

CALL TO ORDER

This Meeting of the Redevelopment Committee of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, was called to order by Mayor Nicolas J. Carra in the Community Room of the Raritan Municipal Building, 22 First Street, Raritan, NJ 08869 on June 26, 2025.

The Mayor announced this meeting was called pursuant to applicable portions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Adequate Notice was communicated to *The Courier News* and *The Star Ledger*, posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building, on the Borough website and made available in the Office of the Borough Clerk.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Carra, Council President Tozzi, Administrator Colvin, William Cunningham, Thomas Brown, Lou Gara, Tony LoPresti, Debra Thomas, Engineer Brosnan
Absent: Adele Goetsch

MINUTES

- a. October 24, 2024
- b. December 4, 2025
- c. February 26, 2025
- d. March 25, 2025
- e. April 21, 2025

Mayor Carra discussed posting the minutes to the Borough’s website once they are completed.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Rehabilitation Designation – (AK)
 - Orlando Drive Bike Lane (NJTPA)
 - Nevius Street Mural (NJTPA)
 - Business District
 - Tax Rebate Program
 - Parking Update

Angela Knowles started discussion on the potential for a bike lane on Orlando Drive that would connect the green way to the Nevius Bridge, which would be about half a mile. She continued to explain that the Borough could separate the bike lane and the car lanes using striping and temporary delineators; adding that the NJTPA has equipment that could be borrowed for the transition period. Mr. Brown asked if Ms. Knowles had any other traffic calming suggestions. Ms. Knowles stated that the roadway width would be smaller once the bike lanes were added and using the delineators on the curves of the roadway. Discussion ensued about the current speed limit and if the Borough would be agreeable to reduce the speed to 25 MPH. Reducing the speed along with the delineators would help with traffic calming and protect the cyclists. Mayor Carra stated that Council would need to approve an ordinance to reduce the speed limit on Orlando Drive. Ms. Knowles also suggested hosting a ‘Family Bike Day’ in September to encourage the public to take advantage of the new bike lane.

Ms. Knowles also mentioned an idea for a directional mural for the intersection of Nevius Street and Orlando Drive to show the public what’s around. Engineer Brosnan did suggest using a simpler design in order to keep repairs to a minimum. Ms. Knowles added that a QR code could also help provide information about what is offered in the downtown area.

Ms. Knowles then suggested the Borough establish a Downtown Improvement District, similar to a Chambers of Commerce. She recommended the majority of the group being business owners and/or property owners from that area, operating for themselves to help themselves. It was then discussed that the Downtown Improvement District would be a non-profit and able to adopt regulations for such things as infrastructure, aesthetics, and possibly be able to apply for loans and/or other funding. In conjunction with the potential Downtown Improvement District, those who chose to update their building may be able to be a part of a tax abatement program. Those updates could be regulated by the Downtown Improvement District with potential guidelines.

Ms. Knowles then asked about the parking in the designated area and if there has been any progress on an updated parking study, as the last one was done around 2005. Mayor Carra stated that the Borough is making progress and currently have 92 parking spaces from Quick Check to the Library. It was suggested to involve the Department of Public Works especially for stripping on the roadways. Another suggestion made was to have signs posted advising of where Public Parking is located; a QR code could help here as well. Discussion ensued about how to make parking safer and easier for the public.

NEW BUSINESS

None

MISCELLANIOUS

Mayor Carra asked about the progress with the subcommittee and if there have been any guidelines drafted regarding façade, awnings, and other aesthetic updates. Lou Gara responded, stating that they have met a couple of times and are looking to keep things similar to Frenchtown. Discussion ensued amongst the committee and how the regulations should be included in the ordinance, so they overlay with the regulations.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Debra Thomas, the Committee moved to Adjourn the Meeting.

Recorded Vote

All in Favor

Kimberly Mathewson
Acting Municipal Clerk

Approved: _____

Date: _____