

MINUTES

BOROUGH OF RARITAN REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 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, September 16, 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

Councilman DiGraziano

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution No. 2025-09-139

Entering Executive Session

1. Attorney Client
Sewer Ordinance, Rules of Order
2. Personnel
Administration

On motion by Councilman Fritzingler, seconded by Councilman Patente, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-09-139.

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 Patente, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council exited Executive Session and resumed Regular Session at 7:16 p.m.

On motion by Councilman Agrawal, seconded by Councilman Patente, Council moved to table the Introduction of Ordinance 2025-16 that is listed on the agenda.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

Mayor Carra stated that prior to Public Comment he wanted to allow Senator Doug Steinhardt to address the meeting. The Senator thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing him to attend and give an update on the ongoing issues relating to the Raritan Valley Train Station. Senator Steinhardt stated that he has traveled to D.C. multiple times over the last several weeks meeting with Intergovernmental Affairs, federal leaders of the EPA, as well as the Regional Director with the EPA to discuss the environmental impact on the Borough. Unfortunately, they advised that their enforcement is limited in what they can do but did suggest reaching out to the Federal Railroad Administration. The Senator continued to state that he also met with the Surface Transportation Board where some progress has been made relating to testing being conducted. He also went on to state that he has also met with OSHA, who specifically deal with some of the environmental concerns that have been reported by some of the residents of Raritan Borough. The Senator then stated that he did get a written commitment from the Director of New Jersey Transit to study the construction of a berm to try and mitigate some of the noise. Senator Steinhardt continued to explain that he is still working with the EPA to conduct some testing relating to air pollution. He again thanked Mayor and Council for allowing him to update the residents and stated that he is available to help in any way he can.

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 stated that he would continue with Public Comment and stated that any member of the public wishing to speak can line up at the podium.

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

MINUTES

1. August 19, 2025 – Regular Meeting

Mayor Carra asked for a motion to Approve the August 19, 2025 Minutes.

On a motion by Councilman Fritzinger, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council moved to Approve the August 19, 2025 Minutes.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzingler

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: Patente

Motion Carried: 5-0-1

COMMITTEE & LIAISON & REPORTS

Councilman Armahizer- Councilman Armahizer stated that he had nothing new to report since the previous meeting; adding that the Environmental Commission will be meeting this Thursday, September 18th.

Councilman Agrawal- Councilman Agrawal stated that the Board of Health will be hosting a free flu clinic on September 23rd from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building. He also stated that the Board of Health, in collaboration with the Environmental Commission, will be hosting a free yoga session on October 11th at 9:00 a.m. located on the Nevius Street Bridge. Next, he stated that Somerset County will be hosting Lead Free Kids Family Health Fair on October 14th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The County will be doing lead screenings for children, household item testing, and education and information. The Councilman then added that the Board of Health will be doing blood pressure screenings during the John Basilone Parade over by the new Municipal Building. Councilman Agrawal also stated that the Board of Health collected \$5,000.00 in fees to date.

Councilman DiGraziano- Councilman DiGraziano stated that Recreation is getting ready for the Trunk of Treat event that will be on October 25th from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. located at JFK School.

Council President Tozzi- Council President Tozzi thanked all those who came to the September 11th Memorial at the Firehouse.

Councilman Fritzingler- Councilman Fritzingler stated that bulk pickup was on 09/11 and collection has been running smoothly. He also stated that the Historical and Cultural Committee will be meeting tomorrow at the Municipal Building at 6:30 p.m. for anyone who would like to attend.

Councilman Patente- Councilman Patente reported that the Court collected about \$16,000.00 through our shared service with Bridgewater. He also added that next month this update will be included with the Administrative Report.

Councilman Fritzingler asked if he could add something quick that was missed in his report. He stated that Tim Rack did a presentation over at the John Basilone Round Table on September 8th, which was well received; even some of the members of the Historical and Cultural Committee were able to attend.

Administrator Colvin- Administrator Colvin stated that the Police Department recently hosted National Night Out as well as the PBA hosting a school supplies drive which helped families in need. He also added that the Police Department is in the process of working with an architect for this building, once the administrative offices have moved out. Public Works has been working

on cleaning the catch basins throughout the Borough, pump station maintenance, and herbicide applications. DPW is also working on the Train Station Parking lot as we recently went electronic for those who use the lot. He continued with Administration stating that the Borough is looking to make the switch to the Difference Card after the presentation at the last meeting; the resolution is listed for Council's consideration. Regarding the 9 West Somerset building, the furniture is ordered and delivered once the building is almost finished. He added that there are a few slight delays with the elevator but that the building renovation is coming along. Next Administrator Colvin stated that the Basilone Parade was this past weekend which was a great success. He also added that Raritan Day at Patriot's Stadium was also a great event with many families in attendance.

Councilman Patente asked if the 9 West Building's parking lot would be paved for the public to use during the parade, Mr. Colvin stated it would not be ready. Mayor Carra then advised that parade attendees can use the Zeus building's lot as well as at the Raritan Mall for parking.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Carra stated that nothing was listed for old business, however he wanted to take the opportunity to put a Sewer Committee together, adding that two members of the Sewage Authority are in attendance and interested in providing information and helping figure out the financial burden may be. Mayor Carra asked if they would like to be apart of the Committee, which they agreed, and he then added Councilman Fritzingler as well as Councilman Agrawal. Discussion ensued about availability for the members to meet.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Somersetstrong 5K/10K event-banner request (EC)

Administrator Colvin stated that he received a request from Somersetstrong to have their banner hung across Somerset Street advertising their upcoming 5K/10K event on October 25th.

On motion by Councilman Fritzingler, seconded by Council President Tozzi, Council moved to approve Somersetstrong 5K/10K banner being hung.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

2. New CERT Member (DT)

Council President Tozzi stated that he is requesting Council to approve a new CERT member, Marie Hendricks.

On motion by Councilman Fritzingler, seconded by Councilman Patente, Council moved to approve Marie Hendricks being added as a new CERT member.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Absent: x
Abstain: x
Motion Carried: 6-0

3. Dance for the Cure (DT)

Council President Tozzi stated he is looking for Council's approval for Dance for the Cure to display pink ribbons around the Borough for Breast Cancer awareness and for the Borough to do proclamation, as we did last year for the month of October

On motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council moved to approve the pink ribbons and a Proclamation.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

4. Bulk Collection (DF)

Councilman Fritzingler stated that currently the Borough has nine bulk pick-up collections within a year which cost the Borough roughly \$84,000.00 a year. The sub-committee is looking to streamlining bulk to be five pick-ups a year which could potentially save the Borough around \$42,000.00. He continued to explain that the new schedule would start in March and be every other month until November (March, May, July, September, & November). Councilman Patente explained the reasons for this changing, first being the costs to the Borough for bulk are increasing. The other major reason for the change is that people from out of town do come in and put their stuff, so it gets picked up at no cost to them; most other towns/boroughs charge for bulk. The Councilman continued to explain that he agrees with the five pick-ups a year but he added that they should look into having some limits on bulk so it does not get abused. Councilman Fritzingler also added that the idea of stickers has been brought up and will be further discussed at later meetings. Discussion ensued between Council members about possible options for bulk pick-up within Raritan as well as getting together guidelines and enforcement regulations.

On motion by Councilman Fritzingler, seconded by Councilman Patente, Council moved to approve five bulk pick-up dates for 2026.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Fritzingler, Patente

Nay: Armahizer

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-1

5. Recreation Conversation (KD)

Councilman DiGraziano stated that unfortunately, the Director of Recreation recently submitted his resignation. He also stated that during their meeting last week the remaining members

discussed how to move forward; adding that the Tax Collector will be stepping in to help in the meantime. The Councilman then requested the approval of Council for Alicia Wiecenski, who is currently an alternate member, to be made a full member of Recreation. He also stated that the committee needs to figure out what direction they want to go, making the Committee a Commission, a shared service, or hiring a director. Discussion ensued amongst Council members on options for Recreation and what would benefit the Borough residents. Councilman Patente suggested having a sub-committee to help identify the direction the Recreation Committee need to move forward. Councilman DiGraziano, Councilman Patente and Councilman Aramhizer all volunteered to be a part of the sub-committee and will need to coordinate with the Administrator for availability on meeting.

On motion by Councilman DiGraziano, seconded by Council President Tozzi, Council moved to approve Alicia Wiecenski filling the seat vacated by Joan Hutzler, for a term expiring December 31st, 2027 on the Recreation Committee.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING & PUBLIC HEARING

None

ORDINANCES – INTRODUCTION

Ordinance No. 2025-16

An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, abolishing and replacing Chapter 286, Sewers

The purpose of this ordinance is to establish sewer billing based on usage for all users of the system

Mayor Carra noted that the Introduction of Ordinance 2026-16 was tabled earlier in the meeting.

Ordinance No. 2025-17

An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, amending Chapter 82, Vehicles and Traffic, to update NJ Transit parking days, hours, and fees

The purpose of this ordinance is to adjust the days and hours, as well as the fees, associated with parking at the train station

On motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council moved to Introduce Ordinance No. 2025-17.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzinger, Patente
Nay: x
Absent: x
Abstain: x
Motion Carried: 6-0

CONSENT AGENDA

(Resolution No. 2025-09-140 through No. 2025-09-150)

Resolution No. 2025-09-140	Approving Budget Amendment Pursuant to NJSA 40A:4-87 (Ch. 159, P.L. 1948) from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs Bulletproof Vest Partnership Reimbursement
Resolution No. 2025-09-141	Approving Budget Amendment Pursuant to NJSA 40A:4-87 from the State of New Jersey, Office of Law and Public Safety
Resolution No. 2025-09-142	Appointing EB Employee Solutions, LLC DBA as the Difference Card to provide HRA Services for the Borough of Raritan
Resolution No. 2025-09-143	Authorizing Consent of TWA for Johnson & Johnson Raritan Campus – Block 18, Lot 2
Resolution No. 2025-09-144	Cancel Taxes Assessed on Municipal Property – Block 3, Lot 22
Resolution No. 2025-09-145	Cancel Taxes Assessed on Municipal Property – Block 107, Lot 3
Resolution No. 2025-09-146	Refunding Monthly Parking Pass – R. Rigby
Resolution No. 2025-09-147	Refund Tax Overpayment – Block 86, Lot 5
Resolution No. 2025-09-148	Refund Tax Overpayment – Block 79, Lot 25
Resolution No. 2025-09-149	Refund Tax Overpayment – Block 60, Lot 1
Resolution No. 2025-09-150	Voiding Contract – Townwide Revaluation – Realty Data Systems (RDS) and Authorizing Re-Advertisement for Town-Wide Property Revaluation

Councilman Agrawal asked if Resolution No. 2025-09-150 could be pulled from the Consent Agenda.

Councilman Patente stated that he wanted to thank Administration for the work they did with the Difference Card insurance benefit.

On motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Councilman Fritzinger, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-09-140 through Resolution No. 2025-09-149.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Tozzi, Agrawal, Armahizer, DiGraziano, Fritzinger, Patente
Nay: x
Absent: x
Abstain: x
Motion Carried: 6-0

Councilman Agrawal asked for clarification regarding Resolution No. 2025-09-150. Administrator Colvin responded, stating that unfortunately there was a delay with the tax map updates from the state and essentially due to that process being so delayed, the current contract is now outdated, and the Borough will have to go back out to bid. Councilman Agrawal asked why there was such a delay and who is responsible. Borough Engineer Brosnan responded, stating that our Engineering firm is responsible for doing the tax map changes. He continued to explain that there were a number of changes from the state and the firm going back and forth to ensure the updates were made correctly. Discussion ensued amongst Council and Borough Administrator Colvin about the next steps in the process.

On motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Councilman Fritzingler, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-09-150.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

BILL LIST

Resolution No. 2025-09-151

Approving Bill List

Councilman Agrawal asked about the Gibson PC Bond Anticipation Note in the amount of \$10,132.00. Administrator Colvin responded stating that the Borough had to get reevaluated for our Financial Bond Rating.

On motion by Councilman DiGraziano, seconded by Councilman Patente, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-09-150.

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—August Dumping Fees—\$23,403.75.
2. Gibbons P.C.—Bond Anticipation Notes—\$10,132.68.
3. Vortex USA, INC—Final Payment Splash Park—\$27,391.71.

On motion by Councilman DiGraziano, seconded by Councilman Armahizer, Council moved to Approve Certification of Funds.

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)

Mayor Carra stated that he would continue with Public Comment and stated that any member of the public wishing to speak can line up at the podium.

Jim Werner, 407 Victoria St: Mr. Werner asked if the Borough was responsible for maintaining the Tarin Station parking lot, to which the Mayor confirmed. Mr. Werner wanted to make Council and the Borough aware that when it really rains, the main parking lot floods as well as the sidewalk. Administrator Colvin stated that the Borough is aware of the issues with the parking lot and are trying to work with NJ Transit to have them pave it so it would not fall onto the Borough. Mr. Werner then asked about bulk pick-up and what is done about the residents who put their stuff out a week ahead of time. Council President Tozzi responded stating that as earlier discussed, Council will be looking into making guidelines and enforcement for bulk pick-up. Mayor Carra also added that currently, Property Maintenance would handle enforcement of bulk being put out too early.

Jim Foohey, 710 Rhine Blvd: Mr. Foohey stated that he thinks Council needs to define exactly what bulk pick-up is to eliminate people putting out whatever they think qualifies. He also added that he thinks it will be very confusing going with every other month bulk dates. Next, Mr. Foohey suggested that the Borough notice the public that the Council meetings are now on channel 1300 on Optimum; adding that if they go to channel 15 it will say to check local listings. He then stated that if the executive session is going to run over, Council should adjourn for the regular meeting and then go back into executive session. Lastly, Mr. Foohey stated that the library will be having a book sale of October 3rd and 4th during Library hours; they are also accepting donations now.

Joyce Melitsky, 43 Gaston Ave: Ms. Melitsky asked about the bulk pick-up and what can older residents do if that have something that needs to get put out and asked questions about the stickers. Councilman Patente stated that there has not been a formal decision made on the stickers as the committee needs to discuss all options relating to bulk pick-up in Raritan.

Linda Harwood, 8 Normandie Ln: Ms. Harwood suggested rolling out changes to bulk pick-up all at once. Allowing for later changes could cause confusion for the residents.

Adrienne Schwall, 14 Obert Dr: Ms. Schwall wanted to put on record that this week was the worst with the train horn and diesel emissions; she couldn't even enjoy sitting outside in the nice weather because of the train. She suggested that the Borough Attorney write a letter on behalf of the Borough to NJ Transit explaining that they are disturbing our residents' quality of life. Ms. Schwall went on to express her frustration with the issues revolving around the train.

Jim Fidacaro, 812 Lynwood St: Mr. Fidacaro stated that the idea proposed last November for Washington School Park was a great idea. Since then, there has been no follow up meeting or communication about what was decided. Mayor Carra stated that there has not been a decision

made for the property yet. Unfortunately, they are waiting on clarification from the Fire Department if they want to put a Fire House there and also waiting for Council's consensus if they would approve a Fire House or keep the lot as a park. Discussion ensued amongst Council on what the next steps would be. Mr. Fidacro then asked about the bike lanes proposed for Orlando Drive and mentioned the grant that was approved years ago to add bike lanes to Thompson and Anderson Street and asked about the status of that. Mayor Carra responded stating that the Borough is still working on the grant, it was approved under Mayor McMullin 2016. He continued to explain that with the grant the Borough had to use an outside engineering planner, and they have been delayed. Borough Engineer Brosnan added that there hasn't been a single TAP Grant executed within the whole state, so it's not just Raritan being affected. The Mayor continued to express the frustration with the state's pace working on these projects.

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 Fritzinger, 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 8:26 p.m.

Kimberly Mathewson
Acting Municipal Clerk

Date: _____