

CALL TO ORDER

The Annual Reorganization Meeting of the Raritan Borough Council was called to order by Mayor Zachary Bray at 5 p.m. The meeting was held in the second floor Meeting Room of Borough Hall, Borough of Raritan, 22 First Street, Raritan, NJ 08869.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Mayor Bray read the following statement:

This Annual Reorganization Meeting was called pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act. Adequate Notice of this meeting of the Governing Body was posted in Borough Hall, made available on the Borough website, in the Office of the Borough Clerk and communicated to *The Courier News* and *The Star Ledger* on December 23, 2022.

INVOCATION

Rev. Thomas Odorizzi – The Catholic Church of St. Ann

FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Bray led all in attendance for a salute to the flag.

OATH OF OFFICE – COUNCIL

Mayor Bray administered the Oath of Office to the following, newly elected members of Borough Council:

Councilman Nicholas Carra
Councilman Adam Armahizer

ROLL CALL – MAYOR & COUNCIL

Borough Administrator/Borough Clerk Colvin called following names for Roll Call:

Present: Mayor Bray, Councilman Carra, Councilwoman Hutzler, Councilman Fritzingler, Councilman Orozco, Councilman Armahizer

Absent: Councilwoman Melitsky

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ATTENDEES

Mayor Bray thanked Somerset County Commissioner Melonie Marrano, Former Mayor Anthony DeCicco, Former Councilman Jim Foohey, Former Councilwoman Denise Carra, and Former Mayor and Councilman Carra's grandson Anthony Hudak for their attendance.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT & OATH OF OFFICE

Mayor Bray asked for a nomination for Council President.

On a motion by Councilman Armahizer, seconded by Council Orozco, Council voted to Elect Councilman Orozco to service as 2023 Council President.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Orozco, Armahizer
Nay: Carra, Fritzingler, Hutzler
Absent: Melitsky
Abstain: x
Motion Denied: 3-2

Mayor Bray asked for a second nomination for Council President.

On motion by Councilman Fritzingler, seconded by Councilwoman Hutzler, Council moved to Elect Councilman Carra to serve as the 2023 Council President.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Carra, Hutzler, Fritzingler, Orozco, Armahizer
Nay: x
Absent: Melitsky
Abstain: x
Motion Carried: 5-0

Mayor Bray administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Council President Nicholas Carra.

RARITAN FIRE DEPARTMENT - OATHS OF OFFICE

Mayor Bray administered the Oath of Office to the following, newly elected members of the Raritan Borough Fire Department:

Chief Brian Kredatus
Deputy Chief Thomas DeSantis

MAYOR & COUNCIL REMARKS

Council President Carra delivered the following address:

Good evening, everyone. I would like to begin by thanking my family and friends for their continued support in all my endeavors and thank everyone for coming out today. As I begin my third term, I want to express my gratitude to the voters for their confidence as I continue the privilege of representing their viewpoints and interests.

I would also like to congratulate Adam Armahizer on his election victory this year. I look forward to collaborating with him as we continue are pursuit in what we believe is best for Raritan. I would also like to thank my colleagues for their continued trust as Council President. I received many sentiments from residents during my campaign. The residents would like to see more action as a governing body and that is my goal for this year. The governing body is prepared to achieve this while maintaining engagement and participation from the public. Procedurally we have also streamlined our administrative staff to better handle issues as they arise and provide the Governing Body with additional in-depth information for budget, planning and policy setting. I would like to express gratitude and recognize Administrator/Borough Clerk Eric Colvin and Assistant Administrator/CFO Cathy Cook/Vitale for all their efforts. I look forward to working with both of you this year.

I am hopeful and optimistic on the outlook for Raritan, and I feel we will accomplish a great deal as a group. I look forward to working with all of you this year.

Councilman Adam Armahizer delivered the following:

I wish to thank everyone that supported me throughout this year's campaign and election. It is an honor and a privilege to serve the residents of the Borough of Raritan and Council, and after talking with the rest of the residents and council these last few weeks I feel extremely confident in our collective ability to ensure the residents of Raritan are properly represented and our local government is more capable and stronger than ever before. I truly believe that we will truly turn things around this year and in the years to come. Thank you everyone. It truly is an honor.

Councilman David Fritzingler delivered the following:

Thank you everyone for coming out this evening. I want to congratulate Councilman Armahizer and Council President Carra. I look forward to working with the Council and the residents of the Borough of Raritan. Hopefully we will move faster toward a great future.

Councilwoman Joan Hutzler delivered the following:

I would like to thank Mayor Bray, fellow Council members, Borough employees and everyone for attending tonight's meeting. I wish you all a happy and healthy New Year.

ADOPTION OF 2023 GENERAL RULES OF ORDER

Resolution No. 2023-01-001

On motion by Councilman President Carra, seconded by Councilman Orozco, Council moved to Adopt Resolution No. 2023-01-001.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Carra, Hutzler, Fritzingler, Orozco, Armahizer

Nay: x

Absent: Melitsky

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

2023 COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES

Administration, Personnel & Technology

Chair – Councilwoman Hutzler
Vice Chair – Councilman Carra

Engineering, Public Works, Public & Private Properties

Chair – Councilman Fritzingler
Vice Chair – Councilwoman Melitsky

Finance

Chair – Councilman Carra
Vice Chair – Councilwoman Hutzler

Public Safety

Commissioner – Councilwoman Melitsky
Deputy Commissioner – Councilman Fritzingler

Health

Chair – Councilman Armahizer
Vice Chair – Councilman Orozco

Regional Services

Chair – Councilman Orozco
Vice Chair – Councilman Armahizer

2023 COUNCIL LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

Land Use

Councilman Carra

Regional Center

Property Maintenance

Councilwoman Melitsky

Office of Emergency Management

Solid Waste Advisory Committee

Councilman Armahizer

Somerset County Wastewater Management

Board of Health

Environmental Commission

Municipal Court

Councilwoman Hutzler

Recreation

Economic Development Committee

Basilone Parade Committee

Councilman Orozco

Board of Education

Building Department

Councilman Fritzingler

Historical & Cultural Committee

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS *without Consent of Council*

Environmental Commission

3-year term – 1/1/2023 to 12/31/2025

Member – Juan Alvarez

Member – Denise Carra

Alt. No. 1 – 1-year term – 1/1/2023 to
12/31/2023 – Tony Sachino

Historical & Cultural Committee

3-year term – 1/1/2023 to 12/31/2025

Member – Tim Rack

Alt. No. 1 – 1-year term – 1/1/2023 to
12/31/2023 – Mark Esposito

Alt. No. 2 – 1-year term – 1/1/2023 to
12/31/2023 – Gail Ostapczuk

Planning Board

Terms Vary

Class I Member – Mayor Zachary Bray

Class II Member – 3-year term – 1/1/2023 to 12/31/25 – Denise Carra

Class III Member – 1-year term – 1/1/2023 to 12/31/2023 – Councilman Carra

Class IV Member – 3-year term – 1/1/2023 to 12/31/2025 – Adele Goetsch

Class IV Member – 3-year term – 1/1/2023 to 12/31/2025 – Debra Thomas

Class IV Member – 3-year term – 1/1/2023 to 12/31/2025 – Thomas Brown

Alt. No. 1 – 1-year term – 1/1/2023 to 12/31/2023 – Michael DeCicco

Alt. No. 2 – 1-year term – 1/1/2023 to 12/31/2023 – Barrett Windrem

Regional Center Executive Board

1-year term – 1/1/2023 to 12/31/2023

Member – Mayor Bray

Member – Nick Zamora

Member – Councilman Carra

Member – Stanley Schrek

Solid Waste Advisory Board

1-year term – 1/1/2023 to 12/31/2023

Member – Councilman Armahizer

Member – Vincent LoMedico, Recycling Coordinator

Somerset County Municipal Wastewater Management Plan Committee

1-year term – 1/1/2023 to 12/31/2023

Elected Official – Councilman Armahizer

Planning Board – Debra Thomas

Borough Engineer – Stanley Schrek

RSA Member – Edward Machala

Recycling Coordinator – Vincent LoMedico

Economic Development Committee

3-year term – 1/1/2023 to 12/31/2025

Member – Carey Marago

Recreation Committee

3-year term – 1/1/2023 to 12/31/2025

Director – Andrew Sibia *annual

Assistant Director – Tori Cesario *annual

Secretary – Rosemary Shickora *annual

Member – Alex Windrem – 1/1/23 to 12/31/25

Member – John Collonello – 1/1/23 to 12/31/25

Member – Barbara Pellechio – 1/1/21 to 12/31/23 *filling unexpired term

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS with Consent of Council

Board of Health

3-year term, 1/1/2023 to 12/31/2025

Member – Kathryn Mastice

Member – Preni Nair

Member – Pablo Orozco

Library Board of Trustees

5-year term, 1/1/2023 to 12/31/2027

Member – Umesh Agrawal

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilwoman Hutzler, Council moved to Approve member Kathryn Mastice to the Board of Health.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Carra, Hutzler, Fritzingler, Orozco, Armahizer

Nay: x

Absent: Melitsky

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilman Fritzingler, Council moved to Approve member Preni Nair to the Board of Health.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Carra, Hutzler, Fritzingler, Orozco, Armahizer

Nay: x

Absent: Melitsky

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilwoman Hutzler, Council moved to Approve Pablo Orozco to the Board of Health.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Carra, Hutzler, Fritzingler, Orozco, Armahizer

Nay: x

Absent: Melitsky

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilwoman Hutzler, Council moved to Approve Umesh Agrawal to the Library Board of Trustees.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Carra, Hutzler, Fritzingler, Orozco, Armahizer

Nay: x

Absent: Melitsky

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution No. 2023-01-002	Appointing Borough Attorney
Resolution No. 2023-01-003	Appointing Bond Counsel
Resolution No. 2023-01-004	Appointing Labor Counsel
Resolution No. 2023-01-005	Appointing Special Counsel
Resolution No. 2023-01-006	Appointing Registered Municipal Accountant
Resolution No. 2023-01-007	Appointing Insurance Agent
Resolution No. 2023-01-008	Appointing Public Defender
Resolution No. 2023-01-009	Appointing Administrative Officials
Resolution No. 2023-01-010	Appointing Depositories/Financial Institutions
Resolution No. 2023-01-011	Appointing Custodians of Accounts
Resolution No. 2023-01-012	Adopting 2023 Temporary Budget
Resolution No. 2023-01-013	Fixing Interest Rates – Delinquent Taxes and Sewer
Resolution No. 2023-01-014	Canceling 2022 Property Taxes – Open Balances Less Than \$10.00
Resolution No. 2023-01-015	Designating Official Newspapers
Resolution No. 2023-01-016	Designating Paid Holidays
Resolution No. 2023-01-017	Establishing 2023 Calendar of Meetings
Resolution No. 2023-01-018	Appointing Alternate Public Defender

Resolution No. 2023-01-019

Appointing Qualified Purchasing Agent

Resolution No. 2023-01-020

Appointing Borough Engineer

On a motion by Councilman Carra, seconded by Councilwoman Melitsky, Council moved to Adopt the **CONSENT AGENDA**. The motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 2023-01-021

Authorizing Middle Valley Partners, LLC. d/b/a Valley Wellness to Submit Certification for and to Operate an Expanded ATC in accordance with Borough Ordinance 2022-21

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilman Orozco, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2023-01-021

Recorded Vote

Yea: Carra, Hutzler, Fritzingler, Orozco

Nay: x

Absent: Melitsky

Abstain: Armahizer

Motion Carried: 4-0

PUBLIC COMMENT

In accordance with the Code of the Borough of Raritan, there shall be a five-minute time limit per speaker.

Mayor Bray opened the Public Comment portion of the meeting for members of the public to wishing to speak.

Seeing and hearing no additional members of the public, Mayor Bray closed Public Comment.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Council President Carra Hutzler, seconded by Councilman Orozco, Council moved to Adjourn the Annual Reorganization Meeting.

Regular Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Patricia Gravatt
Deputy Clerk/HR Coordinator

Approved: _____
Eric M. Colvin
Borough Clerk/Administrator

Date: _____