

MINUTES

BOROUGH OF RARITAN REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 3, 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 Monday, March 3, 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 Fritzingler, 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 Fritzingler

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution No. 2025-03-045

Entering Executive Session

1. Personnel
Administration, DPW
2. Attorney Client
Alpine Way, Basilone Parade

On motion by Councilman Fritzingler, seconded by Council President Tozzi, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-03-045.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, DiGraziano, Fritzingler, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Agrawal, Armahizer

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 4-0

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 7:04 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.

James Werner, 407 Victoria Street: Mr. Werner asked about property tax relief for veterans and if there was a way to increase the amount. Borough Administrator Colvin responded stating the Borough does offer the maximum of what is allowed by the state. Mr. Werner then stated that he is concerned about the lack of a cross walk from Anderson to Fifth Street and wanted to bring it to the Council's attention for safety reasons.

Joyce Melitsky, 43 Gaston Avenue: Ms. Melitsky wanted to ask about one of the resolutions in the Consent Agenda, Resolution No. 2025-03-050 – Supporting the Designation of the Intersection of Fifth Street and First Avenue as a Right Turn Only. She stated that if a driver was unable to see vehicles coming North on First Avenue, it does not matter if you are trying to make a right or a left turn from Fifth, it is still dangerous. Council President Tozzi stated that he agreed and went on to state that the smartest option would be to make Fifth Street a one way.

Jeff King, 47 Vones Lane: Mr. King wanted to thank all that were involved organizing and arranging for the New Jersey Transit meeting. He continued to state how well attended the meeting was by residents and hopes that this is the start for NJ Transit to start addressing the on-going issues.

Victor Laginni, 250 Wiess Terrace: Mr. Laginni also wanted to thank Council for helping get the ball moving to address the concerns the Raritan residents have been having to deal with regarding the Nj Transit Rail Yard. He continued stating that after a couple days, he noticed things had started to change, however the last two nights he noticed the fumes were back. Council President Tozzi added that NJ Transit had sent a note stating they were looking into putting shades on the lights as it is a new fixture that was installed on an existing tower. Mr. Laginni continued by explaining how dangerous the diesel emissions are, not just to our residents but also to those people who work within the area.

Adrienne Schwall, 14 Obert Drive: Ms. Schwall suggested a letter be sent to the people who attended the meeting reiterating the Borough's position on the matter. She suggested keeping the pressure on NJ Transit to make some adjustments. Ms. Schwall then went on to mention a quiet zone and how other towns have them. She is aware that there is a cost for a quiet zone but suggested that the residents have suffered enough and at this point the Borough shouldn't have to pay for a quiet zone.

Joyce Fritchie, 445 Vanderveer Road: Ms. Fritchie asked about the air being tested to which Mayor Carra responded stating that a test was done about 18 years ago. Ms. Fritchie suggested the Borough start looking into having another test done. She went on to express her concerns about the health risks the residents who live over by the Rail Yard are exposed to but especially for the children that attend JFK School. Mayor Carra added that he and Assemblyman Peterson discussed some of the concerns after the meeting, and agreed a major concern is the school. He stated he would follow up with the Assemblyman.

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

MINUTES

1. February 18, 2025

Mayor Carra asked for a motion to Approve the February 18, 2025 Minutes.

On a motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Councilman Fritzinger. Council moved to Approve the February 18, 2025 Minutes.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, DiGraziano, Fritzinger, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Agrawal, Armahizer

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 4-0

COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Patente-Councilman Patente reported that the Court collected \$29,498.00 and from that the Borough received \$17,036.00. He then mentioned that the Senior meeting was later this month and will report back at the next meeting. Mayor Carra stated that he wanted to add that any Somerset County resident can apply through the Meals on Wheels program and for anyone interested in spending some time at the Bridgewater Senior Center, transportation would be able to pick you up at no cost.

Council Fritzinger-Councilman Fritzinger reported that the Historical Committee met on February 19th and are working on their temporary budget, adding that their Trust Fund is at \$1,199.15. The Councilman added that they do have a final version of the mural that is to be painted on Mangia Buono by artist Jen Gurano. Once the weather is nice enough, she will start working on the mural. The Councilman also added that the Historical Committee is still looking for anyone who may be interested in join the committee. He then reported that the committee did have their election of officers, which will stay the same as the previous year. They are looking into some projects for the 150th anniversary of our country. The Councilman then went onto to report on Public Works stating that bulk pick-up will be starting this month and mentioned that any upholstered items and mattresses must be wrapped in plastic, no items containing freon, no medical waste, no recycled materials, no construction/remodeling materials, or tires.

Councilman President Tozzi-Council President Tozzi reported that the Regional Center doesn't meet until next month and will update everyone afterwards. He then stated that he and Mayor Carra have a meeting with Dan Hayes to discuss the tennis court property to make it ADA accessible. He added that the property owners of the corner lot are agreeable to give the Borough an easement to allow for the ADA accessibility. Council President then mentioned that he had received a few anonymous complaints about Christmas decorations that are still on homes with Spring quickly approaching; he suggested it was time for the decorations to come down.

Councilman DiGraziano-Councilman DiGraziano reported that T-ball is off to a good start, with potentially having enough players to form two teams. Girls Softball has been a slow start, but we are still working on it and dodgeball is also in the works for later this month and April at JFK School. The Councilman then mentioned that the tennis court work may be able to start as soon as next week, depending on the weather.

Borough Administrator Colvin-Administrator Colvin wanted to update everyone on a few things. First that the Borough has submitted a grant, with thanks to the Raritan Seniors and Mr. King for supporting the application, for a new electronic sign that would be posted outside the new Municipal Building on Somerset Street. The sign would inform the seniors as well as all residents of important messages, events, and any other advisories that would need to be displayed. Mr. Colvin then went on to mention that signups for Summer Camp are open now. The application is available on our website, it is an eight-week program that will start at the end of June. He added that the current price is \$175.00 per week and that price is good until the middle of May, after that the price will increase to \$200.00 per week. Mr. Colvin then stated that they received approval for the contract for the Splash Pad and construction for that should start soon. Mr. Colvin also mention again that there will be an open house in the Community Room at the Municipal Building on April 1st at 10 a.m. to go over the new NJ Tax Relief program. He encouraged all those who can attend the meeting to do so. Mr. Colvin also wanted to mention that the Municipal Budget would be introduced at the next Council meeting along with our CFO giving a Budget presentation.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Train Quiet Zone (DT)

Council President Tozzi stated that at the meeting with NJ Transit they mentioned quiet zone availability at different train stops. He stated that there has been a number of people complaining about the horn blowing at the Anderson Street train stop. The Council President stated that he reached out to NJ Transit, and they will be sending information to the Borough about what the process is for a quiet zone. He would suggest a quiet zone from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. for the Anderson Street train stop. He is hoping to have an update for everyone at a later meeting date.

2. Basilone 5K (EC)

Administrator Colvin stated that the Basilone 5K route is the same as last years, starting on Old York Road, to Woodmere Street, to Arnold Avenue, to Helen Place, to Weiss Terrace, to Johnson Drive, to Second Avenue, to First Street, to Anderson Street, to Second Street, to Thompson Street, to LaGrange Street, to Elmer Street, to E. Somerset Street, to Thompson Street which then turns into Mill Street, to Orlando Drive that becomes Canal Street and then Colle Sannita Way just before the finish line. Mr. Colvin stated that if there were no objections, he would be looking for Council to approve the 5K route. Mayor Carra stated that he has no objection but does ask that if a resident lives on a portion of the route, there is a plan on how to get them safely to their homes.

On a motion by Council President Tozzi, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council moved to approve the Basilone 5K Route.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, DiGraziano, Fritzingler, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Agrawal, Armahizer

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 4-0

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING & PUBLIC HEARING

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

Mayor Carra opened the Public Hearing portion of the meeting for members of the public wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2025-04.

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

On a motion by Councilman Fritzingler, seconded by Councilman Patente, Council moved to Adopt Ordinance No. 2025-04.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, DiGraziano, Fritzingler, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Agrawal, Armahizer

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 4-0

ORDINANCES – INTRODUCTION

Ordinance No. 2025-05

An Ordinance amending Chapter 320 “Streets and Sidewalks”, Article IV, “Street Openings”

The purpose of this Ordinance is to update the current fees for “Street Openings”

On a motion by Council President Tozzi, seconded by Councilman Patente, Council moved to Introduce Ordinance No. 2025-05.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, DiGraziano, Fritzingler, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Agrawal, Armahizer

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 4-0

Ordinance No. 2025-06

An Ordinance amending Chapter 286,
“Sewers”, Section 14, “Capacity-Rate
Trunk-Connection Charges”, Part A

The purpose of this Ordinance is to update the
current fees for Sewer Connection

On a motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council moved to
Introduce Ordinance No. 2025-06.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzingler, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Agrawal

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

Ordinance No. 2025-07

An Ordinance Exceeding the CY2025 Municipal
Budget Appropriation Limits and Establishing a
Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

The purpose of this Ordinance is an annual
budgetary item to increase the appropriation limits
and to establish a cap bank.

On a motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Councilman Fritzingler, Council moved to
Introduce Ordinance No. 2025-07.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, DiGraziano, Fritzingler, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Agrawal, Armahizer

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 4-0

CONSENT AGENDA

(Resolution No. 2025-03-046 through No. 2025-03-050)

Resolution No. 2025-03-046

Authorizing the Execution of a Shared Service
Agreement – Transportation – Somerset County

Resolution No. 2025-03-047

Authorizing Temporary Appropriation

Resolution No. 2025-03-048

Authorizing Redemption of Tax Sale Lien – Block
83, Lot 14

Resolution No. 2025-03-049

Awarding a Contract for Home Improvement
Services – A-Plus Construction

Resolution No. 2025-03-050

Supporting the Designation of the Intersection of
Fifth Street and First Avenue as a Right Turn Only

Mayor Carra announced that Resolution No. 2025-03-050 – Supporting the Designation of the Intersection of Fifth Street and First Avenue as a Right Turn Only will be pulled from the Consent Agenda and voted on separately.

On a motion by Councilman Fritzing, seconded by Councilman Patente. Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-02-046 through Resolution No. 2025-02-049-Consent Agenda, excluding Resolution No. 2025-03-050.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, DiGraziano, Fritzing, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Agrawal, Armahizer

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 4-0

Mr. Colvin stated that he did speak with the County regarding Resolution No. 2025-03-050, making Fifth Street a Right Turn only onto First Avenue but added that the County would be open to what Council would like. Council President Tozzi suggested making Fifth Street a One-Way road and Mayor Carra asked if anyone else had a suggestion for the intersection. Discussion ensued with possible options for making the intersection of Fifth Street and First Avenue safer. Ultimately, it was decided to amend the resolution to reflect Fifth Street becoming a One-Way Street, with no exit to the West.

On a motion by Council President Tozzi, seconded by Councilman Patente. Council moved to Adopt Amended Resolution No. 2025-03-050 – Supporting the Designation of Fifth Street as a One-Way Road, exiting onto North Second Street.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, DiGraziano, Fritzing, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Agrawal, Armahizer

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 4-0

BILL LIST

Resolution No. 2025-03-051

Approving Bill List

On a motion by Councilman Fritzing, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-02-051 Approving Bills List.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, DiGraziano, Fritzing, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Agrawal, Armahizer

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 4-0

CERTIFICATION OF FUNDS

1. Bridgewater Resources – January 2025 Dumping Fees – \$18,287.60

2. Van Cleef Engineering – NJAW Construction Inspection – \$16,631.00

On a motion by Councilman DiGraziano, seconded by Councilman Patente, Council moved to Approve the Certification of Funds – January Dumping Fees and NJAW Construction Inspection.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, DiGraziano, Fritzingler, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Agrawal, Armahizer

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 4-0

Mayor Carra stated that he did not have it listed on the Agenda, however he did review the recommendations for the Veteran’s Advisory Committee members and will have them listed on the March 18th agenda.

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.

Jeff King, 47 Vones Lane: Mr. King suggested the Borough send letters to the residents who still have Christmas decorations up asking them to take them down. He also stated that he agrees with Council President Tozzi about the 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. quiet zone.

Joyce Fritchie, 445 Vanderveer Road: Ms. Fritchie said that she also noticed that some homes still had Christmas decorations up and some even have Halloween decorations up as well. She agreed that the Borough should say something about the decorations. Ms. Fritchie also mentioned that she agrees with what Council is trying to do with Fifth Street, however, is concerned that the traffic would get shifted to Farrand Street causing even more traffic issues. Councilman Patente asked if the Borough had an ordinance about decorations to which Mayor Carra responded no.

Thomas Brown, 18 Elmer Street: Mr. Brown brought up concerns about Fifth Street becoming a One-Way Street for the residents that live there and limiting access to their homes.

Joyce Melitsky, 43 Gaston Avenue: Ms. Melitsky asked for clarification regarding Fifth Street; is it going to become a One-Way Street or a no exit? Mayor Carra confirmed that it would be a One-Way Street, turning onto Fifth Street from First Avenue. Discussion ensued amongst Council members regarding the street designation.

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.

March 3, 2025
Regular Meeting

On a motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council moved to
Adjourn the Regular Meeting.

Recorded Vote:

All in favor

Motion passed: 4-0

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Kimberly Mathewson
Acting Municipal Clerk

Approved:

Eric M. Colvin
Borough Administrator

Date: _____