

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, May 17, 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, Councilman Fritzingler, Councilman Giraldi, Councilwoman Hutzler
Also Present: Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin, Borough Assistant Administrator/Assistant CFO Cook-Vitale, Borough Attorney Robertson, Borough Engineer Schrek
Absent: Council President Carra, Councilwoman Melitsky, Councilman Orozco

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

Councilwoman Hutzler

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution No. 2022-05-076

Entering Executive Session

1. Administration
Monthly Department Head
2. Attorney Client
Public Buildings, NJ Transit,
Columbus/Riverside, Arnold Avenue

On a motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman Fritzingler, Council moved to Enter Executive Session.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Fritzingler, Giraldi, Hutzler

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 3-0

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilman Fritzingler, seconded by Councilman Giraldi, 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 7:03 p.m.

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.

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

MINUTES

1. April 5, 2022

On a motion by Councilwoman Hutzler, seconded by Councilman Fritzingler, Council moved to Adopt April 5, 2022 Minutes.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Fritzingler, Giraldi, Hutzler

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 3-0

2. April 19, 2022

On a motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman Fritzingler, Council moved to Adopt April 19, 2022 Minutes.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Fritzingler, Giraldi, Hutzler

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 3-0

OLD BUSINESS

1. Human Resources (NC)

Mayor Bray stated that due to Council President Carra's absence, this will be carried.

2. Field Usage (WR)

Borough Attorney Robertson stated that Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin has drafted up a sample Ordinance for field usage, adding that he needs to get more information from Andy Sibilia, Recreation Director, along with Council and Administration regarding which properties would be included and what, if any, permit fees would be collected.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Engineer's Report (SS)

Borough Engineer Schrek delivered the following, prepared report:

NJTPA/NJDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

NV5 is continuing to work on the Preliminary Design Drawings for the Thompson/Anderson pedestrian routes from the NJ Transit Station to the Riverfront. Project coordination between, NV5, VCEA and NJDOT will continue throughout this process. We have reviewed the Preliminary Design Submission as dated October 2021 and have suggested various cost savings measures to bring the project within the grant budget. The consultant will be making a presentation in November/December meeting depending on Council's schedule. **Update:** NJDOT has authorized additional funding. Public hearing needs to be scheduled.

Public Safety Building/ DPW Building

Public Safety Building will be designed for PD use only pending approval of concept by Mayor and Council. DPW design is progressing. Survey is complete. Coordinating with Hillsborough as a Planning Board application may be required.

Bell Ave Sewer

Bids have been received for Bell Avenue Storm and Sanitary Sewer repairs. Two bids were received on rebid. Underground Utilities Corp. with a total bid of \$521,074.00 and Lima Charlie Corp. with a total bid of \$664,679.00. An award to Underground Utilities, in the amount of **\$521,074.00**, is recommended.

2022 CDBG Applications

We are recommending that the Borough submit an application for sanitary sewer and storm sewer repairs and maintenance within the CDBG designated areas. An application has been submitted. Awaiting formal letter of award.

2021 NJDOT – Meehan and Helene 2022 NJDOT- Arnold, Berwick and Colby

Update: Design completed for Meehan and Helene. Design progressing on Arnold, Berwick and Colby.

These grant funded projects will be bid a one combined project.

LaGrange Street Redevelopment

Planning Board proceeding with revised RDP.

Raritan Crossing Redevelopment

Planning Board to review RDP at April meeting

1st Ave. and Burns Redevelopment

Council to recommend AINR review by Planning Board

Tillman Street Redevelopment

Per the recently approved Fair Share Plan and as part of the 2018 settlement process, the Borough is required to proceed with designating Block 53, Lots 1 & 2 on Tillman Street as an Area in Need of Redevelopment (AINR). It is suggested that the Mayor and Council request the Planning Board to proceed with the study.

Block 81

Update: Draft Amended Lease Agreement under review which will enable the installation of the pedestrian link between the project and the NJ Transit parking westerly parking lot. **No word yet from NJ Transit.** Final CO has been issued and bond release is in process with the exception of bond held for NJ Transit link.

*****Mayor Bray paused New Business to take a motion on Resolution No. 2022-05-082:**

Resolution No. 2022-05-082

Approving Promotion of Brad Hendershot to the Position of Foreman in the Department of Public Works

On a motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilwoman Hutzler, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2022-05-082.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Fritzingler, Giraldi, Hutzler

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 3-0

*****Mayor Bray returned to New Business:**

2. June Meeting Dates (EC)

Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin stated that Council has only one meeting in June, currently set for Tuesday, June 21st, 2022, but they also need to have a special meeting in early June requested by the Borough's Bond Council, Council agreed to hold the special meeting on Monday, June 6, 2022, at 6pm and to keep the Regular Council meeting set on June 21, 2022.

3. Shrine Chapel Procession Request (EC)

Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin reported that the Shrine Chapel would like permission from Mayor and Council to hold their annual street procession, which will close off Somerset Street from Wall Street to Thompson Street, on June 19th, 2022 from 12:30pm-2pm. Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin added that Shrine Chapel already have permission from the County and the Raritan Borough Police Department.

On a motion by Councilman Fritzingler, seconded by Councilwoman Hutzler, Council moved to Approve the Shrine Chapel Procession Request.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Fritzingler, Giraldi, Hutzler

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 3-0

ORDINANCE – INTRODUCTION

Ordinance No. 2022-08

An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey Amending Chapter 82 to Add a Restricted, Handicapped Parking Zone on Somerset Street

Mayor Bray stated that this is just an introduction and there will be a public hearing and an opportunity to speak on this Ordinance at the next Council Meeting.

On a motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman Fritzingler, Council moved to Introduce Ordinance No. 2022-08.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Fritzingler, Giraldi, Hutzler

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 3-0

CONSENT AGENDA

(Resolution Nos. 2022-05-077 – 2022-05-086)

Resolution No. 2022-05-077	Authorizing First Amendment to the Operating Agreement & Lease – NJ Transit & Borough of Raritan
Resolution No. 2022-05-078	Authorizing Execution of First Amendment to the Operating Agreement & Lease – NJ Transit & Borough of Raritan
Resolution No. 2022-05-079	Authorizing the Submission of Grant Application – Somerset County Open Space – Splash Park
Resolution No. 2022-05-080	Authorizing the Reorganization and Consolidation of Custodial Services, Placing Same Under the Supervision of the Department of Public Works & Eliminating Part-Time Custodial Positions for Reasons of Economy and Efficiency
Resolution No. 2022-05-081	Awarding Contract & Authorizing Execution of Same – Bell Avenue Sewer & Road Repair Project
Resolution No. 2022-05-082	Approving Promotion of Brad Hendershot to the Position of Foreman in the Department of Public Works
Resolution No. 2022-05-083	Authorizing the Planning Board to Undertake a Preliminary Investigation for the Redevelopment of Block 80, Lots 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 20.01 and 20.02
Resolution No. 2022-05-084	Authorizing the Planning Board to Undertake a Preliminary Investigation for the Redevelopment of Block 53, Lots 1 and 2

Resolution No. 2022-05-085 Authorizing the Mayor and Borough Clerk to Execute
Funding Agreement
Resolution No. 2022-05-086 Approving Disposal of Surplus Equipment – Raritan
Borough Police Department

On a motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilwoman Hutzler, Council moved to Approve the Consent Agenda – Absent of Resolution No. 2022-05-077 & Resolution No. 2022-05-082.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Fritzinger, Giraldi, Hutzler
Nay: x
Abstain: x
Motion Carried: 3-0

BILL LIST

Resolution No. 2022-05-087 Approving Bill List

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

Recorded Vote

Yea: Fritzinger, Giraldi, Hutzler
Nay: x
Abstain: x
Motion Carried: 3-0

PURCHASE ORDER REQUESTS

1. Fire Department – \$17,700.00 – Fire & Safety Services – Remote-Control Deck Gun and Corded Tether Controller

On a motion by Councilwoman Hutzler, seconded by Councilman Fritzinger, Council moved to Approve Fire Department PO for Fire & Safety Services.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Fritzinger, Giraldi, Hutzler
Nay: x
Abstain: x
Motion Carried: 3-0

2. Administration – \$9,698.00 – Wright National Flood Insurance – DPW Garage Flood Insurance

On a motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman Fritzinger, Council moved to Approve Administration PO for Wright National Flood Insurance.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Fritzingler, Giraldi, Hutzler
Nay: x
Abstain: x
Motion Carried: 3-0

COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Giraldi – Councilman Giraldi stated that tomorrow (5/18/2022) at 7pm at the library, the John Basilone Committee will be meeting. Councilman Giraldi also read aloud a ‘thank you’ note from Joe Kempe, thanking the Raritan Police Department and RideWise for their participation with the JFK Bike Train for National Bike to School Day, adding that 20 students rode to school that day, making Raritan Borough the largest bike event in the county – despite the rain. Councilman Giraldi also relayed that the bike train will continue to participate in “two-wheels-Tuesdays” for the remainder of the school year, weather permitting, and encouraged Raritan Borough residents to honk and wave while passing the bike train, thanks to all the students, parents, and the Raritan Borough Police Department, who showed their care for the community.

Councilman Fritzingler – Councilman Fritzingler reported that the building department issued 7 building permits, 8 plumbing permits, 12 electrical permits and 3 fire permits, totaling in 30 permits with revenues and fees to the Borough of \$19,037.00 for the period of May 2 – May 16, 2022. Councilman Fritzingler stated that the Historical and Cultural Committee will be meeting at Borough Hall tomorrow (5-18-22) at 7pm, adding that the plans for the wrapping of the benches should be almost completed now that the weather is getting better for them, the restoration of the old factory sign is in progress, and they are making headway with the Civil War reenactment, Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin confirmed they have handed in their application.

Councilwoman Hutzler – Councilwoman Hutzler reported that for Recreation, baseball is in full swing and any parents looking to sign their kids up for summer camp are urged to do so as soon as possible, registration forms for camp can be found on the Borough website (www.raritanboro.org). Councilwoman Hutzler stated that she will have the Municipal Court report for May at the next Council Meeting in June.

SECOND 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.

Susan Mosca Grosso, 122 Sherman Ave.: Mrs. Grosso stated that she has never heard anything about a potential development on First Ave. and Tillman Street at any of the Council meetings she has attended, the first time she heard about it was from her daughter who was listening to a meeting they missed. Mrs. Grosso stated that she is the executor to her mothers’ estate in Raritan and is concerned that this was being planned and she wasn’t informed about it. Mrs. Grosso would like to know if this is just an idea Council has, stating that it is common courtesy to let the people in the surrounding area know what you are planning, adding that it might affect her, and her sibling’s decision on whether to buy their mother’s house or if they want to sell it. Mayor Bray replied by stating that no plans have

been seen or heard, they are just investigating whether or not something in that area would even be appropriate at all, adding that the residents in that area would be notified of every meeting that would require their presence to hear about a potential plan.

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

REGULAR MEETING ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman Fritzingler, Council moved to Adjourn the Regular Meeting.

Recorded Vote:

All in Favor

Motion Passed: 3-0

Regular Meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Alyssa Cornella
Administrative Assistant / Deputy Registrar
Office of the Borough Clerk

Approved: _____
Eric M. Colvin
Borough Clerk/Administrator

Date: _____