

MINUTES

BOROUGH OF RARITAN
REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2025
6:15 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 6:15 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15, 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 Fritzingler, 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 Armahizer

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

Councilman Agrawal

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution No. 2025-04-063

Entering Executive Session

1. Attorney Client
Alpine Way
Habitat for Humanity
Basilone Parade
Riverside Requests
Fundraiser Request
Food Bank Request

On motion by Councilman Fritzingler, seconded by Councilman Patente, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-04-063.

Recorded Vote

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

Council convened in Executive Session at 6:17 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ADJOURNMENT

Council moved to reconvene in Regular Session unanimously.

On motion by Council President Tozzi, seconded by Councilman Patente, Council exited Executive Session and resumed Regular Session at 7:00 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.

Jim Foohey, 710 Rhine Boulevard: Mr. Foohey asked if there was an update regarding the Foodbank being that it was listed for the Executive Session. Borough Attorney Wenner responded, stating that there has not been a decision regarding the Food Bank situation. Mr. Foohey expressed his frustration regarding the lack of decision from Council and how he is disappointed with the lack of a decision. Mayor Carra added that he is not sure when a decision will be made and stated that the Borough has not received a request from the Food Bank.

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

MINUTES

1. April 1, 2025

On a motion by Councilman Fritzing, seconded by Council DiGraziano. Council moved to Approve the April 1, 2025 Minutes.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, DiGraziano, Fritzing, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Armahizer

Abstain: Agrawal

Motion Carried: 4-0-1

COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Agrawal- Councilman Agrawal announced that the Environmental Commission is hosting a tree planting event on Saturday, April 26th. He added a grateful thank you to the Borough's DPW department for doing a lot of the heavy lifting of coordinating the 15 trees. The Councilman encouraged anyone who is interested to join them on April 26th at 11:00 a.m. to celebrate Earth Day.

Councilman DiGraziano- Councilman DiGraziano stated that due to the weather, the Egg Hunt will be moved to the rain date of April 19th; 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. The tennis courts have also been delayed due to the weather and the Splash Park will be moving forward and hopefully ready for the summer season. The Councilman continued stating that dodgeball has been a great success with 50 kids

participating and that T-ball has had to cancel practices because of the rain but hopefully their first game will be this Saturday.

Council President Tozzi- Council President stated that DPW has been helping clean up the Downtown area with tree trimming through the end of this month as well as rearranging the benches on the sidewalks to look out onto Somerset Street. He also added that there is a new business in town, a coffee shop on the corner of Thompson and Somerset Street. Council President Tozzi then announced that after receiving some complaints of bushes being knocked down, if anyone sees any tractor trailers or trucks driving through their residential area, to give him a call or send him a license plate number. He will be looking into how this can be prevented and other ways to clean up the Borough and improve the quality of life for Raritan residents.

Councilman Fritzinger- Councilman Fritzinger stated that this past Thursday was the second bulk pick-up of the year; the initial bulk date recorded 45 tons, and this second bulk recorded 29 tons. Adding that hopefully over the next couple of months, the number will go even lower. The Councilman then added that DPW was out sprucing up and mulching at the Municipal Building between the rain showers and encouraged anyone that sees them, to give a big thank you for all that they do. Lastly, he announced that the Historical and Cultural Committee will be meeting at the Municipal Building tomorrow at 6:30 and all are welcome to attend.

Councilman Patente- Councilman Patente stated that the Seniors group has approximately 66 members who meet at the Municipal Building once a month. Their meetings are very detailed, and they have host guest speakers from time to time; recently they had someone come in to discuss taxes and the state's new relief program. Councilman also added that they are now offering chair yoga before the meeting starts and encouraged who is anyone interested to join.

Mayor Carra- No Report

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Grant Update (EC)

Administrator Colvin announced that the Borough was awarded a Recreation Improvement Grant in the amount of \$91,000.00, which will be used towards the Basketball Courts and Walking Track at Basilone Park.

2. Bring Your Child to Work Day (EC)

Administrator Colvin stated that a couple employees asked about bringing their child to work on April 24th and he wanted to make sure Council would be okay with that before advising the employees. Mayor Carra stated he thought it was a great idea and remembers going to work with his grandfather while he was Mayor here and what a fun day he had. Councilman Agrawal also added that he thought it was a great way to expose our children to local government as they are our future leaders.

3. Environmental Commission Chair (NC)

Mayor Carra stated that Juan Alvarez resigned from being Chair of the Environmental Commission and that he had recommended Heath Hoffmeister, who is currently a member, for the position. Mayor Carra announced that he is appointing Heath Hoffmeister as Chair of the Environmental Commission to fulfill the unexpired term.

4. New Fire Department Members (NC)

Mayor Carra asked for a motion to appoint three individuals to the Fire Department;

On a motion by Councilman Fritzingler, seconded by Council President Tozzi, Council moved to appoint Tomasz Maziarz to the Raritan Borough Fire Department.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Fritzingler, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Armahizer

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

On a motion by Councilman DiGraziano, seconded by Councilman Patente, Council moved to appoint Ashley Bowden to the Raritan Borough Fire Department.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Fritzingler, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Armahizer

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

On a motion by Councilman Fritzingler, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council moved to appoint Andreas Bizo to the Raritan Borough Fire Department.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Fritzingler, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Armahizer

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

5. Recreation Committee Appointments (NC)

- Joyce Melitsky – Unexpired Term of 01/01/2024-12/31/2026
- Alicia Wiczenski – Unexpired Term of 01/01/2023-12/31/2025

Mayor Carra announced that a Recreation Committee Member moved out of town, and he would like to nominate Joyce Melitsky to the vacant seat and unexpired term. On a motion by Council

President Tozzi, seconded by Councilman Agrawal, Council moved to appoint Joyce Melitsky to the Recreation Committee.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Fritzing, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Armahizer

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

Ms. Melitsky came to the front of the meeting room and took her oath of office for the appointment of Member on the Recreation Committee.

On a motion by Councilman Agrawal, seconded by Councilman Fritzing, Council moved to appoint Alicia Wiecenski as Alternate Member 1 on the Recreation Committee.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Fritzing, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Armahizer

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET – PUBLIC HEARING

Resolution No. 2025-04-064

Adopting 2025 Municipal Budget

Mayor Carra opened the Public Hearing portion of the meeting for members of the public wishing to speak on Resolution No. 2025-04-064 – 2025 Municipal Budget.

John Roglieri, 34 Vones Lane: Mr. Roglieri asked about the amount of money the Borough collected from the PILOT program for the Crossings, on Third Street, relating to the User-Friendly Budget. Why did we only collect \$15,000.00 when we are supposed to get \$700,000.00? Mayor Carra responded, stating that the program starts at that amount and then over the 30-year period, it would increase up to a certain amount. Mr. Roglieri asked what happens when an apartment is vacant; Mayor Carra responded stated the amount would be lower due to less income; adding that the complex has been mostly occupied. Discussion ensued about the details and who oversees and manages that. Mr. Roglieri continued by asking about the 39 properties that are listed as exempt, to which CFO Paige Elster stated she will provide him with the full list. Lastly Mr. Roglieri asked about absence liability and how the Police Chief has a total of 310 days a year. Ms. Elster stated that calculation reflects his accrued time over his career with the Borough.

Councilman Agrawal: Councilman Agrawal wanted to recognize our Finance Team along with Administration for putting the budget together and making sure it was introduced and adopted on time. He added that this may be the second time in ten years that taxes will be increased a small amount; mainly due to previous years the Borough was collecting a lot of money in permit fees

from LabCorp and Johnson and Johnson. The Councilman continued by stating he feels that the Borough is doing the responsible thing by maintaining a healthy surplus reserve.

Mayor Carra also added that he is grateful everything came together this year for the budget and what a great job done.

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

On a motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Council President Tozzi, Council moved to Adopt Resolution No. 2025-04-064 – 2025 Municipal Budget.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, Fritzinger, Patente

Nay: DiGraziano

Absent: Armahizer

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 4-1

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING & PUBLIC HEARING

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

Mayor Carra opened the Public Hearing portion of the meeting for members of the public wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2025-08.

John Roglieri, 34 Vones Lane: Mr. Roglieri asked if this would include contractors who cut grass on the weekends? Administrator Colvin responded, stating that there is an ordinance restricting the start time to 8:00 a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Discussion amongst Council, Mr. Roglieri and Borough Attorney ensued about the difference between residential noise standards and commercial industrial noise standards.

Jim Foohey, 710 Rhine Boulevard: Mr. Foohey asked if by restricting, Council was looking to prohibit construction work from being done on Sundays? Mayor Carra stated that the intention of this ordinance is more geared towards active constructions sites that would produce a lot of noise and disturbances.

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

On a motion by Councilman DiGraziano, seconded by Councilman Fritzinger, Council moved to Adopt Ordinance No. 2025-08.

Recorded Vote

has input before all the work is done, to prevent further issues. Discussion ensued amongst Council.

On a motion by Council President Tozzi, seconded by Council Patente, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-04-065.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, DiGraziano, Fritzing, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Armahizer

Abstain: Agrawal

Motion Carried: 4-0-1

On a motion by Councilman Fritzing, seconded by Council President Tozzi, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-04-066.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Fritzing, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Armahizer

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

BILL LIST

Resolution No. 2025-04-067

Approving Bill List

On a motion by Councilman Agrawal, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-04-067-Approving Bills List.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Fritzing, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: Armahizer

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

CERTIFICATION OF FUNDS

1. Bridgewater Resources INC – March Dumping Fees – \$24,426.57
2. KM Construction Corporation – NJDOT Drainage Improvements to Richard St., Phases 1 & 2 - \$322,681.66
3. Michels & Waldron Associates – 9 West Somerset St. Architectural Services –\$21,917.08
4. Raritan Public Library – 1st Quarter Library Payment – \$41,255.00
5. The Rogers Group LLC – Annual Accreditation Maintenance – \$11,133.05
6. Van Cleef Engineering Associates – Richard St. Phase 1 Field Observations – \$12,821.00

On a motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Councilman Fritzing. Council moved to Approve the Certification of Funds – March Dumping Fee, NJDOT Drainage Improvements to Richard St., Phases 1 & 2, 9 West Somerset St. Architectural Services, 1st Quarter Library Payment, Annual Accreditation Maintenance, and Richard St. Phase 1 Field Observations.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Fritzing, 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.

John Roglieri, 34 Vones Lane: Mr. Roglieri asked the value of the concrete pipe donation and why we can't just send it back. Borough Engineer Brosnan responded stating that the surplus is due to design changes that happened and different material pipe was needed. He added that the surplus piping will be residing in Hillsborough, however that does not mean we don't have the ability to get it back when it is needed. Mr. Roglieri then asked about the Borough's Master Plan and how when he moved into town, he wasn't able to put up a shed without having 15 people involved and now the Borough is turning into a condo town. Discussion ensued about the requirements for some of the projects and other properties in town between Mr. Roglieri and Council.

Administrator Colvin added that to answer an earlier question Mr. Roglieri had about what properties are exempt; he stated DOT properties would be exempt, County Owned, State, and 100% disabled Veterans.

Joyce Fritchie, 445 Vanderveer Road: Ms. Fritchie asked about the structure up on Route 28 as well and Mayor Carra stated that it is being built with prefab walls and he believes it is going to be a house. Ms. Fritchie then asked about the buildings on Orlando Drive and if those are going to be apartments. Mayor Carra responded, stating yes, they will be apartments, adding two will be affordable units. Lastly Ms. Fritchie stated she hoped a decision for the food bank would be made soon.

Roger Copt, 1120 Route 202: Mr. Copt asked about the Community Room in the basement of the Municipal Building and why the Food Bank would be able to use the space. Mayor Carra stated the Borough has not yet received a request from the Food Bank.

Jim Foohey, 710 Rhine Boulevard: Mr. Foohey expressed his frustration with the lack of an answer from Council, as losing the Food Bank would be tragic for some of the families in the area who depend on it. He stated that he didn't understand why Council wouldn't authorize doing a trial run

for the weeks the Library is closed to see if hosting the Food Bank would work out. Councilman Patente added that Council is also looking into possible solutions as well.

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 Fritzing, Council moved to Adjourn the Regular Meeting.

Recorded Vote:

All in favor

Motion passed: 5-0

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Kimberly Mathewson
Acting Municipal Clerk

Date: _____