

MINUTES

BOROUGH OF RARITAN **REGULAR MEETING**

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026
6:00 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 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19, 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 Fritzinger, Councilman Agrawal, Councilman DiGraziano,
Councilman Harwood

Also Present: Acting Borough Clerk Mathewson and Borough Attorney Richard Wenner

Absent: Councilman Giraldi, Councilman Martinez

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

Councilman DiGraziano

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution No. 2026-05-088

Entering Executive Session

1. Attorney Client

Alpine

2. Personnel

Administration, Police, DPW

On motion by Council President Fritzinger, seconded by Councilman Harwood, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2026-05-088.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Fritzinger, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Giraldi

Nay: x

Absent: Harwood, Martinez

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 4-0

Council convened in Executive Session at 6:02 p.m.

During Executive Session, Councilman Giraldi and Councilman Martinez arrived at approximately 6:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ADJOURNMENT

Council moved to reconvene in Regular Session unanimously.

Councilman Agrawal left the meeting prior to the vote.

On motion by Council President Fritzinger, seconded by Councilman Martinez, Council exited Executive Session and resumed Regular Session at 7:00 p.m.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Fritzinger, DiGraziano, Giraldi, Harwood, Martinez

Nay: x

Absent: Agrawal

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

Prior to proceeding with the agenda, Council moved to remove Resolution No. 2026-05-089, Authorizing the Execution of a Separation Agreement by and Between the Borough of Raritan and the Borough Administrator, from the agenda. Mayor Tozzi explained later during public comment that the matter required further discussion before any action would be taken.

On motion by Councilman Harwood, seconded by Councilman Giraldi, Council approved removing Resolution No. 2026-05-089 from the agenda.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Fritzinger, DiGraziano, Giraldi, Harwood, Martinez

Nay: x

Absent: Agrawal

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

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 Hearing portion of the meeting for members of the public wishing to speak.

Jeff King, 47 Vones Lane – Mr. King provided an update regarding the Raritan Food Pantry, advising residents of its regular distribution schedule and eligibility requirements. He thanked the Somerset County Food Bank, local organizations, residents, donors and volunteers for their continued support. Mr. King reported increased demand at the most recent distribution, during which 103 individuals were assisted, and encouraged residents in need to utilize the pantry and others to continue supporting the organization through donations and volunteer efforts.

Jim Foohey, 710 Rhine Boulevard – Mr. Foohey questioned why Resolution No. 2026-05-089 had been removed from the agenda. Mayor Tozzi explained that an agreement had not yet been reached and that the matter required further discussion before action would be taken. Mr. Foohey also requested an update regarding the Borough's meeting broadcasts. Mayor Tozzi stated that surrounding municipalities had been contacted regarding their practices and that the Borough would continue utilizing YouTube for its meeting broadcasts.

JennieRose, Raritan Resident – Ms. JennieRose revisited concerns previously raised regarding signatures appearing on resolutions associated with the Raritan Mall redevelopment designation and questioned the authenticity and manner in which certain documents had been executed. She stated that she had previously provided the documents to Borough officials and continued to seek clarification. Ms. JennieRose also thanked the governing body for reevaluating previously authorized funding associated with the Police Department project and thanked the Police Department and Captain Fisher for their cooperation as the Borough considers the project's scope and available grant funding.

Sam Timms, 1 LaGrange Street – Mr. Timms commented on the resignation of Borough Administrator Colvin and other recent resignations involving Borough officials and board members. He expressed concern regarding Borough leadership and emphasized the importance of qualifications and experience when selecting a future Borough Administrator. Mr. Timms asked Borough Attorney Wenner to explain the process following an administrator's resignation and the process for appointing a replacement. Attorney Wenner explained that the matter remained an ongoing personnel issue and therefore he could not discuss its specifics. Generally, he stated that responsibilities may be distributed among existing Borough personnel during a transition while a replacement is sought. He further explained that appointment of a Borough Administrator is made by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Borough Council and that an individual who has not been employed or appointed by the Borough should not perform the day-to-day responsibilities of the Administrator. Attorney Wenner also discussed general equal-employment requirements applicable to the hiring process and noted that the Borough Administrator position does not require a specific State license. Mr. Timms encouraged the governing body to establish appropriate qualifications and exercise care in selecting the next Administrator.

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

MINUTES

None

COUNCIL COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Martinez – Councilman Martinez reported that April Municipal Court figures were not yet available. He advised that the Environmental Commission would be meeting later in the

week and stated that he would address proposed environmental ordinance amendments under New Business.

Councilman Harwood – Councilman Harwood reported that the Administration position is currently being discussed.

Council President Fritzinger – Council President Fritzinger reported on Building Department and Public Works activity. During the reporting period, the Building Department issued 50 permits and collected approximately \$10,144 in fees. Public Works held a tire and electronics drop-off, collecting approximately 30 tires and 120 electronic items, and continued catch basin cleaning and inspections in accordance with stormwater permit requirements. He reported that bulk pickup was completed in one day with approximately 20 tons collected and thanked residents for their cooperation. Athletic field maintenance was also underway in preparation for upcoming activities. Council President Fritzinger recognized National Public Works Week and thanked the Borough's DPW employees for their service to the community.

Councilman DiGraziano – Councilman DiGraziano reported that Little League activities would conclude June 13 with a carnival for participants. He announced that Concerts in the Park would begin June 17, summer recreation programming was underway, approximately 25 children had registered for summer camp, and the splash park had opened. He also announced an upcoming "Proud to be an American" event at Washington School Park. Additional discussion noted that the summer concerts would be free to the public and funded through donations rather than taxpayer funds.

Councilman Giraldi – No report

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Environmental Ordinance Amendments

Councilman Martinez reported that the Environmental Commission had developed proposed amendments to the Borough's stormwater management, floodplain management and soil disturbance ordinances. He explained that the proposed amendments were intended to improve flood resilience, environmental protection and public health while remaining consistent with NJDEP regulations and Borough obligations. The proposals remained in the preliminary stages, and Councilman Martinez requested that they be forwarded to the Borough's legal and engineering professionals for review and possible implementation.

On motion by Councilman Harwood, seconded by Council President Fritzinger, Council approved to forward the proposed amendments to the Borough Attorney and Borough Engineer for review.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Fritzinger, DiGraziano, Giraldi, Harwood, Martinez

Nay: x

Absent: Agrawal

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

2. Early Voting – Somerset County Poll Locations

Mayor Tozzi provided information regarding early voting for the upcoming election, including the early voting period, hours of operation and available Somerset County early voting locations.

3. Shrine Chapel Procession Request

Mayor Tozzi advised that the Shrine Chapel procession request had been tabled at the previous Council meeting. He explained that the procession is held annually and follows an established route, which had been reviewed with the Police Department and Department of Public Works.

On motion by Councilman Martinez, seconded by Council President Fritzinger, Council moved to approve the Shrine Chapel procession request.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Fritzinger, DiGraziano, Giraldi, Harwood, Martinez

Nay: x

Absent: Agrawal

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING & PUBLIC HEARING

None.

ORDINANCES – INTRODUCTION

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

(Resolution No. 2026-05-089 through No.2026-05-094)

Resolution No. 2026-05-089

previously removed from the agenda.

Resolution No. 2026-05-090

Cancelling Open Capital Balances

Resolution No. 2026-05-091

Certifying Annual Report of Audit – 2025

Resolution No. 2026-05-092

Confirming Final Change Orders and Adjusting
Final Contract Amount

Resolution No. 2026-05-093

Refunding Tax Overpayment – Block 65 Lot 4

Resolution No. 2026-05-094

Renewing CJHRC – Affordable Housing
Administrative Agent – June 2026-2027

On motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman Harwood, Council approved Resolution Nos. 2026-05-090 through 2026-05-094.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Fritzinger, DiGraziano, Giraldi, Harwood, Martinez

Nay: x

Absent: Agrawal

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

BILLS LIST

Resolution No. 2026-05-095

Approving Bills List

On motion by Councilman Martinez, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council approved Resolution Nos. 2026-05-095 – Approving Bills List.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Fritzinger, DiGraziano, Giraldi, Harwood, Martinez

Nay: x

Absent: Agrawal

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

CERTIFICATION OF FUNDS

1. Access Commercial Door—Keypad for New Building—\$13,563.80
2. Statewide Insurance Fund— Statewide AL & WC Assessments —\$97,466.00
3. Suplee, Clooney, and Company—2023-2025 Comp Audits & LOSAP Programs—
\$68,400.00

On motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Council President Fritzinger, Council moved to Approve the Certification of Funds - Keypad for New Building, Statewide AL & WC Assessments, and 2023-2025 Comp Audits & LOSAP Programs.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Fritzinger, DiGraziano, Giraldi, Harwood, Martinez

Nay: x

Absent: Agrawal

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Jeff King, 47 Vones Lane – Mr. King raised a traffic safety concern regarding vehicles entering and exiting the Labcorp property on Johnson Drive. He stated that vehicles frequently enter and

exit the property at excessive speeds and noted that pavement markings were present at the entrances but stop signs were not. He requested that the Borough determine whether responsibility for appropriate traffic controls rests with the property owner or the Borough.

JoAnn Liptak, 2 Somerset St – Ms. Liptak requested an update regarding responsibility for the sidewalk/bridge matter she had previously raised. Borough Attorney Wenner advised that he was preparing a memorandum addressing the matter and anticipated having it available for the next meeting.

Jim Foohey, 710 Rhyne Blvd – Mr. Foohey requested clarification regarding the Statewide Insurance Fund certification and questioned the liability and workers' compensation assessments. Mr. Foohey expressed concern regarding the governing body's understanding of expenditures prior to approving them.

Jill Brown, 18 Elmer St – Ms. Brown requested an update regarding environmental testing associated with the LaGrange Street properties and questioned how areas where chemicals may have previously been stored or released would be identified during testing. Mayor Tozzi stated that he would follow up with Borough Engineer Brosnan regarding the status and reiterated that an independent outside professional was expected to evaluate the property. Ms. Brown also expressed concern regarding activity observed at the property while the environmental issues remained under review.

JennieRose, Raritan Resident – Ms. JennieRose questioned the Bills List covering the period from April 28 through May 12 and requested additional information regarding the expenditures included. She also questioned the governing body's review of municipal expenditures and the assignment of the Finance liaison position. During the discussion, examples of expenditures appearing on the Bills List were identified, and it was confirmed that the detailed Bills List is available as a public record. Ms. JennieRose further expressed concern regarding the governing body's priorities and requested greater attention to environmental oversight, Richardson Street paving, NJ Transit train idling and pollution concerns, enforcement issues involving the LaGrange Street property, and pedestrian access to the train station. Ms. JennieRose also criticized the structure, membership and effectiveness of the Redevelopment Advisory Committee and urged the governing body to reconsider its organization and role in redevelopment matters.

Tom Brown, 18 Elmer St – Mr. Brown questioned whether additional environmental testing and oversight requirements developed in response to the LaGrange Street property would also be incorporated into other development projects before the Planning Board. He also raised concerns regarding PSE&G work occurring beyond the hours permitted by Borough ordinance and questioned enforcement of the Borough's work-hour requirements. Mayor Tozzi indicated that he would seek clarification regarding the requirements applicable to the utility work.

Sam Timms, 1 LaGrange St – Mr. Timms responded to earlier comments concerning the Borough's financial condition and stated that he did not believe the current financial challenges could reasonably be attributed to a single individual or one year of financial decisions. He characterized the Borough's financial condition as the result of decisions made over a longer period. Mr. Timms also questioned certain expenditures appearing on the Bills List and urged the governing body to scrutinize municipal spending more closely in light of the recent tax increase. He requested that future agendas include detailed Bills Lists and encouraged Council members to review and question expenditures prior to approval.

Benjamin Harris, 2 Wall St – Mr. Harris requested clarification from Borough Attorney Wenner regarding the five-minute public comment period and whether a speaker's time should be paused while the governing body responds to questions. Attorney Wenner explained that the governing body is permitted to establish reasonable rules governing the conduct of its meetings and may elect to pause the timer while responding, but is not legally required to do so. The resident requested that the public comment procedures be applied consistently. Mr. Harris also asked Attorney Wenner whether governing body members have an obligation to understand the Bills List before voting. Attorney Wenner stated that governing body members voting on expenditures have a fiduciary obligation to understand what they are approving. The resident

Jim Foohey, 710 Rhine Blvd – Mr. Foohey questioned members regarding their review of the Bills List and encouraged the Borough to consider reinstating workshop meetings to allow Council members additional opportunity to review agenda items and expenditures before formal action.

Brittany Erickson, 1 LaGrange St – Ms. Erickson commented on political contributions, lobbying and redevelopment activity within the Borough. She referenced contributions she stated had been made by individuals, developers and professionals associated with redevelopment matters and questioned whether political relationships or contributions influenced municipal redevelopment decisions. She also referenced recent resignations involving Borough officials and board members and questioned whether those departures were related to redevelopment matters. Ms. Erickson urged greater transparency and accountability regarding redevelopment decisions and relationships with municipal professionals.

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

On a motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman Harwood, Council moved to Adjourn the Regular Meeting.

Recorded Vote:

All in favor
Motion passed: 5-0

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Kimberly Mathewson
Acting Municipal Clerk