

**MINUTES**

**BOROUGH OF RARITAN**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

**TUESDAY, MAY 20, 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, May 20, 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 Armahizer, Councilman DiGraziano, Councilman Fritzingler

Also Present: Borough Administrator Colvin, Acting Borough Clerk Mathewson, Borough Attorney Richard Wenner, and Borough Engineer Joseph Brosnan

Absent: Councilman Patente

**INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE**

Councilman DiGraziano

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Resolution No. 2025-05-074

Entering Executive Session

1. Personnel  
Administration, Police
2. Attorney Client  
Alpine Way, Orlando Drive

On motion by Councilman Fritzingler, seconded by Council President Tozzi, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-05-074.

**Recorded Vote**

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzingler

Nay: x

Absent: Patente

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.

On motion by Council President Tozzi, seconded by Councilman Armahizer, 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.

Antonio Taddeo, 1084 Richard St- Mr. Taddeo expressed his continued frustration with the company responsible for the Richard Street Drainage project. He stated that the pipe he had brought into the last meeting was still not fixed and that the backfill Borough Engineer Brosnan stated would be removed and replaced has still not been done. Adding that he watched the workers throw shovels of dirt from the back of a truck onto some of the properties but did not remove the initial material as they were instructed. Borough Engineer Brosnan responded, stating that he is aware that the company did not comply with his punch list. Mayor Carra added that the final payment to KM Construction is being withheld. He also stated that the Borough must follow protocol in order to hold the company accountable. Councilman Agrawal also added that the punch list should be all inclusive and the retainer should not be released until the Borough Engineer gives the okay.

Joyce Melitsky, 43 Gaston Ave- Ms. Melitsky asked if there was any update on Fifth Street to which Mayor Carra responded, stating that at this time, they do not have an update. He added that the property located on the corner may affect the decision and added that they are looking to do outreach to the residents who live there.

Mike Steinberg, 1003 Arnold Ave- Mr. Steinberg stated that he wanted to discuss the sidewalks and driveway aprons on Arnold, Brentwood and Tysley that were done less than a year ago. He stated that he reached out to Public Works and was told there was nothing they could do. The sidewalks and aprons are falling apart after such a short time and it's unacceptable. Councilman Agrawal stated that this is not just an isolated incident, and he went around the area and noticed a number of different locations where the sidewalks are chipped and dented. The Councilman continued to say that he knows that concrete is compression tested but he noticed that other areas around town that had been fixed are still intact and look great. He then added that over the next couple of years these sidewalks and apron will become a safety hazard and the Borough should look into what can be done. Councilman Fritzingler added that he works for Hillsborough in the Construction Department and they do test concrete. He then added if there is a maintenance bond in place, within a period of time if any of the work has failed, it would then be repaired.

Monica Speight, 1035 Arnold Ave- Ms. Speight stated that they had done her sidewalk two separate times. The sidewalk in front of her home is good but when they came back days later and did another section by her home, those blocks are all crumbling adding that her neighbors blocks are worse than hers. Councilman Fritzingler again stated that if there is a maintenance bond in place the Borough can act upon in within a year. Borough Engineer Brosnan stated that he has reviewed the site and the inspection logs adding that his suspicion is that salt is affecting the concrete. He then added that Crossroads Paving, who completed the work initially, will be in town soon and may be able to get them to do something at that time.

Jim Hughes, 1013 Arnold Ave- Mr. Hughes stated that he has been noticing the sidewalks and his driveway apron are chipping away and asked what is going to happen in five years when it is really in disrepair. He stated that he assumes the town will hold him responsible and expect he replace it. Mayor Carra responded, stating that hopefully we can get the maintenance period covered. Borough Engineer Brosnan also added that he can certify that the material that was used on the project was compliant with the N.J.D.O.T. standards and that he would be following up and update Council at a later meeting.

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

## **MINUTES**

1. May 6, 2025

Mayor Carra asked for a motion to Approve the May 6, 2025 Minutes.

On a motion by Councilman DiGraziano, seconded by Councilman Fritzingler, Council moved to Approve the May 6, 2025 Minutes.

### **Recorded Vote**

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Fritzingler

Nay: x

Absent: Patente

Abstain: Armahizer

Motion Carried: 4-0-1

## **COUNCIL COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS**

Councilman Armahizer – Councilman Armahizer stated that the Environmental Commission joined Raritan Headwaters for their annual River and Stream cleanup event on April 12<sup>th</sup>. On April 27<sup>th</sup> the Commission held an Earth Day tree planting ceremony; adding that 15 new trees were planted at Cardinal Woods Park. The Councilman thanked all those who helped with the event. He then stated that the Veteran Advisory Committee will be holding a short ceremony for Memorial Day on May 26<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. at the Basilone Statute, all local veterans are welcome. Lastly, the Councilman stated that the governing body has had multiple executive session discussions related to the stolen municipal funds from the John Basilone Parade Committee and made a request to transition all formal discussion and votes on the issue to regular public sessions, so the public is aware of the situation. He also requested that the Borough establish financial accounting procedures for the committee before they are provided with any additional funding.

Councilman Agrawal – Councilman Agrawal reported for the Board of Education that on May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6-8 p.m. is the last day for the Festival of the Arts; the public is invited to see artwork from all grades K-12 located at the High School. He added that at the last Board meeting the district honored the Wrestling team and the girls Swimming team, both won sectional championships. The Councilman then reported that the Board of Health for the month of March collected just under \$500.00 between food permits and animal licensing.

Councilman DiGraziano – Councilman DiGraziano reported that T-ball has been going well and is coming to an end, but the kids had fun and that is what matters. He then added that they are

working on getting soccer going and the coaches together. Summer camp still has opening but suggested to anyone interested to get their applications in as the spots will fill up fast. Lastly, he stats that Proud to be American Day is this Thursday starting at 9 a.m., adding that the event will be rain or shine.

Council President Tozzi – Council President Tozzi stated that he has no report but hopes everyone can make it to the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Basilone Statute on Monday at 11 a.m., adding that this year there will be a table set up with 50-75 little poppy pins to give to all the veterans and people in support of our veterans.

Councilman Fritzing - Councilman Fritzing reported that the Historic and Cultural Committee will be meeting tomorrow at the Municipal Building at 6:30 p.m. and encouraged anyone interested to check them out, they put a lot of effort into keeping the historical value of the Borough alive. He then reported that bulk pick-up was on May 8<sup>th</sup> and we are down to 20 tons from the month previous at 25 tons. He also stated that this week is Public Works appreciation week so if you see any of the guys out there, feel free to show them a little appreciation for all that they do.

Mayor Carra – Mayor Carra stated that at a pervious meeting he mis-spoke about a community solar project at Johnson and Johnson however, it's on Johnson Drive. He then stated for those who are not aware, the State Board of Public Utilities does the community solar projects that residents can take advantage of as long as they are in PSE&G's territory. He went on to explain that it's an income-based program and if you qualify it could be anywhere from 10%-20% off your electric bill. For those interested, you can apply through Solar Landscapes website as they are handling the project. Any additional information would be provided on their website.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Carra announced that after speaking with Administrator Colvin the June meeting dates need to be changed. Originally the June meeting dates are listed for June 3<sup>rd</sup> and then June 17<sup>th</sup> and the Mayor is looking to change the dates to Monday June 9<sup>th</sup> and then Tuesday June 24<sup>th</sup>.

On motion by Councilman Agrawal, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council moved to approve the new meeting dates in June for the 9<sup>th</sup> and the 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **Recorded Vote**

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzing

Nay: x

Absent: Patente

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

### **2. Administrator's Update (EC)**

Administrator Colvin stated that in addition to Public Works general obligations they have been very involved with the new splash park preparation. They have been working on plumbing, rubber surfacing, new signage, and coordinating with recreation to get this project moving. He then added that as of today, one of the Borough's foreman, Brad Hendershot, is planning to retire

after almost 15 years with the Borough. Moving onto the Police Department, Administrator Colvin stated that they finished their final assessment for the state accreditation and are awaiting final review. The Police Department participated in the National Distracted Driving Mobilization Operation and are also working on the renovation of this building. He then reported that the Borough is working on bringing about electronic payments, as of now the Police Department still receives cash or check payments for firearm permits, electronic payments will make the process smoother. Administrator Colvin then stated that the Administration offices are still on target for the move over to 9 West Somerset between July and August. He then went onto explain that the employees' medical insurance has gone up again this year by about 15% and how he and the CFO are looking into other options and will prepare any new information to be presented to Council and the unions. Lastly, Mr. Colvin discussed a commercial sewer ordinance that is being looked into by our engineering team, the CFO and himself in an effort to continue to find ways to not pressure the tax payer and keep the tax rate flat, adding that there will be more information at a later date. Councilman Agrawal asked how the insurance increase will effect the budget that was previously adopted, to which Administrator Colvin stated, they factored the increase into the budget.

3. Sidewalks (UA)

Councilman Agrawal stated that he had nothing more to add to the earlier discussion about the sidewalks.

4. Library Request – Hue of History (EC)

Administrator Colvin stated that the Somerset County Historic and Cultural Commission is having a year long honoring of the County's historic assets, one of them being the Raritan Library. A local artist will be doing some paintings or a mural to help highlight the building. Council agreed as long as they would not be touching the building itself.

5. Festa Banner Request (EC)

Administrator Colvin stated that as in the past, the request for the Festa banner to be hung has been received and he is just looking for the Council's approval before DPW hangs the banner. The Mayor then added that the Fest will be on June 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.

On motion by Council President Tozzi, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council approved the hanging of the St. Ann's Fest banner.

Mayor Carra stated that he forgot to mention during his report, there is a resolution that had been added late regarding Support Revolution New Jersey. He then went on to explain that he received an e-mail from our County Commissioner Melanie Moreno about the Borough supporting a statewide celebration of historical events that took place in our town and throughout Somerset County. Adding that he wanted to advise everyone before voting on the resolution identified as resolution 2025-06-080.

**ORDINANCES – SECOND READING & PUBLIC HEARING**

Ordinance No. 2025-11

An Ordinance fixing and determining the salaries, wages or compensation to be paid to certain officers and employees of the Borough of Raritan

The purpose of this Ordinance is to provide the annual salary ranges for the Borough employees.

Mayor Carra opened the Public Hearing portion of the meeting for members of the public wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2025-11

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

On a motion by Councilman Fritzingler, seconded by Council President Tozzi, Council moved to Adopt Ordinance No. 2025-11.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzingler

Nay: x

Absent: Patente

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

Ordinance No. 2025-12

Bond ordinance providing an appropriation of \$1,172,000 for various improvements and purposes for and by the Borough of Raritan, in the County of Somerset, New Jersey, appropriating \$1,113,400 thereof and authorizing the issuance of bonds or notes of the Borough to finance part of the cost thereof

The purpose of this Ordinance is to authorize the expenditure for various improvements and purposes for the Borough

Mayor Carra opened the Public Hearing portion of the meeting for members of the public wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2025-12

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

On a motion by Councilman Agrawal, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council moved to Adopt Ordinance No. 2025-12.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzingler

Nay: x

Absent: Patente

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

**ORDINANCES – INTRODUCTION**

Ordinance No. 2025-13

An Ordinance amending Chapter 40, Officers and Employees, of the Code of the Borough of Raritan to clarify that no Officer or Employee is required to

be a resident of the Borough

The purpose of this Ordinance is to clarify that no Officer or Employee is required to be a resident of the Borough

Borough Attorney Wenner stated, for the members of Council and the Public, that this ordinance is a statutory obligation requirement and is for 'housekeeping' purposes.

On motion by Councilman Agrawal, seconded by Councilman DiGaziano, Council moved to Introduce Ordinance No. 2025-13.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

*(Resolution No. 2025-05-075 through No. 2025-05-080)*

Resolution No. 2025-05-075	Approving Annual Salary & Wages – 2025
Resolution No. 2025-05-076	Authorizing the Execution of MOU – Street Sweeper
Resolution No. 2025-05-077	Authorizing Person-to-Person Transfer of Plenary Retail Consumption Liquor License No. 1816-33-017-005 to DL Liquors, LLC from Michaels Raritan House, LLC
Resolution No. 2025-05-078	Authorizing Solicitation of Bids – Solid Waste
Resolution No. 2025-05-079	Promotion to Truck Driver – Russell Dawson
Resolution No. 2025-05-080	Supporting RevolutionNJ

Councilman Agrawal requested Resolution No. 2025-05-076 be pulled from the consent agenda to be discussed further.

Councilman DiGraziano requested Resolution No. 2025-05-078 be pulled from the consent agenda to be voted on separately.

On motion by Council President Tozzi, seconded by Councilman Fritzinger, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-05-075 through Resolution No. 2025-05-080-Consent Agenda, excluding Resolution No. 2025-05-076 and Resolution No. 2025-05-078.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzinger

Nay: x

Absent: Patente

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

Councilman Agrawal explained that the proposed MOU; the sweeper we have is worth about \$25,000.00 and the proposal is to give it to Hillsborough in exchange for any kind of work. He went onto explain that he would not be able to approve this resolution without further discussions. Discussion ensued amongst Council, and it was agreed to table this resolution.

On motion by Councilman Agrawal, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council moved to Table Resolution No. 2025-05-076.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzingler

Nay: x

Absent: Patente

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

Councilman DiGraziano asked what we are bidding for to which Administrator Colvin responded explaining that this is the bid for our solid waste collection and the fee to transfer to the ultimate destination. He further explained that Manville and Raritan are the only two towns within the County that collect their own garbage, and the municipalities take turns on who's going to be advertising for the three-year contract. It saves money for both municipalities to do it together.

On motion by Councilman Fritzingler, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-05-078.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzingler

Nay: x

Absent: Patente

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

**BILL LIST**

Resolution No. 2025-05-081

Approving Bill List

Councilman Agrawal stated that he would like to pull Ask Community Planners, LLC, CGP&H, LLC, Somerset Patriots Baseball-Raritan Day, and Van Cleef Engineering Associates from the Bills List. Discussion ensued between Council, Borough Attorney Wenner, Borough Engineer Brosnan and Borough Administrator Colvin about the amount of money the Borough is spending and to ensure that the money is not being spent frivolously.

On motion by Councilman Agrawal, seconded by Councilman Armahizer, Council moved to pull Somerset Patriots Baseball-Raritan Day from the Bills List.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Agrawal, Armahizer, DiGraziano

Nay: Tozzi, Fritzingler

Absent: Patente

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 3-2

On motion by Councilman Agrawal, seconded by Councilman Armahizer, Council moved to pull CGP&H from the Bills List.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Agrawal, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzingler

Nay: Tozzi

Absent: Patente  
Abstain: x  
Motion Carried: 4-1

On motion by Councilman Armahizer, seconded by Council President Tozzi, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-05-073-Approving Bills List as Amended, excluding Somerset Patriots Baseball-Raritan Day and CGP&H.

Recorded Vote

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

**CERTIFICATION OF FUNDS**

1. Bridgewater Resources – February 2025 Dumping Fees – \$15,954.00
2. Bridgewater Resources – April 2025 Dumping Fees – \$25,594.19
3. Lavery, Salvaggi, & Cohen – Borough Attorney Feb 5-May6 – \$17,411.91

On motion by Councilman Fritzingler, seconded by Councilman Armahizer, Council moved to Approve the Certification of Funds – February 2025 Dumping Fees, April 2025 Dumping Fees, and Borough Attorney Feb 5-May6.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzingler  
Nay: x  
Absent: Patente  
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 Ln- Mr. King stated that the DPW workers have done a great job getting the Borough ready for summer. He then suggested that a punch list is made regarding the crumbling sidewalks and that it sounds like it was bad mix that was used when pouring the concrete. He then made the suggestion that if a developer has any ongoing projects in town, any donations they make would be held until the project is complete to avoid any potential conflicts. Mr. King then added that to volunteer to coach for recreation requires a lot from the individual. They need to be finger printed, a background check, complete a sports clinic class provided by Rutgers or another institution, and have First Aid training and know CPR. He suggested having recreation reach out to the County Sheriff's Department to see if they would be able to host a spring clinic for all those volunteers to have those requirements done. It would help save the volunteers money and just something he thinks the Borough and recreation should look into.

May 20, 2025  
Regular Meeting

Sheila Sloben, 55B LaGrange St- Ms. Sloben asked about the new complex on LaGrange and what is going to happen to the property that is between the residents. She also stated that at previous Planning Board meetings it was discussed to be a pop-up park which she feels is not going to work. She continued to explain that she and her neighbors have cleaned up the property over the years and is looking for the Borough to help her and figure out what can be done. Mayor Carra responded stating Council and the Borough Attorney will look into it and see if there is anything that was initially missed and he will be in contact with Ms. Sloben.

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 Fritzing, seconded by Councilman Agrawal, Council moved to Adjourn the Regular Meeting.

#### Recorded Vote:

All in favor

Motion passed: 5-0

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

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Kimberly Mathewson  
Acting Municipal Clerk

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