

MINUTES

BOROUGH OF RARITAN REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2024
6:30 P.M. – EXECUTIVE SESSION
7 P.M. – REGULAR SESSION

This Regular Meeting of the Governing Body of the Borough of Raritan was called to order by Mayor Carra in the Meeting Room of the Raritan Municipal Building, 22 First Street, Raritan, NJ 08869 at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 25, 2024.

Mayor Carra announced the Regular Meeting was called 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 3, 2024.

ROLL CALL

Present: Council President Tozzi, Councilman Agrawal, Councilman Armahizer, Councilman DiGraziano, Councilman Fritzingler, Councilman Patente

Also Present: Borough Administrator Colvin, Borough Attorney William Robertson and Borough Engineer Joseph Brosnan

Absent:

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

Councilman Fritzingler

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution No. 2024-06-108

Entering Executive Session

1. Personnel
Administration, Police
2. Attorney Client
Alpine Way
3. Shared Services
Municipal Court

On motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Council President Tozzi, Council moved to approve Resolution No. 2024-06-108.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzingler, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

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 7:09 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 Carra opened the Public Comment portion of the meeting for members of the public wishing to speak.

Roger Copt, 1120 Route 202: Mr. Copt asked if the Borough was being investigated or has any on-going litigation in the Courts. Borough Attorney Robertson stated that he was not aware of any litigation. Mr. Copt then inquired about the Mall and its occupancy. Mayor Carra responded that Mr. Copt should reach out to the Zoning Official with any questions.

Neither seeing nor hearing any other member of the public, the Mayor closed Public Comment.

MINUTES

1. April 18, 2023
2. December 19, 2023
3. April 2, 2024
4. April 16, 2024

Mayor Carra stated that Councilman Armahizer and Councilman Fritzinger are the only members that are eligible to vote on the two sets of 2023 proposed Meeting Minutes.

Mayor Carra asked for a motion to Approve the April 18, 2023 Minutes.

On a motion by Councilman Fritzinger, seconded by Councilman Armahizer, Council moved to Approve the April 18, 2023 Minutes.

Recorded Vote

Yea:., Armahizer, Fritzinger
Nay: x
Absent: x
Abstain: x
Motion Carried: 2-0

Mayor Carra asked for a motion to Approve the December 19, 2023 Minutes.

On a motion by Councilman Armahizer, seconded by Councilman Fritzinger, Council moved to Approve the December 19, 2023 Minutes.

Recorded Vote

Yea:., Armahizer, Fritzinger
Nay: x
Absent: x
Abstain: x
Motion Carried: 2-0

Mayor Carra asked for a motion to Approve the April 2, 2024 Minutes.

On a motion by Council President Tozzi, seconded by Councilman Patente, Council moved to Approve the April 2, 2024 Minutes.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, Armahizer, Fritzinger, Patente
Nay: x
Absent: x
Abstain: DiGraziano
Motion Carried: 5-0

Mayor Carra asked for a motion to Approve the April 16, 2024 Minutes.

On a motion by Councilman Fritzinger, seconded by Councilman Agrawal, Council moved to Approve the April 16, 2024 Minutes.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, Fritzinger, Patente
Nay: x
Absent: x
Abstain: Armahizer, DiGraziano
Motion Carried: 4-0

COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Armahizer – The Environmental Commission would like to add Benjamin Harris as an alternative member. They would also like to set up a meeting with the Borough Attorney to review his by-law updates and recommendations. Additionally, the Environmental Commission would like to have a different Planning Board liaison as the current one has not been able to attend meetings due to health issues.

Councilman Agrawal- The Finance Committee has been working on the Capital Budget over the last month. The committee also reviewed the open capital projects and identified projects that have been completed and have a remaining balance, closing them out frees up the Borough's capital capacity. There is a resolution on the agenda tonight cancelling open capital ordinance balances which totals close to \$450,000.00. Moving on to the School Board; graduation was last week held at the Rutgers Campus where 594 seniors received their diplomas. The event can be viewed on BRTV's YouTube. A congratulations to all the graduating seniors. JFK had their last day of school clap out for the fourth graders who will be attending Eisenhower in the fall.

Councilman DiGraziano- We had a craft event for the kids on June 8th which was successful. The Basilone Parade will be September 22nd. Any donations would be accepted as they do need to pay for the service men that come and march.

Council President Tozzi- Property Maintenance completed 1,238 inspections and 12 violations and took in \$1,750.00 in fines from May 16th to June 11th. From June 12th to the 24th, there were 32 inspections and 22 violations, collecting \$250.00 in fines. Police for the month of May had 1,300 calls, 60 motor vehicle accidents, 70 First Aid calls, and 207 motor vehicle stops. Next report is from the Fire Department adding three new members: Daniel Lawson, Ryan Faircloth, and Samuel Valeira. Congratulations to the new members. Council President announced that he is cancelling the \$4,000.00 business advertising with the Main Street and looking into setting up a Chamber of Commerce type group which would include all the businesses in town. He went on to mention that he intends to set up an aesthetics committee to help improve our downtown area. Lastly, a very big thank you to Andy Sibia, DWP, D and B Pools as well as Habitat for Humanity for the outstanding job with the pools. This year, the hours for the pool will be Monday through Friday from 12 to 4 p.m. and on the weekends from 12 to 4 p.m.

Councilman Fritzing – Building Department activity from May 22nd through June 10th consisted of 4 building permits, 6 plumbing permits, 6 electrical, 4 fire, and 4 mechanical permits issued totaling \$39,652.00 in fees to the Borough. Permit activity from June 12th through June 24th consisted of 3 building permits, 1 plumbing, 2 fire, 1 elevator, and 2 mechanical totaling \$2,434.00 in fees to the Borough. Public Works did some herbicide application on Somerset Street, removed the fences and backstops from Washington School, as well as repainted the crosswalks on Somerset Street that had been faded. The next bulk pick-up will be on July 11th. The Historical Committee met last week and had a brief meeting as they planned to tour the fire house but due to the heat, they were unable to. Treasury reports showed \$3,380.04 and the Trust Fund is at \$1,199.15. The Councilman encouraged residents to check out the Face Book page for upcoming events. The next meeting for the Historical Committee will be at Borough Hall on July 17th at 6:30 p.m.

Councilman Patente- Report from the Municipal Court consists of 274 cases filed, 306 cases disposed of. Fines collected in the amount of \$21,824.00, with \$11,496.00 going to the Borough.

Mayor Carra- We have been working with Habitat for Humanity for about 2 years trying to find a place in town to potentially build a house that could count towards our affordable housing credit. We have found a potential location over by the train station which would count as two for one; block 56 lot 10. It would be a two-bedroom single family home. The Mayor wanted to see if there were any objections from any members of Council adding that they are not at a stage to sell or donate land at the present time. No objection was made. Next the Mayor reported that in June Somerset County usually does orange bags for recycling however, with the use of the automatic trucks they are not having people collect food donations. There is a big orange collection bin downstairs in the lobby that will be there all year round for any non-perishable food item(s) residents may want to donate. Donations will help support local food banks and pantries. This past Sunday I attended the ribbon cutting for Gaetano's Salon and Spa along with Council President Tozzi and Councilman Patente. We wish him the best with his business. Reminder that tax bills will be mailed out in mid-July, there is not a separate school tax mailing this year, it's all on one. The Mayor added that with the warmer weather he wanted to remind residents that Borough Hall is a cooling station during regular business hours. Lastly, Council President Tozzi, Administrator Colvin and myself met with the Economic Development Manager from Somerset County, as well as the Assistant County Engineer and walked up and down our main street discussing ways we can support our local businesses. This is a free service the state provides to municipalities and small businesses. They will provide us with recommendations as well as programs to help small businesses. Once the report is received, we will notify the public.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Engineer's Summary of Activities (JB)

Borough Engineer Joseph Brosnan stated that he has gone through all of the Borough's NJDOT grants, including both North and South side of Richard Street's drainage inclusions, which were submitted to the State for review and is still expected to be constructed this year. There was a reconstruction meeting for Colby, Berwick and Arnold, that project is still awaiting a start date. He gave an update that after a sewer inspection is done, the paving for New Jersey American Water will be ready soon and a NJDOT grant will cover the paving near Richard Street in 2025. There is a lot of activity at the new municipal building site, permits are being written up, testing is getting done, once finalized permits are in hand, construction crews will be sent over, estimated start date is August.

Councilman Patente asked for an estimated project completion time, Borough Engineer Brosnan stated the rough completion time is June 2025. Mayor Carra added that once construction starts,

the public parking lot there will need to be closed for safety reasons but will be reopened as soon as possible. Mayor Carra also asked for an update on the TAP Grant, Borough Engineer Joseph Brosnan responded. Councilman Patente inquired if work could be done at the current Borough Hall simultaneously as work is done at 9 West Somerset, Borough Engineer Brosnan stated that would be something to discuss with the contractors. Mayor Carra stated that the elevator at 9 West Somerset is the longest project, adding they hope to have the first floor operational first.

2. Raritan Recreation Movie Night (KD)

Council President Tozzi stated that Recreation is looking to host a movie night at Frelinghuysen Field, Tuesday August 22nd at 7:30 p.m, with a rain date of August 29th. The movie will be Lilo and Stitch.

On a motion by Council President Tozzi, seconded by Councilman Armahizer. Council moved to approve the movie night with all in favor.

3. Raritan Christmas Tree (DT)

Council President Tozzi stated that he and Councilman Armahizer have been working on this event for a while. We are looking to purchase a 12-foot pre-lit Christmas tree from the same company we bought the snowflakes from. The tree will be on the Nevius Street Bridge from December 1st through January 3rd. The tree lighting will potentially take place on December 11th at 6:00 pm. Our intention is to make this a big event. Council President asked for a motion to approve the purchase of the tree in the amount of \$3,149.00

On a motion by Councilman Fritzinger, seconded by Councilman Armahizer, Council moved the purchase of the Christmas tree.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzinger, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

4. New Fire Department Members (DT)

Mayor Carra asked for a motion to appoint the three individuals Council President identified earlier during his liaison report to the Fire Department.

On a motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Council President Tozzi, Council moved the appoint Samuel Valeira, Daniel Lawson, and Ryan Faircloth to the Raritan Fire Department.

Recorded Vote

Yea:, Tozzi, Agrawal, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzinger, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

5. Home Improvement Program (UA)

Councilman Agrawal stated that back in 2018 there was an agreement made with the Affordable Housing Authority to establish a Home Improvement Trust Fund. He stated about \$500K was invested. The Finance Committee has worked with the Community Grant Planning and Housing

to come up with a manual over the last several months. Residents who qualify can apply however, the Councilman did stress that there are very strict guidelines with this program. He the requested a motion to adopt the program.

On a motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Council President Tozzi, Council moved to adopt the Home Improvement Program.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzingler, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

6. Summer Meeting Dates (EC)

Administrator Colvin stated he and the Mayor discussed if there was a need for adding a meeting date over the summer to approve bills however, at this time there does not seem to be a need to add a date. The current meeting dates, July 16th and August 20th will suffice.

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING & PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance No. 2024-08

An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey Amending Chapter V, Boards, Committees and Commissions to Repeal Article V, Economic Development Committee

The purpose of this Ordinance is to abolish the Economic Development Committee.

Mayor Carra opened the Public Hearing portion of the meeting for members of the public wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2024-08.

David Marder, 830 Old York Rd: Member of the Public stated that he was a part of the Economic Development Committee, and he doesn't appreciate the Council making claims that the EDC was not doing anything, as Council you have the right to abolish the committee but don't say the people who volunteered for the committee were not doing anything. If Council wants to go in a different direction, then okay but just say that.

Joyce Fritchie, 445 Vanderveer Rd: I agree with the gentleman about the EDC, he is correct.

Neither Seering nor hearing any member of the public, the Mayor closed Public Comment.

On motion by Councilman DiGraziano, seconded by Councilman Fritzingler, Council moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-08.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzingler, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

ORDINANCES – INTRODUCTION

Ordinance No. 2024-14

An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan,
County of Somerset, State of New Jersey,
amending Ordinance No. 2022-21

The purpose of this Ordinance is to amend the
hours of operation of Valley Wellness to 8
a.m. to 10 p.m.

On motion by Council President Tozzi, seconded by Councilman Armahizer, Council moved to
Introduce Ordinance No. 2024-14.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzingler

Nay: Patente

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-1

Mayor Carra stated that the second reading and public hearing for Ordinance No. 2024-14 is
set for July 16, 2024

Ordinance No. 2024-16

An Ordinance authorizing the Borough of
Raritan to acquire property identified on the
Raritan Borough tax map as block 3, lot 22.

The purpose of this Ordinance is to allow for
the purchase of a parcel of land to help
mitigate flooding issues.

On motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Council President Tozzi, Council moved to
Introduce Ordinance No. 2024-16.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzingler, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

Mayor Carra stated that the second reading and public hearing for Ordinance No. 2024-16 is
set for July 16, 2024

Ordinance No. 2024-17

Bond Ordinance providing for Various Capital
Improvements, appropriating \$1,721,000
therefor and authorizing the issuance of
\$1,634,950 Bonds and Notes to finance a
portion of the costs thereof, authorized in and
by the Borough of Raritan, In the County of
Somerset, New Jersey.

The purpose of this Ordinance is to authorize the expenditure for various capital improvements.

On motion by Councilman Agrawal, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council moved to Introduce Ordinance No. 2024-17.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzing, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

Mayor Carra stated that the second reading and public hearing for Ordinance No. 2024-17 is set for July 16, 2024

Ordinance No. 2024-18

An Ordinance amending Chapter 82 (Vehicles and Traffic) Part 4 (Handicapped Parking) Sections 82-71.1D of the revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Raritan.

The purpose of this Ordinance is to add 24 Second Avenue as a restricted parking zone for handicapped parking in the Borough of Raritan

On motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council moved to Introduce Ordinance No. 2024-18.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzing, Patente

Nay:

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

Mayor Carra stated that the second reading and public hearing for Ordinance No. 2024-18 is set for July 16, 2024

CONSENT AGENDA

(Resolution No. 2024-06-109 through No. 2024-06-115)

Resolution No. 2024-06-109

Appointing Deputy OEM Coordinator

Resolution No. 2024-06-110

Authorizing Amended Jurisdictional Agreement – 21 Vones Lane

Resolution No. 2024-06-111

Renewing Alcoholic Beverage Retail Consumption License No. 1816-44-007-006, Amrutha, LLC. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 33:12.18 and N.J.S.A. 33:12.39 Relief for the 2023-2024 License Term

Resolution No. 2024-06-112

Cancelling Open Capital Ordinance Balances

Resolution No. 2024-06-113

Approving Place to Place Transfer – Amrutha

Resolution No. 2024-06-114

Renewal of ABC Liquor Licenses for the 2024-2025
License Term

Resolution No. 2024-06-115

Approving NJDOT SAGE Grant Application –
Improvements to Richard Street

On a motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Councilman Fritzinger, Council moved to approve Resolution No. 2024-06-109 and Resolution No. 2024-06-111 through Resolution No. 2024-06-115 – Consent Agenda. Mayor Carra announced that Resolution No. 2024-06-110 will be carried to a later meeting date.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzinger, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

Mayor Carra then asked for a motion regarding the Property Maintenance position being made a full-time position. The Mayor clarified that this will be on a trial basis as it will be a shared service with the Borough of Somerville.

On motion by Council President Tozzi, seconded by Councilman Patente, Council moved to approve the full-time Property Maintenance position.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzinger, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

BILL LIST

Resolution No. 2024-06-116

Approving Bill List

On a motion by Councilman Agrawal, seconded by Councilman Armahizer, Council moved to approve Resolution No. 2024-06-116 - Approving Bill List.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzinger, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

CERTIFICATION OF FUNDS

1. Van Cleef Engineering – May Engineering Services - \$18,438.25

Mayor Carra asked for a motion to approve the Certification of Funds together.

On a motion by Councilman Armahizer, seconded by Councilman Agrawal, Council moved to

approve the Certification of Funds – May Engineering Services.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzing, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

Mayor Carra stated Council will now Introduce Ordinance No. 2024-15.

Councilman Patente made a statement recusing himself from the proposed introduction to avoid any potential conflict of interest.

Ordinance No. 2024-15

An Ordinance of the Borough Council of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, adopting a redevelopment plan for an area in need of redevelopment consisting of approximately 12.2 known as block 116.01, lot 11.01 as shown on the tax map of the borough of Raritan as a “non-condemnation area in need of redevelopment” under the New Jersey local redevelopment and housing law (N.J.S.A. 40a:12a-1 et seq.)

The purpose of this Ordinance is to provide for the redevelopment of the site of the former Raritan Mall.

On motion by Councilman DiGraziano, seconded by Councilman Fritzing, Council moved to Introduce Ordinance No. 2024-15.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi,

DiGraziano, Fritzing

Nay: Agrawal, Armahizer

Absent: x

Abstain: Patente

Motion Carried: 3-2

Mayor Carra stated that the second reading and public hearing for Ordinance No. 2024-15 is set for July 16, 2024

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 Carra opened the second Public Comment portion of the meeting for members of the public wishing to speak.

Erica Landesberg, 21 Meehan Ave: Ms. Landesberg voiced her concerns that the Council voted no the this ordinance previously and yet it keeps coming back.

Irma Mooney, 34 Glaser Ave: Ms. Mooney asked why all of a sudden names and addresses are required when speaking. People say things and then get quoted incorrectly in the paper or online and it's just out there forever. Giving your name and address is intimidating and deters people from attending and speaking. Mayor Carra responded, stating that if the Breeze mis-quoted, she would need to reach out to them. Ms. Mooney then went on stating Zoom should be made available to those at home who may not be able to come to these meetings. She also added that the marijuana smoking in town is getting bad, and this town is turning into a more city environment.

Cathy DeBellis, 17 Doughty St: Ms. DeBellis stated that she wanted to pass her condolences to Anna Louise Bongiovi for the passing of her son, Anthony Papavero. She also added condolences to Felix Ciattarelli for the passing of his mother.

Roger Copt, 1120 Rt 202: Mr. Copt asked why the Master Plan for the Borough can't be adjusted to support a two-story building with commercial. When the property owner bought that property, it was zoned for only commercial use. He went on to state the property owner currently has multiple violations pending and asked how does the Borough know he will do a good job on the proposed project. He also added his concerns regarding the flooding at the mall and that other options should be considered.

Bonnie Allen, 11 Granitz Pl: Ms. Allen voiced her opinion on how ridiculous it is to be entertaining the same ordinance again, after it was voted down last month. She also stated that she is concerned with the various issues proposed for the ordinance regarding the Raritan Mall property.

Bill Cunningham, 31 Glazer Ave: Mr. Cunningham asked Council President Tozzi what has changed. The Councilman replied stating he did some research after the last meeting and feels that mixed use would greatly benefit the Borough. Mr. Cunningham then stated that Council needs to listen to the residents and that the threat of a lawsuit is ridiculous.

Cherie Devino, 249 River Park Dr: Ms. Devino agreed with Councilman Armahizer regarding the Mall property. Suggested the owner clean it up; that may draw new businesses into Raritan. She then wanted to address handicapped signs at the Lena stating they do not say there is a potential fine of \$250.00. She asked who would need to be notified regarding that, Mayor Carra stated that would need to be addressed with the Lena's property maintenance department.

Kathy Memoli, 806 Lynwood St: Ms. Memoli asked for clarification about the 30-year PILOT program in regard to the Mall property; how does it benefit the Borough? Mayor Carra responded stating it gives the town more revenue and the only other option a five-year PILOT program which would not fit with this type of project. She then asked what the developer is going to do to benefit the Raritan community, Mayor Carra stated that the revenue the Borough gets could be used for a new Fire House which is something the Borough is looking into. Ms. Memoli made comments about how Raritan's Recreation is pitiful and that the Seniors have nothing going on. She stressed how Raritan should be getting something back from this redevelopment.

Jessica Ararat, 40 Alpine Way: Ms. Ararat voiced her concerns regarding Alpine Way. She stated that the driveway installed a few years back, was supposed to be used to access lot 1902 however it is not being used that way. She stated people use that driveway to access lot 1901 and the two businesses, the storage facility and Spain 92. She stressed the amount of traffic that goes through there on a daily basis and the concerns she has for her children.

Madelene Magazino, 41 Alpine Way: Ms. Magazino also voiced her concerns about the traffic on Alpine Way. She added that the residents from lots 1901, 1902, 1903, and 1904 dump an inordinate amount of

tree debris in front of her house. She stated she does not think it's fair for the taxpayers to have to pay for bulk-pick up for two commercial properties; they should have their own dumpsters for whatever bulk they need to dispose of and stop putting out on Alpine Way.

Roger Copt, 1120 Rt 202: Mr. Copt suggested adding the Raritan Mall property as a non-binding question to the ballot in November. He the suggested having a Town Meeting at Kennedy School to discuss the Mall with residents.

Chris Allen, 11 Granetz Pl: Mr. Allen voiced his concerns for the structure that is being built over by the river. He also mentioned that the PILOT program, that was presented did not use real numbers regarding an increase in the schools. He went on to also make his concerns known about the flooding issues the Raritan Mall property is surely going to have.

Erica Landesberg, 21 Meehan Avenue: Ms. Landesberg asked about the conversations regarding a new firehouse and asked if that money was guaranteed from the developer's proposal, Mayor Carra responded stating that a new firehouse is the intention but there is no promise for that.

Resident (name and address not given): Raised concerns with building a new firehouse on First Avenue and the amount of traffic congestion that could cause. The resident then added the potential traffic issues if the Raritan Mall gets redeveloped. She then asked if there was an events committee for Raritan, Mayor Carra suggested she reach out to Recreation.

Tom Brown, 18 Elmer St: Mr. Brown also voiced his concerns regarding the Raritan Mall; the parking issues as well and the inevitable flooding. He continued stating the Planning Board will have to require plans for alternate routes for the residents in case of emergencies. Mr. Brown feels that the quality of life in Raritan is going down based on the decisions Council is making.

Joyce Fritchie, 445 Vanderveer Rd: Ms. Fritchie wanted Council to be aware that there are people around town asking for money, Mayor Carra confirmed that the Police Department has been made aware. Secondly, she asked to thank the Police Department for handling the noise on Vanderveer Road from loud vehicle mufflers; it is now quiet. She then asked why Alpine Way has been listed on the executive session for multiple meetings, Mayor Carra stated that it is a contract negotiation, legal issue.

Council President Tozzi wanted to offer condolences to Anna Louise Bongiovi for the passing of her son, Anthony Papavero, as well as to Felix Ciattarelli for his mom. He also added that he was called out to Alpine Way because residents have been complaining about the traffic and he saw the number of cars that go in and out of there using it as a cut through.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Carra asked for a motion to adjourn the Special Meeting.

On a motion by Council President Tozzi, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting.

Recorded Vote:

All in favor

Motion passed: 6-0

Regular Meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Kimberly Mathewson
Acting Municipal Clerk

Approved: _____
Eric M. Colvin
Borough Administrator

Date: _____

Next Regular Council Meeting

Tuesday, July 16, 2024
6:30 p.m. – Executive Session
7 p.m. – Regular Session