

MINUTES

BOROUGH OF RARITAN REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2023
6:30 P.M. – EXECUTIVE SESSION
7 P.M. – REGULAR SESSION

This Regular Meeting of the Governing Body was called to order by Mayor Bray in the Meeting Room of the Raritan Municipal Building, 22 First Street, Raritan, NJ 08869 at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 20, 2023.

Mayor Bray announced the Regular Meeting was called to order by pursuant to applicable portions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Adequate Notice of this Regular Meeting was posted in Borough Hall, on the Borough website and communicated to *The Courier News*, *The Star Ledger* and *The Breeze* on January 5, 2023.

ROLL CALL

Present: Council President Carra, Councilman Armahizer, Councilman Fritzingler, Councilwoman Hutzler, Councilwoman Melitsky (via telephone), Councilman Orozco

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

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

Councilman Fritzingler

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution No. 2023-06-095

Entering Executive Session

1. Personnel
Construction, Administration, Police
2. Contract Negotiations
Reimer Street, Hidden Pond, 9 West Somerset Street, Shared Court, Raritan Library Lease

On a motion by Council President Carra seconded by Councilwoman Hutzler, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2023-06-095.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Absent: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION ADJOURNMENT

Council moved to Reconvene in Regular Session unanimously.

Council exited Executive Session, and resumed Regular Session at 7:03 p.m

RESOLUTION & OATH OF OFFICE

Resolution No. 2023-06-096

Appointing Probationary Patrol Officer –
Alyssa Myrnyj

On a motion by Councilman Orozco seconded by Councilwoman Melitsky, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2023-06-096.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Absent: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

Borough of Karitan
Oath of Office

State of New Jersey } ss.
County of Somerset }

I, ALYSSA MYRNYJ, DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR, THAT I WILL SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, AND OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AND THAT I WILL BEAR TRUE FAITH AND ALLEGIANCE TO THE SAME, AND TO THE GOVERNMENTS ESTABLISHED IN THE UNITED STATES, AND IN THIS STATE, UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PEOPLE, AND THAT I WILL FAITHFULLY, IMPARTIALLY, AND

JUSTLY, PERFORM ALL OF THE DUTIES, OF BOROUGH OF RARITAN POLICE PATROL
OFFICER, TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY.

SO HELP ME GOD.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on) Signature: _____
this 20th day of June, 2023) Name: _____
Signature: _____) Address: _____

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.

Bill Cunningham, 31 Glaser Ave asked about the speed limit on Woodbrook Road and if the county has responded to the request for the reduction of speed.

Councilman Orozco said he reached out to the county engineer. He sent out an email to them, and they are going through the process of doing some research on it, whether that's something they can do, but nothing official yet.

Mr. Cunningham asked about over at Orlando Drive, where Buscou Lane intersects. He asked if they could have a pedestrian crosswalk there, because people do go to that county trail, and cars are always speeding through there.

Mayor Bray replied that, DPW should be able to do something about that.

Mr. Cunningham also stated he's concerned because the bicyclists are also speeding through the trail as well as the striking of the parking areas in town and the signage. He was wondering if the town was looking into putting more signage in a specific area. He was also concerned about five black metal drums that have been down by one of the old parks for months, behind the stop and shop. He also wanted to know if Zeus would be able to clean up some property on Orlando drive.

Mayor Bray said they're going to figure it out.

Mayor Bray asked for any more public comments from anyone else.

James Bussy 16 West Street third floor: Mr. Bussy said he is applying for the pedals license, and it's been two and a half months and he was concerned about not hearing anything from anyone.

Mayor Bray said they're going to take care of it, and he'll get a notification from the Clerk's office.

Jeff King Vones Lane: Mr. King stated he's annoyed by the door-to-door solicitation he's been receiving from multiple different companies. He said these people don't have permits and they've been doing this year after year, that the police come, tell them to stop, but they continue the next day again. He also suggested instead of giving them warnings, they should start giving out fines and tickets. He also said he is concerned this has led to them getting things stolen from their property. He thinks there should be more awareness brought to this.

Mayor Bray said he's thankful that was brought to his attention and it's the first time he has heard about this.

Roger Copp 1120 Route 202: Mr. Copp asked who paid for the sidewalk at Valley Wellness.

Mayor Bray stated Valley Wellness paid for the sidewalk.

Mr. Copp then asked if Valley Wellness has submitted a plan for offsite parking for their employees to the borough. He said that was part of their agreement and they were supposed to secure offsite parking for their employees.

Mayor Bray said it's in the resolution from the planning board and they can have Lou send it to him to confirm that, but he is 99% sure that it's in their plan.

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

MINUTES

- 1.Regular Meeting – May 16, 2023
- 2.Special Meeting – June 6, 2023

Mayor Bray tabled the minutes until next council meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Engineer's Report (SS)

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. NJDOT has advised that the project remains in environmental review. Per NJDOT:

Our local aid unit is working on this, and they anticipate completion of the CED by mid-May 2023. Cultural Resources that are on or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places are located within the project study area. Coordination with the NJDEP's - Historic Preservation Office has been initiated. We will continue to work with the Borough and the HPO to ensure the proposed design/aesthetic will not result in an Adverse Effect to the Cultural Resources and the process is completed expeditiously.

Once the environmental review is completed, Final design documents must be prepared by the consulting engineering firm. We're pushing for construction in 2023.

Update: Last update from the NJDOT was that they were in their 30 day "State Historic Preservation Office" review period – as of June 2.

Public Safety Building/ DPW Building

Public Safety Building has been designed for PD use only per review of concept plan by Mayor and Council. Building plans have been submitted for permit.

Update: Permit review is on hold pending outcome of Somerset St. property however, the permit submittal was logged in prior to IBC Code migration.

2023 CDBG Applications

We have submitted an application for sanitary sewer and storm sewer repairs and maintenance within the CDBG designated areas. The CBDG area has been reduced under new census data.

Update: Received a grant for a sewer study in the above-referenced area, field work is being planned.

2. Part-Time, Seasonal Worker – DPW (DF)

Councilman Fritzing said he needs a motion to hire a part-time seasonal worker, Mr. Rich Summer. He said one of his staff is out, so they needed a little more help.

On a motion by Councilman Melitsky, seconded by Councilman Armahizer

Recorded Vote

Yea: Carra, Armahizer, Fritzing, Hutzler, Melitsky, Orozco

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Absent: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

3. Appointing Alternate to Planning Board (ZB)

Mayor Bray said that's his and that she is with them this evening. He said he would like to appoint Catherine Delis as an alternate to the planning board through the remainder of this year. He asked if she could leave her address with Eric for their records and rosters for all their boards and committees.

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilman Hutzler

Recorded Vote

Yea: Carra, Armahizer, Fritzing, Hutzler, Melitsky, Orozco

Nay: x
Abstain: x
Motion Carried: 6-0

ORDINANCE – SECOND READINGS & PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance No. 2023-12 An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Vacation, Release and Extinguishment of the Public Right-Of-Way Identified as a Portion of Reimer Street and Adjoining Property

Mayor Bray asked for a motion to table the hearing and adoption of Ordinance No. 2023-12.

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilman Fritzinger, Council moved to table the hearing and adoption of Ordinance No. 2023-12.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Carra, Armahizer, Fritzinger, Hutzler, Melitsky,
Nay: x
Abstain: Orozco
Absent: x
Motion Carried: 6-0

ORDINANCE – INTRODUCTION

Ordinance No. 2023-13 An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey Amending Chapter 195, “Lead Paint Testing” of the Code of the Borough of Raritan

Mayor Bray asked for a motion to Introduce Ordinance No. 2023-13

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilwoman Hutzler Council moved to Introduce Ordinance No. 2023-13.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Carra, Armahizer, Fritzinger, Hutzler, Melitsky, Orozco
Nay: x
Abstain: x
Absent: x
Motion Carried: 6-0

CONSENT AGENDA

(Resolution Nos. 2023-06-097 – 2023-06-109)

Resolution No. 2023-06-097 Authorizing Hire – Department of Public Works – Full-Time Laborer
Resolution No. 2023-06-098 Authorizing Hire – Department of Public Works – Part-Time, Seasonal Laborer

Resolution No. 2023-06-099	Authorizing Execution of Agreement – Dilworth Paxson, LLP., Bond Counsel for the Borough of Raritan
Resolution No. 2023-06-100	Authorizing Execution of Agreement – Foveonics – Document Scanning
Resolution No. 2023-06-101	Renewing ABC Liquor Licenses for the 2023-2024 License Term
Resolution No. 2023-06-102	Refunding CPR Fee – Lauren Christie
Resolution No. 2023-06-103	Approving Chapter 159 – Clean Communities 2023
Resolution No. 2023-06-104	Establishing 2023 Salaries & Wages
Resolution No. 2023-06-105	Appointing Administrative Assistant to the BOH
Resolution No. 2023-06-106	Approving Change from Part-Time Annual to Part-Time Hourly – Property Maintenance
Resolution No. 2023-06-107	Authorizing Lease Renewal – Raritan Library
Resolution No. 2023-06-108	Approving Tax Sale Costs 2023
Resolution No. 2023-06-109	Authorizing RT Environmental – Remedial Action

Mayor Bray asked for a motion to Approve the Consent Agenda – Resolution Nos. 2023-06-097 – 2023-06-109

Councilwoman Melitsky moved to adopt the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilman Armahizer and carried unanimously.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Carra, Fritzingler, Armahizer, Hutzler, Melitsky, Orozco
Nay: x
Abstain: x
Absent: x
Motion Carried: 6-0

BILL LIST

Resolution No. 2023-06-110 Approving Bill List
Mayor Bray asked for a motion to Approve Resolution No. 2023-06-110- Approving Bill List.

On a motion by Councilman Fritzingler, seconded by Councilman Armahizer, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2023-06-110- Approving Bill List.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Carra, Armahizer, Fritzingler, Hutzler, Melitsky, Orozco
Nay: x
Abstain: x
Absent: x
Motion Carried: 6-0

PURCHASE ORDER REQUESTS

None

CERTIFICATION OF FUNDS

1. Police Department – Vehicle Acquisition – Santander Bank – \$11,309.77
2. Engineering – Various Projects – Van Cleef Engineering Associates – \$15,299.50
3. Administration – Workers Compensation Insurance – Statewide Insurance – \$82,586.75
4. Administration – Annual Contribution – Regional Center Partnership – \$10,890.00
5. Administration – Sanitation/Garbage Reimbursement – Bridgewalk, LLC. – \$35,000.00
6. Administration – Workers Compensation – Statewide Insurance – \$247,760.25
7. Administration – Wire Transfer for 9 West Somerset Street Escrow – DiFrancesco Bateman, Kunzman, Davis, Lehrer & Flaum, P.C. – \$80,000.00

Mayor Bray asked for a motion for certification of funds.

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilman Orozco, Council moved to Approve the seven items under the certification of funds.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Absent: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Armahizer- The board of health met Wednesday June 14th, as reported from the office of Vital Statistics the borough issued six marriage licenses, twenty-nine marriage certified copies, and 151 death certified copies for a total of \$724.09 during the month of May. The next board of health meeting will be September 13th, 2023. The environmental commission met on Thursday June 15th, they will be conducting a rain bearer workshop at Washington School on August 26th, 2023, time and flyers are to follow. The environmental commission will also be conducting bi-annual community clean ups with the first one being September 30th, 2023. The next environmental commissioner meeting will be July 20th, 2023.

Councilman Orozco- For the board of education this is the last week of school and they'll be back in September. The Basilone committee will meet June 21st 7:00pm at the library.

Councilman Fritzinger- All routine maintenance is being done around town; they did one Cash Basin repair at 42 Bluebird. Did general maintenance on the park, as well as cutting grass, and raked out the baseball fields on Sherman Ave. They did more work on Washington Avenue School. They also fixed rust of the top zone around Elizabeth Avenue Park, they removed old mulch from around the field housing background and replaced with new mulch. Put new mulch around town hall as well. Took the rest of baseball backstops and benches at the bottom of the field, repainted the basketball court lines, cut multiple trees down at Avenue Washington School as well as a tree on Gaston Avenue. Also planted 10 arbor bodies at Washington School. Cut grass at JFK school. Bulk pickup will be the second Thursday in July. Construction permit activity 5/18/23 - 6/1/23 had three building permits, eight plumbing, ten electrical, six fire, four mechanicals, totaling 31 with fees collected to the Borough in the amount of \$6,271.00. Construction and activity reports 6/5/23- 6/16/23 include five building permits, five plumbing,

ten electrical, three fire, and five mechanicals, totaling twenty-eight with fees collecting to the borough in the amount of \$6,948.00. The Raritan historical committee will be meeting June 21st 6:30pm at the library, and they are also working on bench renditions.

Mayor Bray- There was also complaints about the old Basilone ball courts up by the Basilone pool and the pool cover collecting water. He's requested to get a new tennis court net installed and Pickleball lines painted on the tennis court.

Council President Carra- Reginal Center partnership doesn't meet this month; they're next meeting will be on July 12th at 5:00pm on Zoom. The planning board will be meeting June 28th at 6:30pm. There is possibly an application for a minor site plan and variance at 45 East Somerset St, a variance at 3 wall St. He hasn't seen the agenda yet and it will be carried at least until the following month.

Councilwoman Hutzler- Recreation summer camp starts June 26th, and the pool will also be opening that same day. Pools hours will be from 12-6 Monday through Friday. They hope to also have the pool open on Saturday There are also open spots for camp, if anyone is interested please contact recreation director Andy Elia

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.

Juan Alvarez, 100 Valpeck Ave- Mr. Alvarez requested there to be tables at the farmer's market that included town committees and boards.

Mayor Bray said that wouldn't be a problem.

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

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Council President Carra, seconded by Councilwoman Hutzler, the Council moved to Adjourn the Regular Meeting.

Recorded Vote:
All in favor
Motion Passed: 5-0

Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Allorah Zigray
Administrative Assistant

Approved: _____
Eric M. Colvin
Borough Clerk/Administrator

Date: _____