

## MINUTES

### BOROUGH OF RARITAN REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2025  
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, February 18, 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 Armahizer, 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 Agrawal

#### INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

Councilman DiGraziano

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution No. 2025-02-037

Entering Executive Session

1. Contract Negotiation  
Somerset County – Transportation,  
Basilone Parade
2. Attorney Client  
Alpine Way

On motion by Council President Tozzi, seconded by Councilman Fritzinger, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-02-037.

#### Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzinger, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Agrawal

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION ADJOURNMENT**

Council moved to reconvene in Regular Session unanimously.

Council exited Executive Session, and resumed Regular Session at 7:02 p.m.

**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.

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

**MINUTES**

1. February 4, 2025

Mayor Carra asked for a motion to Approve the February 4, 2025 Minutes.

On a motion by Councilman DiGraziano, seconded by Council President Tozzi, Council moved to Approve the February 4, 2025 Minutes.

**Recorded Vote**

Yea: Tozzi, DiGraziano, Fritzingler, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Agrawal

Abstain: Armahizer

Motion Carried: 4-0

**COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS**

**Councilman Patente-** Councilman Patente stated that he had no report but did want to thank the residents who braved the cold weather to attend the meeting this evening. He also wanted to state that residents may have received a little white card in the mail ‘Notice of Property Assessment for 2025’. He wanted to make people aware that this is not the reevaluation that will come out later this year. The card is just the normal property assessment.

**Councilman Fritzingler-** Councilman Fritzingler reported that the Historic Committee will be meeting tomorrow evening at 6:30 p.m. and encouraged anyone from the public to attend, adding that the committee is always looking for new members. The Councilman also wanted to acknowledge the Public Works employees for all their work this season.

**Council President Tozzi-** Council President Tozzi reported that the kiosk on Somerset Street, over by Quick Check has a new painting of John Basilone displayed thanks to Kim VanNote from the Basilone Memorial Foundation. He added that DPW cleaned up the kiosk and has made it more functional for our downtown businesses to do advertising.

**Councilman DiGraziano** – Councilman DiGraziano reported that Recreation’s T-ball program is off to a good start with many participants. He added that they are also looking into starting a

softball team and that registration is open for any that are interested. Dodgeball is scheduled for March and April for first and second graders that will be at John F. Kennedy School. Councilman DiGraziano also stated that if the weather permits it, the tennis courts should be ready to go for the end of April. He went on to add that with the help of Council President Tozzi, on September 7<sup>th</sup> there will be a parade at Patriots Stadium for the kids to participate in with more details to come at a later time.

Councilman Armahizer – Councilman Armahizer reported that the Environmental Commission and Shade Tree Advisory Board are looking into doing a tree planting ceremony in the spring. They are currently looking into the donation of seedlings and having the event take place around Earth Day; he added that he will have more information at a later time. The Councilman also added that the Environmental Commission is organizing their fourth annual community cleanup event sponsored by New Jersey Clean Communities to take place sometime this spring as well. He then continued to report the Veterans Advisory Committee is currently working on compiling a list of all local establishments who offer specialized discounts for veterans and active-duty service members. Once the list is completed, it will be made available on the Borough’s website.

Mayor Carra – Mayor Carra reported that former Mayor Liptak notified him that tomorrow will be the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John Basilone dying in action on Iwo Jima. He added that the Basilone family would like to do some type of event once the weather is better.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### 1. Basilone 5K 2025 (EC)

Administrator Colvin stated that he was waiting for further details and asked for this to be carried until the next meeting. Council unanimously agreed.

#### 2. Proud to be American Day (DT)

Council President Tozzi stated that along with Recreation Director Andy Sabilia the Borough is looking into hosting Proud to be American Day at Washington School. He added that this would be a great event and encouraged Council to help make this happen. Mayor Carra stated that the contact for this event has requested a letter from the Police Chief allowing cannon and gun fire during the event. The Mayor added that they are currently looking at May 22<sup>nd</sup> for the event date and it potentially could be from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. He then added that he would have more details at a later date.

### **ORDINANCES – SECOND READING & PUBLIC HEARING**

#### 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

thoroughfare on Somerset Street

Mayor Carra opened the Public Hearing portion of the meeting for members of the public wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2025-02.

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

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

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzingler, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Agrawal

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

Mayor Carra opened the Public Hearing portion of the meeting for members of the public wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2025-03.

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

On a motion by Council President Tozzi, seconded by Councilman Patente, Council moved to Adopt Ordinance No. 2025-03.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzingler, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Agrawal

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

**ORDINANCES – INTRODUCTION**

Ordinance No. 2025-04

An Ordinance amending and supplementing section

2 entitled “fees” of Chapter 123 – Construction Codes, Uniform-to amend the fee schedules provided thereby

The purpose of this Ordinance is to update the Construction Codes current fee schedule

On a motion by Council President Tozzi, seconded by Councilman Patente, Council moved to Introduce Ordinance No. 2025-04.

Recorded Vote

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

*(Resolution No. 2025-02-038 through No. 2025-02-043)*

Resolution No. 2025-02-038	Approving Change Order – 9 West Somerset
Resolution No. 2025-02-039	Approving Food Bank Donation
Resolution No. 2025-02-040	Approving 2025 Tower/Wrecker Licenses
Resolution No. 2025-02-041	Authorizing Professional Services Contract – CivicPlus NextRequest
Resolution No. 2025-02-042	Authorizing Resolution Delineating an Area in Need of Rehabilitation
Resolution No. 2025-02-043	Reconfirming Appointment – Municipal Prosecutor

Councilman Patente requested to pull Resolution No. 2025-02-042-Authorizing Resolution Delineating an Area in Need of Rehabilitation from the Consent Agenda to be voted on separately.

On a motion by Council President Tozzi, seconded by Councilman Patente, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-02-038 through Resolution No. 2025-02-043 Consent Agenda, excluding Resolution No. 2025-02-042.

Recorded Vote

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

Councilman Patente read a portion of Resolution No. 2025-02-042 and asked Borough Attorney Wenner for further explanation regarding redevelopment in rehabilitation and what that process would look like. Mr. Wenner responded, explaining that the redevelopment plan within a rehabilitation area is still specialized zoning that would be adopted via Council by ordinance that

would get referred to the Planning Board for consistency with the rehabilitation plan that was adopted. It is not a redevelopment area study so there would not be a referral to the Planning Board for a preliminary investigation. This is a rehabilitation area, and you can do redevelopment plans consistent with the rehabilitation law. Discussion ensued between Councilman Patente and Mr. Wenner regarding the process. Councilman Patente stated that he was okay to vote knowing that Council and the public would have input.

On a motion by Councilman Fritzing, seconded by Council President Tozzi, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-02-042 – Authorizing Resolution Delineating an Area in Need of Rehabilitation.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, DiGraziano, Fritzing, Patente

Nay: Armahizer

Absent: Agrawal

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 4-1

**BILL LIST**

Resolution No. 2025-02-044

Approving Bill List

On a motion by Councilman DiGraziano, seconded by Councilman Patente, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-02-044 Approving Bills List.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzing, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Agrawal

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

**CERTIFICATION OF FUNDS**

1. Pharos Enterprises – 9 West Somerset St. Renovations - \$323,743.98

2. Bridgewater Resources Inc – December Dumping Fees - \$21,473.14

On a motion by Council President Tozzi, seconded by Councilman Armahizer, Council moved to Approve the Certification of Funds – 9 West Somerset St. Renovations and December Dumping Fees.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzing, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Agrawal

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.

Adrienne Schwall, 14 Obert Drive: Ms. Schwall wanted to remind everyone about the Town Hall meeting scheduled for this coming Monday, February 24, 2025, to discuss the on-going issues with New Jersey Transit. She encouraged everyone that is able to attend the meeting to voice their concerns. She added that she had brought and wanted to share a ‘diesel fact sheet’ explaining some of the health risks for people who live and/or work near diesel exhaust sources.

Victor Laginni, 250 Weiss Terrace: Mr. Laginni also encouraged everyone to support the effort to get the Raritan residents their quality of life back. He went on to express his gratitude to Council President Tozzi and Mayor Carra for meeting with him and Ms. Schwall about the upcoming meeting with our State Representatives. He also expressed his appreciation for the Council members who went to his house and experienced the issues themselves. Councilman Armahizer stated that when he had visited Mr. Laginni’s home he couldn’t believe how intense the odor and fumes were from the train yard; adding that until he experienced it himself, he did not realize the severity of the situation. Mr. Laginni went on to state that the Borough’s quality of life is suffering, and a major concern is the exposure of the children who attend John F. Kennedy School which is just up the road.

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 7:31 p.m.

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Kimberly Mathewson  
Acting Municipal Clerk

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Eric M. Colvin  
Borough Administrator

Date: \_\_\_\_\_