

CALL TO ORDER

The Annual Reorganization Meeting of the Governing Body of the Borough of Raritan was called to order by Acting Borough Clerk Kimberly Mathewson at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the second floor Meeting Room of Borough Hall, Borough of Raritan, 9 West Somerset Street, Raritan, NJ 08869.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Acting Borough Clerk Kimberly Mathewson read the following statement:

This Annual Reorganization Meeting was called pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice of this meeting was posted in Borough Hall, made available on the Borough website and communicated to *The Courier News*, *The Star Ledger* and *The Breeze* on December 19, 2025.

INVOCATION

Councilman DiGraziano

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OATHS OF OFFICE – COUNCIL

The following oaths of office were administered:

Councilman Umesh Agrawal
Councilman William Harwood

APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR & OATH OF OFFICE

Borough Attorney Wenner stated that the committee supplied three candidates for the vacant mayor seat; those names are Kenneth DiGraziano, David Fritzingler, and Donald Tozzi

On motion by Councilman Fritzingler, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council voted to elect Don Tozzi to serve as Mayor.

Recorded Vote

Yea: DiGraziano, Fritzingler, Harwood, Tozzi

Nay: Agrawal, Patente

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 4-2

ROLL CALL – MAYOR & COUNCIL

Kimberly Mathewson – Acting Borough Clerk

ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT & OATH OF OFFICE

Mayor Tozzi asked for a nomination for Council President.

On a motion by Councilman Harwood, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council voted to Elect Councilman Fritzingler to serve as Council President.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Agrawal, DiGraziano, Fritzingler, Harwood, Tozzi

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: Patente

Motion Carried: 4-0-1

RARITAN FIRE DEPARTMENT – OATHS OF OFFICE

Captain – Tom DeSantis

Deputy Chief – Brian Wood

2nd Lieutenant – Fabian Ardila

Unfortunately, Chief Kredatus stated Captain and the Lieutenants were unable to make the swearing in.

MAYOR REMARKS

Mayor Tozzi thanked his colleagues on Council for putting their trust in him to serve as Mayor. He continued by recognizing the Borough employees and professionals who continue to do the everyday work that helps keep this community running. Mayor Tozzi added that his focus will be on collaboration and responsible decision making to ensure the best results for the residents of Raritan. Lastly, he stated that he is committed to listening and working with Council to remain transparent and move the Borough in the right direction.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilman Patente- Councilman Patente thanked all those in attendance for coming out, adding that he hopes this year Mayor and Council will work together for the betterment of the residents of Raritan.

Council President Fritzingler- Council President Fritzingler thanked Adam Armahizer for his service to the Borough and to its residents, wishing him well on his future endeavors. He then welcomed back Councilman Agrawal and welcomed Councilman Harwood adding that he is looking forward to working with everyone to better serve the community. He then thanked previous Mayor Carra for being a part of his dream that became this new building.

Councilman DiGraziano- Councilman DiGraziano thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and is looking forward to working with his fellow elected officials.

Councilman Agrawal- Councilman Agrawal added his thanks to all the residents for their support and the opportunity to serve the Borough for a full Council term. He also stated that this year he hopes Council can make the right decisions for the all the residents of Raritan.

Councilman Harwood- Councilman Harwood congratulated all the members that were recently re-elected, and he is looking forward to working them in this new year.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS *without Consent of Council*

Environmental Commission

3-year term – 1/1/2026 to 12/31/2028

Member – Heath Hoffmeister
Member – Tony Sacino
Member – Vincent LoMedico
Alt. No. 1 – 2-year term – Ryan Bellinger

Historical & Cultural Committee

3-year term – 1/1/2026 to 12/31/2028

Member – Tim Rack
Member – Gail Ostapczuk
Member – Lisa D’Angelo
Alt. No. 1 – 1-year term – 2026 –
James Fidacaro
Alt. No. 2 – 1-year term – 2026 –
Dawn Wilde

Municipal Land Use Board

Terms Vary

Class III Member – 1-year term – 1/1/2026 to
12/31/2026 – Councilman Harwood
Class IV Member – 4-year term – 1/1/2026 to
12/31/2029 – Barrett Windrem
Class II Member – 1-year term – 1/1/2026 to
12/31/2026 – Lou Gara
Alt. No. 3 – 2-year term – 1/1/2026 to
12/31/2027 – Deborah Thomas

Redevelopment Advisory Committee

Terms Vary

Member – 1-year term – 2026 –
Councilman Harwood
Member – 1-year term – 2026 –
Administrator Eric Colvin
Member – 3-year term – 01/01/2026 to
12/31/2028 – William Cunningham
Member – 2-year term – 01/01/2026 to
12/31/2027 – Thomas Brown
Member – 2-year term – 01/01/2026 to
12/31/2027 – Lou Gara
Member – 3-year term – 01/01/2026 to
12/31/2028 – Joseph Brosnan

Regional Center Executive Board

1-year term – 1/1/2026 to 12/31/2026

Member – Mayor Tozzi
Member – Administrator Eric Colvin

Member – Engineer Joseph Brosnan
Member – Business Owner Sarah Trent

Solid Waste Advisory Board
1-year term – 1/1/2026 to 12/31/2026

Member – Council President Fritzingler
Member – Recycling Coordinator Vincent
LoMedico

Somerset County Municipal Wastewater
Management Plan Committee
1-year term – 1/1/2026 to 12/31/2026

Elected Official – Council President Fritzingler
Planning Board – Tony LoPresti
Borough Engineer – Joseph Brosnan
SRSVA Member – Edward Machala
Recycling Coordinator – Vincent LoMedico

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS *with Consent of Council*

Mayor Carra announced the following appointments requiring the consent of Council:

Board of Health
3-year term, 1/1/2026 to 12/31/2028

Member – Kathryn Mastice
Member – Preni Nair
Member – Carol Werner

Library Board of Trustees
5-year term, 1/1/2026 to 12/31/2030

Member – Adele Goetsch

Recreation Committee
3-year terms

Member – Joyce Melitsky 2026-2028
Member – Zachary Bray 2026-2028
Member – Jeffrey King 2026-2027
Member – Colleen Kempe 2026-2027
Member – Jim Fidacaro 2026-2027
Member – Director Stephanie Cornelson 2026
Member – Asst. Dir. Alicia Wiecewski 2026

On a motion by Council President Fritzingler, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council moved to Approve members Kathryn Mastice, Preni Nair, and Carol Werner to the Board of Health.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Fritzingler, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Harwood, Patente

Nay: x
Absent: x
Abstain: x
Motion Carried: 5-0

On a motion by Councilman Agrawal, seconded by Councilman DiGraziaiano, Council moved to Approve member Adele Goetsch to the Library Board of Trustees.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Fritzinger, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Harwood, Patente
Nay: x
Absent: x
Abstain: x
Motion Carried: 5-0

On a motion by Councilman DiGraziano, seconded by Councilman Agrawal, Council moved to Approve members Joyce Melitsky, Zachary Bray, Jeffrey King, Colleen Kempe, and Jim Fidacro to the Recreation Committee.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Fritzinger, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Harwood, Patente
Nay: x
Absent: x
Abstain: x
Motion Carried: 5-0

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution No. 2026-01-001	Appointing Borough Attorney
Resolution No. 2026-01-002	Appointing Bond Counsel
Resolution No. 2026-01-003	Appointing Labor Counsel
Resolution No. 2026-01-004	Appointing Special Counsel
Resolution No. 2026-01-005	Appointing Registered Municipal Accountant
Resolution No. 2026-01-006	Appointing Insurance Agent
Resolution No. 2026-01-007	Approving Cash Management Plan
Resolution No. 2026-01-008	Appointing Various Officials
Resolution No. 2026-01-009	Appointing Depositories/Financial Institutions

Resolution No. 2026-01-010	Appointing Custodians of Accounts
Resolution No. 2026-01-011	Adopting 2026 Temporary Budget
Resolution No. 2026-01-012	Fixing Interest Rates – Delinquent Taxes and Sewer
Resolution No. 2026-01-013	Designating Official Newspapers
Resolution No. 2026-01-014	Designating Paid Holidays
Resolution No. 2026-01-015	Establishing 2026 Calendar of Meetings
Resolution No. 2026-01-016	Appointing Qualified Purchasing Agent
Resolution No. 2026-01-017	Renewing Elevator Subcode Inspections and Services Agreement
Resolution No. 2026-01-018	Awarding Professional Services Contract – Bruno Associates, Inc.
Resolution No. 2026-01-019	Appointing Municipal Prosecutor
Resolution No. 2026-01-020	Reappointing Financial Advisors – Phoenix
Resolution No. 2026-01-021	Appointing Borough Engineer – VanCleaf Engineers
Resolution No. 2026-01-001	Appointing Borough Attorney

Councilman Patente requested Resolution No. 2026-01-003 and Resolution No. 2026-01-021 be pulled from the Consent Agenda.

On a motion by Council President Fritzing, seconded by Councilman Patente, Council moved to Adopt the Consent Agenda, excluding Resolution No.2026-01-003 and Resolution No. 2026-01-021.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Fritzing, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Harwood, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

Councilman Patente stated that he is disappointed to see the same Labor Council and Engineering Firm listed for approval during tonight's meeting even after he had sent in a list of

other possible options for the Borough. He continued to express his frustrations with the lack of communication amongst Council members. Councilman Agrawal also added that the Borough needs to make smart decisions moving forward, including researching and vetting our professionals.

On a motion by Councilman DiGraziano, seconded by Councilman Harwood, Council moved to Adopt Resolution No.2026-01-003.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Fritzingler, DiGraziano, Harwood

Nay: Agrawal, Patente

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 3-2

On a motion by Council President Fritzingler, seconded by Councilman Harwood, Council moved to Adopt Resolution No.2026-01-021.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Fritzingler, DiGraziano, Harwood

Nay: Agrawal, Patente

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 3-2

PUBLIC COMMENT

In accordance with the Code of the Borough of Raritan, there shall be a five-minute time limit per speaker.

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

Nicolas Carra, 62 LaGrange St: Mr. Carra questioned why Councilman Patente and Councilman Agrawal opposed the appointments of the Labor Attorney and the Municipal Engineer and suggested that their opposition was driven by personal or political considerations rather than based professional merit. He continued by stating that he feels that Councilman Patente's opposition of Van Cleef Engineering stems from a private property drainage dispute; two independent engineering firms concluded that the issue was not a municipal responsibility, yet taxpayer funded reviews continued. Mr. Carra then addressed the opposed Labor Attorney and stated that the opposition arose after the attorney advised that a proposed severance payment to a retiring employee was not legally permissible. He then added that while the majority of Council accepted the legal guidance, Council Patente and Councilman Agrawal allegedly pushed to create an ordinance to sidestep the law, which ultimately failed. Mr. Carra continued, raising concerns about sewer funding, pushing back on Councilman Agrawal's claim that separate sewer billing would be "double charging." He pointed out that recent repairs and the CFO's own numbers show sewer costs aren't fully covered and the system runs at a yearly deficit, leaving no money for future upgrades and forcing the borough to use other funds. Mr. Carra then criticized the councilmen for shutting down public discussions and trying to hold private meetings on the issue without telling

the then–Council President, saying this contradicts their claims of transparency and keeps residents in the dark.

Seeing and hearing no members of the public, Mayor Tozzi closed Public Comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Tozzi entertained a motion to Adjourn the Annual Reorganization Meeting.

On a motion by Councilman DiGraziano, seconded by Council President Fritzing, Council moved to Adjourn the Annual Reorganization Meeting.

Recorded Vote

All in favor

Motion passed 5-0

Regular meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Kimberly Mathewson
Acting Municipal Clerk

Approved: _____
Eric M. Colvin
Borough Administrator

Date: _____