MINUTES

BOROUGH OF RARITAN
REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, JULY 14, 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, July 14, 2026.

Mayor 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 Giraldi, Councilman Harwood, Councilman Martinez

Also Present: Acting Borough Clerk Mathewson, Borough Attorney Igor Bykov, CFO Paige Elster, Assistant Administrator Vince LoMedico, and Borough Engineer Joe Brosnan

Absent:

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

Councilman Martinez

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution No. 2026-07-110

Entering Executive Session

1. Attorney Client
   Alpine Way
2. Personnel
   Administration, Police, DPW

On motion by Council President Fritzinger, seconded by Councilman Martinez, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2026-07-110.

Recorded Vote
Yea: Fritzinger, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Giraldi, Harwood, Martinez
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 Councilman Martinez, seconded by Councilman Harwood, Council exited Executive Session and resumed Regular Session at 7:02 p.m.

Recorded Vote
Yea: Fritzinger, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Giraldi, Harwood, Martinez
Nay: x
Absent: x
Abstain: x
Motion Carried: 6-0

PROCLAMATION
Historical & Cultural Committee – 2026 Historic Preservation and History Award

Mayor Tozzi presented a proclamation recognizing and congratulating the Raritan Borough Historical & Cultural Committee for receiving the Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission's 2026 Historic Preservation and History Award in the History in Action category. The award recognized the Committee's continued efforts to preserve and promote Raritan's history, including its publication, *Raritan: A Busy Hub in the Revolution*.

Mayor Tozzi thanked the Committee for its dedication and contributions to the Borough's historical and cultural heritage.

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.

Jeff King, 47 Vones Ln – Mr. King expressed condolences to Mayor Tozzi and his family. Mr. King suggested that the Borough consider establishing regulations regarding data centers before any such development is proposed in Raritan. He also questioned the costs associated with the Vones Lane/Alpine sewer repairs after previously being advised that the work could be performed in-house. Borough representatives explained that the extent and depth of the repair ultimately required an outside contractor and that an additional pumping expense was anticipated.

Jim Foohey, 710 Rhyne Blvd – Mr. Foohey expressed condolences to Mayor Tozzi and questioned the salary amount shown for the Borough Administrator position in light of the Borough advertising for a part-time administrator. CFO Elster explained that the salary resolution must account for compensation already paid to the former Administrator as well as any future appointment. Mr. Foohey also asked about the proposed sewer usage ordinance, the upcoming Police contract negotiations, and the Statewide Insurance Fund payment.

Mike Patente, 30 Glaser Ave – Mr. Patente expressed condolences to Mayor Tozzi and congratulated the Historical & Cultural Committee. Mr. Patente raised concerns regarding increased activity and parking near the river area and requested that the Borough monitor the area for litter and other impacts. He also commented on the proposed sewer billing system,

expressing concern about removing sewer costs from property taxes and the potential effect on seniors, disabled residents, veterans, and others receiving property tax exemptions. Mr. Patente further questioned the qualifications and responsibilities included in the part-time Borough Administrator job posting and suggested consideration of a shared-service arrangement.

JoAnn Liptak, 2 Somerset St – Ms. Liptak expressed condolences to Mayor Tozzi and asked whether tax-exempt properties, including churches and schools, would be subject to the proposed sewer usage charges. It was explained that such properties would be included under the proposed usage-based system.

Cathy Kolvites, 63 Vones Ln – Ms. Kolvites commented on the Borough Administrator search and emphasized the importance of selecting a highly qualified individual with municipal administrative experience, appropriate education, leadership skills, and knowledge of budgeting, personnel management, and municipal operations.

Sam Timms, 1 LaGrange St – Mr. Timms questioned several agenda items, including Ordinance No. 2026-12, the Borough's decision to suspend employee attendance at the New Jersey League of Municipalities Conference, and various expenditures on the bills list. CFO Elster explained that the Borough anticipated approximately $7,000 in savings from suspending conference attendance and that future attendance could be evaluated based upon professional certification and continuing education needs. Mr. Timms also questioned the total amount reflected on the bills list, and CFO Elster explained that the amount included significant debt and school-related payments. Mr. Timms requested greater detail and transparency regarding Borough expenditures.

JennieRose, Raritan Resident – Ms. JennieRose expressed condolences to Mayor Tozzi and raised questions regarding the salary ordinance and resolution, including the compensation associated with various positions and titles within the Construction Department. CFO Elster explained that the salary ordinance establishes authorized salary ranges for positions but does not mean that an employee receives compensation for each listed title separately. Ms. JennieRose also expressed concern regarding the process of introducing ordinances and adopting related resolutions during the same meeting and requested greater opportunity for public discussion regarding Borough finances and compensation.

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

MINUTES

1. April 21, 2026 – Regular Meeting

On motion by Council President Fritzinger, seconded by Councilman Agrawal, Council moved to Approve the April 21, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Recorded Vote
Yea: Fritzinger, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Giraldi, Harwood, Martinez
Nay: x
Absent: x
Abstain: x
Motion Carried: 6-0

COUNCIL COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Martinez - Councilman Martinez reported that he was awaiting the June Municipal Court statistics. He announced that the Environmental Commission would meet on Thursday and congratulated the Commission on receiving the AARP grant for the proposed rain garden project.

Councilman Harwood - Councilman Harwood provided an update regarding the Borough Administrator search, advising that approximately six responses had been received to the posting on the New Jersey League of Municipalities website and that no interviews or appointments had yet been scheduled.

Council President Fritzinger - Council President Fritzinger congratulated the Historical & Cultural Committee on its award and provided an update regarding its activities and finances. He also reported on the Borough's bulk pickup program, noting a significant reduction in collected tonnage compared with the prior year and associated savings in disposal, equipment, and manpower costs. Council President Fritzinger also discussed the successful Jack's Kids charity softball event and thanked Borough Public Works and the Hillsborough Township Recreation Department for their assistance.

Mayor Tozzi - Mayor Tozzi reported on the Jack's Kids event and recent business activity within the Borough, including the opening of a new café. He also discussed plans for the Nevius Street Bridge holiday celebration, including a live Christmas tree, donated lighting, and the possibility of a synthetic ice-skating rink.

Councilman DiGraziano - Councilman DiGraziano reported that the pool and summer recreation programs were progressing well. He advised that an upcoming concert had been canceled due to excessive heat and announced upcoming events including Christmas in July and National Night Out. He also reported on youth cheerleading activities at Washington School.

Councilman Agrawal - Councilman Agrawal reported that the Senior Citizens and Board of Health had not met during July. He thanked CFO Elster, Assistant Administrator LoMedico, the Acting Borough Clerk, and Borough staff for assuming additional responsibilities during the vacancy in the Borough Administrator position. Councilman Agrawal also thanked Assistant Administrator LoMedico for working with NJDOT to address detour signage and traffic concerns associated with Route 202 construction.

Councilman Giraldi - Councilman Giraldi provided Police Department activity statistics for January through June and reported on Fire Department calls. He also advised that the Basilone Parade remained scheduled for September 20, 2026.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Brentwood Block Party (KM)

The Governing Body considered the annual request to hold the Brentwood Block Party on October 3, 2026. The request included having the Department of Public Works provide

barricades, consistent with prior years. It was noted that the barricades would be moved as necessary to permit emergency vehicle access during the event.

On motion by Council President Fritzinger, seconded by Councilman Giraldi, Council moved to Approve the Brentwood Block Party.

Recorded Vote
Yea: Fritzinger, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Giraldi, Harwood, Martinez
Nay: x
Absent: x
Abstain: x
Motion Carried: 6-0

2. New Fire Department Member (DT)

Mayor Tozzi advised that the proposed new Fire Department member had completed the required training and successfully passed the necessary requirements. The member was not present at the meeting, and the swearing-in was anticipated to take place in August.

On motion by Council President Fritzinger, seconded by Councilman Giraldi, Council moved to Approve Alexei Tartakovski as a new Fire Department Member.

Recorded Vote
Yea: Fritzinger, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Giraldi, Harwood, Martinez
Nay: x
Absent: x
Abstain: x
Motion Carried: 6-0

3. Raritan Fire Department – Food Truck Festival (DT)

Mayor Tozzi advised that the Raritan Fire Department was planning its annual Food Truck Festival at Washington School, noting that the event had been impacted by inclement weather in prior years.

On motion by Council President Fritzinger, seconded by Councilman Giraldi, Council moved to Approve the Raritan Fire Department – Food Truck Festival.

Recorded Vote
Yea: Fritzinger, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Giraldi, Harwood, Martinez
Nay: x
Absent: x
Abstain: x
Motion Carried: 6-0

4. Engineering Update (JB)

Borough Engineer Joe Brosnan presented his engineering report and provided updates on ongoing Borough projects. Mr. Brosnan discussed proposed sanitary sewer ordinance revisions;

the next phase of MS4 stormwater compliance; the NJDOT Transportation Alternatives Program grant; 2026 Local Aid improvements involving the Avon, Ridge, Brentwood and Tysley areas; Richard Street Phase III; Community Development Block Grant funding for sewer improvements; the Borough's 2027 Local Aid application; and ongoing escrow and utility projects. Mr. Brosnan reported that the Borough continued to work through the backlog of infrastructure projects and that several grant-funded projects were progressing through design, approval, or construction phases. He also discussed utility work being performed by PSE&G and New Jersey American Water and noted that information regarding affected roadways was available through the Borough.

Councilman Agrawal thanked Mr. Brosnan for providing the written engineering report in advance of the meeting and stated that the report was helpful in understanding the status of the Borough's various projects. Councilman Agrawal also asked for an update regarding deficiencies on Arnold Avenue. Mr. Brosnan advised that the contractor had been nonresponsive and that the Borough was working with legal counsel regarding the maintenance bond and potential next steps.

5. Sewer Presentation (PE / VL / JB)

CFO Paige Elster, Assistant Administrator Vince LoMedico, and Borough Engineer Joe Brosnan presented information regarding the Borough's sanitary sewer system and proposed revisions to the sewer user charge structure. The presentation addressed the age and condition of the Borough's sewer infrastructure, increasing maintenance and repair costs, current sewer-related expenditures, and the existing method of funding sewer costs through the municipal budget. The proposed system would transition toward a usage-based charge using water consumption as the basis for calculating sewer charges. The proposed residential rate was discussed as the greater of an annual minimum charge or a usage-based charge per 1,000 gallons, with commercial properties subject to a separate usage rate. The presentation also addressed tax-exempt properties, quarterly billing, the treatment of seasonal water usage, and the need to generate sufficient revenue for ongoing sewer operations, maintenance, infrastructure improvements, and costs associated with the Somerset Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority. It was explained that the goal was to develop a more equitable and financially sustainable system under which users contribute based upon their impact on the sewer system rather than property valuation. The presentation would be posted on the Borough website, and residents were encouraged to submit questions in advance of the public hearing so that responses could be researched and addressed publicly. Discussion followed regarding the timing of public input on ordinances. Councilman Agrawal expressed concern that residents should have an opportunity to provide meaningful input before an ordinance advances toward adoption. Borough Attorney Bykov explained the ordinance introduction and public hearing process and advised that substantive amendments following introduction may require further action or reintroduction.

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING & PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance No. 2026-12	An Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Section 49-9 Entitled “Extraneous-Duty Employment of Police Officers for Police-Related Activities” – of Chapter 49 – Police Department – to Increase the Costs of Certain Services Offered by the Borough Police Department

The purpose of this ordinance is to update the Borough's extraneous-duty police employment regulations by increasing service rates and officer compensation for off-duty police assignments and formalizing the use of a third-party scheduling and billing platform.

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

JennieRose, Raritan Resident – Ms. JennieRose questioned why the Borough was involved in setting compensation for extraneous-duty police assignments and requested clarification regarding the administrative fee, officer compensation, third-party billing system, and the amount of revenue retained by the Borough. CFO Elster and members of the Governing Body explained that the outside entity requesting the officer pays the charges and that the ordinance establishes the Borough's authorized rates and fees.

Sam Timms, 1 LaGrange St – Mr. Timms questioned the proposed compensation structure and the costs incurred by the Borough when officers perform extraneous-duty work, including the use of Borough vehicles and other resources. He questioned whether the administrative charge sufficiently compensated the Borough and suggested that the ordinance more clearly identify the Borough's costs and revenues.

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

Councilman Agrawal requested clarification regarding how the administrative fee and difference between the billed rate and officer compensation would be allocated. CFO Elster explained that the amount retained by the Borough varies depending upon the officer's applicable rate and that the Borough could receive more than the stated administrative fee depending upon the officer assigned. Councilman Agrawal stated that this explanation was important to understanding the ordinance.

Councilman Harwood commented on the structure of extraneous-duty assignments and the need for the ordinance to clearly explain the rates and Borough charges.

Councilman Martinez discussed the relationship between an officer's regular compensation and the extraneous-duty rate and noted that the rate may vary based upon the officer assigned.

Council President Fritzinger commented on the proposed rates and requested that the ordinance provide greater clarity regarding the breakdown of compensation, administrative charges, and other costs.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Council President Fritzinger to adopt Ordinance No. 2026-12.

Recorded Vote
Yea: x
Nay: Fritzinger, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Giraldi, Harwood, Martinez

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

The Governing Body subsequently determined that additional clarification and revisions were warranted.

On motion by Councilman Martinez, seconded by Councilman Harwood, Council moved to Table Ordinance 2026-12.

Recorded Vote
Yea: Fritzinger, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Giraldi, Harwood, Martinez
Nay: x
Absent: x
Abstain: x
Motion Carried: 6-0

ORDINANCES – INTRODUCTION

Ordinance No. 2026-13

An Ordinance fixing and determining the salaries, wages or compensation to be paid to certain officers and employees of the Borough of Raritan

The purpose of this Ordinance is to provide the annual salary ranges for the Borough employees.

Councilman Agrawal commented on the proposed salary ranges, particularly the Borough Administrator position, and questioned whether the range should more closely reflect the part-time position currently being advertised. Discussion followed regarding maintaining sufficient flexibility should the Borough later determine that a full-time administrator was necessary.

The Governing Body agreed to revise the Borough Administrator salary range to $60,000 to $155,000.

On motion by Council President Fritzinger, seconded by Councilman Giraldi, Council moved to Introduce Ordinance No. 2026-13.

Recorded Vote
Yea: Fritzinger, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Giraldi, Harwood, Martinez
Nay: x
Absent: x
Abstain: x
Motion Carried: 6-0

Ordinance No. 2026-14

An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, Amending Chapter 286 Sewers -article one, User charge system. Ordinance is to amend Sanitary Sewer Usage Fees

	The purpose of this Ordinance is to amend the Sanitary Sewer Usage Charge code section of the Borough.

Councilman Agrawal stated that he agreed that the Borough's aging sewer infrastructure required significant investment but questioned whether the proposed billing structure was the best method of addressing the issue. He expressed concern about removing sewer costs from the municipal tax structure and discussed the potential impact of future infrastructure failures and rising costs on ratepayers. He encouraged the Governing Body to consider alternative options and long-term financial implications.

Councilman DiGraziano also commented on the proposed sewer ordinance. Discussion followed among members of the Governing Body regarding the Borough's sewer infrastructure, the proposed usage-based system, funding alternatives, and the need to explore available options.

On motion by Council President Fritzinger, seconded by Councilman Giraldi, Council moved to Introduce Ordinance No. 2026-14.

Recorded Vote
Yea: Fritzinger, DiGraziano, Giraldi, Harwood, Martinez
Nay: x
Absent: Agrawal
Abstain: x
Motion Carried: 5-1

CONSENT AGENDA
(Resolution No. 2026-07-111 through No.2026-07-121)

Resolution No. 2026-07-111	Accepting a Grant of $793.35 and Approving Chapter 159 from Municipal Court Alcohol Ed, Rehab, and Enforcement Fund
Resolution No. 2026-07-112	Accepting a Grant of $2,283.52 and Approving Chapter 159 from New Jersy American Water for 2026 Fire Fighter and EMS Grants
Resolution No. 2026-07-113	Appointing Fund Commissioner and Alternate
Resolution No. 2026-07-114	Approving Chapter 159 for State of New Jersey 2026 Recycling Tonnage Grant
Resolution No. 2026-07-115	Authorizing Final Payment for Accrued Time and Retroactive Payment – Colvin
Resolution No. 2026-07-116	Awarding Contract NJDOT 2025 Improvements to Richard Street Neighborhood
Resolution No. 2026-07-117	Designating Block 54, Lot 1 (commonly known as 11 Fifth Street) as shown on the Tax Map of the Borough of Raritan as a Non-Condemnation “Area in Need of Redevelopment” Under the New Jersey Local Redevelopment and Housing Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 ET SEQ)
Resolution No. 2026-07-118	Establishing 2026 Salary & Wages
Resolution No. 2026-07-119	Extending the Grace Period for Property Taxes

Resolution No. 2026-07-120	Renewal of ABC Liquor Licenses for the 2026-2027 Term
Resolution No. 2026-07-121	Suspending Borough Employee Attendance at the 2026 Annual New Jersey League of Municipalities Conference

Resolution No. 2026-07-117 was pulled from the Consent Agenda at the request of Councilman Agrawal for separate consideration.

Prior to the vote on the remaining Consent Agenda, Councilman Agrawal commented on Resolution No. 2026-07-118, noting that Borough staff were receiving a 2% salary increase, which he considered reasonable under the Borough's current circumstances. He further noted that the Police Chief's 3.5% increase was governed by the Chief's existing employment contract and represented a contractual obligation of the Borough.

On motion by Councilman Martinez, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2026-07-111 through 2026-07-121- Consent Agenda, excluding Resolution No. 2026-07-117.

Recorded Vote
Yea: Fritzinger, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Giraldi, Harwood, Martinez
Nay: x
Absent: x
Abstain: x
Motion Carried: 6-0

Councilman Agrawal commented on the property, 11 Fifth St., and requested clarification regarding prior discussions concerning the potential number and type of residential units that could ultimately be developed at the site. Borough Engineer Brosnan explained that prior discussions had contemplated a smaller townhouse-style development; however, the resolution before the Governing Body did not approve a specific redevelopment plan or number of units. Rather, the resolution accepted the Planning Board's determination designating the property as an Area in Need of Redevelopment, with any future redevelopment plan to proceed through the appropriate process separately.

On motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2026-07-117.

Recorded Vote
Yea: Fritzinger, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Giraldi, Harwood, Martinez
Nay: x
Absent: x
Abstain: x
Motion Carried: 6-0

BILLS LIST

Resolution No. 2026-07-122	Approving Bills List

On motion by Councilman Agrawal, seconded by Councilman Giraldi, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2026-07-122 - Approving Bills List.

Recorded Vote
Yea: Fritzinger, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Giraldi, Harwood, Martinez
Nay: x
Absent: x
Abstain: x
Motion Carried: 6-0

CERTIFICATION OF FUNDS

1. Bridgewater Resources, INC —April & May Dumping Fees—$42,577.46
2. Civic Plus, LLC—NextRequest Annual Fee—$11,327.40
3. JB Ragonese Construction, INC—Vones Alpine Sewer Repair—$25,000.00
4. New Jersey Transit—January-December 2026 Lease—$55,000.00
5. Savo, Schak, Corsini, et al—General Planning Board Billings—$11,214.98
6. Severe Structures, LLC—Home Improvement Program—$20,325.00
7. Statewide Insurance Fund—AL & WC Payments—$97,466.00

On motion by Councilman DiGraziano, seconded by Councilman Martinez, Council moved to Approved the Certification of Funds - April & May Dumping Fees, NextRequest Annual Fee, Vones Alpine Sewer Repair, January-December 2026 Lease, General Planning Board Billings, Home Improvement Program, and AL & WC Payments.

Recorded Vote
Yea: Fritzinger, Agrawal, DiGraziano, Giraldi, Harwood, Martinez
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 Tozzi opened the Public Comment portion of the meeting for members of the public wishing to speak.

Roger Copt, 1120 Route 202 - Mr. Copt expressed opposition to the proposed minimum sewer charges, particularly the proposed commercial minimum, and questioned the fairness of imposing a separate sewer bill on properties already paying substantial property taxes. He also expressed concern regarding the impact on veterans and residents receiving property tax exemptions.

Cathy Kolvites, 63 Vones Ln – Ms. Kolvites emphasized the importance of allowing residents to ask questions and receive responses when ordinances are first introduced. She stated that public participation and transparency would be improved if questions and responses occurred publicly rather than solely through email. Borough representatives explained that questions submitted in advance regarding the sewer ordinance would be addressed publicly at the subsequent public hearing.

Jim Foohey, 710 Rhyne Blvd – Mr. Foohey discussed the ordinance adoption process and stated that residents may comment on ordinances during the agenda-item public comment period as well as during the formal public hearing. He explained his understanding that the Governing Body may reject or table an ordinance following public input if changes are warranted.

Jeff King, 47 Vones Ln – Mr. King questioned whether the proposed extraneous-duty police rates adequately compensate the Borough for use of municipal vehicles, insurance, fuel, and other costs. He also raised concerns regarding ongoing utility work and repeated excavation of Borough streets. Borough representatives explained that utility companies are responsible for restoration and that additional requirements may apply to recently paved roads subject to the Borough's road-opening moratorium.

Ed Machala, 9 Barbieri Ct – Mr. Machala discussed the history and condition of the Borough's sewer infrastructure and previous efforts to inspect, map, and improve the system. He expressed concern that sewer revenues have not kept pace with operating and infrastructure costs and stated that the Borough must establish a sustainable funding mechanism for future maintenance and repairs.

Robert Natuk, 63 Vones Ln – Mr. Natuk commented on the extraneous-duty police ordinance and suggested that the Borough establish a consistent minimum administrative charge and separate vehicle charge to ensure that Borough costs are adequately recovered regardless of the officer assigned.

Chris Allen, 11 Granetz Pl – Mr. Allen commented on extraneous-duty police assignments and questioned the benefit associated with the cost. He also expressed concern about the age and capacity of the Borough's sewer infrastructure and the potential impact of substantial new residential development on the existing system.

Mike Patente, 30 Glaser Ave – Mr. Patente stated that he supported officers receiving appropriate compensation for extraneous-duty assignments but believed the Borough should impose sufficient additional fees to cover its costs. He also questioned how proposed redevelopment plans are evaluated for consistency with the Borough's Master Plan, including building height and density. Borough Engineer Brosnan explained that redevelopment plans are developed based upon site-specific conditions and are reviewed by the Planning Board for consistency with the Master Plan before returning to the Governing Body. Mr. Patente further questioned the proposed sewer billing process and suggested that public discussion should occur before an ordinance is introduced so that community input may be incorporated earlier in the process.

Emilie Stander, 877 First Ave – Ms. Stander asked whether an anticipated environmental memorandum would include results from recent testing. Borough Engineer Brosnan advised that the results would be included if available and would be forwarded to the Environmental Commission. Ms. Stander also encouraged the Borough to evaluate available open space as additional residential development occurs and as the Master Plan is updated.

Benjamin Harris, 2 Wall St – Mr. Harris questioned the proposed methodology for calculating sewer usage using selected quarters of water consumption. He stated that residents with pools, lawns, and other high seasonal water usage should pay based upon their actual consumption

rather than having those periods excluded. Borough representatives explained that outdoor water use generally does not enter the sanitary sewer system and discussed the reasoning behind the proposed calculation methodology.

JennieRose, Raritan Resident – Ms. JennieRose questioned the treatment of certain commercial uses under the proposed sewer rate structure and discussed the use of water meters in calculating charges. She also reiterated concerns regarding the timing of public input on ordinances and the need for greater clarity regarding the proposed extraneous-duty police administrative and vehicle charges.

Sam Timms, 1 LaGrange St – Mr. Timms requested updates regarding various Borough matters, including sidewalk projects, the Redevelopment Advisory Committee, Town Hall-related matters, and the Trails Committee. He also discussed the proposed sewer charges and stated that, while he agreed that additional sewer funding was necessary, he remained concerned about removing sewer expenses from the tax structure and the effect of future infrastructure emergencies on separate sewer rates. Mr. Timms encouraged the Governing Body to conduct strategic planning meetings publicly to discuss long-term financial and infrastructure issues.

Brittany Eriksson, 1 LaGrange St – Ms. Eriksson asked about the Borough's Request for Proposals for banking services and the status of the selection process. CFO Elster advised that multiple proposals had been received and that any banking appointment would ultimately be presented to the Governing Body for approval by resolution. Ms. Eriksson expressed concerns regarding one of the potential banking institutions and requested transparency in the selection process.

Patrick Dinsmore, 523 Victoria St – Mr. Dinsmore requested an update regarding litigation involving the Borough and Planning Board related to electronic billboard/sign matters. Borough Attorney Bykov advised that he was not sufficiently familiar with the litigation to provide a detailed response and would confer with Borough Attorney Wenner. Mr. Dinsmore also asked about potential activity at a property near Route 202 and raised a question regarding whether warehouse use would be permitted. It was explained that any proposed use requiring Board approval would have to proceed through the appropriate land-use process.

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 Martinez, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council moved to Adjourn the Regular Meeting.

Recorded Vote:
All in favor
Motion passed: 6-0

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

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Kimberly Mathewson
Acting Municipal Clerk