

MINUTES

BOROUGH OF RARITAN
REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, JULY 15, 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, Councilman Patente

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

Absent:

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

Council President Tozzi

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution No. 2025-07-102

Entering Executive Session

1. Personnel
Administration, Police, DPW
2. Real Property
First Avenue Tennis Courts

On motion by Councilman Fritzingler, seconded by Council President Tozzi, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-07-102.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzingler, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

Council convened in Executive Session at 6:31 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ADJOURNMENT

Council moved to reconvene in Regular Session unanimously.

On motion by Councilman Fritzinger, seconded by Councilman Patente, Council exited Executive Session and resumed Regular Session at 7:03 p.m.

9 WEST SOMERSET – FURNITURE PRESENTATION

William Ziegler, Mie Shimobayashi – BFI Furniture

William Ziegler presented a detailed presentation of the furniture that will be installed in the new Municipal Building at 9 West Somerset Street. He explained that their goal to make sure the furniture is functional, efficient, and safe. The furniture is more of a contemporary look and is guaranteed for 12 years (parts and labor). Councilman Agrawal asked what was going to happen to the furniture that is being used now, to which Administrator Colvin stated it would stay for the Police Department to utilize how they need it once they take over the entire building.

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)

Adrienne Schwall, 14 Obert Dr: Ms. Schwall asked about what can be done about the loitering on Route 206. Mayor Carra stated that the Police would need to be involved. Ms. Schwall doesn't understand why people can't just go get help from the programs that are available. She then asked how much the Borough makes from the lease agreement with NJ Transit. Administrator Colvin responded, stating that he is unsure of the exact amount but well over \$55,000.

Victor Laggini, 250 Weiss Terr: Mr. Laggini asked about any update on the quiet zone that was discussed with Senator Steinhardt. Council President Tozzi stated that they are looking into other options due to the high cost of a full quiet zone. He stated that he will reach out and follow up at a later meeting. In the mean time the horn has been less and the lights have been shielded.

Adrienne Schwall, 14 Obert Dr: Ms. Schwall again asked about the loitering to which Councilman Patente stated that the Borough needs to look into this and the Police should be issuing tickets if this is a problem.

Joyce Fritchie, 445 Vanderveer Rd: Ms. Fritchie asked about the big fire works that shoot straight up and if they are legal for people to be lighting them in neighborhoods. Borough Attorney Wenner stated that some fireworks are allowed while others are not legal but he will have to look into that. Ms. Fritchie then asked if the audio and video will be better once we are in the new Municipal Building, to which Mayor Carra stated yes, much better as it will all be new equipment.

Chris Allen, 11 Granetz Pl: Mr. Allen asked about the Parade Committee's stolen funds and what happened with that. He also asked about the Raritan Mall and how his donation is a conflict. A heated discussion ensued amongst members of Council and Mr. Allen.

MINUTES

None

COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Patente – Councilman reported that for the month of June the Courts issued 275 tickets and collecting a total of \$27,662.83 and the Borough received \$12,800.00 of that. He added that he will be stopping into the Court over in Bridgewater to see how things are going.

Councilman Fritzing – Councilman Fritzing reported that bulk pick up was on the 10th and is running about 20 tons per event. He then announced the next bulk is on August 14th and reminded the residents that if your mattresses or upholstered furniture is not wrapped it will not be taken. He added that DPW has been doing a lot of road stripping, cross hatches, parking spaces and stop bars. Moving onto Historical, they held a presentation at the Library about Fredrick Frellinghuysen and his contributions to the Civil War and his role in Congress. He then added that the mural has been started on the side of Mangia Buono and suggested anyone interested to go check it out. He lastly announced that the Historical Committee will be meeting at the Municipal Building tomorrow evening at 6:30 p.m.

Council President Tozzi – No report

Councilman DiGraziano – Councilman DiGraziano stated that the Splash Park has been great, all the kids have been enjoying it. Basketball had a good turnout, and adult kickball is hopefully coming soon. He then announced that Santa will be at the Frelinghuysen pool on July 25th to celebrate Christmas in July. He also announced that you can rent the pool for \$150.00 for a party, just reach out to the Director of Recreation. The Councilman also added that they are hopefully going to have a flag-football team in the fall.

Councilman Agrawal – Councilman Agrawal stated that the Library Summer Reading program's attendance is up and wanted to express his congratulations to all the graduates that graduated last month. He then mentioned the demolition project on LaGrange Street and that the Department of Labor is involved and the remediation work must be done by a licensed company. He suggests the Borough review the current ordinance for more clarification.

Councilman Armahizer – No report

Mayor Carra – Mayor Carra stated that he met with Lizett Turner from Somerset County Human Services division. She is involved with the stigma free initiative there. He stated that he is looking into doing a presentation next month for anyone that may be interested in any type of assistance.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Right Turn Only – 5th & Tillman Streets (DT)

Council President Tozzi stated that after outreach to the residents and working with the Police Department restricting the intersection of Fifth Street and First Avenue and then Tillman Street and First Avenue to be right turn only is the safest option. Councilman Patente suggested having the restriction painted onto the roadway to ensure people abide by the new traffic pattern.

2. Raritan Day (DT)

Council President Tozzi stated that he was able to get a different donor for the Raritan Day at Patriots Stadium and that there is a resolution listed for approval tonight.

3. Fourth Round Affordable Housing (UA)

NEW BUSINESS

1. Brentwood Block Party (EC)

Administrator Colvin stated that the Borough received an application for a block party that will be taking place October 11th from 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm. This has been a reoccurring event with no issues in previous years. Mr. Colvin also stated that the Police Department has signed off on the event and he needed the approval from Council.

On motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Councilman Agrawal, Council moved to approve the Brentwood Block Party request.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzingler, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

2. 25 MPH/Bike Path Orlando Drive (DT)

Council President Tozzi stated that this is to get the ball moving on the bike paths and making Orlando Drive safer. The path will be a minimum of 2 ½ ft and buffers used as deterrents.

On motion by Council President Tozzi, seconded by Councilman Fritzingler, Council moved to authorize a draft ordinance reducing the speed on Orlando Drive to 25 MPH.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzingler, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

3. Basilone Parade Amount & Contract (EC)

Administrator Colvin stated that the Basilone Parade Committee is moving forward with obtaining a 501(3)C and that listed tonight is a resolution service agreement with a not to exceed amount. Discussion ensued amongst Council members about moving forward or not with the contribution. It was decided to relist resolution 2025-07-110 for the next meeting.

4. Habitat for Humanity Authorization (NC)

Mayor Carra stated that this is regarding the piece of land the Borough owns by the Train Station and that Habitat intends to build two units at the location if the Borough is agreeable to donate the property.

On motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Council President Tozzi, Council moved to approve the donation of Borough Property to Habitat for Humanity.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzingler, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: x
Motion Carried: 6-0

5. 11 5th Street & Agway VanCleaf Planning Proposals (NC)

Borough Engineer Brosnan stated that these proposals were noted in his report last meeting and that he is now looking for Council approval to start working on the proposals, adding that the money will be coming out of escrow for both projects. Discussion ensued regarding Planning Board guidelines, story level of the buildings, etc.

6. First Avenue Tennis Courts/Mini-Pitch (KD)

Councilman DiGraziano stated that the Borough was approached by the County regarding the First Avenue tennis courts being used as they were approached by the National Soccer Federation Council who wants to use the location as a mini-pitch for three on three or five on five games where kids are able to play. The property is currently owned by the County and they would be submitting the application. Mayor Carra added that most of Council is supportive of the concept and we will wait to see if the application is approved. If it does get approved, there will be further discussions as to how the Borough will move forward.

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING & PUBLIC HEARING

None

ORDINANCES – INTRODUCTION

None

CONSENT AGENDA

(Resolution No. 2025-07-103 through No. 2025-07-115)

Resolution No. 2025-07-103	Authorizing Award of Contract – Transfer Station Disposal of Solid Waste for Boroughs of Raritan & Manville
Resolution No. 2025-07-104	Certifying Annual Report of Audit – 2024
Resolution No. 2025-07-105	Renewing of ABC Liquor License for the 2025-2026 License Term
Resolution No. 2025-07-106	Lien Redemption 109 Brentwood Road
Resolution No. 2025-07-107	Authorizing Award and Execution of Contract – First Due Fire Services
Resolution No. 2025-07-108	Authorizing Award and Execution of Contract – SSP Architects – 22 First Street
Resolution No. 2025-07-109	Authorizing Award and Execution of Contract – BFI Furniture – 9 West Somerset Street
Resolution No. 2025-07-110	Authorizing Award and Execution of Contract – John Basilone Parade Committee Inc.
Resolution No. 2025-07-111	Refunding Donation – Raritan Mall LLC.
Resolution No. 2025-07-112	Authorizing Promotion – DPW Foreman
Resolution No. 2025-07-113	Authorizing Award and Execution of Planning Proposal – VanCleaf Engineering – Agway Site
Resolution No. 2025-07-114	Authorizing Award and Execution of Planning Proposal – VanCleaf Engineering – 11 Fifth Street
Resolution No. 2025-07-115	Lifeguard Salary Increase

Mayor Carra stated that Resolution 2025-07-110- Authorizing Award and Execution of Contract – John Basilone Parade Committee Inc. needs to be pulled from the Consent Agenda.

On motion by Councilman Agrawal, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-07-103 through Resolution No. 2025-05-115-Consent Agenda, excluding Resolution No. 2025-07-110.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzingler, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

BILL LIST

Resolution No. 2025-07-116

Approving Bill List

On a motion by Council President Tozzi, seconded by Councilman Armahizer, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-07-116 – Approving Bills List.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzingler, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

CERTIFICATION OF FUNDS

1. Bridgewater Resources Inc – June 2025 Dumping Fees – \$26,122.06
2. Lincoln Financial Group – 2024 Losap – \$23,817.17
3. New Jersey Transit – July-December 2025 Lease – 27,500.00
4. Pharos Enterprises, LLC – 9 W Somerset St Renovations – \$120,478.69
5. Vortex USA, Inc. – Splash Pad Installation Fees – \$164,705.88

On a motion by Councilman Agrawal, seconded by Councilman Fritzingler, Council moved to Approve the Certification of Funds – June 2025 Dumping Fees, 2024 Losap, July-December 2025 Lease, 9 W Somerset St Renovations and Splash Pad Installation Fees.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzingler, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

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)

Jeff King, 47 Vones Ln: Mr. King asked about a contribution being put into the budget for this year. Mayor Carra responded stating the Borough budgeted \$25,000.00 for events however, Council has not approved an amount for the Basilone Parade Committee for 2025. Mr. King then asked if it would be more appropriate if after an approved amount was determined if that could just be budgeted for constantly instead of calling it a contribution. CFO Paige Elster responded explaining that there is a line item called celebration of public events and that whatever the contracted amount is, will come from that line item. Councilman Agrawal added that the Borough can only budget for what it can afford. Mayor Carra added that the contract would need to be approved each year.

Jim Werner, 407 Victoria St: Mr. Warner asked if the committee has registered as a corporation with the state and do they have an EIN number? If not, he feels that the Borough should give them any money if they have not filed with the state yet. Administrator Colvin added that they have filed with the state and they have a recommendation to establish by laws. That way all members know what the rules and regulations are for the committee.

Chris Allen, 11 Granetz Pl: Mr. Allen commented on the fact that in 40 years the committee never established a 501(3)C adding that all those people that wrote off the donations were fraudulent. He then asked about the sliver of land behind the Raritan Mall and who owns it. Mayor Carra stated he believed the property owner was Ray Rice. Mr. Allen continued by stating that years ago he was told that that land was Green Acres. He then stated that the land was fenced off years ago and it was a backyard with playground stuff where kids went and played. Later, he noticed the piece of land was fenced off again and a notice posted saying land contaminated. He continued to say that now he hears that they will be building on that sliver of land; about 30 units? He expressed his frustration with this town and how they keep approving of these tall buildings which could act as a dam and when the next big storm comes through, the Borough will be devastated with flooding.

Resident (inaudible), 27 First Ave: The resident wanted to ask whose authority it is to enforce the commercial vehicles parking on First Avenue overnight as it is a very big issue. Mayor Carra stated that it is a Police matter. The resident continued to explain that this has been going on for months and it is very dangerous as these vehicles are parking so close to driveways, you cannot see oncoming traffic. Council President Tozzi stated that this is the reason the ordinance was introduced and passed by Council, to prevent this from happening. Mayor Carra reiterated that the issues are Police matters. Discussion ensued amongst Council about taking a look at the overnight commercial vehicle parking ordinance to see if it needs to be amended.

Joyce Fritchie, 445 Vanderveer Rd: Ms. Fritchie stated that whoever re-painted that house on First Avenue did a great job. She then asked with regards to last night's storm, the Governor declared a state of emergency, if there were apartments built at the Raritan Mall, what would happen in a circumstance like that? Mayor Carra stated that a stipulation can be added for when the developer goes to the Planning Board.

Bonnie Allen, 11 Granetz Pl: Ms. Allen asked why this Borough is not going back to the state challenging the affordable housing obligation when surrounding towns are. Mayor Carra responded stating that our affordable housing professional did the equation that the state used and there was a one-off discrepancy; we came up with 99 units the state came up with 100 units. Discussion continued about the regulations for affordable housing as well as the areas prone to flooding in Raritan.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Carra asked for a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting.

On a motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Council President Tozzi, Council moved to Adjourn the Regular Meeting.

Recorded Vote:

All in favor

Motion passed: 6-0

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Kimberly Mathewson
Acting Municipal Clerk

Date: _____