MINUTES

BOROUGH OF RARITAN
REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 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, October 6, 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 and Borough Attorney DeFuria
Absent:

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

Councilman Giraldi

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution No. 2026-10-148 Entering Executive Session

1. Personnel
   Administration, Police

On motion by Councilman Martinez, seconded by Councilman Harwood, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2026-10-148 – Executive Session.

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 6:33 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ADJOURNMENT

Council moved to reconvene in Regular Session unanimously.

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

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

PROCLAMATION

Breast Cancer Awareness – October 2026

Mayor Tozzi read a proclamation recognizing October 2026 as Breast Cancer Awareness Month and honoring Dance for the Cure and its Pink Bow Project. Representatives thanked the Borough for its continued support and discussed the organization's volunteer efforts and financial assistance to individuals undergoing breast cancer treatment.

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.

Adrienne Schwall, 14 Obert Dr – Ms. Schwall questioned the status of the Borough's ongoing efforts to address concerns involving New Jersey Transit. She expressed frustration regarding train engines idling for extended periods, diesel emissions, and excessive train horn activity during overnight hours. She asked whether the Borough had considered pursuing a writ of mandamus or other legal action to compel a response from the railroad or appropriate regulatory agencies. She also suggested seeking assistance from a congressional representative and offered to provide correspondence documenting communications with New Jersey Transit. The substitute Borough Attorney advised that he would refer her legal question to Borough Attorney Richard Wenner for further review. Ms. Schwall additionally reported that, on October 1, 2026, at approximately 7:30 p.m., she attempted to contact the Raritan Borough Police Department regarding an altercation involving individuals near Walgreens but was directed to voicemail on two occasions. She expressed concern that residents calling the Police Department's nonemergency number could encounter voicemail when assistance was needed. Mayor Tozzi indicated that he would bring the matter to the attention of the Police Chief.
Ms. Schwall also questioned a social media posting alleging that Mayor Tozzi had received a political campaign contribution from a local developer. Mayor Tozzi responded that campaign contributions were publicly reported and that information regarding contributions could be obtained through the appropriate campaign finance records.

Michael DeCicco, 32 Alpine Way – Mr. DeCicco addressed Ordinance No. 2026-19 concerning the proposed temporary prohibition of data centers. He expressed general support for allowing the Borough time to study the matter but questioned whether the nine-month restriction would automatically expire and permit data center applications to proceed once the period concluded. He sought clarification regarding the Borough's ability to establish permanent regulations following the temporary restriction.

The substitute Borough Attorney explained that the proposed ordinance was intentionally broad and intended to provide time for further study, after which the Borough could consider more specific or permanent regulations based on its findings.

Mike Patente, 30 Glaser Ave – Mr. Patente questioned provisions of Ordinance No. 2026-17 concerning extraneous-duty police assignments. While expressing general support for updating the ordinance and ensuring appropriate compensation for police officers performing outside assignments, he questioned why certain activities paid for by the Borough were classified as extraneous duty rather than regular municipal employment or overtime. The substitute Borough Attorney indicated that clarification regarding the ordinance's provisions would need to be obtained from Borough Attorney Wenner. Mr. Patente also expressed concern regarding the absence of the Borough Engineer, particularly because Ordinance No. 2026-20 proposed substantial amendments to the Borough's floodplain management regulations. He questioned the Borough's monthly engineering retainer and why a representative of the engineering firm was not present to explain the approximately 40-page ordinance. He stated that the technical nature of the proposed regulations made them difficult for residents to understand without professional guidance and expressed concern that the governing body would proceed with introduction without adequate public explanation.

Jim Foohey, 710 Rhyne Blvd – Mr. Foohey questioned the status of the Borough's efforts to hire a Borough Administrator following the departure of the previous administrator. He asked when an appointment was anticipated and whether the position would be full-time or part-time. Mayor Tozzi indicated that the Borough was close to making an appointment, potentially by the first meeting in November, and confirmed that the position was expected to be part-time.
Mr. Foohey also questioned the proposed administrative staffing structure, including the Deputy Administrator position and how responsibilities would be handled after January. He expressed his preference for a full-time Borough Administrator and suggested that offering a higher salary could attract an experienced professional currently serving in a similar position elsewhere. He further questioned whether a municipality of Raritan's size required both an Administrator and Deputy Administrator.

Emilie Stander, 977 1st Ave – Ms. Stander addressed Ordinance No. 2026-20 concerning floodplain management regulations. She questioned how many Borough properties would be affected by the proposed ordinance and whether the regulations would apply to the Raritan Mall property, which had already received site plan approval. She expressed concern that the Borough Engineer was not present to answer these questions. Ms. Stander also advised that the Environmental Commission had submitted proposed revisions to the floodplain ordinance several months earlier and questioned whether those recommendations had been reviewed or incorporated. She distributed copies of the Commission's recommendations to the governing body and Acting Borough Clerk. She specifically identified proposed provisions addressing the tracking of properties experiencing repetitive flooding and strengthening variance criteria, explaining that these measures could provide additional protections for the Borough.

During discussion, it was indicated that the recommendations could be considered between introduction and final adoption, and that further review and discussion would take place.

Sam Timms, 1 LaGrange St – Mr. Timms expressed concern regarding the absence of the Borough Engineer and the Borough's regular legal counsel, particularly during a meeting involving several significant ordinance introductions. He emphasized the importance of having

the appropriate professionals present to answer questions and assist residents and the governing body in understanding proposed legislation. Regarding Ordinance No. 2026-17, Mr. Timms expressed support for updating the extraneous-duty police regulations but questioned whether the proposed compensation structure adequately protected Borough taxpayers. He referenced a previously discussed two-tier compensation system and suggested that the ordinance should establish rates that would ensure the Borough received sufficient reimbursement for administrative expenses, police vehicles, equipment, fuel, and other municipal resources used during outside-duty assignments. He expressed concern that, under the proposed structure, certain assignments could generate little or no reimbursement to the Borough. He recommended reconsideration of the compensation structure before adoption. Regarding Ordinance No. 2026-18, Mr. Timms questioned the legal validity of actions previously taken by the Redevelopment Advisory Committee. He stated that the Committee had met with a membership structure that differed from the composition established by the existing ordinance, including fewer members and the absence of required Planning Board representatives. He asked whether meetings, votes, or recommendations made under that structure were legally valid and whether any actions taken would remain effective following the Committee's proposed dissolution. The substitute Borough Attorney advised that the matter required additional legal research and would be referred to Borough Attorney Wenner. Regarding Ordinance No. 2026-19, Mr. Timms expressed support for extending the proposed data center restriction from six months to nine months and suggested that a longer period, potentially one year, could provide additional time for review. He also encouraged the governing body to explore whether the Planning Board could schedule a special meeting to expedite its review of the ordinance and allow the Borough to proceed toward final adoption without unnecessary delay. Regarding Ordinance No. 2026-20, Mr. Timms reiterated concerns about the complexity of the proposed floodplain regulations and the absence of the Borough Engineer. He urged the governing body to postpone action until the engineer could attend a meeting, explain the ordinance's provisions, and address questions regarding its potential impacts on Borough properties and residents.

Donna Walker, 789 Lynwood St – Ms. Walker questioned whether the Borough's appointed professionals were advised of expectations regarding attendance at Council meetings. She expressed concern regarding the absence of the Borough Engineer and other professionals, particularly while the Borough was operating without a full-time Administrator. She also questioned how municipal matters requiring administrative attention were being handled during the vacancy. Ms. Walker additionally commented on construction activity associated with the bypass project near her residence. She reported observing limited police presence at the construction site and noted that an officer from South Bound Brook had recently been assigned to the area. She questioned the coordination and oversight of extraneous-duty police assignments and suggested that residents should have greater awareness of police coverage associated with construction projects in their neighborhoods.

Neither seeing nor hearing any other members of the public wishing to speak, Mayor Tozzi closed Public Comment.

MINUTES

1. September 15, 2026 – Regular Meeting

On motion of Councilman Harwood, seconded by Council President Fritzinger Council moved to approve the September 15, 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 there were no updates from the Municipal Court and that the September Environmental Commission report was still pending. He advised that the AARP-funded rain garden had been installed at Frelinghuysen Park, adjacent to the tennis courts. He noted the successful turnout of volunteers, commended those involved, and expressed his appreciation for the project and the opportunity to pursue additional grants for similar environmental improvements.

Councilman Harwood – Councilman Harwood reported that the Borough had received eight résumés for the vacant Deputy Clerk/Deputy Registrar position. He advised that interviews would be scheduled, with the goal of filling the position as soon as possible.

Council President Fritzinger – Council President provided an update on Department of Public Works activities, including catch basin repairs on Green Street, tree trimming, roadway maintenance, and ongoing maintenance of recreational facilities. He reported on the Borough's continued road paving efforts and DPW's assistance with community events, including the Basilone 5K. He also discussed the rain garden installation at Frelinghuysen Park and upcoming seasonal maintenance activities, including leaf collection. Council President Fritzinger further reported on the Historical and Cultural Committee, including an upcoming historical presentation at the Raritan Public Library. He presented the Committee's proposal to establish a community time capsule at the Library on November 15, 2026, to be opened in 2076. The proposed capsule would preserve photographs, documents, publications, and other items representative of the Borough in 2026. Additional coordination regarding the ceremony, installation, and potential donation of the capsule container would follow.

On motion of Councilman Agrawal, seconded by Councilman Martinez, Council moved to approve the Time Capsule Project.

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

Councilman DiGraziano – Councilman DiGraziano reported on upcoming Recreation Committee activities, including the Main Street scarecrow contest and voting, Halloween costume exchange, Trunk-or-Treat at JFK School, and Main Street trick-or-treating events. Regarding Finance, Councilman DiGraziano reported that the Borough had achieved 100% tax collection and would not be conducting a tax sale for the year. He also discussed the Borough's credit rating report from Standard & Poor's, advising that the Borough's AA+ credit rating had been affirmed,

although the outlook had been revised to negative due to recent operating deficits and declining reserves. He noted the Borough's financial strengths, including its local economy and reserve position, while acknowledging the importance of maintaining balanced operations and rebuilding reserves. Councilman DiGraziano additionally clarified that the proposed Basilone Park basketball court and walkway improvements would be funded primarily through grant proceeds secured in 2024, with a Borough contribution of approximately $10,000.

Councilman Agrawal – Councilman Agrawal commended the Environmental Commission and volunteers for the successful installation of the rain garden at Frelinghuysen Park. He also commented on the Borough's AA+ credit rating, emphasizing that it remains a strong rating and recognizing the efforts of the Finance Department and Borough administration. Regarding the Board of Health, Councilman Agrawal advised that there were no updates, as the next meeting had not yet taken place. He further reported that the Senior Citizens were planning a trip to a planetarium and additional educational programs. He encouraged eligible residents interested in participating to contact the Senior Citizens organization.

Councilman Giraldi – Councilman Giraldi commented on the Basilone Parade and the unfortunate weather conditions that affected the event. He acknowledged the significant effort involved in organizing the parade and expressed hope for improved conditions next year. Councilman Giraldi also provided the Police Department's year-to-date activity report, including 10,933 general complaints, 441 crash reports, 24 arrests, 3,818 motor vehicle stops, and 3,323 motor vehicle citations and warnings.

OLD BUSINESS
None

NEW BUSINESS
None

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING & PUBLIC HEARING
None

ORDINANCES – INTRODUCTION

Ordinance No. 2026-17

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 rates and procedures for extraneous-duty police assignments, including use of the Jobs4Blue scheduling system.

Councilman Agrawal commented on Ordinance No. 2026-17, acknowledging that the proposed amendments to the extraneous-duty police employment regulations were a step in the right direction. He noted that earlier versions of the ordinance did not establish a compensation cap and that the revised ordinance now included a maximum rate of $135 per hour. He expressed some

concern that, under the proposed structure, the Borough would receive little or no financial benefit from certain assignments involving higher-paid officers. However, he recognized that the Borough would receive reasonable compensation for the use of vehicles, fuel, and other resources for most assignments. Following discussions with his fellow Council members, Councilman Agrawal indicated that he was willing to support the ordinance as introduced, with the understanding that its effectiveness could be evaluated moving forward.

On motion by Councilman Martinez, seconded by Councilman DiGraziano, Council moved to Introduce Ordinance No. 2026-17.

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

Ordinance No. 2026-18

Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, Abolishing the Redevelopment Advisory Committee

The purpose of this Ordinance is to Abolish the Redevelopment Advisory Committee

On motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman Harwood, Council moved to Introduce Ordinance No. 2026-18.

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

Ordinance No. 2026-19

Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Chapter 207 Entitled “Land Use and Development” to Include and Designate Data Centers as a Non-Permitted Use in all Zones within the Borough of Raritan

The purpose of this Ordinance is to prohibit data centers as a permitted land use throughout the Borough for a nine-month period while the Borough further studies their potential impacts

Councilman Agrawal commented on Ordinance No. 2026-19, emphasizing the complexity of regulating data centers and the importance of allowing the Borough sufficient time to evaluate their potential impacts. He advised that he had organized a meeting with residents and industry professionals with extensive experience in data center operations to gain a better understanding

of the technology and its varying uses and sizes. He noted that data centers range from small-scale operations to large industrial facilities and that municipalities must carefully consider the potential legal and developmental implications of prohibiting such uses. The Councilman expressed support for the proposed nine-month restriction, explaining that it would provide the Borough with an opportunity to further study data centers, evaluate their potential impacts, and establish appropriate regulations and safeguards. He emphasized the importance of making an informed decision rather than implementing a permanent prohibition without sufficient research. He further noted that the nine-month period would encourage the governing body to address the matter within a defined timeframe, as the restriction would expire if no further action were taken.

On motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman Agrawal, Council moved to Introduce Ordinance No. 2026-19.

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

Ordinance No. 2026-20

Ordinance Amending the Borough of Raritan Code of Ordinances to Repeal Chapter 175; to Adopt a New Chapter 175; to Adopt Flood Hazard Maps; to Designate a Floodplain Administrator; and Providing for Severability and Effective Date

The purpose of this Ordinance is to update the Borough's floodplain management regulations and adopts current flood hazard standards and maps

Councilman Agrawal commented on Ordinance No. 2026-20, expressing concerns regarding the proposed amendments to the Borough's floodplain management regulations. He stated that the ordinance was lengthy and complex and expressed disappointment that the Borough Engineer was not present to provide a presentation or explanation to the governing body and public. Councilman Agrawal advised that he had contacted the Environmental Commission and learned that the Commission had previously submitted recommendations regarding the proposed ordinance, which had not been incorporated into the version presented for introduction. He questioned the lack of coordination between the Borough Engineer and Environmental Commission, particularly given the length of time the ordinance had been under consideration. He further acknowledged the apparent urgency associated with FEMA requirements but expressed concern that the governing body was being asked to advance the ordinance without sufficient explanation or an opportunity to address outstanding questions. Specifically, he questioned whether the proposed regulations could affect properties in the area of the Stop & Shop shopping center and other nearby properties. Councilman Agrawal stated that he was not comfortable supporting the ordinance without additional information and clarification regarding its potential impacts.

On motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman Agrawal, Council moved to Introduce Ordinance No. 2026-20.

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

CONSENT AGENDA
(Resolution No. 2026-10-149 through No.2026-10-152)

Resolution No. 2026-10-149	Authorizing Basilone Park Basketball Court and Walkway Improvements in the Amount of $150,600.00
Resolution No. 2026-10-150	Authorizing Consulting Services for Borough MS4 Watershed Improvement Plan
Resolution No. 2026-10-151	Authorizing Final Payment - Maldonado
Resolution No. 2026-10-152	Cancelling Uncollectable Taxes and Authorizing Refund - Speight

On motion by Council President Fritzinger, seconded by Councilman Harwood, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2026-10-149 through 2026-10-152 - Consent Agenda.

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

BILLS LIST

Resolution No. 2026-10-153	Approving Bills List

On motion by Councilman DiGraziano, seconded by Councilman Giraldi, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2026-10-153 - 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—June Dumping Fees—$22,293.58
2. Severe Structures, LLC—Home Improvement Program Final Payment Request—$13,330.00
3. Township of Bridgewater—2026 Sewer Charges—$18,900.00

On motion by Councilman DiGraziano, seconded by Council President Fritzinger, Council moved to Approved the Certification of Funds – June Dumping Fees, Home Improvement Program Final Payment Request, and 2026 Sewer Charges.

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.

Mike Patente, 30 Glaser Ave – Mr. Patente addressed the governing body regarding the introduction of ordinances that may require subsequent amendments. He expressed concern that introducing ordinances with the intention of revising them before final adoption results in additional expenses for the Borough, particularly when the Borough Attorney and Borough Engineer must conduct further reviews. He encouraged the governing body to resolve outstanding issues before advancing ordinances to avoid unnecessary professional fees and repeated revisions.

JoAnn Liptak, 2 Somerset St – Ms. Liptak raised several concerns regarding Borough matters. She first questioned the placement and recognition of photographs and memorial displays honoring former Borough officials and local veterans, particularly those who lost their lives during World War II. She then addressed the condition of the pavers along Main Street, reporting that she had received information concerning two individuals who had twisted their ankles and another who had fallen due to uneven or deteriorating pavers. She expressed frustration that the conditions discussed during a previous Main Street walkthrough in June had not yet been corrected and suggested that the hazardous areas be marked until repairs could be completed. Ms. Liptak also commented on an incident during the recent rain garden installation at Frelinghuysen Park in which an individual reportedly required emergency medical assistance. She expressed concern regarding the reported response time for basic life support services and discussed her own experiences with emergency medical response in the Borough. She urged the governing body to consider reestablishing a relationship with the Somerville Rescue Squad to improve emergency medical coverage for Borough residents.

Michael DeCicco, 32 Alpine Way – Mr. DeCicco commented on the Borough's financial condition following Councilman DiGraziano's presentation of the Standard & Poor's credit rating report. He expressed concern that the report's discussion of revenues, operating deficits, and future financial improvements could ultimately translate into increased property taxes for residents. He encouraged the governing body to develop a long-term financial vision for the Borough, potentially as part of its broader planning efforts, that would identify opportunities to increase revenues through additional tax ratables and economic development rather than relying primarily on property tax increases. He emphasized the importance of financial planning that would provide residents with a clearer understanding of the Borough's future fiscal direction.

Mike Pepe, Board of Education – Mr. Pepe thanked the Borough and all participants involved in organizing the John Basilone Parade despite unfavorable weather conditions. He recognized the participation of the school marching bands and student broadcasting team, noting that the parade was available for viewing through the district's student television program. He also acknowledged the parade's Grand Marshal, Harry Taylor, and Vice Grand Marshal, Ed Graff, and recognized their contributions. Mr. Pepe provided an update on the beginning of the school year, including adjustments to school start times and transportation routes. He acknowledged initial transportation difficulties and encouraged residents experiencing ongoing bus delays or concerns regarding bus stop locations to contact the school district's Transportation Department so issues could be addressed. He reported that the school year was progressing positively at JFK School, Eisenhower School, and throughout the district. Mr. Pepe additionally addressed recent public attention involving the Board of Education. While stating that he could not discuss personnel-related matters, he acknowledged having made an inappropriate remark to another Board member in an email. He expressed regret for the comment and emphasized his desire to keep the focus on the work of the district's students, teachers, and staff.

Sam Timms, 1 LaGrange St – Mr. Timms addressed several matters, beginning with questions regarding the funding for the Basilone Park basketball court improvements. He questioned the attribution of the grant funding to Bruno Associates, noting that the firm had not been appointed as the Borough's grant writer until December 2024, while certain grant awards appeared to predate that appointment. Following discussion regarding the grant amounts and award dates, Mr. Timms requested clarification of the specific grants, their respective amounts, and the parties responsible for securing the funding. He expressed concern regarding the Borough's annual expenditure for grant-writing services and whether the services were providing an appropriate return on investment. Mr. Timms also commented on the proposed community time capsule, expressing support for preserving the Borough's history while emphasizing the importance of making responsible decisions that consider the long-term future of the municipality. He further questioned a $269 expenditure appearing on the bills list for towing a Jeep, asking whether the vehicle was Borough-owned and why the expense had been charged to the municipality. He also raised concerns regarding a reported political campaign contribution associated with an individual employed by a company he stated was connected to the ownership of the Agway redevelopment property. Mr. Timms concluded by expressing frustration with what he perceived as insufficient public engagement and discussion by the governing body before decisions were made.

Jeff King, 47 Vones Ln – Mr. King questioned the status of environmental consulting services associated with the redevelopment project on LaGrange Street; he asked whether the Borough had received reports from RT Environmental and whether those reports had been made available to the public. During the ensuing discussion, it was explained that the environmental consultant had been retained by the Borough to assist with environmental review and compliance matters associated with redevelopment projects, and that the redevelopment project's progress had been affected by the developer's actions. Mr. King questioned payments appearing on the Borough's bills list for environmental consulting services when he believed reports had not been provided. The governing body explained that consulting expenses were paid through the Borough's financial procedures and reimbursed from developer escrow funds. It was also stated that a report had been provided to the Planning Board. Mr. King continued to question the accounting treatment of the expenditure and requested clarification regarding the consultant's work and reporting responsibilities.

Heath Hofmeister, 96 Anderson St – Mr. Hofmeister addressed the governing body regarding concerns he had heard from residents about transparency and the municipal decision-making

process. He shared a suggestion from a fellow resident, Carlo Ione, proposing the establishment of a resident-based ethics committee or oversight board. Mr. Hofmeister explained that such a committee could provide additional review of Borough actions and help strengthen public confidence in the governing body's decisions. He suggested that the committee consist primarily of residents, with representation or a liaison from the Borough, and encouraged the Mayor and Council to consider the proposal.

Roger Copt, 1120 Rt 202 – Mr. Copt expressed strong dissatisfaction with the governing body's actions and decision-making process. He criticized the absence of the Borough Engineer from the meeting, stating that the public had questions concerning pending ordinances and other matters that could not be adequately addressed without the engineer present. Mr. Copt also discussed an ongoing dispute involving a driveway and right-of-way on Alpine Way. He stated that the driveway had been installed with the necessary municipal approvals and questioned why it had subsequently become the subject of legal disputes and repeated executive session discussions. He expressed concern regarding the legal and engineering expenses associated with the matter, alleging that the continued proceedings had imposed unnecessary costs on both the property owner and Borough taxpayers. He concluded with criticism of the current governing body and comments regarding the upcoming municipal election.

Lucy Li, Board of Education – Ms. Li addressed the governing body regarding cancer awareness. She commended the Borough for recognizing Breast Cancer Awareness Month and discussed the significant advances in breast cancer detection, research, and treatment resulting from increased public awareness and medical innovation. Ms. Li emphasized the relationship between breast cancer and liver health, explaining that breast cancer can metastasize to the liver and that advances in liver-directed treatments may benefit patients with several forms of cancer. She discussed research concerning breast cancer survival rates and liver metastases and noted that October is also Liver Cancer Awareness Month. Ms. Li shared her personal experience with liver cancer treatment and emphasized the need for increased awareness, research, and treatment options for individuals affected by primary liver cancers. She thanked Mayor Tozzi for attending a liver cancer awareness event and acknowledged the Borough's consideration of a proclamation recognizing Liver Cancer Awareness Month at the October 20, 2026 meeting.

Mayor Tozzi thanked Ms. Lee for her comments and confirmed that a proclamation recognizing Liver Cancer Awareness Month was anticipated for the next Council meeting.

Neither seeing nor hearing any other members of the public wishing to speak, Mayor Tozzi closed Public Comment.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

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

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

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Kimberly Mathewson
Acting Municipal Clerk