

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, October 4, 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 Fritzing, 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. 2022-10-146

Entering Executive Session

1. Attorney Client
Hidden Pond, Tillman Street Properties, BOH,
LaGrange, Raritan Mall
2. Personnel
Administration, Construction, Police

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

Recorded Vote

Yea: Carra, Fritzing, 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 Melitsky, 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.

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. August 16, 2022

On a motion by Councilwoman Melitsky, seconded by Councilman Fritzingler, Council moved to Adopt August 16, 2022, Minutes.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Carra, Fritzingler, Giraldi, Hutzler, Melitsky

Nay: x

Abstain: Orozco

Motion Carried: 5-0

OLD BUSINESS

1. Somerset County Mobile Clerk (EC)
Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin wanted to remind everyone that the County Clerk will be having his mobile station set up in the basement room on Saturday, October 15, 2022, from 9am to 12pm, no appointments are necessary. Adding that residents can come in for passports, notaries, business registration, etc.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Parking Subcommittee (ZB)
Mayor Bray stated that at the Planning Board's most recent TRC meeting, they took a look at the parking study and at the next TRC meeting, they want to have representation from the Council to talk about the findings and recommending recommendations going forward, which will take place on Wednesday morning, October 19, 2022, at 9am, Council President Carra and Councilman Fritzingler will be attending and will report back to the rest of Council.
2. American Water Subcommittee (PO)
Councilman Orozco stated that as the sewer liaison, American Water has some to them with an offer and he would like to create a subcommittee. There was a brief discussion between Council and the Mayor, confirming that a lot of smaller towns are already doing this. Mayor Bray announced that Councilman Orozco, Councilman Giraldi, Councilman Fritzingler and Borough Engineer Schrek will serve on the American Water Subcommittee.

3. Side Street Safety (PO)

Councilman Orozco stated that this has been a discussion between himself and a good amount of residents in town, a lot of streets downtown were made back when cars weren't as wide, and he can think of at least three streets right off the bat where two cars cannot go down the street at the same time since people also park along the sides of the streets. Councilman Orozco stated that he would like to find different avenues, adding that he has spoken to Borough Engineer Schrek and he would like to suggest looking into one ways, adding that County is doing a study right, so any streets touching Somerset would need to be involved in the County study as well. Councilman Orozco stated that there are a lot of steps involved in this, pursuing this as a quality-of-life issue.

Councilwoman Melitsky stated that over 50-years ago her father was instrumental about making Gaston Avenue into a one-way, adding that she agrees with Councilman Orozco about looking into one-way streets, stating that some of the roads you can go both ways and its dangerous. Councilman Orozco also stated that algorithms and GPS are taking people off the main streets and onto side streets as a means to avoid lights, adding that making streets one-way may help levitate that congestion. Borough Engineer Schrek stated that the County will be working on a circulation studies project.

4. JFK Gym (PO)

Councilman Orozco stated that he wanted to thank our Board of Education representative Mr. Pepe for approaching the superintendent of Bridgewater Raritan School District and gaining us access to the JFK gym again for recreation activities.

5. November Meeting Date & Time (EC)

Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin stated that there is only one council meeting held during November, adding that the election takes place in that first week range and the League of Municipalities is also held in November. Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin stated that currently the November meeting is set for Tuesday, November 22, 2022, but some have asked to move it, he posed moving the November council meeting to Monday, November 14, 2022.

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilman Orozco, Council moved to Move November Council Meeting to Monday, November 14, 2022.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

6. Blessed Sacrament Shrine Request (EC)

Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin stated that the Blessed Sacrament made a request to block off about four or five spaces in front of their church on October 15, 2022, for a few hours to

accommodate a larger wedding that will be taking place around one o'clock. Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin added that he already talked to the Police and they are okay with it.

On a motion by Councilman Orozco, seconded by Councilwoman Melitsky, Council moved to Approve Blessed Sacrament Shrine Parking Spot Request.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

7. Recreation Committee Appointment (ZB)

Mayor Bray stated that there is a request for Barbara Pellechio to join an open seat on the Recreation Committee. Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin stated to Councilwoman Hutzler that Recreation Director Sibilgia may have notified her about adding a new member, adding that Ms. Pellechio lives on Bell Avenue and this would be a Mayoral appointment with consent from Council.

On a motion by Councilwoman Hutzler, seconded by Councilman Orozco, Council moved to Accept Ms. Pellechio as a Recreation Committee Appointment.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

ORDINANCE – SECOND READING & PUBLIC HEARING

(In accordance with Section 29-1 of the Code of the Borough of Raritan, there shall be a five-minute limit per speaker)

Ordinance No. 2022-15

An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey Amending Chapter 82, Vehicles and Traffic, Part 4 (Handicapped Parking), Section 82-71.1D of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Raritan

On a motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Council President Carra, Council moved to Open the Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 2022-15.

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 Councilman Orozco, seconded by Councilman Giraldi, Council moved to Adopt Ordinance No. 2022-15.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

ORDINANCE – INTRODUCTION

Ordinance No. 2022-16

An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey Amending Chapter 195, Housing Standards

Mayor Bray stated that this is just an introduction and discussion on this ordinance will take place at the next Council Meeting.

Borough Attorney Robertson explained that this is basically about filing and registering liability insurance paperwork to the State by November 1 of this year and about testing for lead-based paint.

On a motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilwoman Melitsky, Council moved to Introduce Ordinance No. 2022-16.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

Ordinance No. 2022-17

An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey Amending Chapter 49, Police Department, Section 49-6, Hiring New Members

Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin explained that this Ordinance is to amend the existing code to allow to eliminate the fee for the applicants applying to be a Police Officer because they are going to be using an online based third-party that will be no fee for the Borough.

On a motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman Fritzinger, Council moved to Introduce Ordinance No. 2022-17.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x
Motion Carried: 6-0

CONSENT AGENDA

(Resolution Nos. 2022-09-147 – 2022-09-153)

Resolution No. 2022-10-147

Authorizing Hiring of Part-Time Recreation Assistant
Awarding Contract – Improvements to Meehan Avenue –
NJDOT Grant Project #3310.032 – Top Line
Construction

Resolution No. 2022-10-148

Awarding Contract – Improvements to Helene
Place/Centre Street – NJDOT Grant Project #3310.033 –
Top Line Construction

Resolution No. 2022-10-149

Authorizing Execution of Contract – Jobs4Blue

Resolution No. 2022-10-150

Authorizing Execution of Contract – PoliceApp.Com

Resolution No. 2022-10-151

Approving Refund of Tax Overpayment – B79 L41

Resolution No. 2022-10-152

Authorizing Abatement and Lien Issuance

Resolution No. 2022-10-153

Appointing Deputy OEM Coordinator

Resolution No. 2022-10-154

Councilman Orozco questioned Resolution No. 2022-10-147, asking why we are hiring another part-time recreation assistant. Mayor Bray explained that it isn't an additional assistant, but a replacement of the part-time recreation assistant who resigned, adding that the person filling this role is the Borough's current finance assistant, Tori Cesario. Borough Clerk/Administrator Colvin stated that any of the recreation work would not be done during normal Borough business hours.

On a motion by Councilwoman Melitsky, seconded by Councilwoman Hutzler, 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

1. Resolution No. 2022-09-155 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, Fritzingler, Giraldi, Hutzler, Melitsky, Orozco

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

PURCHASE ORDER REQUESTS

1. Finance – Suplee, Clooney & Co. – \$11,500.00 – Bond Sale Preparation Work

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilwoman Melitsky, Council moved to Approve Suplee, Clooney & Co. PO.

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 stated that everyone knows that the John Basilone Parade was the other week, which was very successful, and they have one more meeting in October, then not again until January, adding that he will have the Police report at the next Council meeting.

Councilman Orozco – Councilman Orozco reported that the Board of Education got the gym back, which he is happy about, adding that the next Board of Education meeting is next week on October 11, 2022, at 7pm. Councilman Orozco stated that he didn't have anything to report for the Environmental Committee.

Councilman Fritzingler – Councilman Fritzingler reported that the Building department permit activity from September 21, 2022 through September 30, 2022, were as follows, three building permits, four plumbing, five electrical, totaling 12 with \$1,140 being collected for the Borough. Councilman Fritzingler stated that the Historical and Cultural Committee met on September 21, 2022, their treasury reported after expenditures, still have a balance of \$3,562.77, adding that the Cornerstone is well on its way to being resurrected, hopefully being installed by the end of the month, only holdup is finding a place to put it and how to encase it, since it is fragile.

Councilman Fritzingler stated that the Historical and Cultural Committee has set aside \$240 for two more renditions for the park benches on Main Street, adding that the Raritan Historical and Cultural Committee has been chosen to receive a 2022 Historic Preservation History award from Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Commission for their vinyl wrapped benches, stating that Jim Fidacaro spearheaded the whole thing and they will be recognized October 19, 2022, at the Lord Stirling Education Center, the Mayor and Councilman Fritzingler will be attending.

Council President Cara – Council President Cara stated that the Economic Development Committee is still looking to add members, anyone interested in joining can email makeraritanyours@gmail.com. Council President Cara reported that the EDC is continuing to research grants for small businesses to help them bounce back from the COVID-19 shutdown and will be hosting a pumpkin carving contest, more details can be found on discoverraritan.com, adding that their next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 18, 2022, at 7 p.m. in the Borough Hall community room. Council President Cara stated that

the Regional Center Partnership did not have a meeting again in September, and will meet virtually on November 9, 2022, at 5 p.m. Council President Cara stated that the Planning Board went over a parking study, which the Mayor brought to the Council for the subcommittee and they designated the Raritan Mall as area in need of redevelopment, once the resolution is passed by the Planning Board, they will bring it back to Council, adding that the next Planning Board meeting is Wednesday, October 27, 2022 at 7 p.m., here at the Municipal Building.

Councilwoman Melitsky – Councilwoman Melitsky reported that between the period of September 19, 2022 and October 3, 2022, Property Maintenance performed 31 inspections, 11 violations were issued, and once fine was given in total of \$250. Councilwoman Melitsky stated that Public Works has picked up flower pots from Agway and placed them on Somerset Street, replaced signs at Coddington and Second Street, repaired the sinkhole on Danbury Avenue, fixed catch basins at Wyndham Court, continued to man grass drop-off on Saturdays, dragged and lined the fields for little league, painted the tunnel at Canal Park – there was a lot of graffiti there, prepared the electrical outlets at VFW at the train station and fixed the light fixture at the Frelinghuysen gazebo, along with various other routine maintenance. Councilwoman Melitsky stated that for Personnel, on September 24, 2022, she personally, along with other members attended the ribbon cutting. there was a car show in front of the Italian Bakery, they collected items for the Raritan Food Pantry, an event that will be held again on October 30, 2022, and there will be treats handed out to children in attendance.

Mayor Bray added that Public Works also put up the corn husks on Main Street lamp posts, which look very nice and he thanked them.

Councilwoman Hutzler – Councilwoman Hutzler reported that Recreation, fall t-ball is currently going on, along with cross-country, which run through October on Wednesday and Friday nights from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Washington School Park, adding that she stopped by one Friday night to see Cross-Country, and the kids really seemed to enjoy it. Councilwoman Hutzler stated that Recreation’s Trunk-or-Treat event will be held on Saturday, October 22, 2022, at the JFK School parking lot from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., anyone who would like to decorate their car can contact Andy Sibilgia, there is no fee and prizes will be awarded for both trunks and costumes. Councilwoman Hutzler also stated that Andy Sibilgia is working with Mr. Pepe and JFK’s Principle to gain access to the school’s gym for Raritan Recreation.

Councilwoman Hutzler reported that for Court September 2022, they had 161 cases filed, 216 cases disposed, total amount collected was \$25,472.96 and a total of \$10,664.67 to the Borough.

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.

Michael Pepe, 810 Old York Road: Mr. Pepe started by stating he is a member of the Board of Education, he wanted to thank everyone for putting him in contact with Andy Sibilgia, adding that it was nice meeting Mr. Russo, the Principal at JFK, at back to school night. Mr. Pepe also said thank you to them for hopefully getting the Borough back in the gym, adding that if they run into any issues with that to reach out to him.

John Hudak, LaGrange Street: Mr. Hudak asked if Council would be talking about LaGrange Street tonight, Mayor Bray responded with no, that topic is not on the agenda for public comment tonight. Mr. Hudak stated that it is hard to hear Council when they talk, asking them to utilize their microphones. Mr. Hudak asked if Council has seen all the wires hanging down and wrapped up on the telephone polls, adding that he had to move a wire that was hanging down himself in fear that the kids ridding by on bikes would get tangled up. Borough Clerk/Administrator Colvin said he would contact Public Works about that issue tomorrow. Mr. Hudak stated that the crosswalk signs that are in the middle of Main Street cause more harm than good, adding that drivers end up knocking them down, Borough Clerk/Administrator Colvin told Mr. Hudak to contact the police about that concern tomorrow. Mr. Hudak asked to be notified when LaGrange is on the agenda, Mayor Bray assured him that he would be.

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 7:30 p.m.

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

Approved: _____
Eric M. Colvin
Borough Clerk/Administrator

Date: _____