

MINUTES

BOROUGH OF RARITAN
REGULAR SESSION

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023

6:30 P.M.

7:00 P.M.

The Regular Meeting of the Borough of Raritan Governing Body was called to order by Mayor Anthony Bray in the Meeting Room of the Raritan Municipal Building, 22 First Street, Raritan, NJ 08869 at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 17, 2023.

The Mayor announced the 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 5, 2023, 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, Councilwoman Hutzler, Councilman Orozco, Councilman Armahizer

Also Present: Borough Clerk Colvin, Chief Financial Officer Cook-Vitale, Borough Engineer Stanley Schreck

Absent: Councilwoman Melitsky

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

Councilman President Carra

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution No. 2023-01-022

On a motion by Councilman Fritzingler, seconded by Councilman Orozco, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2023-01-022.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Bray, Carra, Fritzingler, Hutzler, Orozco, Armahizer

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

Entering Executive Session:

1. Attorney Client – Public Facilities, Redevelopment Tilman, Alpine Way, Hidden Pond

2. Personnel – Administration

Council convened in Executive Session at 6:31 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilman Fritzinger, seconded by Councilman Orozco, Council moved to Reconvene in Regular Session.

Council exited Executive Session, and resumed Regular Session at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENTATION

Bridgewater-Raritan Regional District – Special Election Bond Proposals – Superintendent Robert Beers

Superintendent Beers gave a slide show presentation to Council regarding the upcoming March 14th, 2023, Referendum Vote that will be conducted in two questions. The first question is comprised of all Capital Educational, facilities infrastructure projects and cafeteria addition at Bradley Gardens. The second question is comprised of a Middle School Addition, with renovations to create a traditional 6, 7, 8 Middle School to allow space at the elementary schools for the implementation of a Full Day Kindergarten, and a future question for November 2023 for a cost to associated with grade realignment and additions. Discussed were project categories, Capital and District Wide Capital Projects, Site Improvements, Traffic Control, Site Exterior Improvements, John Basilone Memorial Field Improvements, and District Wide Educational Projects that the schools will receive such as Science/Technology Labs, Auditorium renovations/upgrades, All Purpose Room Finishes/Technology and Cafeteria, Budget and Debit Service Aide. Information to keep up to date on the District Wide Facilities Renovation Program Referendum can be found on the Bridgewater-Raritan Regional School District website at <mailto:www.brrsd.org/referendum>.

Mayor Bray opened Public Comment for any of the member of the Public wishing to speak regarding the presentation.

A member of the Public expressed his discontent with the need for improvements, and asked when Bridgewater High School was built and the date of completion of the last project. Superintendent Beers answered that the last project was completed in 1993. The building was assessed, and everything presented to the Council is in need of repair or improvement.

A member of the Public stated that JFK Intermediate School does not have a music or computer room, with dire need of improvement in comparison to the others. She asked if monies will be distributed equally to each of the schools, and if JFK would be adding those items to the renovations. Assistant Business Administrator Kevin Lomski said that renovations are being create a traditional Middle School which should allow for the additional space to be provided to the JFK Intermediate School.

Mayor Bray said that the School District would be basing the projects on contingency based on the Referendum Vote and asked if there are certain projects that will be prioritized. Superintendent Beers explained that it will be conducted in manner of the projects are in greatest need. The first project would be the addition of the full day Kindergarten, and the renovation to create a traditional Middle School. The other projects may have to be covered by a Capital.

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)

Sergio Seijas, 43 Alpine Way, gave the Council a brief explanation of issues he has been having with his request to place a 20' driveway on his property. He asked the Council for assistance in obtaining an explanation for the delay or refusal.

Roger Kopt - 1120 Route 202 South – provided the Council with a history of construction and subdivisions that occurred on Alpine Way and Route 202. He said all the homeowners on Alpine Way have the same driveway and asked for an explanation for the Borough's refusal to allow the Seijas's the same provision.

NEW BUSINESS

Third Grade Class Trip

Students from the JFK Intermediate School had participated in class trips involving a tour of Borough Hall. Due to Covid-19 restrictions the trip had been cancelled. The students would like to return to their prior festivities. Mayor Bray asked the Council for agreement of the tour. The Council concurred. The tentative date for is scheduled for Friday, May 5, 2023.

New Fire Department Members

Councilperson Fritzingler announced the application of two new members to Station 52 from Chief Brian Kredatus.

On a motion from Councilman David Fritzingler, seconded by Councilman Orozco to accept the Application by Michael DeCicco for Membership to Station 52.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Bray, Carra, Fritzingler, Hutzler, Orozco, Armahizer

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

On a motion from Councilman David Fritzingler, seconded by Councilman Armahizer to accept the Application by Frank Ksiazek, Jr. for Junior Fireman Membership to Station 52.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Bray, Carra, Fritzingler, Hutzler, Orozco, Armahizer

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

Basilone Memorial Foundation 5K Race 2023

Administrator and Borough Clerk Eric Colvin asked the Council to approve a request by the Basilone Memorial Foundation to hold a 5K Race on September 23, 2023.

On a motion from Council President Carra, seconded by Councilman Orozco to Approve the Basilone Memorial 5K Race.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Bray, Carra, Fritzinger, Hutzler, Orozco, Armahizer

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

CONSENT AGENDA

(Resolution No. 2023-01-023 – Resolution No. 2023-01-024)

Resolution No. 2023-01-023 Authorizing Escrow Refund – 600 U.S. Highway 28, B 2 L 15 –
\$266.70

Resolution No. 2023-01-024 Authorizing Dismissal of Accrued Interest – B32 L14

Mayor Bray moved to adopt the **CONSENT AGENDA**. The motion was seconded by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilman Orozco.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Bray, Carra, Fritzinger, Hutzler, Orozco, Armahizer

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

BILL LIST

Resolution No. 2023-01-025 Approving Bill List

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Council Fritzinger, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2023-01-025 – Bill List.

PURCHASE ORDER REQUESTS

1. Top Line Construction – NJDOT Grant Helene/Centre St. – \$119,663.92
2. Continental Fire & Safety – Bullard Cameras – \$13,016.90
3. NJ Fire Equipment – Replacement SCBA Bottles – \$19,488.00
4. Van Cleef Engineering – New DPW & Public Safety Buildings – \$79,382.92
5. NJ Transit – 6-Month Lease Payment – \$27,500.00

On a motion by Councilwoman Hutzler, seconded by Council Fritzinger, Council moved to Approve Purchase Order Requests.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Bray, Carra, Fritzinger, Hutzler, Orozco, Armahizer

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

On a motion by Councilman Orozco, seconded by Council Aramahizer, Council moved to Authorize Engineer to Draft Specs for Pool Repair.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Bray, Carra, Fritzinger, Hutzler, Orozco, Armahizer

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Armahizer – Reported that he met with the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, Somerset County Wastewater Management and Mr. Vincent Demenico to acclimate himself to the Committee. The next Board of Health Meeting will be held January 8th, 2023, at Borough Hall in the Council Chambers. The Environmental Commission Meeting will be held January 9, 2023, also at Borough Hall.

Councilman Orozco – The Board of Education had there presentation earlier with a Referendum Vote scheduled for March 14, 2023, from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Additional information can be obtained on the Board of Education’s website. Councilman Orozco expressed his honor, and thanked Mayor Bray for his assignment to the John Basilone Parade Committee. The John Basilone Committee will meet January 18, 2023, at the Raritan Library.

Councilman Fritzinger – Reported on the Building Permit Activity for December 21, 2023, through January 3, 2023. He met with Public works and said they are currently attending to street upkeep, leaf pick-up, brush and Christmas Tree chipping, replacement of parking/traffic signs, and sewer maintenance, Christmas light removal/storage. The heating issue at the Veteran’s Meeting Room has been resolved, broken windows at the Railroad Station have been replaced, and maintenance at the Frelinghuysen Pool House has begun. Councilman Fritzinger said he will meet with the Historical Society at 6:30 p.m., at the Raritan Library.

Council President Carra – The Land Use Board did not meet in December. The Reorganization Meeting for the Land Use Board will held be at Borough Hall, Wednesday, January 25, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. The Original Center Partnership will have their Reorganization Meeting via Zoom at 5:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Melitsky – Council President Carra gave the Police Department Report for Councilwoman Melitsky reporting the receipt of Somerset County Grant 2022 monies in the amount of \$1,628.00 to be utilized for Body Armor replacement. The Police Department participated in No Shave November, with funds donated to the Special Olympics. In 2022, thirty one pounds of unused or unwanted medical prescriptions were deposited in the Project Medicine drop box. On December 20, 2023. St. Ann’s Classical Academy graduated from the Dare Program. The Police Department thanks Somerset County Prosecutor John McDonald, Executive Chief’s Assistant Prosecutor Michael Rogers, and DARE Coordinator Jack Bennett and the Somerset County Governing Body for his efforts. No report was received for Property Maintenance.

Councilwoman Hutzler - Reported the Recreation Committee Baseball, Softball and T-Ball Registration is open. Sign up for those can be done electronically through Recreation's website, mailed or dropped off at Borough Hall. The season starts in mid-April and the Recreation Department is in need of volunteers. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Recreation Director Andy Sibilia. The Recreation Department is working on an Arts and Crafts Class to be held at Borough Hall more information to follow. The Economic Development Committee welcomes Amby Coffee with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 28, 2023. All are welcome to attend. Ms. Hutzler reported the monthly statistics for Municipal Court.

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 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, seconded by Councilwoman Hutzler, Council moved to Adjourn the Regular Meeting .

Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Patricia Gravatt
Deputy Clerk/HR Coordinator

Approved: _____
Eric M. Colvin
Borough Clerk/Administrator

Date: _____