

MINUTES

BOROUGH OF RARITAN REGULAR MEETING

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2025
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 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mayor Carra announced the Regular Meeting of the Governing Body 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 8, 2025.

ROLL CALL

Present: Council President Tozzi, Councilman Agrawal, Councilman DiGraziano, Councilman Fritzinger, Councilman Patente
Also Present: Borough Administrator Colvin, Acting Borough Clerk Mathewson, Borough Attorney Richard Wenner and Borough Engineer Joseph Brosnan
Absent: Councilman Armahizer

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

Councilman Fritzinger

PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

(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.

Bill Cunningham, 31 Glaser Ave.: Mr. Cunningham expressed his concerns regarding the pending ordinance and asked for clarification on the difference between redevelopment and rehabilitation. Borough Attorney Wenner responded, explaining that rehabilitation projects can allow the Municipality to offer long-term tax exemptions (PILOT Programs) whereas a rehabilitation project would allow the Municipality to offer a short-term tax abatement, a five-year tax abatement. Another difference is that with rehabilitation zone, you do not have the power of condemnation. Discussion ensued between Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Wenner about the ordinance. Mr. Cunningham wanted to clarify that the vote that is pending was not going to be a first step in clearing an area out.

Patrick Dinsmore, 523 Victoria Street: Mr. Dinsmore asked if there was a vote pending tonight for rehabilitation to which Mayor Carra responded, stating there was nothing listed. Mr. Dinsmore then asked if designating an area in need of rehabilitation would permit the Municipality to use all the powers of redevelopment except for the power of condemnation or the granting of long-term tax exemptions? Mayor Carra responded, stating that redevelopment can change zoning, rehabilitation does not change zoning. Borough Attorney Wenner also responded, stating that there are many powers that are attended to both scenarios however, the redevelopment scenario is much more powerful in terms of condemnation, long-term tax

exemptions, private sales, etc. Mr. Dinsmore just wanted the public to understand the differences at previous meetings, it wasn't clear.

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

DISCUSSION

Area in Need of Rehabilitation

Angela Knowles, a Licensed Professional Planner, presented her study of Downtown Raritan to Council. Her presentation gave a brief description of the process and steps involved in the designation of an area in need of rehabilitation and what criteria are utilized to determine if properties can be designated as such. A designation of an area in need of rehabilitation allows a municipality to utilize the powers of the LRHL for areas in need of rehabilitation, which may include certain financial incentives such as those found in the Five-Year Tax Exemption and Abatement Law. The power of condemnation or to grant long-term tax exemptions are not permitted for the properties within the areas in need of rehabilitation. Her study determined that the Study Area qualifies as an area in need of rehabilitation under the criteria listed in the LRHL. Specifically, the study area satisfies multiple criteria in that more than half of the housing stock in the delineated area is at least 50 years old, environmental contamination is a deterrent to investment in the area, and that the water and sewer infrastructure is more than 50 years old. As a next step, the Borough may consider revisiting the draft Rehabilitation/Redevelopment Plan that was initiated in 2021 as part of the Economic Development Plan for Downtown and preparing outreach on the path forward for rehabilitation. Discussion ensued between Council and Ms. Knowles about options they have and what the next step the Borough would need to take.

MINUTES

1. December 17, 2024

Mayor Carra asked for a motion to Approve the December 17, 2024 Minutes.

On a motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Councilman Fritzingler, Council moved to Approve the December 17, 2024 Minutes.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Fritzingler, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Armahizer

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

2. January 7, 2025

Mayor Carra asked for a motion to Approve the January 7, 2025 Minutes.

On a motion by Councilman DiGraziano, seconded by Council President Tozzi, Council moved to Approve the January 7, 2025 Minutes.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Fritzing, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Armahizer

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

3. January 21, 2025

Mayor Carra asked for a motion to Approve the January 21, 2025 Minutes.

On a motion by Councilman Agrawal, seconded by Council President Tozzi. Council moved to Approve the January 21, 2025 Minutes.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Fritzing, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Armahizer

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Agrawal-Councilman Agrawal reported on the Board of Health for the month of December, they issued 5 marriage licenses, 14 certified marriage copies, and 204 death certificates amounting to \$817.00 in fees collected. He then added that the Board was looking into an ordinance for massage parlors. At the last meeting samples from other municipalities were distributed by the secretary as examples and have been working with the Police Chief and Health Commissioner to coordinate. The Councilman then went onto report for the library stating that circulation is up 10%, library visits were up by 9%, issuance of library cards also increased by 20% and electronic circulation was down 20%. Councilman Agrawal mentioned that the electronic circulation could be down due to a new vendor being used. He then added that program attendance has also gone down 10%; they are currently looking into a few changes to address this. Next Councilman Agrawal reported on the Board of Education stating the Governor's Educator of the Year Awards have been announced, at JFK the Teacher of the Year is Alyssa DiGiacomo, Educational Service Professional of the Year is Donna Brauchle. He then added that the Raritan mural at JFK School is beautiful, and Mr. Pepe stated if Council wanted to recognize the artist, he would be more than happy to facilitate the recognition. The Councilman then added that full-day kindergarten will begin at JFK School in September of 2025 and starting September of 2026 for the remaining schools in the district. Registration is now open for Kindergarten and First Grade. The Councilman then added that all the sporting events for Bridgewater are free for Senior Citizens and encouraged anyone interested can look on the School Board's website for events or in the Breeze.

Councilman DiGraziano-Councilman DiGraziano announced that Recreation has opened sign-ups for T-Ball and that registration was still open. He added that Recreation is looking into a few events this year including possibly dodgeball where the parents could verse the kids. The Councilman also added that the tennis and pickle ball courts should be ready to be used by April.

Council President Tozzi-Council President Tozzi announced that they are looking into changing some of the bench arrangements down Somerset Street to make it more suitable. He then stated there was a ribbon cutting for a new establishment on Sherman Avenue called A Peace of Om Yoga. He added that the owner expressed interest in helping with Recreation and the Seniors Group. Council President also stated that the kiosk in front of Quick Check is getting re-done with a new photo from the Basilone Foundation as well as making it more of a business-oriented type of a Community Center. He then went on to add that if you walk down the main street people will notice the windows are much more presentable and things are looking more cleaned up.

Councilman Fritzing-No Report

Councilman Patente-Councilman Patente reported for the Municipal Court that 295 summons were issued and of that \$19,962.00 were collected in fines. He added that the Borough gets about 50% of that and the other 50% goes to the County and the State. The Councilman then stated that he enjoyed the discussion tonight about rehabilitation and hopes to have more discussions like that in the future.

Mayor Carra-Mayor Carra stated that he met with the new Chief Administrative Officer for Robert Wood Johnson Somerset, Deirdre Blaus. She is looking forward to working with the Board of Health as well as the Senior Group.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Administrator's Report (EC)

Administrator Colvin stated that his report will be different than what Council may be used to however, he will be giving highlights from each department. He started with the Tax Collector announcing that it is Tax time and there is a 10-day grace period for collection. Adding that the collection rate had steadily gone up over the last few years and is up to 99.46% for 2024. Mr. Colvin went on stating that the State announced that it will be rolling out a new Senior Tax Relief program called Stay NJ and that the Borough has arranged for a representative from the state to come in and give a presentation on the program. The presentation is scheduled for April 1st, at 10:00 a.m. and will be located in the Community Room at the Municipal Building; flyers will be posted on our website providing the information. Mr. Colvin then went onto report for the Tax Assessor stating that the Borough's re-val is coming up later this year. Our Tax Assessor will be working with the company that has been brought in to do the re-val and we will be putting out information to the residents keeping them informed.

Moving onto the Clerk's Office, Mr. Colvin stated that Kimberly and Alyssa, in addition to their normal duties, they are working with the Police Department and DPW to clean up the handicapped parking ordinance as well as some of the spaces designated within the Borough. The Clerk's Office is also looking into software to make O.P.R.A. requests more efficient internally between departments as well as more user friendly for members of the Public.

Mr. Colvin then stated that the Borough has reached out to a few companies regarding technology for the new Court Room which will be in place before the move-in. He then moved on to the Finance Department mentioning that it is budget time and he and our CFO are working

to keep tax rates as flat as possible. Adding that the tentative timeline for the budget is introduction at the second meeting in March which would be when the budget presentation would take place and then the adoption could be the second meeting in April. He went on to mention at that time the Borough would also be scheduling the annual capital ordinance and salary ordinance.

Moving onto to Construction, Mr. Colvin stated that our Construction Official are looking into the Borough's Fee Ordinance. He added that numerous fees in the Borough's Code are outdated compared to other municipalities such as Planning Board Application Fee, Zoning Permit Fee, etc. Mr. Colvin then mentioned that the Director of Public Works has also been reviewing their fees associated with some of the jobs they are responsible for such as Road Opening Permits and Sewer Connection Fees adding again that our Code is outdated compared to the surrounding towns. Mr. Colvin went on to explain that if the Borough can update the Code and increase fees, with the some of the newer redevelopment coming into town, it would be very beneficial.

Councilman Patente asked what kind of discussion Council will get to have regarding the upcoming Budget. To which Mr. Colvin responded, that if there are specific questions regarding a department and/or their budget, he would be more than happy to get those answers for them. The Councilman went on to state that he would like to be involved with the process and would like to know the questions being asked. Mayor Carra added that Eric is the point of contact for any department and if any of the Council members have questions, they should be reaching out to him. Councilman Agrawal also added that he found Mr. Colvin's first report to be very informative and added that he agrees with the Construction and DPW Fees being reviewed and increased.

Before moving into the Engineer's Report Borough Attorney asked to clarify a question that was asked earlier; the Board of Health does have the power to adopt their own ordinances however, typically the best practice is to have it come through Council on a recommendation from the Board of Health. This would help with transparency and ensuring the process is followed correctly and making sure it is advertised and noticed correctly and help avoid ordinances getting adopted but then not codified in the code book.

2. Engineer's Report (JB)

Capital Improvement Initiatives

- Richard Street Neighborhood Improvements

This project is being listed under capital despite having almost \$1,000,000.00 in grant monies received because of the potential capital additions. The Borough has been awarded **\$347,580** for Phase 1, **\$395,316** for Phase 2, and **\$324,010** for Phase 3. The first two phases cover drainage improvements along Richard Street. A contractor has already been selected for these phases, and they will commence operations early this year, with an anticipated finish date before May. The subsequent phases will include the full depth repair and resurfacing of all of the remaining roads not covered by New Jersey American water. My firm will be sending surveyors out to the region to finish our base maps, and once a package is ready to go, we will solicit a second contractor to complete the rest of this work. NJAW is providing a check to the Borough for the roads they did not complete to supplement this work. I am hopeful that by the end of the year, all roads in the Richard Street Neighborhood will be fully resurfaced and drainage improvements complete.

- MS4 Permit – Watershed Improvement Plan – Phase 1

New for 2025, the MS4 Permit's Watershed Improvement Plan Phase 1 primary includes a stormwater infrastructure map. The Borough has already prepared an Outfall Map to the State, this project will take that process a step further and cover all inlets, pipes, and similar drainage structures that are owned and operated by the Borough of Raritan. Additionally, land usage data and other mapping information must be composited and submitted to the State for review prior to December 2025.

- Relocation of Municipal Building (VCEA Project No. 3300066)

The new municipal building that will be situated at 9 West Somerset Street is under construction. The general shape of the interior is coming along nicely despite some construction delays. The HVAC situation has been handled, and Pharos Construction is moving along to progressing the build of the elevator shaft as well as the remainder of interior and exterior items. Sitework will commence as the weather gets better, after the elevator is finished. Anticipated construction closeout is now towards the end of summer, possibly late August. We will work dutifully to ensure that this process is completed swiftly to hopefully avoid that delayed finish. If any members of council have any concerns or want status updates more frequently – please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

- Micro-paving and Capital Road Program

I plan on coordinating with Vince and the DPW's road program to help develop a schedule of roads that would be suitable candidates for micro-paving. "Micro-paving" a process in which a thin layer of asphalt is spread on top of a "good" road to prolong its lifespan. In the future, Vince and I will be coordinating to finalize a Capital Road Program to keep recently repaired roads in pristine condition for longer. This will also inform future capital expenditures and grant initiatives that my office will endeavor to get for the Borough.

- Construction Inspection

In our appointment as Borough Engineer, we provide final closeout of Planning Board projects by doing the "Resolution Compliance" review. This typically includes the review of the final plans and, if necessary, developer's agreements that include inspection escrow, which our staff oversee to ensure compliance with approved plans.

- Infrastructure Improvements- PSE& G- Replacement of Gas Main & Services
- Road Improvement Program, as requested
- Pedestrian Improvements, as requested
- Development of Bike Routes, as requested

Grant-Based Initiatives

NJDOT: Grant Management: PMRS & SAGE Software Management

Our office provides ongoing assistance to the Borough for coordinating documents through SAGE and PRMS, the online software used by the NJDOT to manage, administer, and coordinate comments for their grant programs.

2026 NJDOT Local Aid Application – Multiple Projects

As per discussions with the DPW and the CFO, our office has requested a budget to apply for two different sets of roads in the summer when the program opens up for application. Our two initiatives are to either apply to finish the neighborhood improvements near Avonridge, Brentwood and Tysley Place, which was previously applied for but rejected, and second is the neighborhood near the Circle that is on the other side of Route 206 near Bell Avenue that hasn't seen a large amount of investment

in recent years. We will keep the Borough posted on these efforts as their application comes closer.

2025 NJDOT Local Aid Application – Richard Street Neighborhood (VCEA Project No. 3310035)

2024 Drainage Improvements (Plainfield to Brooklyn) Phase 2 (VCEA Project No. 3315006)

2023 Drainage Improvements (Rhine Blvd to Columbus) Phase 1 (VCEA Project No. 3315005)

As noted above, all three of these projects are being combined under one budgetary item and being developed in tandem with the completion of the NJAW road resurfacing projects. It is expected that by May, all of the drainage improvements will be complete, and hopefully before the end of the year, all of the work shall be completed.

2022 Improvements to Colby, Berwick & Arnold (VCEA Project No. 3310034)

All work has been completed, but there is still some coordination with the NJDOT's PMRS system that needs to be finalized before the contractor can be paid and the account closed.

2021 Improvements to Meehan & Helene

My office coordinated with the NJDOT on this project during the summer, but it has not been properly closed out. There are issues with the "mid-block sidewalks" which have since failed due to water and gas service connections. I strongly suggest revisions to ordinance to minimize future issues. Regardless, my office will work to properly close out of this job as well.

2016 NJ Tap Grant – Thompson-Anderson (NJ Transit Rail – Raritan River)

On July 30th of last year, my office issued a memo on this project outlining the full project history and timeline for the education of the Borough Council. This project has a very, very long history, and has many moving parts. If any member of Council wishes to see this memo, please do not hesitate to reach out to me for it. It is expected that NV5 will schedule a public hearing for the final design phase very soon this year (2025).

CBDG: Assistance with Orange Vouchers & Reimbursement Requests

In addition to facilitating grant application, our office also helps get the grants initialized through the agreement process, filling out forms where requested, and providing any backup needed by the Borough to receive reimbursement for work done under grants.

2023 Sanitary Sewer Capacity and Rehabilitation – Busky Lane/ Orlando Drive

We received a CBDG grant to make repairs to increase the capacity of the existing sanitary sewer system near Busky Lane and Orlando Drive in anticipation of the Redevelopment of the Raritan Mall. Now that the Redevelopment Plan has passed, it is expected that this project can commence. Our office will coordinate with the DPW to get camerawork done on the nearby sewers to determine the extent of repairs necessary, then prepare plans and specifications in accordance with the grant parameters.

Services and Coordination

Van Cleef Engineering through its Borough Engineer appointment also provides technical assistance in the following ways with the following agencies:

- Sanitary Sewer Billing – Excessive Users List
- Tax Map Updates – **Will coordinate to finalize Tax Maps in advance of Revaluation.**

- Road Opening Permits – NJ American Water, PSE&G, miscellaneous residential contractors
- Resident Drainage Complaints – Arnold Ave, Riverside Ave, Brooklyn Ave, Bound Brook Ave
Our office provides ongoing technical assistance in resolving drainage disputes within the Borough. Oftentimes this results in us educating the residents about easements, drainage practices, and researching site history.
- Soliciting Quotes for work below Public Bid Threshold (primarily infrastructure repairs)
If there is a project that requires public bidding, our office is typically utilized in facilitating and executing those contracts and running construction administration until closeout. This is true for both NJDOT grants and large private improvements.
- Assistance to Construction Department (Lou Gara)
Resolution Compliance coordination with Raritan Crossings, Pannia, Colfax Apartments, 21 Orlando Drive, and 17 Frelinghuysen applications.
- Assistance to Tax Assessor's Office (Anthony DiRado)
- Assistance to DPW (Vince Lo Medico, Hank & Brad) Sanitary sewer, storm sewer, roads, etc. as needed.)
- Coordination with the following agencies:

County:

Engineering and Planning
Parks & Recreation

State:

NJDEP – Permits, Reports, Project Management
NJDOT – Permits, Traffic Signals, Work within or adjacent to Routes 202/206/28
DCA – Fair Share Housing Element, Master Plan
NJ Transit – Coord for improvements adjacent to Railroad Properties

Utilities:

PSE&G – Utility Poles, Street Lights, Traffic Signals, etc.
NJ Am Water – Coordination & scheduling, leak detection, resident issues.

Federal:

USGS – Raritan River and tributaries impacted by flooding
FEMA
HUD

Other Appointments

- Board Engineer
Technical reviews for ongoing applications using escrow monies rather than Borough funds. Generating reports based on reviews and on-site inspections of conditions, position works in tandem with Borough Planner Appointment. Currently ongoing projects include:
 - Greg Natale – Use Variance and Bulk Variances
 - LaGrange Street Redevelopment – Preliminary and Final Major Site Plan
- Borough Planner
 - Master Plan and Associated Elements Revisions/Reexaminations
 - Provides interpretations on Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance as a technical resource for the Joint Land Use Board.
 - Involved in future planning initiatives and critical for planning grants.

Stormwater Program Coordinator Duties

- *MS4 Permitting – SPPP Revisions*

Van Cleef Engineering prepared a revised Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SPPP) in alignment with the updated requirements of the NJDEP mandated Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit process. Based on the revised stormwater management ordinances and comments provided by the Borough of Raritan case manager from the NJDEP, there is merit to updating the SPPP this spring. It was noted that this needs to be finalized and posted on the website.

- *MS4 Permitting – Annual Permit*

Each year around May, every municipality in New Jersey is required to have its designed Stormwater Program Coordinator (Joseph A. Brosnan for Raritan Borough) to provide a report in conformance with the SPPP, which includes reports of training from members of the governing body, information from the Department of Public Works such as how many tons of debris were cleared from what inlets, updated mapping of stormwater features, and community engagement. Last year was more involved due to the change in the requirements. This year, I will be working closely with the DPW to properly establish better protocols for recordkeeping and website management of the required items.

- *Stormwater Management Ordinances*

These ordinances were adopted over the summer and have now received approval by Somerset County. All of these permits should be posted on the website (in addition to the typical ECode 360 location) in order to avoid any audits from the NJDEP. I encourage thoughtfulness on this issue, as nearby municipalities have been audited recently.

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING & PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance No. 2025-01

Bond Ordinance providing an appropriation of \$2,200,000 for various improvements and purposes for and by the Borough of Raritan, in the County of Somerset, New Jersey, appropriating \$2,090,000 thereof and authorizing the issuance of bonds or notes of the Borough to finance part of the cost thereof.

The purpose of the Ordinance is to authorize the expenditure for various road improvements relating to ongoing drainage issues.

Mayor Carra opened the Public Hearing portion of the meeting for members of the public wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2025-01.

David Marder, 830 Old York Rd: Mr. Marder asked what the determination process was to decide what gets a bond ordinance versus what gets included in the operating budget. Mayor Carra responded, stating that the Borough doesn't normally create line items that are millions of dollars, that is something the Borough would look to bond for and pay overtime. Administrator Colvin added that projects such as this are not something that can be anticipated for our operating budget. Mr. Marder then inquired about the rates for the bond and if the rates are already determined. Mayor Carra responded, that for this ordinance, we may not borrow all that

money, but the Borough can go up to that amount and depending on when we would pull the money, it would be whatever the rate is at that time. He also added that the CFO is heavily involved in the process and that for this project specifically, it is likely that we are not going to use the entire amount. Administrator Colvin added that we do have a grant that covers about half the amount and that the Borough wanted to make sure we have the money in place to cover the whole project. Mr. Marder then asked how long the life of the bond would be, to which Mr. Colvin responded that it is a 30-year bond.

Councilman Agrawal stated that he appreciated the explanation from everyone as he had similar questions. He added that when he first read about borrowing \$2 million dollars, he was shocked but now knowing that about half will be paid for by grants and that the Borough may not have to borrow the full amount it makes more sense.

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

On a motion by Councilman Fritzingler, seconded by Council President Tozzi, Council moved to Adopt Ordinance No. 2025-01.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Fritzingler, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Armahizer

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

ORDINANCES – INTRODUCTION

Ordinance No. 2025-02

An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, New Jersey amending Chapter 82 of the Code of the Borough of Raritan

The purpose of this ordinance is to provide accessible parking spaces on the Borough's main throughfare on Somerset Street

On a motion by Councilman Agrawal, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council moved to Introduce Ordinance No. 2025-02.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Fritzingler, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Armahizer

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

Ordinance No. 2025-03

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 20
Anderson Street as a restricted parking zone for
handicapped parking in the Borough of Raritan

On a motion by Councilman Agrawal, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council moved to
Introduce Ordinance No. 2025-03.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Fritzing, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Armahizer

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

CONSENT AGENDA

(Resolution No. 2025-02-032 through No. 2025-02-035)

Resolution No. 2025-02-032

Approving 2025 Tower/Wrecker Licenses

Resolution No. 2025-02-033

Approving Budget Transfer

Resolution No. 2025-02-034

Authorizing 2025 Recycling Agreement – Somerset
County

Resolution No. 2025-02-035

Authorizing Funding Agreement with Station
Village at Raritan LLC – Redevelopment of Block
61, Lot 3.01

On a motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Council President Tozzi, Council moved to
Approve Resolution No. 2025-02-032 through Resolution No. 2025-02-035-Consent Agenda.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Fritzing, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Armahizer

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

BILL LIST

Resolution No. 2025-02-036

Approving Bill List

On a motion by Councilman Agrawal, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council moved to
Approve Resolution No. 2025-02-036-Approving the Bills List.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Fritzing, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Armahizer

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

CERTIFICATION OF FUNDS

1. NJ Transit – January – June 2025 Lease – \$27,500.00
2. Statewide Insurance Fund – 2025 Statewide WC & AL assessments – \$89,336.50

On a motion by Councilman Fritzingler, seconded by Councilman Patente, Council moved to Approve the Certification of Funds – NJ Transit January-June Lease and 2025 Statewide WC & AL assessments.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Fritzingler, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Armahizer

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

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.

Jim Foohey, 710 Rhine Blvd: Mr. Foohey stated that it had been about 10 years since the Borough has been broadcasting their meetings on TV and he wanted to suggest that the policy about not filming the residents who speak during the public comment portions should be filmed. He went on to add that there is no argument for privacy as all residents are required to state their name and address for the record. Mr. Foohey stated that he was making the suggestion to help with the audio issues for those watching the meetings from home; due to the fact that there is no microphone at the podium anyone speaking during the public comment portions are very hard to hear. If the camera could move and capture those who are speaking, the audio will be picked up better and could be heard by those who are watching. Mr. Foohey then stated that as Council President there is an ‘unwritten rule’ that you are to keep the peace and step in to diffuse situations amongst the Council members. Mr. Foohey also asked about the Budget and if there would still be a Council meeting with the department heads regarding their wants and needs for the upcoming year. Mr. Colvin responded, explaining that since budgets have been tight in recent years, they have altered the previous practice, adding that unless there was a substantial ask, a meeting like that would not be necessary. Mr. Foohey added one last thing about the microphone between Borough Attorney and Borough Engineer; it needs to be used, again stating that it is difficult to hear what is being said when the mic is not being spoken into.

Jim Werner, 407 Victoria St: Mr. Werner stated he would like to make a proposal regarding Veterans. He stated that Veterans get a \$500.00 deduction, however the \$500.00 amount is quite old and he is looking to see if that amount could be increased. Administrator Colvin stated he would look into seeing if there is a State regulation.

Bruce Taggart, 255 Weiss Terr: Mr. Taggart asked about the Capital Improvement Plan for Washington School Park and about an interactive Public meeting. Mayor Carra responded, stating the meeting was this past October. Mr. Taggart then asked if there were still opportunities to submit suggestions for the space and what the timeline is for the project. Mayor Carra stated that the project has been put on hold as there may be a Fire House involved in the project. He went on

to add that if anyone has suggestions or ideas for the area to reach out to him or Recreation. The Mayor also said that they will be presenting different designs to the Public later this year but there is nothing scheduled at the moment.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Carra asked for a motion to adjourn the Regular 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: 5-0

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Kimberly Mathewson
Acting Municipal Clerk

Approved: _____
Eric M. Colvin
Borough Administrator

Date: _____