

MINUTES

BOROUGH OF RARITAN REGULAR MEETING

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2025
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, September 2, 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 Fritzinger, Councilman Patente

Also Present: Borough Administrator Colvin, Acting Borough Clerk Mathewson, Borough Attorney Associate Wade Baldwin, and CFO Paige Elster

Absent:

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

Councilman Armahizer

PRESENTATION

New Jersey State Health Benefits Program (SHBP) – Difference Card
Joseph Ablahani – Capital Benefits, LLC

Mr. Ablahani presented an alternative option for the Borough and its employees regarding the rising costs of the New Jersey State Health Benefit Program. He went into great detail about the projected increases for next year and how the Difference Card program could be a cost saver for the Borough and their employees. Some of the benefits include: \$0 co-pays for primary care, specialists, ER visits, and prescriptions through HRA reimbursement, \$0 deductibles, as well as the same doctors and networks-meaning there is no need to change providers. Councilman Agrawal stated that the presentation was good however, he would need to sit down and really read through the information to make an educated decision on what is the best option for the Borough and the employees. He added that he doesn't want Council to make a decision today, that could negatively impact the Borough later down the line. Discussion ensued amongst Council and Mr. Ablahani about the potential financial savings to the Borough and employees with this program.

PROCLAMATION

Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

Proclamation

OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH - SEPTEMBER 2025

WHEREAS, ovarian cancer is the 5th leading cause of death among women, and the American Cancer Society estimates that in 2025 approximately 20,890 women will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer and 12,730 will die from the disease nationwide, including an estimated 670 new cases and 340 deaths in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, a woman's lifetime risk of being diagnosed with ovarian cancer is approximately 1 in 91, and her lifetime risk of dying from the disease is approximately 1 in 143; and

WHEREAS, due to vague, nonspecific symptoms and the absence of a reliable early detection test, the majority of women are diagnosed at Stage III or later, when the cancer has already spread beyond the ovaries; and

WHEREAS, although the five-year survival rate for Stage I ovarian cancer exceeds 90 percent, only 15 percent of cases are diagnosed at this early stage. For those diagnosed in later stages, the five-year survival rate drops below 30 percent; and

WHEREAS, while screening tools such as mammograms and PAP tests exist for breast and cervical cancers, no equivalent screening test exists for ovarian cancer, making awareness of symptoms and risk factors essential for early intervention; and

WHEREAS, increased public education about ovarian cancer can help save lives by promoting earlier diagnosis, supporting access to gynecologic oncology care, and encouraging research funding for better detection and treatment options; and

WHEREAS, during the month of September, the Borough of Raritan joins survivors, families, healthcare professionals, advocacy organizations, and all those committed to raising awareness, remembering lost lives, and offering hope for a future with better outcomes and ultimately, a cure.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nicolas J. Carra, Mayor of the Borough of Raritan do hereby proclaim: September 2025 as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. I encourage all Borough of Raritan residents to participate in awareness activities, wear teal in support, and engage in conversations that help save lives and support the thousands of families affected by this devastating disease.

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.

Patrick Dinsmore, 523 Victoria St: Mr. Dinsmore asked about the Busky Lane resolution listed and asked for Council to confirm that they are referring to the little strip of land behind the mall, to which Mayor Carra confirmed the location. Mr. Dinsmore continued to voice his concerns about transparency and how the Mayor is not following his own Borough Address. The Mayor stated that this is just to authorize the study to see if this property meets the redevelopment requirements to be designated as an area in need, adding that this was also identified in the Borough's Fair Share Housing Plan which does have a hard deadline. Mr. Dinsmore went on to express his frustrations and believes this should be reviewed further before a decision is made. Mr. Dinsmore then asked for confirmation from Council about the sale of the Busky Lane property back in 2013. Mayor Carra confirmed that the property was owned by the Borough and was then sold for \$100 back in 2013 while Jo-Ann Liptak was Mayor. Mr. Dinsmore commented on how that property could have been sold for more than just \$100 and the money could have helped fund things for the Borough.

Lori Bertram, 42 Gaston Ave: Ms. Bertram wanted to thank Council for the 'no left turns' onto First Avenue, as the traffic makes that area dangerous. She then continued to discuss the Stone Bridge complex and how before the project was approved, the agreement was that there would be no traffic out of that development onto Tillman Street, only emergency vehicles. Ms. Bertram stated that there is no gate prohibiting drivers from using the back outlet and she has witnessed on numerous occasions of people speeding through the area just to avoid Route 202. Ms. Bertram proposed first, getting a proper gate installed and suggested possibly getting one of those traffic spikes that allow one way and would damage tires going the wrong way. Mayor Carra stated that they would need to go back and review the resolution approving the project; it could be a violation.

William Atkinson, 39 No. Gaston Ave: Mr. Atkinson stated he could corroborate Ms. Bertram's complaints. He added that it has become dangerous as drivers have no respect for speed.

Matthew Fronheiser, 83 Second Ave: Mr. Fronheiser confirmed that the residents of Stone Bridge have broken the front gate as well as the rear gate.

Council President Tozzi stated that the best thing to do is to follow up with the Planning Board about the agreement and see how the Borough can then enforce it. Mayor Carra thanked the residents for bringing it to Council's attention and confirmed with Counsel that the first step is to review the resolution as well as the developer's agreement.

Steve Bender, 607 Fifth St: Mr. Bender also thanked Mayor and Council for eliminating left turns off of Fifth Street and Tillman. He then asked if anyone has looked into where the traffic on Fifth Street and Ferrand comes from; he believes it is because of the jughandle off of Route 202. When traffic gets backed up, people get pushed into the left lane, that is a left turn only, which then forces them to turn down a side road to get back onto First Avenue. Mr. Bender then added that he wanted to thank Council for all they do but especially Council President Tozzi for helping fix the streetlights. Lastly, he asked if he could speak on a topic that is not on the agenda, to which the Mayor allowed. He brought up his concerns about the demolition of the old

Ric's Café and if there are any precautions being taken regarding rodents. His concern stems from issues the residents in that area had to deal with about two years ago; if they start knocking the building down, the same problems will occur unless something is done. Mayor Carra stated that he would speak with the Construction Official about the concerns and make sure they are addressed.

Matthew Fronheiser, 83 Second Ave: Mr. Fronheiser praised Council for the right turn only off of Fifth Street and Tillman Street. He then brought up a concern for the amount of the traffic coming up First Avenue, going towards Route 202. Specifically, he stated that he has almost been hit by LabCorp drivers on two occasions. His frustration is that everyone is having to deal with changes in traffic patterns and when that happens, people just use the side streets as cut throughs speeding and not actually stopping at stop signs. He continued expressing his frustrations with the lack of enforcement. He then asked for further clarification of the ordinance and if it is just no left turns or will it be designated as a right turn only; he can see people just ignoring the signs and turning left anyway or even driving across to Tillman Street. Councilman Agrawal added that he had gone to Mr. Fronheiser's house and witnessed in a little under an hour, numerous vehicles turn left onto First Avenue. The Councilman stressed the need for enforcement by the Police. He also added that he noticed the issues with vehicles not stopping at the posted stop signs and again stressed the need for enforcement. Councilman Patente suggested looking into making Fifth Street a one-way as that may be a solution. Discussion ensued amongst Council about possible options

Jeff McNally, 902 Farrand St: Mr. McNally also expressed his frustrations with the traffic issues and stated that making it no left turn onto First is not going to solve the problem. Mayor Carra stated that there was a study of the accidents in the area done and the right turn only was the best option. Mr. McNally also added that the drivers from Stone Bridge is a huge problem and suggested to Council to just block the intersection off.

Bruce Taggar, 255 Weiss Terr: Mr. Taggar stated he doesn't believe the one-way option is going to be the answer, people will figure out a way regardless of the traffic patterns. He then asked if there was any update on the DOT's jug handle project; adding that that adds to the traffic issues in that area. He then asked about the proposed bike lane for Orlando Drive and asked if that would then tie into the Duke Farms bike/walking path. Mayor Carra responded, stating that conceptually it would start over by Busky Lane and be on the south side of the road ending by the Nevius Street bridge. Lastly Mr. Taggar asked about what is going to go where Ric's Café is. Mayor Carra stated that nothing has been approved, however, a proposal for six owner occupied town homes.

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

MINUTES

None

COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Patente – Councilman Patente reported for the months of June and July the Court took in about \$54,600 and the Borough received approximately \$25,000. He then stated that the Seniors will be meeting next week, September 10th at noon and encouraged anyone who is

interested in joining. The Councilman then stated that a resident reached out to him about the underpass over First Avenue regarding the white patches, due to graffiti, and if there was anything that could be done. Councilman Armahizer responded stating that he has been in touch with NJ Transit about the underpass and has even requested getting 'Welcome to Raritan' painted on it however, NJ Transit does not allow for advertisements which that would be considered. Councilman Patente continued by asking about the proposed bike lane and if the new apartment building, that is currently going up in that area, would make the sidewalk wider and therefore safer than a bike lane. He asked that someone on the committee take that idea as an option to look into as he is concerned of the drivers coming in and out of town.

Councilman Fritzinger – Councilman Fritzinger reported that the Historical and Cultural committee met last on August 20th and are still operating budgets of \$33,497.92 and the trust is intact with the amount of \$ 1,199.15. He then added that the mural being painted on the side of Mangia Buono is almost complete. The Councilman continued by stated that on September 8th, Tim Rack will be hosting a Somerville Round Table at the Lutheran Church on Route 28. He then reported for Public Works stating the next bulk pick up will be September 11th and reminded residents to be careful what is being put out; nothing corrosive, dangerous, no tires, nothing of that nature and added the reminder to wrap any upholstered furniture.

Council President Tozzi- Council President Tozzi stated that this Saturday the Fire Department will be hosting its second Food Truck event at Washington School Park from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. inviting everyone to enjoy and take part in the festivities. Secondly, he announced that he will be hosting a memorial at the Thompson Street Fire House in honor of the tragic events that took place on September 11, 2001; it will be from 8:30-9:00 a.m.

Councilman DiGraziano – Councilman DiGraziano reported that all the recreation programs are now closed and that unfortunately he received the resignation from the Recreation Director. Adding that they have a meeting scheduled for this upcoming Tuesday to see what the next step is.

Councilman Agrawal – Councilman Agrawal reported that he wanted to welcome all the students back to school as today was their first day. The Councilman added that JFK School is one of two Bridgewater-Raritan sites hosting full-day kindergarten pilot programs. He then announced that in the US News they have a list of all New Jersey High Schools giving them a rank, Councilman Agrawal was happy to state that Bridgewater-Raritan has jumped 36 spots, to be ranked as the 72nd Best Public High School in New Jersey. The Councilman also wanted to congratulate Ms. Kiran Masud as she was named 2025-2026 Somerset County Teacher of the Year by the Department of Education. He then stated that the library has moved more Basilone artifacts to the History Room in anticipation of the Parade and encouraged anyone who is interested to stop by.

Councilman Armahizer – Councilman Armahizer reported that the Environmental Commission will be hosting its bi-annual Community River clean up on September 27th, the weekend following the parade. He also added that they will be hosting a composting workshop on October 4th and collaborating with the Board of Health to host a yoga event scheduled for October 11th. The next meeting for the Environmental Commission will be on September 18th at the Municipal Building. Councilman Armahizer also stated that he has reached out to Council

President about getting a plaque made and added at Veterans Park to honor the service and sacrifice of Raritan women who served during World War II.

Mayor Carra – Mayor Carra stated that he received a letter from Senator Steinhardt regarding the issues with NJ Transit. The Senator stated in the letter that he met with the EPA and the US Department of Transportation as well as the Federal Railroad Administration to further the efforts to bring much needed relief from the noise and diesel pollution to the residents near the Raritan Valley Station. The Senator is still awaiting action from the New Jersey Transit Director regarding the proposed fume study that was discussed during the Town Hall meeting back in February. The Senator stated he remains focused on the urgent health risk proposed by transit diesel air pollution and is hoping to get a meeting within the next couple of weeks as well as a meeting with representatives from OSHA and the Department of Labor and the US Surface Transportation Board to compel them to remedy the noise and air pollution.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. PD and DPW Event Payment (EC)

Administrator Colvin stated that he was looking for Council’s authorization to cover the cost of the Raritan Borough Police and Public Works for the Basilone Parade event.

On a motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Council President Tozzi, Council moved to Approve covering the costs for the Raritan Borough Police and Public Works for the Basilone Parade event.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING & PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance No. 2025-14

Amending and Supplementing Chapter 82-Vehicles and Traffic – Specifically Section 82-35 Entitled “Schedule K: Speed Limits” to establish a 25 Miles Per Hour (MPH) Speed Limit on Orlando Drive

The purpose of this Ordinance is to reduce the speed limit on Orlando Drive to 25 Miles Per Hour

Mayor Carra opened the Public Hearing portion of the meeting for members of the public wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2025-14

Jeff McNally, 902 Farrand St: Mr. McNally confirmed that the speed would be reduced to 25 MPH, stating he thought it was ridiculous, a change of 5 miles an hour.

William Atkinson, 39 No. Gaston Ave: Mr. Atkinson asked who cares?

Lori Bertram, 42 Gaston Ave: Ms. Bertram also agreed with the other residents, stating it is ridiculous.

Mayor Carra added that all Borough Roads would now be 25 miles per hour.

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

On a motion by Councilman Fritzingler, seconded by Councilman Armahizer, Council moved to Adopt Ordinance No. 2025-14.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

Ordinance No. 2025-15

Renaming Section 82-82.3 of Chapter 82-Vehicles and Traffic-Presently Entitled "Through Streets; Stop and Yield Intersections; No Right Turns" to "Through Streets; Stop and Yield Intersections; Certain Turns Prohibited," and Amending and Supplementing same to create paragraph D. Therein to Prohibit Left Turns onto certain Municipal Streets

The purpose of this Ordinance is to prohibit left turns from Fifth and Tillman Streets onto First Avenue

Mayor Carra opened the Public Hearing portion of the meeting for members of the public wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2025-15

Mike Pepe, Board of Education: Mr. Pepe asked if going across First Avenue would be allowed within the ordinance. Mayor Carra confirmed the ordinance will allow right turns only off of Fifth Street onto First Avenue and off Tillman Street onto First Avenue.

Lori Bertram, 42 N Gaston Ave: Ms. Bertram asked about the signage for the streets and stressed the importance of getting the wording correct to advise the drivers. She also mentioned that she will be back at a meeting if the traffic in her neighborhood starts to increase.

Discussion ensued amongst Council and members of the public regarding the drivers using all the side streets in that area as cut throughs with the potential of causing more accidents.

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

On a motion by Councilman Frtizinger, seconded by Council President Tozzi, Council moved to Adopt Ordinance No. 2025-15.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

ORDINANCES – INTRODUCTION

None

CONSENT AGENDA

(Resolution No. 2025-09-132 through No. 2025-09-137)

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Resolution No. 2025-09-132 | Authorizing Disposal of Surplus Equipment – Various Equipment |
| Resolution No. 2025-09-133 | Authorizing the Planning Board to Undertake a Preliminary Investigation for the Redevelopment of Busky Lane – Block 116.01, Lot 26 |
| Resolution No. 2025-09-134 | Authorizing Mayor and Clerk to Execute that Certain Funding Agreement with MSMR Partners, LLC (or its successor Urban Renewal Entity) Relative to the Potential Redevelopment of Block 116.01, Lot 26 |
| Resolution No. 2025-09-135 | Authorizing the Purchase of Police Vehicle |
| Resolution No. 2025-09-136 | Authorizing the Purchase Police Vehicle thru Capital - All American Ford |
| Resolution No. 2025-09-137 | Authorizing the Purchase Police Vehicle thru Capital - Elite Vehicle Solutions |

Councilman Patente asked if Resolution No. 2025-09-133 and Resolution No. 2025-09-134 could be pulled and voted on separately.

Councilman Agrawal also asked the Police vehicles and if these purchases were budgeted for, to which Administrator Colvin confirmed that they were.

On motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Councilman Agrawal, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-09-132, Resolution No. 2025-09-135 through Resolution No. 2025-09-137– Consent Agenda.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

Councilman Patente asked Borough Counsel how the Planning Board would be able to approve a redevelopment project on a lot located in a flood area without a proper flood impact analysis. Borough Attorney Associate Wade Baldwin responded, stating that the Planning Board would review and then recommend it as a possibility or not. The Planning Board would have their engineer, and their planner review the information as that is part of the preliminary analysis.

Councilman Agrawal also shared his concerns about the property as well relating to environmental issues and potential risks. He added that he feels the property should be left alone.

Borough Attorney Associate Wade Baldwin clarified that this is just going to be an investigation, no action will be taken. The Planning Board will send it back to Council with their recommendations for Council to make the final determination.

On motion by Councilman DiGraziano, seconded by Councilman Fritzingler, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-09-133.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

On motion by Councilman Fritzingler, seconded by Council President Tozzi, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-09-134.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

BILL LIST

Resolution No. 2025-09-138

Approving Bill List

On motion by Council President Tozzi, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-09-138 – 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. Axon Enterprises, INC — Taser Equipment & Licenses — \$12,004.50.
2. Borough of Somerville — 3rd Quarter CFO Shared Services — \$20,000.00.
3. Bridgewater Township — 3rd Quarter Court Shared Services — \$65,000.00.
4. Kyle McManus Associates, LLC — Prepare Housing Plan & Hearing — \$19,150.00.

On motion by Councilman DiGraziano, seconded by Council President Tozzi, Council moved to Approve the Certification of Funds – Taser Equipment & Licenses, 3rd Quarter CFO Shared Services, 3rd Quarter Court Shared Services, and Prepare Housing Plan & Hearing.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzinger, 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)

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 expressed his concerns with the Busky Lane property and how no one seems to know about the environmental impact of the property. He then asked about the Environmental Commission's Stream Cleanup event and if they will be notifying the public. Lastly, he suggested to have the developer get involved with the bike lane on Orlando and that the Borough needs to act quickly as his project is almost done.

Chris Allen, 11 Granetz Pl: Mr. Allen expressed his frustration with the lack of answers regarding the 2013 sale of the Busky Lane property for \$100. Mayor Carra stated that it could've been auctioned but he was not aware as he was not on Council then. Mr. Allen continued to share his frustrations with the health and welfare of the residents in that area.

Mike Pepe, B.O.E. Representative: Mr. Pepe wanted to say Welcome Back to School! He added a thank you to Councilman Agrawal for all he has done and continues to do and the liaison for the Board of Education. Mr. Pepe also wanted to congratulate Ms. Kiran Masud as she was named 2025-2026 Somerset County Teacher of the Year by the Department of Education. He then added that the graduation rate is now between 94%-97%, which has been an active effort made by the teachers and the administration over the past several years. Lastly, he announced that on September 9th and September 30th they are having a transportation meeting as the school schedules could be changing and encouraged those interested to join the meeting.

Susan Aira, 21 Frelinghuysen Ave: Ms. Aira stated that she wanted to make sure Council was aware of the issues with parking on her street due to the Enterprise across 206. She stated that the business uses Frelinghuysen Avenue as overflow parking for their company vehicles; parking them

sometimes for the entire day. She suggested that they be forced to use their own property for any overflow. Mayor Carra stated that he would investigate this and follow up with her.

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: 6-0

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Kimberly Mathewson
Acting Municipal Clerk

Date: _____