFK school, but it cost more to have the janitor there to unlock the door than the whole event. Mr. Foohey confirmed that and added they were also looking to have it at the basketball courts but if he did that he would need Council permission because its Borough property, but he doesn't believe there are a lot of people who are interested in that, unless he receives a lot of emails from people who have apartments and they want to participate, what he was thinking was perhaps they could partner with someone else in town who has a house. Mr. Foohey added that he doesn't think using the basketball courts would be a good idea because then it could be a liability

to the Borough if someone got hurt and there would need to be monitored, checking in and with people showing up who didn't register, so for now, it will just be at resident's houses.

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

REGULAR MEETING ADJOURNMENT

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

Recorded Vote:

All in Favor

Motion Passed: 6-0

Regular Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Alyssa Cornella
Administrative Assistant
Office of the Borough Clerk

Approved: _____
Eric M. Colvin
Borough Clerk/Administrator

Date: _____