

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 18, 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**

Council President Carra

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Resolution No. 2022-10-156

Entering Executive Session

1. Attorney Client  
Hidden Pond, Tillman Street Properties, BOH,  
Raritan Mall, Bell Avenue
2. Personnel  
Administration, Finance, Police

On a motion by Councilman Fritzingler, seconded by Councilwoman Melitsky, 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 Councilman Fritzingler, seconded by Councilman Carra, 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 7:02 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. September 6, 2022

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilwoman Hutzler, Council moved to Approve September 6, 2022, Minutes.

**Recorded Vote**

Yea: Carra, Fritzinger, Giraldi, Hutzler, Orozco

Nay: x

Abstain: Melitsky

Motion Carried: 5-0

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Side Street Safety (OP)

Councilman Orozco stated that at the last Council Meeting he brought up the issue with how narrow the streets are downtown, adding that they are just not wide enough to accommodate cars parked on both sides of the street and two cars driving down the center, so he is hoping to see some of these streets become one-way streets, specifically: Coddington, Reimer and Elmer. Councilman Orozco said he talked with Borough Engineer Schrek, who stated the County will have to be involved since Somerset is a County Road. Borough Engineer Schrek stated that we need to wait for the traffic study being done by County before further evaluating the one-way pattern inside the town, adding that he also found that legislation is changing some of the requirements.

Councilman Orozco asked Borough Engineer Schrek what the timeframe might be on the County study, considering we are going into fall with leaves and Coddington, Reimer and Elmer are already really congested. Borough Engineer Schrek said he can follow up with the County in a month, adding that making those streets one-ways would open up the street but may also increase speeding, which they do not want. Councilman Orozco stated that he lives on Reimer and he sees it often, that the algorithms of GPS take cars that way to avoid traffic and stoplights, converting to one-ways will make the algorithms keep drivers on the highway. Borough Engineer Schrek said that he will work with the Police Chief and get back to Councilman Orozco.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Contribution to Raritan Seniors (JM)

Councilwoman Melitsky stated that during the last Senior Citizens meeting, they were concerned about the funds that they have available and although they are appreciative for

everything Council donates to them, they are asking for an additional \$2,000.00 donation. Mayor Bray asked what they spent their money on this year, to which Councilwoman Melitsky replied that they provide a luncheon at their meetings and the price has increased, which has been financially difficult for them, they have increased membership dues hoping they could make ends meet, but they were not able to do that, so they are requesting for \$2,000 more. Mayor Bray said that they would look into giving them an extra \$2,000 next year (2023).

2. Social Media Policy (PO)

Councilman Orozco stated that as we are approaching the end of the year, he would like to go review the Borough's Social Media Policy, which is currently a little fuzzy.

3. FEMA Reimbursement (EC)

Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin stated that the Borough was able to recover over \$100,000 from FEMA from Hurricane Ida, in large part Detective Griffin. Our OEM Coordinator, along with Borough Assistant Administrator/Assistant CFO Cook-Vitale, Borough CFO Kneafsey, Chief Nolte and Public Works, everyone worked hard to get there. All of Council & Mayor Bray thanked them as well.

**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. 2022-16

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

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilwoman Melitsky, Council moved to Open the Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 2022-16.

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 Councilwoman Melitsky, seconded by Councilwoman Hutzler, Council moved to Adopt 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

On a motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman Fritzinger, Council moved to Open the Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 2022-17.

Borough Administrator/Clerk Colvin stated that this ordinance is to amend the hiring section of Chapter 49, not that they are actually hiring anyone new.

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 Councilwoman Melitsky, seconded by Councilman Giraldi, Council moved to Adopt Ordinance No. 2022-17.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

**ORDINANCE – INTRODUCTION**

Ordinance No. 2022-18

An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey Establishing a Registry for Business Insurance Certificates

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

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilwoman Hutzler, Council moved to Introduce Ordinance No. 2022-18.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

**CONSENT AGENDA**

*(Resolution Nos. 2022-10-157 – 2022-10-162)*

Resolution No. 2022-10-157

Awarding Contract – Animal Control Solutions – Years 2023 and 2024

Resolution No. 2022-10-158

Appointing Alternate Municipal Prosecutor

Resolution No. 2022-10-159

Authorizing Emergency Contract – Bell Avenue Sewer – Underground Utilities

Resolution No. 2022-10-160

Authorizing 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Tax Credit – B85 L9

Resolution No. 2022-10-161

Authorizing Disposal of Outdated & Unused Equipment – Police Department

Resolution No. 2022-10-162

Authorizing Credit of Years of Service

Mayor Bray stated that they are pulling out Resolution No. 2022-10-159 to vote on separately and asked if anyone needed to pull any other resolution.

Neither seeing nor hearing any member of Council, Mayor Bray moved on to approve the consent agenda less Resolution No. 2022-10-159

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilwoman Melitsky, Council moved to Approve the Consent Agenda Excluding Resolution No. 2022-10-159.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

**BILL LIST**

1. Resolution No. 2022-10-163 Approving Bill List

On a motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman Orozco, Council moved to Approve the Separation Agreement Between the Borough and the Chief Coming Out of Executive Session.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

Borough Attorney Robertson stated that on the bill list there are reimbursements for several Council members for educational purposes, he believes the Council members involved should be abstain from voting on their own reimbursements.

On a motion by Councilman Fritzinger, seconded by Councilwoman Melitsky, Council moved to Approve the Bill List Abstaining From Their Own Educational Reimbursements.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Carra, Fritzinger, Giraldi, Hutzler, Melitsky

Nay: x

Abstain: Orozco

Motion Carried: 5-0

**PURCHASE ORDER REQUESTS**

None

## **COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS**

Councilman Giraldi – Councilman Giraldi stated that there is a Basilone meeting tomorrow, October 19, 2022, at 7 p.m. at the library.

Councilman Orozco – Councilman Orozco reported that the Environmental Committee is meeting on Thursday, October 20, 2022, at 7 p.m. in the courtroom.

Councilman Fritzinger – Councilman Fritzinger reported that the Construction permit activity for October 5, 2022, through October 17, 2022, is as follows, seven building permits, eight plumbing, six electrical, two fire, totaling 23 permits with fees collected to the Borough in the amount of \$3062.00. Councilman Fritzinger stated that Historical and Culture’s meeting set for tomorrow night will be postponed as they will be accepting an award from Somerset County Historical and Cultural Society at the Lord Sterling Education Center, which he will be attending, their next meeting will be November 16, 2022, at 7p.m. in the courtroom and the public is always invited.

Council President Cara – Council President Cara reminded everyone that the next Planning Board meeting is next Wednesday, October 26, 2022, 6:30p.m. in the courtroom at Borough Hall, the EDC is currently meeting now, so he will report back at the next council meeting. Council President Cara reminded everyone that the Regional Center Partnership didn’t meet in September, their next meeting will be Wednesday, November 9, 2022, at 5 p.m. and will take place on zoom.

Councilwoman Melitsky – Councilwoman Melitsky reported that the Board of Health did not meet this past month as they did not have a forum, Property Maintenance performed 25 inspections, eight violations were issue, one fine was issued for a total of \$500.00 and one fine was paid in the amount of \$250.00. Councilwoman Melitsky stated that Public Works has been working on the following, maintaining the three leaf loaders for the upcoming season, they repaired the catch basin on Center Street, the picked up bulk on October 13 and October 14, they put up barricades for various events, they cleaned the municipal building daily, along with multiple other general routine activities.

Councilwoman Hutzler – Councilwoman Hutzler reported that for Recreation, fall t-call and cross-country are wrapping up, Trunk-or-Treat is this Saturday, October 22, 2022, from 2p.m. to 4p.m. at the JFK School parking lot, adding that the weather is looking good so they are hoping for a good turnout, prizes will be awarded for the best trunks and a costume contest will be held after. Councilwoman Hutzler stated that there are still some spaces available for trunks, anyone who would like to sign up can contact our Recreation Director, Andy Sibilia. Councilwoman Hutzler stated that Recreation is also working with the EDC to plan a Christmas event. More information will be available on that in the next few weeks. Councilwoman Hutzler stated that she will have the Municipal Court report for October at the next Council meeting.

## **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.

Steve Vendors, 607 5<sup>th</sup> Street: Mr. Vendors stated that apparently, they have an issue with rats from First Avenue as far as Anderson Street, he is concerned on what is the process to try to eliminate the infestation of rats. Mr. Vendors stated that he has spoken to both Property Maintenance and the Health Department, adding that they are supposed to be looking into it but his neighbors and himself are getting rats everyday and it is getting costly buying the traps, pellets, and repellents. Mr. Vendors expressed his concern that with winter coming, the rats will be looking for somewhere warm, adding that you can only kill so many. Mr. Vendors stated that he has also sent photos to both Brian and Eric and know that it is being looked into but wanted to know if there is a process that was being done to try and help the problem. Borough Clerk/Administrator Colvin stated that Council has spoken to the Board of Health and they will be holding a special meeting tomorrow night which members of Council will be there to discuss it with the Board of Health, they have a couple of solutions they will discuss, but nothing permanent tonight. Borough Clerk/Administrator Colvin added that the meeting will be held at the Municipal Building at 7:30p.m. and is open to the public.

Michael Pepe, 810 Old York Road: Mr. Pepe stated that he wanted to the thank the Disabled Veterans of America who made a donation of a few thousand dollars to the School District to move a John Basilone memorial stone that is currently in Newark and cannot stay there due to construction to the John Basilone field so it can be there for football games and any other events there.

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 7:58 p.m.

---

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

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Eric M. Colvin  
Borough Clerk/Administrator

Date: \_\_\_\_\_