

MINUTES

BOROUGH OF RARITAN
REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 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 Fritzingler

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution No. 2025-10-152

Entering Executive Session

1. Personnel
DPW, Finance, PD, Administration
2. Shared Services
Recreation

On motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Council President Tozzi, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-10-152.

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 6:32 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ADJOURNMENT

Council moved to reconvene in Regular Session unanimously.

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

PROCLAMATION

Breast Cancer Awareness – October 2025

Proclamation

**DANCE FOR THE CURE'S PINK BOW PROJECT
BREAST CANCER AWARENESS - OCTOBER 2025**

WHEREAS, October is *National Breast Cancer Awareness Month*, an annual campaign to increase awareness of this disease, dedicated to increasing public knowledge about the importance of early detection of breast cancer diagnosis and treatment; and

WHEREAS, this year is Raritan Borough's second year participating in Dance for the Cure's Pink Bow Project; and

WHEREAS, Kathleen Cirioli is a three-time cancer survivor and former owner of the Kathleen Academy of Dance and present owner of JustTAP! located in Hillsborough, NJ. Her career in dance is how and why Dance for the Cure was founded as she was supported by so many of her dance studio families while going through her own journey; and

WHEREAS, Dance for the Cure is a not for profit organization committed to the prevention and cure of breast cancer through the celebration of dance; and

WHEREAS, the Pink Bow Project is one of Dance for the Cure's ongoing efforts to raise awareness and provide financial help to breast cancer patients in Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, and Somerset counties; and

WHEREAS, on October 4, 2025, Council President Tozzi and Dance for the Cure volunteers hung large pink bows along the Borough's main street, thus spreading awareness; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Carra and Borough Council are excited to continue this annual tradition for years to come.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nicolas J. Carra, Mayor of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey do hereby declare October 2025 as *Breast Cancer Awareness Month* and urge all women and their families to increase their knowledge about breast cancer and join us to celebrate successes and memorialize lost battles.

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.

Adrienne Schwall, 14 Obert Dr: Ms. Schwall stated that she wanted to follow up on her previous request to send a letter from the Borough to NJ Transit detailing the continued issues that are hurting the quality of life for the residents in the Borough. Borough Attorney Wenner responded, stating that he is working with Senator Steinhardt's office to draft a joint letter which may have more of an impact than just a letter from the Borough itself. Ms. Schwall then asked about the homeless individuals that used to stand at the corner of Route 206 and Somerset Street. Mayor Carra stated that he and the Police Chief have been working with Somerville's Police to enforce what they can to deter those individuals from hanging around that area. Ms. Schwall stated that she appreciated the enforcement and the fact that she has not seen people on those corners recently. She then added that the Borough should send their own letter to NJ Transit.

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

MINUTES

1. September 2, 2025 – Regular Meeting

Mayor Carra asked for a motion to Approve the September 2, 2025 Minutes.

On a motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Councilman Fritzinger, Council moved to Approve the September 2, 2025 Minutes.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Patente – No Report

Councilman Fritzinger – Councilman Fritzinger reported that the Historic and Cultural Committee met on September 17th; their budget is intact with \$3,174.90 and their Trust is intact with \$1,199.15. He continued to state that there is a Library program scheduled for October 11th at 1:00 pm, Matthew Dod will be hosting Red White and Blue, a satire through American History. He continued to share that on September 27th there was a ribbon cutting for the mural on the side of Mangia Buono; the mural came out fantastic and the artist was commended for his efforts. The next meeting of the Historic and Cultural Committee will be October 15th. Bulk pick-up will be on 10/09 and just a gentle reminder to make sure things are wrapped up such as upholstered furniture and mattresses and no batteries or electronics adding that the Borough has one bulk pick-up day left in November.

Council President Tozzi – Council President Tozzi stated that this year's Basilone Parade may have been their biggest yet and thanked all the volunteers, the Basilone Parade Committee, and all those involved to make the event so great. He then continued on stating that the Borough will

be hosting a tree lighting again this year in December and that PSE&G are going to be checking all of the light post for our snowflakes to be mounted. Council President the added that they are working on a few ideas for Washington School Park to host a concert, a movie night that would be free to the public for next spring/summer.

Councilman DiGraziano – Councilman DiGraziano stated that Recreation is working on setting up Trunk or Treat at JFK School on October 25th, from 1-3:00 pm. He also wanted to thank Alicia for all the work she has been doing and the help she has been giving to Recreation. He also added that they are currently working on getting a date for Santa to come to Frelinghuysen Park.

Councilman Agrawal – Councilman Agrawal stated that the Board of Education is considering changing the school start time and suggested that the residents go look at the Board's website for more information as well as reaching out to Mr. Pepe if they have any questions as this may impact your family. He then stated that the Environmental Commission and the Board of Health will be hosting a yoga event at the Nevius Street bridge on October 11th at 9:00 am. It is a free event for all those interested, just bring your mat and water. He stated the licensed yoga instructor will be doing 30 minutes of meditation and then 30 minutes of moderate yoga. The Councilman then went on to state that a resident had notified him of a homeless individual that sleeps over by the Raritan Mall where the Stop and Shop was located. He asked if the Police could look into this as well as reports of people sleeping under the bridge. The Councilman then continued regarding the Richard Street project and thanked Borough Engineer Brosnan for getting the punch list together. He stressed the importance of checking into the work being done and reviewing after the company states they have complied with the list.

Councilman Armahizer – Councilman Armahizer stated he had nothing to report however, he wanted to thank everyone who came out for the Community Cleanup that the Environmental Commission hosted; collected more than a dozen trash bags full of debris from the surrounding area.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Raritan Fire Department – New Member – Natasha Mason (DT)

Council President Tozzi stated that the Fire Chief had gotten in touch with him and the Borough Administrator stating they had a new member, Natasha Mason, who has passed all the requirements.

On a motion by Council President Tozzi, seconded by Councilman Armahizer, Council moved to appoint Natasha Mason to the Raritan Borough Fire Department.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

2. Best Practices Inventory (EC)

Borough Administrator Colvin stated that he and the CFO completed the Best Practices report that is due to the State each year. He continued by stating for those who are unfamiliar this is part of a formula the State uses to calculate financial aid a Municipality could receive. Based on our score for Raritan, which was in the low forties, we should receive the maximum of whatever the aid calculation comes out to.

Administrator Colvin also added that Angela Knowles will be submitting a letter for the Borough for the way finding signs that she has been working on. Lastly, the Fire Department will be hosting another Food Truck Festival on October 24th, due to the weather shutting down their last event. He stated it would be the same set up as last time, from 4:00-10:00 pm

On a motion by Council President Tozzi, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council moved to approve the Food Truck Festival for the Fire Department.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

Mayor Carra stated that after Executive Session Council was supposed to authorize the hiring of a new DPW employee.

On a motion by Councilman Fritzingler, seconded by Councilman Patente, Council moved to authorize the advertisement for a new DPW employee.

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. 2025-17

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

Mayor Carra opened the Public Hearing portion of the meeting for members of the public wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2025-17

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

On a motion by Council President Tozzi, seconded by Councilman Patente, Council moved to Adopt Ordinance No. 2025-17.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

ORDINANCES – INTRODUCTION

None

CONSENT AGENDA

(Resolution No. 2025-01-153 through No. 2025-01-154)

Resolution No. 2025-10-153

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. 2025-10-154

Authorizing Submission of 2026 CHPP Grant
Application

Councilman Agrwal provided an update regarding the CHPP grant; he stated that the Borough has applied for the grant with the objective is to get up to \$20,000.00 in grant money that could then be used for signage for our multiple Historical sites. He continued to state that with the signs, the Borough could then host a walking tour or have a self-guided tour of the historic places within the Borough. He added that this could include plaques for our Gold Star homes. He expressed his thanks to the Historic and Cultural Committee and our grant company for the submission.

On motion by Councilman DiGraziano, seconded by Councilman Fritzingler, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-10-153 through Resolution No. 2025-10-154– Consent Agenda.

Recorded Vote

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

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 6-0

BILL LIST

Resolution No. 2025-10-155

Approving Bill List

On motion by Councilman Agrawal, seconded by Councilman Patente, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2025-10-155 – 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 – Annual BWC - \$15,005.44
2. Ford Motor Company, LLC – 2nd Payment Marked & Unmarked Vehicles - \$40,583.68

On motion by Councilman Agrawal, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council moved to Approve the Certification of Funds – Annual BWC and 2nd Payment Marked & Unmarked Vehicles.

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 opened the Public Comment portion of the meeting for members of the public wishing to speak.

Mike Pepe, Board of Education: Mr. Pepe praised the Basilone Parade on another successful year and how great it was for the schools to be able to participate this year. He added that the parade was streamed live and is currently available on the BRTV and on YouTube for those who may have missed it.

Gordon White, 580 Perlee Ave: Mr. White stated that he is the president of the Board of Directors of the Food Bank Network of Somerset County and wanted to announce that after many months of work, they have found a place to open a pantry again within the Borough. He continued to explain that its great news however, they are being charged \$500.00 a month in rent and are seeking assistance. They do not receive much government fund, and it is a separate 501C3 self-funded, donation-based organization that delivers about 4 million pounds of food a year from donations. He added that they are hoping to open within the next couple of weeks.

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

October 7, 2025
Regular Meeting

Motion passed: 6-0

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Kimberly Mathewson
Acting Municipal Clerk

Date: _____