

MINUTES

BOROUGH OF RARITAN
REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 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 6:33 p.m. on Tuesday, March 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, Borough Engineer Joseph Brosnan and Borough CFO Paige Elster
Absent: Councilman Agrawal

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

Councilman Patente

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution No. 2025-03-052

Entering Executive Session

1. Contract Negotiations
Retainers and Proposals

On motion by Councilman Fritzinger, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-03-052.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzinger, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Agrawal

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

Council convened in Executive Session at 6:35 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ADJOURNMENT

Council moved to reconvene in Regular Session unanimously.

On motion by Councilman Fritzing, seconded by Councilman Patente, Council exited Executive Session and resumed Regular Session at 7:20 p.m.

PRESENTATION

2025 Municipal Budget

Borough CFO Paige Elster gave a presentation on the 2025 Municipal Budget which included key points of interest such as tax rate and revenues.

A Public Hearing on the Municipal Budget is scheduled to take place in the Meeting Room of the Municipal Building, 22 First Street, Raritan, New Jersey, on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 6:30 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.

Anita Jones, 211 Woodmere Street: Ms. Jones expressed concerns about the splash pad being installed at Basilone Park. Some of her concerns were about the noise the splash park will produce, potential parking issues, as well as potential liability issues if someone was to slip and fall.

Victor Laginni, 250 Weiss Terrace: Mr. Laginni asked Mayor Carra if he could speak about non-agenda items as he was unable to stay until the later portion of the meeting which Mayor Carra allowed. Mr. Laginni stated that he and another resident had met with a representative from Cure Air and suggested to Council that a meeting be set up to discuss potential solutions to the ongoing issues with the NJ Transit Rail Yard. He also added that the Train Yard has been quieter, but the train horns seem to be louder. Mr. Laginni then suggested that NJ Transit be the ones paying for an air quality test, not the residents of Raritan. Council President Tozzi asked if the light issue over the by the Rail Yard had gotten better, to which Mr. Laginni stated no and mentioned that there was no deflector shields on the lights. He also inquired about the Quiet Zone that Council President Tozzi had mentioned; Council President responded stating that there are many different levels of a quiet zone, and he was waiting for a response back.

Bruce Taggart, 255 Weiss Terrace: Mr. Taggart thanked the Mayor and Council for hosting the Town Hall meeting and asked for an update on a few of the things discussed such as the air compression lines, installing rubber pads under the Rail Yard and establishing a Quiet Zone. Council President Tozzi stated that he is looking into what options are available. Mr. Taggart also suggested sound barriers being installed to help with the noise issues.

Jeff King, 47 Vones Lane: Mr. King stated that he wanted to give an update regarding some of the issues regarding the NJ Transit Rail Yard after he spoke with Charlie. He stated that there

was a conference call with Senator Steinhart discussing the issues and one of the things mentioned was if NJ Transit was using low sulfur fuel like they are supposed to be using. Discussions continued about possible options such as the trains using propane or even natural gas. Mr. King wanted to ensure the public that conversations have been happening and hopefully NJ Transit will respond with other possible solutions.

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

MINUTES

1. March 3, 2025

Mayor Carra asked for a motion to Approve the March 3, 2025 Minutes.

On a motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Council President Tozzi, Council moved to Approve the March 3, 2025 Minutes.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzingler, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Agrawal

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Patente- Councilman Patente stated he had nothing to report.

Councilman Fritzingler- Councilman Fritzingler reported that DPW had their first bulk pick-up of the year, unfortunately he did not have the tonnage numbers at this time. He also announced that the new sweeper was received and should be getting some use soon. He then mentioned that the Historical Committee would be meeting tomorrow at 6:30 p.m., adding that anyone from the public is welcome to attend as they are always looking for new people to join. The Councilman then added that he did drive around town and noticed that there were some mattresses and upholstered furniture that was not wrapped; the furniture will not be picked up if it is not wrapped as per the ordinance.

Council President Tozzi- Council President Tozzi reported that tree trimming for the trees on the main street will begin at the end of the month; adding that the pavers would be pressure washed as well. He then stated that the benches on the main street will be reconfigured to look out onto the road in an effort to make the town a little more desirable.

Councilman DiGraziano- Councilman DiGraziano reported that T-ball will be starting in April with two teams participating in a Somerville league. He also stated that the tennis court repairs have started and will hopefully be completed in the next couple weeks. The Councilman also announced that Recreation will be hosting their annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 12th at Frelinghuysen Park.

Councilman Armahizer- Councilman Armahizer stated that the Environmental Commission will be meeting later in the week.

Mayor Carra- Mayor Carra stated that after speaking with our Superintendent of Public Works, he wanted to reaffirm a Bulk Review Committee to see what options there are for bulk pick-up.

Mayor Carra appointed Councilman Fritzing, Councilman Patente and Council President Tozzi to the Bulk Review Committee and suggested they reach out to Vince to set up a meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Train Station Parking (EC)

Administrator Colvin stated that the Borough is looking into going cashless at the Train Station. He mentioned that the system would be similar to what other towns have available using an app or something you scan with your phone. The current system in place using the Kiosk will still be available until the machine gets faulty. Administrator Colvin also added that the Borough is looking into raising the fees for daily parking with permission from NJ Transit. Notice will go out to the public once everything has been finalized; the Borough will be looking to roll this out slowly.

2. Recreation – Advisory Board (EC)

Administrator Colvin stated that at the request of the Recreation Director, due to difficulties having a quorum, he is requesting the existing ordinance be amended to have Recreation be an Advisory Board. Mayor Carra added that there are two members who have not shown up for meetings which prohibits actions being taken. Discussion ensued amongst Council and Borough Attorney Wenner of possible options to amending the Borough's Ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Veterans Advisory Committee Appointments (NC)

Mayor Carra announced that he would be appointing four members to the Veterans Advisory Committee with the consent of Council.

On motion by Councilman Fritzing, seconded by Councilman Armahizer, Council moved to Approve member James Werner to the Veterans Advisory Committee.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzing, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Agrawal

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

On motion by Councilman Armahizer, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council moved to Approve member Brock Gandarillas to the Veterans Advisory Committee.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzing, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Agrawal

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

On motion by Councilman DiGraziano, seconded by Councilman Armahizer, Council moved to Approve Council President Tozzi to the Veterans Advisory Committee.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzing, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Agrawal

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

On a motion by Councilman DiGraziano, seconded by Councilman Patente, Council moved to Adopt 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.

Mayor Carra opened the Public Hearing portion of the meeting for members of the public wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2025-07.

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

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

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzingler, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Agrawal

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

ORDINANCES – INTRODUCTION

None

INTRODUCTION OF 2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET & USER-FRIENDLY BUDGET

Resolution No. 2025-03-053

Introduction of 2025 Municipal Budget

A Public Hearing on the Municipal Budget is scheduled to take place in the Meeting Room of the Municipal Building, 22 First Street, Raritan, New Jersey, on Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

On a motion by Council President Tozzi, seconded by Councilman Fritzingler, Council moved to Approve Resolution 2025-03-053 – Introduction of 2025 Municipal Budget.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzingler, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Agrawal
Abstain: x
Motion Carried: 5-0

CONSENT AGENDA

(Resolution No. 2025-03-054 through No. 2025-03-057)

Resolution No. 2025-03-054	Approving Hire – DPW Laborer
Resolution No. 2025-03-055	Authorizing Refund of Permit Fee – Permit #24-298
Resolution No. 2025-03-056	Authorizing Temporary Appropriation
Resolution No. 2025-03-057	Supporting 2025 CDBG Application – Sanitary Sewer Integrity Investigation

On a motion by Councilman Fritzingler, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-03-054 through Resolution No. 2025-03-057-Consent Agenda.

Recorded Vote

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

BILL LIST

Resolution No. 2025-03-058 Approving Bill List

On a motion by Councilman Fritzingler, seconded by Council President Tozzi, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-03-058-Approving Bills List.

Recorded Vote

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

CERTIFICATION OF FUNDS

1. Borough of Somerville – 2025 1st Quarter CFO Shared Service - \$20,000.00
2. Bridgewater Township – 2025 1st Quarter Court Shared Service - \$65,000.00
3. Statewide Insurance Fund – 2025 WC & AL Assessments - \$89,336.50

On a motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council moved to Approve the Certification of Funds – 2025 1st Quarter CFO Shared Service, 2025 1st Quarter Court Shared Service, and 2025 WC & AL Assessments.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzingler, 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.

Jeff King, 47 Vones Lane: Mr. King stated that at a previous Board of Health meeting it was discussed that DPW would be tagging any furniture that was not wrapped, notifying residents of why it was not picked up. He continued by stating that people can purchase upholstered furniture bags from Home Depot or Walmart.

Kelly Marini, 819 Riverside Avenue: Ms. Marini wanted Council to know that the Richard Street project that is going on has been left a mess. She stated that the company left equipment sitting while they went and worked on another project elsewhere. Ms. Marini also added that where they dug for the new basins, they filled it in with rocks, no topsoil or dirt. She continued to express her frustrations to Council.

Antonio Taddeo, 1084 Richard Street: Mr. Taddeo also wanted to bring the conditions of the Richard Street project to the Council's attention. He explained that he followed the direction of the notices about keeping the roadways clear and yet his vehicle parked in his driveway has been sprayed by the asphalt which has caused damage. He continued by expressing his frustrations about the damage and disruption to his yard as well as his neighbors'.

Joseph Brosnan, Borough Engineer: Mr. Brosnan responded to the residents regarding Richard Street and assured them that he does have staff overseeing the worksite. He confirmed that the job is not over and that the company is responsible for restoration within certain parameters. He also stated that he will be speaking with his staff and the foreman from KM Construction. Discussion ensued about how residents can make reports to Mr. Brosnan or Mr. Colvin.

Karen Mencaroni, 1254 Richard Street: Ms. Mencaroni also expressed her frustrations with the work site for the Richard Street project, explaining that some of her bushes have been knocked down. She also stated that the asphalt that was sprayed was at least two feet up her bushes. Ms. Mencaroni continued to express her frustrations to Council.

James Foohey, 710 Rhine Boulevard: Mr. Foohey stated that he had a similar situation last year with work being done on Rhine Boulevard and the job site not being well maintained. Borough Engineer Brosnan responded stating that in the case Mr. Foohey is mentioning, New Jersey American Water had selected the contractor, where as the Borough is governed by the Local Public Contract Laws which means we are required to choose the lowest responsible bidder. Mr. Foohey then mentioned his suggestion on changing the policy of not showing the members of the public speaking on the camera. He stated that if the camera was to pan over to them while they are speaking, the recording speaker may pick up what is being said better and there wouldn't be so many issues with the audio for those watching from home. Mayor Carra stated that the Municipal Offices will be moving into a newly renovated building in a few months and the current audio issues will be eliminated once the move happens. Mr. Foohey then continued by suggesting if Mayor and Council are running late during Executive session, they should break from Executive session and resume the Regular meeting and then reconvene back into Executive session after. He then suggested that during the initial Public Comment portion of the meeting, it should be opened to agenda items only and then opened for any general comments from the Public to allow those who cannot stay until the second Public Comment portion. Mr. Foohey then stated that when he was on Council there was an issue with a developer who was behind schedule on their project and Council agreed to allow them to work on Sundays but only 'quiet work' such as painting, for them to meet their deadline. Lastly, Mr. Foohey wanted to announce

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that the 6th Annual Town wide Yard Sale will be on May 3rd; registration is now open until April 17th.

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 Councilman Fritzingler, seconded by Councilman Patente, Council moved to Adjourn the Regular Meeting.

Recorded Vote:

All in favor

Motion passed: 5-0

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Kimberly Mathewson
Acting Municipal Clerk

Approved: _____

Eric M. Colvin
Borough Administrator

Date: _____