

MINUTES

BOROUGH OF RARITAN REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 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, 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 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

Council President Tozzi

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution No. 2025-04-059

Entering Executive Session

1. Attorney Client
Habitat for Humanity,
Celebration of Town Events,
Alpine Way

On motion by Councilman Fritzinger, seconded by Councilman Patente, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-04-059.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Fritzinger, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Armahizer

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.

April 1, 2025
Regular Meeting

On motion by Council President Tozzi, seconded by Councilman Patente, Council exited Executive Session and resumed Regular Session at 7:01 p.m.

PROCLAMATION

Honoring Ana Syed – Raritan Mural at JFK School

Proclamation

HONORING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT AND RARITAN RESIDENT ANA SYED

WHEREAS, Ana Syed has lived in Raritan Borough her entire life, frequenting local “hidden gems” such as Delucia's Pizza and As You Like It Ice Cream; and

WHEREAS, her love for her hometown is what inspired her to paint the mural of Raritan at JFK Primary School, where she once attended herself, as part of a project for the Bridgewater Raritan High School’s National Arts Honor Society; and

WHEREAS, Ana shared that “I love the downtown area of Raritan specifically because of the shops and restaurants. The feeling of walking in Raritan gives me an immense feeling of nostalgia as I am leaving for college soon. Alongside the physical atmosphere I love all of the people I have met while living here. I appreciate all of the educators I had at John F. Kennedy Primary School as they taught me the basics of how to be a good student. Raritan gave me an extraordinary elementary school experience that I hope every child can have. Raritan is truly my home and will always be.”; and

WHEREAS, art has been a part of Ana’s life since she was very young and during the COVID-19 pandemic she picked up a sketchbook again despite only having minimal art classes over virtual school. When school reopened, she pushed her creativity to the limits in Art I and Art II, where she learned to take risks and focus on her craft, which helped sustain her passion for art; and

WHEREAS, when reflecting on her time painting the mural, Ana stated she enjoyed spending time with Mrs. Nasson and the other NAHS members, adding that being able to collaborate with other people and appreciate new ideas always enhances the art itself; and

WHEREAS, Ana was thankful for the opportunity to paint the mural in her former primary school as it provided her with a wave of nostalgia while she finishes her final year of high school.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nicolas J. Carra, Mayor of the Borough of Raritan, do hereby honor and commend Ana Syed for her exceptional mural of Raritan and for her pride of her hometown.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my Hand and Affixed the Seal of the Borough of Raritan this First Day of April, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-five.

Attest:

KIMBERLY M. MATHEWSON
ACTING MUNICIPAL CLERK

NICOLAS J. CARRA
MAYOR

Councilman Agrawal also congratulated Ms. Syed and thanked her for the innovative mural she painted for the younger students to enjoy.

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.

Jeff King, 47 Vones Lane: Mr. King announced that the Food Pantry will be temporarily hosted at the Library on Saturdays. He stated that Director, Steve Kats, has a two-month agreement with the library, however if there is not a solution by the end of June the food pantry will be forced to leave town. Mr. King Suggested that Council form a committee to help find a solution.

Jim Foohey, 710 Rhine Boulevard: Mr. Foohey stated that he was present at the Library on Saturday when the Food Pantry had their pop-up. He was impressed with how well-organized things were and how smooth everything ran. He then mentioned that the library will not be able to host the Food Patry for two Saturdays within the two-month agreement and he suggested Council consider using the Community Room in the Municipal Building.

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

MINUTES

1. March 18, 2025

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

On a motion by Councilman Fritzingler, seconded by Council President Tozzi. Council moved to Approve the March 18, 2025 Minutes.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Fritzingler, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Armahizer

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

REPORTS

2. Committees and Liaisons

Councilman Patente – Councilman Patente reported that the Court issued 736 tickets, parking and moving violations in the month of February; adding that the Borough received \$23,754.00 and \$11,173 went to the state.

Councilman Fritzingler- Councilman Fritzingler reported that the Historical Committee met on March 19th, and they are still currently working off their temporary budget; their Trust Fund is in the amount of \$1,199.15. Councilman also added that they are working for this year's summer program and trying to work around the Food Bank. He then continued by announcing that you can find them on Facebook and their next meeting will be the third Wednesday in April. The

Councilman then went on to state that Bulk Pick-Up will be April 10th and reminded the public that all upholstered furniture must be wrapped for it to be picked up. He also added that no items containing freon, no medical waste, no recycled materials, no construction remodeling materials nor tires will be accepted.

Council President Tozzi – Council President Tozzi announced that, around mid-April, DPW will be trimming all the trees up and down Somerset Street along with pressure washing the pavers. He then stated that DPW rearranged some of the benches on the main street that were originally located closer to the roadway, right next to where people would be parking. They are now located in front of the businesses, allowing people to look out onto the road. Council President also added that the benches were moved in an effort to make the Downtown area more appealing and if anyone has any feedback, to let him know as this is a work in progress.

Councilman DiGraziano – Councilman DiGraziano reported that T-ball has 16 kids signed up with the first practice next Tuesday followed by their first game next Saturday. He continued to report that construction has started on the tennis courts as well as the splash park which will hopefully be ready by June. Councilman then stated that the Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for April 12th; ages 1-4 will be at 12:00 pm, ages 5-8 will be at 12:30 pm, and then ages 9-12 will be at 1:00 pm.

Councilman Agrawal – Councilman Agrawal stated that he would start with the Board of Education and first wanted to thank Mr. Singer, who is the President of the Board of Education, as well as Mr. Pepe, who is the Borough Representative, for attending tonight's Council meeting. He continued by announcing that on March 18th, the Board of Education passed their preliminary budget. Adding that the next Board meeting will be April 8th and then on April 29th will be the Budget Presentation and Public Hearing for the next school year. Councilman Agrawal added that you can check out the Board of Education's website for more details at BRRSD.org. He then continued by announcing the High School will be performing Footloose this Thursday and Friday at 7:00 pm and then on Saturday at 2:00 pm and then again at 7:00 pm. He added that Spring sports are underway including our State Champion Baseball Team. He then reported on the Board of Health that fees collected in February were in the amount of \$600.00 and in March \$632.00. These fees include marriage licenses, certified copies, death certificates and birth certificates. Councilman Agrawal then announced that the library will be hosting a Holi Festival event on May 3rd from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm as well as the Annual Townwide Yard Sale on May 3rd. The library also offers weekly chair yoga at 10:30 am every Tuesday. The Councilman added that there are a number of things happening at the library and encourages everyone to visit their website for more information at Raritanlibrary.org.

Mayor Carra – Mayor Carra wanted to add that residents may have received a flyer in the mail from the library and that if you bring that flyer in, you may have a chance at winning a Samsung Tablet. The Mayor also added that for those who do not currently have a Library card, he encourages you to enroll.

3. Borough Administrator

Eric Colvin – Administrator Colvin stated that in addition to normal day-to-day activities the Police Department is working on a re-accreditation process. He added that some of Council may remember that the Police Department became an accredited department three years ago and that the initial renewal is especially challenging. He then continued by stating there was an HOC

Committee that met with the Police Department to discuss preliminary plans for the current Municipal Building to see the possibility of getting an architect involved. Mr. Colvin then added that our Police Department will be partnering with Bridgewater to put on a distracted driving awareness session for high school students, no date at this time. Administrator Colvin then moved onto DPW stating that among their normal seasonal responsibilities, they are starting a townwide signage improvement program. They have currently replaced 15 signs already this year and once the budget passes, everyone could be looking at fresh stop signs throughout town. Mr. Colvin then added that street sweeping will be starting as the new sweeper did come in last week. Notice to residents will be issued using the Rave Alert system to ensure residents have advanced notice. He also announced that if you have not signed up for Rave Alerts, you can do so through the Borough's website. Moving on to Tax and Finance, the Borough hosted a seminar earlier today which hosted State Representatives who came in to discuss the new tax program for Seniors, New Jersey Stay. He went on to state that the Budget will be listed on the next meeting, April 15th for Public Hearing and possible Adoption. Adding also that the audit for 2024 has started; hopefully resulting in another clean outcome. Mr. Colvin continued by announcing that the Environmental Commission has been active this year with a few events planned for the Spring including a Community Clean Up that is set for April 12th and there will be a tree planting at Cardinal Woods which is set for April 26th. The Historical Committee put up a new display in the display case downstairs called, 1919, Why not the League of Nations? Mr. Colvin then added that he spoke with DOT recently about the Jug Handle project and that the homes on the side of 202 will be demolished later this year in the fall adding that more progress will be seen in 2026. Also, the renovations at 9 West Somerset Street are coming along and the contractor has said we are still looking at later summer for the big move. Mayor Carra then stated that one of the requests from the Chief was to have an inspector come in and make sure there is nothing hidden in the walls or ceilings that we may not be aware of before any renovations happen. He stated that he currently does not have an exact cost however, he would need Council's approval.

On a motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Council President Tozzi. Council moved to Approve hiring an inspector to evaluate the building.

Recorded Vote

All in favor

Administrator Colvin also added that they have had several good recommendations for an architect and are currently going through them all. Councilman Patente asked Mr. Colvin if the intention is to wait until 9 West Somerset Street is complete before starting the renovations over here or would construction be able to happen sooner? Mr. Colvin stated yes, this will allow us to start now. Construction may not start as we have to go out to bid but yes, the process can start to move forward.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

4. Walk to Fight Alzheimer's (EC)

Administrator Colvin stated that this is an annual event, and they are requesting to have their banner hung across Somerset Street prior to the event day. He also stated that the banner being hung would not interfere with any other Town event.

On a motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Councilman Agrawal, Council moved to Approve the Walk to Fight Alzheimer’s banner being hung.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Fritzingler, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Armahizer

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

5. Richard Street Update (JB)

Borough Engineer, Joe Brosnan, stated that at the last Council meeting several members of the public were understandably frustrated and dissatisfied with the way the Contractor was treating the job site. He compiled all the responses and commentary and met with his inspector and figured out certain things that needed to be changed. Mr. Brosnan continued to state that he was assembling a punch list that the Contractor will be held accountable for; they won’t be able to close out of the site until everything is good and done and satisfied. He also stated that he has had a number of chats with his inspector to ensure he knows how to try and go above and beyond to make sure the public is aware of what is coming to their site. Mr. Brosnan stated that since the Contractor got back onto the site, things have been moving along quite well. He added that the job is not done yet however, we are going to make sure everything goes smoothly to completion and as an added bonus, the park will be cleared for the American Day event in May. Mayor Carra asked about the property the Borough purchased in that area and asked if that piece of property could get cleaned up by DPW now that it is owned by the town. He then added that he was thinking about all the residents in the Richard Street area with all the rain that had fallen last night as it was the first ‘test’, and he did receive a text stating that the work held up pretty well and the water did not flood the road. Mr. Brosnan was grateful for the news as he was also thinking about the amount of rain that had fallen and how the work held up. Councilman Patente asked Mr. Brosnan if there was a change in the communication process for future road projects to avoid issues we have had in the past? Mr. Brosnan responded, stating that he thought it would be prudent to make an updated protocol. He added that if any resident has a particular concern that they would like to be added to the punch list, please send it to him via e-mail or you can give him a call.

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING & PUBLIC HEARING

None

ORDINANCES – INTRODUCTION

Ordinance No. 2025-08

An Ordinance amending Chapter 229, “Noise”, Section 8-C, “Restricted Uses and Activities

The purpose of this Ordinance is to restrict construction work on Sundays and Federal Holidays

On motion by Council President Tozzi, seconded by Councilman Agrawal, Council moved to Introduce Ordinance No. 2025-08.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Fritzing, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Armahizer

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

Ordinance No. 2025-09

An Ordinance amending Chapter 82, “Vehicles and Traffic”, Section 46.1, “Unattended Dumpsters and Containers”

The purpose of this Ordinance is to amend the existing Borough’s Code related to dumpsters and containers to insert a fee

On motion by Councilman Fritzing, seconded by Councilman Patente, Council moved to Introduce Ordinance No. 2025-09.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Fritzing, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Armahizer

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

CONSENT AGENDA

(Resolution No. 2025-04-060 through No. 2025-04-061)

Resolution No. 2025-04-060

Approve Professional Services Contract – Honk Mobile

Resolution No. 2025-04-061

Approve Professional Services Contract – Pinpoint Analytics

On motion by Councilman Agrawal, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-04-060 through Resolution No. 2025-04-061-Consent Agenda.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Fritzing, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Armahizer

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

BILL LIST

Resolution No. 2025-04-062

Approving Bill List

On motion by Councilman DiGraziano, seconded by Councilman Patente, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-04-062-Approving Bills List.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Fritzing, Patente

Nay: x
Absent: Armahizer
Abstain: x
Motion Carried: 5-0

CERTIFICATION OF FUNDS

6. Continental Fire & Safety, INC – Replacement LDH fire hose - \$28,536.00
7. Pharos Enterprises, LLC – 9 West Somerset St. Renovations - \$486,685.42
8. Spatial Data Logic, INC – SDL Services 10/31/24-10/30/25 - \$26,900.00
9. U.S. Municipal Supply, INC – New Street Sweeper - \$352,625.00

On motion by Councilman DiGraziano, seconded by Councilman Patente, Council moved to Approve the Certification of Funds – Replacement LDH fire hose, 9 West Somerset St. Renovations, SDL Services 10/31/24-10/30/25, and New Street Sweeper.

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 Boulevard: Mr. Foohey wanted to again mention that the library would not be available to host the Food Bank on April 19th or May 3rd and suggested for Council to look into hosting the Food Bank here in the Community Room on those two Saturdays to see how it would work out. Councilman Patente asked how the people arrived or departed at the Food Bank over the weekend; to which Mr. Foohey was not sure. Mayor Carra stated that Steve Katz mentioned previously that their goal was to have the Food Bank stay downtown as they do get many people who walk. A member of the public also confirmed that there were quite a number of people walking.

Micheal Pepe, BOE Representative: Mr. Pepe stated that he wanted to congratulate Ana on the proclamation, adding that he can't wait to go see it. On behalf of the whole Board of Education, they would like to thank Ana and all the members of the National Arts Society as well as the teachers at JFK and the High School that helped make this happen.

Roger Copt, 1120 Route 202: Mr. Copt asked where the Food Bank stores the food, is it brought in each week or is it stored onsite? Mayor Carra responded stating that when the Food Bank was on Thompson Street, they were able to store the food there, however it gets trucked in while it's at the Library and the same would have to happen if the Community Room gets used in the future. Mr. Copt asked where the food would be coming from to which Raritan Resident Jeff King responded, stating the food comes from the storage facility located in Bridgewater. He continued to explain the details of the Food Bank set-up and how it works. Mr. Copt stated that he has a

storage facility, however he does not have refrigeration but if they need a place to set up he may be able to provide a space until a more permanent solution can be found.

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 Patente, Council moved to Adjourn the Regular Meeting.

Recorded Vote:

All in favor

Motion passed: 5-0

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Kimberly Mathewson
Acting Municipal Clerk

Approved: _____

Eric M. Colvin
Borough Administrator

Date: _____