

## MINUTES

### **BOROUGH OF RARITAN REGULAR MEETING**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026**  
**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 Tozzi in the Meeting Room of the Raritan Municipal Building, 9 West Somerset Street, Raritan, NJ 08869 at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 13, 2026.

Council President Tozzi 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 9, 2026.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Present: Council President Fritzingler, Councilman Agrawal, Councilman DiGraziano,  
Councilman Harwood, Councilman Patente

Also Present: Borough Administrator Colvin, Acting Borough Clerk Mathewson, Borough Attorney  
Associate Igor Bykov, and Borough Engineer Brosnan

Absent:

#### **INVOCATION & FLAG SALUTE**

Council President Fritzingler

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Resolution No. 2026-01-022

Entering Executive Session

1. Personnel  
Administration, Finance, Police, Public Works
2. Contract Negotiations  
Shared Services, PBA

On motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Councilman Agrawal, Council moved to Approve  
Resolution No. 2026-01-022.

#### **Recorded Vote**

Yea: Fritzingler, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Harwood, 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 Fritzingler, seconded by Councilman Agrawal, Council exited  
Executive Session and resumed Regular Session at 7:01 p.m.

**APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL MEMBER & OATH OF OFFICE**

Mayor Tozzi asked for a nomination from Council to fill the vacant Council seat.

On motion by Council President Fritzinger, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council moved to Appoint Paul Giraldi to the vacant Council seat.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Fritzinger, DiGraziano, Harwood

Nay: Patente

Absent: x

Abstain: Agrawal

Motion Carried: 3-1-1

Mayor Tozzi administered the Oath of Office to the newly appointed Councilman Giraldi.

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

Jim Foohey, 710 Rhine Blvd: Mr. Foohey commented on the Borough now having a podium with a working microphone for public comments. He then asked about the pending 2026 Rules of Order and if Council will now be restricted from speaking about other topics during their liaison reports. Mayor Tozzi responded stating that the purpose is to keep the liaison reports as liaison reports to avoid any confusion when speaking about multiple topics. Mr. Foohey agreed that keeping the liaison reports as is and any other topics should be discussed during new business or old business. Mr. Foohey also asked if public comments are made to the Mayor or all of Council. Again, Mayor Tozzi stated that in years past, public comments were always directed to the Mayor.

Roger Copt, 1120 Rt. 202: Mr. Copt asked if the 2026 Rule of Order will be read to the public; to which Mayor Tozzi responded stating that Council will discuss them once we are at the portion of the agenda. Mr. Copt then asked why the residents do not get a copy to review and have input on the rules. Again, Mayor Tozzi responded that the rules are approved annually and there are minor changes to this year's, adding nothing has been changed regarding the public. Mr. Copt continued to express his frustration as he heard that the 2026 rules are written in a way to restrict Council members from speaking. Mayor Tozzi stated that what changed is related to the liaison reports from Council and that during that portion of a meeting, Council members should be reporting on their liaison assignments only. He then added that this will help keep the meeting moving forward and more organized and if any member of Council has anything else to discuss, it can be brought up during the new business or old business portion of the meeting as has been the practice in the past.

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

**MINUTES**

1. December 2, 2025 – Special Meeting

Mayor Tozzi asked for a motion to Approve the December 2, 2025 Minutes.

On motion by Councilman Patente, seconded by Council President Fritzingler, Council moved to Approve the December 2, 2025 Minutes.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Fritzingler, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Harwood, Patente

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: Giraldi

Motion Carried: 5-0-1

**COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS**

None

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. 2026 Rules of Order

Borough Administrator Colvin stated that the main change to this year's rules is bringing back the committee liaison assignments. He mentioned that having a liaison for each committee, board, and department is an effort to bring back more transparency for the public. He continued by stating that the rule for Council members to stick to their liaison assignment during the liaison report portion of a meeting, is to help streamline the meetings to avoid any confusion. He went on to state that the 2026 rules of order were put together by merging previous years' rules with the existing Borough Code to produce a more modern and transparent rules of order. Mr. Colvin also stated that this version is more defined regarding public participation, explaining that previous rules were vague about a resident's letter being read during a meeting if they were unable to attend.

Councilman Agrawal commented that he is disappointed in the changes made to this year's rules of order. He continued to state that he feels these rules are written in a way to silence the members of Council. He stated that he does not believe the changes are legal or morally okay. He also added that he feels it very unfortunate that the rules were not provided to the public, yet we preach about transparency. He then stated that the 2026 rules of order should clearly reflect that any member of Council is allowed to bring up other topics during old business or new business. He then read a portion of the rules that state the Mayor would need to approve any request for a topic to be added to the agenda, to which he feels that if the Mayor does not agree, they will not approve the item to be listed. The Councilman continued to express his frustrations with the way the rules have been written and the restrictions he feels the presented 2026 rules will impose if approved as is. Borough Administrator Colvin stated that he wanted to clarify that the rule stating that any work session item a member of Council would want to add to the agenda, must have the Mayor's approval, has been a rule for the past five years.

Mayor Tozzi asked for a motion to Approve the 2026 Rules of Order.

On motion by Council President Firtzingler, seconded by Councilman Agrawal, Council moved to Approve the 2026 Rules of Order.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Fritzingler, DiGraziano, Giraldi, Harwood

Nay: Agrawal, Patente

Absent: x

Abstain: x  
Motion Carried: 4-2

During roll call, Councilman Patente asked if he could make a statement prior to his vote. The Councilman stated that what is being done today will have serious implications for how Raritan is governed and how the residents are represented. He continued stating the 2026 Rules do more than manage procedures; they concentrate authority in the office of the mayor by controlling what appears on the agenda, limiting when members can speak, and restricting how Council members obtain information. He went on to express his objections to the Borough's recent affordable housing ordinance and planning decisions, arguing that they were rushed and approved with limited public discussion. He expressed concern that the ordinances commit the Borough to long-term financial and legal obligations, including development fees and affordable housing requirements, without residents fully understanding the consequences. He continued by questioning whether all available options were explored, raised transparency and procedural issues, and warns that decisions could impact taxes, development patterns, and the character of this community. The Councilman encouraged residents to pay close attention, attend meetings, and remain engaged in future discussions about affordable housing policies. He then stated he would be voting no, to the approval of the 2026 Rules of Order and that effective immediately, he resigned from his position on Council.

2. Tillman Street Traffic Signage

Mayor Tozzi stated that last year the Borough restricted right turns from Tillman Street onto First Avenue as well as restricting right turns from Fifth Street onto First Avenue however, the Borough is looking to amend the ordinance to allow right turns from Tillman Street onto First Avenue as there are many businesses and delivery routes that have been negatively impacted since the implementation of the ordinance.

Mayor Tozzi asked for a motion to Authorize the Borough Attorney to draft an amended ordinance allowing right turns to be made from Tillman Street onto First Avenue.

On motion by Council President Fritzinger, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council moved to Authorize the Borough Attorney to draft an amended ordinance allowing right turns to be made from Tillman Street onto First Avenue.

Recorded Vote

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

(Resolution No. 2026-01-023 through Resolution No. 2026-01-029)

Resolution No. 2026-01-023	Authorizing the Disposal of Various Equipment, Furniture, and Other Surplus Property
Resolution No. 2026-01-024	Authorizing Execution of Shared Services Agreement – DPW Director
Resolution No. 2026-01-025	Renewing Shared Services Agreement – Chief Municipal Finance Officer
Resolution No. 2026-01-026	Renewing Shared Services Agreement – Fire Inspection

Resolution No. 2026-01-027	Renewing Shared Services Agreement – Property Maintenance
Resolution No. 2026-01-028	Clarifying Municipal Prosecutor Responsibilities
Resolution No. 2026-01-029	Authorizing Payment to SSP Architects

Mayor Tozzi asked for a motion to Approve Resolution No. 2026-01-023 through Resolution No. 2026-01-029 – Consent Agenda.

On motion by Councilman DiGraziano, seconded by Councilman Harwood, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2026-01-023 through Resolution No. 2026-01-029 – Consent Agenda.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Fritzingler, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Giraldi, Harwood

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

**BILL LIST**

None

**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 wishing to speak.

Jim Foohey, 710 Rhine Blvd: Mr. Foohey commented on the lack of notice for the members of Council who have recently resigned stating this is just like a regular job and adequate notice should have been provided to Council. He then asked about other Committee or Board meetings that will be happening in the new Council Chambers at the newly renovated Municipal Building. Mayor Tozzi stated that the Council meetings and the Planning Board meeting will be using the new Council Chambers and all other meetings will be hosted in the downstairs Community Room. Mr. Foohey then asked who cancelled the cable channel from broadcasting the Council Meetings. Borough Administrator Colvin stated that the decision was made during the construction process. Mr. Foohey stated that he feels that the Borough needs to re-establish the broadcast to allow simpler access to the public who have been watching Council meetings like that for the last several years. Mr. Foohey then asked why some offices are located in the basement of the building as that is not convenient for the public or for the individuals who hold the positions in those offices. He then asked if the book house, that was located outside the old Municipal Building, could be transferred to the new Municipal Building and be installed by the back parking lot.

On motion by Councilman DiGraziano, seconded by Council President Fritzingler, Council moved to Approve the relocation of the ‘Book House’ to be installed at the new Municipal Building located at 9 West Somerset.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Fritzingler, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Giraldi, Harwood

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

Lastly, Mr. Foohey asked about the framed pictures from the previous Municipal Building and if they would be getting installed in the new building. Mayor Tozzi stated that he and Bruce Doorly are in the process of collecting the older pictures and discussion on how they can be displayed at the new building, it is just a slow process, but it is getting worked out.

Roger Copt, 1120 Rt. 202: Mr. Copt stated that Mayor Tozzi lied to him during the first public comment portion about restricting a member of Council from putting items on the agenda. He feels that the residents will be the ones to suffer with these new restrictions. He went on to express his frustrations with the Council and the Mayor and feels the 2026 Rules of Order infringe on First Amendment rights for freedom of speech.

Fred Sinagra, 6 Gaston Ave: Mr. Sinagra asked about Tillman Street and wanted to clarify that the ordinance will now allow right and left turns from Tillman Street onto First Avenue however, still restrict Fifth Street to no right turns onto First Avenue, to which Mayor Tozzi confirmed.

Benjamin Harris, 2 Wall St: Mr. Harris stated that it is very disappointing the lack of transparency with the 2026 Rules of Order and asked if the document may be obtained by the public via an OPRA request. He then advised the audience on how to submit an OPRA form.

Sam Tims, 1 LaGrange St: Mr. Tims stated that he started attending Council meetings when the Agway site had been listed a few months back and since then, the meeting have been quite eventful. He continued by stating the residents elect the officials and have a level of expectation for transparency from Council. He added that the Rules of Order should have been made available to the public prior to the meeting, it shouldn't be hard or difficult for the residents to obtain the information. He also added that with the demographic of the residents in Raritan, the cable channel should be re-established.

Jim Werner, 407 Victoria St: Mr. Werner also commented on the lack of access regarding the cable channel for Council meetings. He understands that the meetings are available on YouTube however, the older generation of residents may not be familiar with how to access YouTube and have typically just turned on their TV to watch the meeting live. He strongly urged the Mayor and Council to look into putting it back on the cable channel.

On motion by Councilman Agrawal, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council moved to approve the Council meetings to be broadcast on YouTube as well as the cable channel.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Fritzing, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Giraldi, Harwood

Nay: x

Absent: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

Erica Patente Landesberg, 21 Meehan Ave: Ms. Patente-Landesberg stated that she has never been prouder of her father than she is today. She urged the rest of Council to think of what is happening within the Borough and the things that are being said by the residents. She reminded Council that they work for the people and have a responsibility to vote on things that will benefit the Borough and its residents; not just follow how everyone else is voting.

Michael DeCicco, 32 Alpine Way: Mr. DeCicco stated that he agrees with Ms. Patente-Landesberg's point, Raritan is a small town, and it is okay to have disagreements, but Council should be unified. We need to listen to each other and make decisions on what is best for the Borough. He added that he hopes with a new Mayor and a few new Council members things will start to calm down and the team needs to work together and be open.

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

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Prior to a motion for adjournment, Councilman Agrawal wanted to celebrate some good news and announced that Mr. Mike Pepe has been appointed as the President of Bridgewater/Raritan School System. Congratulations to him on a great honor.

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

#### Recorded Vote:

All in favor

Motion passed: 5-0

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

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Kimberly Mathewson  
Acting Municipal Clerk

Date: \_\_\_\_\_