

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, April 5, 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 7, 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

Councilman Orozco

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution No. 2022-04-053

Entering Executive Session

1. Personnel
Administration, DPW, Police, BOH
2. Attorney Client
Hidden Pond, Tillman, Old York, Public Buildings, Seagrave, Alpine Way, NJ Transit

On a motion by Councilwoman Melitsky, seconded by Councilman Orozco, 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 6:31 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilwoman Melitsky, seconded by Councilman Orozco, 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 7:01 p.m.

PROCLAMATION

Recognizing Eagle Scout – Aaron Berry

Mayor Bray invited Aaron Berry to the front of the room, where he read aloud a proclamation recognizing Aaron Berry of Boy Scout Troop 88 for having shown perseverance and determination that can make a difference, as well as honoring him and his parents, on his outstanding achievement of attaining the rank of Eagle Scout and the work he has done in Raritan Borough.

PUBLIC AUCTION OF REAL PROPERTY

Block 35, Lot 5.01

Attorney Robertson advised Mayor and Council and all in attendance that the Borough will hold a public auction for the sale of real property tonight, following the proper procedures that have been completed along the way, including, but not limited to, publication in official newspaper and adoption of an ordinance. Borough Attorney Robertson added that if a bid is accepted, there would need to be a Resolution.

BIDS:

1. Brielle Capital LLC – Placed a minimum bid of \$140,000.00

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilwoman Melitsky, Council moved to Authorize Preparations of a Contract of Sale with Brielle Capital LLC.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

MINUTES

1. January 18, 2022

On a motion by Councilwoman Hutzler, seconded by Council President Carra, Council moved to Approve the January 18, 2022, Minutes.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

2. February 8, 2022

On a motion by Councilman Fritzingler, seconded by Council President Carra, Council moved to Approve the February 8, 2022, Minutes.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

OLD BUSINESS

1. Proposed PBA Fundraiser (EC)
Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin stated that this topic needs to be carried into the next Council Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Civil War Encampment (DF)
Councilman Fritzingler stated that the Historical and Cultural Committee have hired The Second NJ Brigade to do a Civil War reenactment October 1st & October 2nd here on Borough property at Canal Park. Councilman Fritzingler reported that the Historical Committee has been in contact with Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin, going over necessary permitting, use of property, and he believes they have spoken with the local fire marshal and Police Chief.

On a motion by Councilman Orozco, seconded by Councilman Giraldi, Council moved to Accept Civil War Encampment Event Dates - Pending All Proper Insurance and Other Necessary Paperwork Needed.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

2. Public Comment (NC)
Council President Carra proposed that they bring back the additional Public Comment section after executive session to the agenda, stating that they originally did away with it due to the meetings being temporarily held via ZOOM. Mayor Bray stated that there were some complaints previously about feeling rushed into Public Comment straight after Executive. It was agreed that they would discuss a new spot for the additional Public Comment section to be added back into the agenda.
3. Recreation Committee Appointment – Tori Cesario (ZB)
Mayor Bray stated that he would like to make a motion to appoint Tori Cesario as a member to the Recreation Committee with their consent.

On a motion by Councilwoman Hutzler, seconded by Council President Carra, Council moved to Appoint Tori Cesario to the Recreation Committee.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

4. Removal of Backstop (EC)

Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin stated that Recreation and a few members of Council would like to see one of the backstops removed from Washington Park to make room for more possible open space, turning the middle field into a multipurpose field. It was confirmed that Andy Sibilia (Recreation Director) is aware of this proposal. Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin stated that he is requesting authorization from Council to have DPW remove the backstop.

On a motion by Councilwoman Hutzler, seconded by Council Woman Melitsky, Council moved to Approval Removal of Backstop.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

5. Anderson Street Firehouse Request (EC)

Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin stated that Fire Chief Brian Kredatus would like to get some sheet rocking done in the Anderson Street Firehouse. Chief Kredatus would like to get a quote from County to present to Council, to which Council unofficially agreed to allow Chief Kredatus to move forward with obtaining the quote.

ORDINANCE – SECOND READING & PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance No. 2022-06

An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey Amending Provisions of Chapter 207 “Land Use and Development Ordinance” of the Code of the Borough of Raritan, Part VI, Article X, to Amend the Mandatory Setaside Ordinance for Multi-Family Developments in the Borough of Raritan to Provide a Payment-In-Lieu Provision

Mayor Bray briefly explained that this Ordinance means a potential developer would have to abide by the Fair Share Housing Act and they could provide a payment-in-lieu to the Borough’s Fair Share Housing fund.

Mayor Bray requested a motion to open this Ordinance to the Public.

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilman Orozco, Council moved to Open Ordinance No. 2022-06 to the Public.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

Mayor Bray opened Public Hearing for any member of the Public wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2022-06.

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

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilwoman Hutzler, Council moved to Approve Ordinance No. 2022-06.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

ORDINANCE – INTRODUCTION

Ordinance No. 2022-07

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

The Cap Bank Ordinance listed above for Introduction will be considered for Adoption, after a Public Hearing scheduled at a Regular Meeting of the Borough Council to be held in the Municipal Building, 22 First Street, Raritan, New Jersey, on Tuesday, May 3, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. or at a time and place to which the Regular Meeting shall be adjourned.

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilwoman Melitsky, Council moved to Introduce Ordinance No. 2022-07.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

INTRODUCTION OF 2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Resolution No. 2022-04-054

Introduction of 2022 Municipal Budget

A Public Hearing on the Budget will be held in the Meeting Room of the Municipal Building, 22 First Street, Raritan, New Jersey, on Tuesday, May 3, 2022, at 6:30 p.m., or at a time and place to which the Regular Meeting shall be adjourned.

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilwoman Hutzler, Council moved to Introduce Resolution No. 2022-04-054.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

CONSENT AGENDA

(Resolution Nos. 2022-04-055 – 2022-04-058)

Resolution No. 2022-04-055

Authorizing Refund – Baseball Registrations (7)

Resolution No. 2022-04-056

Authorizing Refund – Unused Train Parking

Resolution No. 2022-04-057

Authorizing Additional as Needed Court Personnel

Resolution No. 2022-04-058

Authorizing Disposal of Surplus Electronics

Mayor Bray inquired about Resolution No. 2022-04-057, to which Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin stated that all around the County there are Violation Clerks that help out between neighboring Municipalities when needed and Judge Howes requested we have this agreement/allowance in writing.

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

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

MOTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Bray stated that he would like to call for a motion on action in Executive Session.

On a motion by Councilwoman Melitsky, seconded by Councilwoman Hutzler, Council moved to Authorizing a Borough Laborer Attorney to Initiate the Action that was Discussed During Executive Session.

Recorded Vote

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

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

BILL LIST

Resolution No. 2022-04-059

Approving Bill List

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

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

PURCHASE ORDER REQUESTS

1. JB Ragonese – Emergency Repair to 77 Tillman Street – \$13,350.00

On a motion by Councilman Fritzinger, seconded by Councilman Orozco, Council moved to Approve JB Ragonese PO.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Giraldi – Councilman Giraldi reported that the Basilone Committee had a WWII display reveal in the Borough’s Community Room this past Sunday, it is an honor roll wall honoring all of those who served in the military during WWII from Raritan. Councilman Giraldi added that if anyone has a chance to go see it, it’s very nice and is downstairs in this building.

Councilman Orozco – Councilman Orozco reported that the Environmental Commission has a meeting Thursday, April 21st at 7pm here at Borough Hall. Councilman Orozco stated they are looking forward to Earth Day, for an Earth Day celebration they are giving away free saplings soon. Councilman Orozco reported that these will be the last of the saplings as part of the Arbor Day Foundation’s commitment to replant trees that were lost during hurricane Sandy.

Councilman Fritzinger – Councilman Fritzinger stated that the Historical & Cultural Committee met on Thursday, March 16th. Councilman Fritzinger stated that in addition to the Civil War Reenactment that they are planning on doing, they have also completed the renditions for the remaining benches on Main Street, adding that the wraps should be wrapped up by the end of this month if the weather holds up. Councilman Fritzinger stated that the Building Department had a total of 51 permits issued

during the time period of 3/16/2022-4/4/2022, bringing in a total of \$7,811.00 to the Borough. Councilman Fritzingler stated he had nothing to report on IT this evening.

Council President Carra – Council President Carra stated that he wanted to thank our Administrator and Assistant Administrator for the work they did on the budget, adding that the Finance Committee was worried, but they did a very good job, thanking them for their hard work and calling out Borough Assistant Administrator/Assistant CFO Cook-Vitale for the amazing job she did with her research and graphs.

Council President Carra stated that the Planning Board met last week in regard to the property located next to the Municipal Building (on the North side) for a use variance and that was approved. Council President Carra added that the Planning Board will be meeting again tomorrow, April 6th, 2022, at 6:30pm for a Special Meeting to catch up on business such as, the property on Colfax Street (plan review and variance), and two completeness only checks.

Council President Carra stated that he didn't have anything to report for EDC.

Councilwoman Melitsky – Councilwoman Melitsky stated that since our last meeting, Property Maintenance has performed 31 inspections, 22 violations were issued, and 2 fines were issued, for a total of \$700.00.

Councilwoman Melitsky reported that along with routine items, Public Works has fixed playground edging at Frelinghuysen Park, performed maintenance on tractors and lawn equipment and they repaired blown hoses on the garbage trucks – adding that she believes we are really fortunate that they are able to do so many repairs in house. Councilwoman Melitsky also mentioned that grass clippings drop-off will begin this Saturday, April 9th, 2022, drop-off will be at the Public Works yard on Saturdays from 8am-Noon.

Councilwoman Melitsky stated that on Sunday she attended the unveiling of Raritan's WWII tribute, adding that Bruce Doorly did a great job and she extended an appreciation to all of our men and women who have served.

Councilwoman Hutzler – Councilwoman Hutzler reported that for Recreation baseball has begun for both T-Ball and Rookie Leagues, she also attended Recreation's arts & crafts event on March 26th at Frelinghuysen Park, which was a well-attended event and she noted that the kids seemed to really enjoy making the sock bunnies. Councilwoman Hutzler also reported that there was a nice turnout at Recreation's Self-Defense class that was held last week, they would like to thank the Somerset County Prosecutors Office for assisting and conducting the class, Councilwoman Hutzler also extended a thank you to Raritan Borough Police Chief Nolte for assistance in setting this up. Councilwoman Hutzler stated that the Easter-Egg-Hunt is set for this Saturday, April 9th with ages 1-4 will be at 11am, ages 5-8 will be at 11:30am and ages 9-12 will be at noon.

Councilwoman Hutzler reported for March 2022 Municipal Court had a total of 183 cases filed, 176 total cases disposed and a total of \$18,381.49 collected and a total of \$8,730.79 going to the Borough.

Mayor Bray – Mayor Bray stated that he wanted to comment on The Planning Board report that Council President Carra made, stating that the building next to Borough Hall was quite the bidder and he just wanted to reiterate his disappointment in that fact that himself and Councilman Giraldi were the minority from the Borough 5 years ago willing to jump on that property, adding that its going to

look a lot better than it does now for what it was approved for, Mayor Bray stated that they had a real chance there and it is a shame they missed it, with Councilman Giraldi agreeing. Mayor Bray reported that Saturday May 7th, 2022, is the Town-Wide Yard Sale, anyone interested in signing up can find information at the Raritan Library.

Mayor Bray also stated that the WWII Honor Roll event on Sunday was really quite special, and they got to hear a lot of cool stories from a few people in town, adding that the most amazing part was that a 105-year-old WWII veteran and also Council President Carra's great-great-uncle, who will be 96-years-old, attended – both in amazing shape and walking around. Mayor Bray said it was a great event.

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.

Seeing nor hearing any 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 7:28 p.m.

Alyssa Cornella
Administrative Assistant
Office of the Borough Clerk

Approved: _____
Eric M. Colvin
Borough Clerk/Administrator

Date: _____