

September 22, 2015
Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Raritan Borough Council was called to order by Mayor Liptak at 6:32p.m. The meeting was held in the Meeting Room of the Raritan Borough Municipal Building at 22 First Street, Raritan, NJ 08869.

Mayor Liptak announced that the meeting was called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. Notices of this meeting were sent to The Courier News and the Star Ledger on January 6, 2015. In addition, copies of notices were posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building, on the Raritan Borough website and filed in the Office of the Borough Clerk. Notices on the bulletin board have remained continuously posted.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilwoman Carra, Councilman Foohey,
Councilwoman Gara, Councilman Giraldi,
Councilman Sibilia
Absent: Council President Lobell
Also Present: Mayor Liptak, Borough Attorney Wenner, Borough
Administrator Jaxel, Borough Engineer Schrek
(arrived at 7:04p.m.), Police Chief McCormick
(arrived at 7:04p.m.), Borough Clerk Schmitt

FLAG SALUTE AND INVOCATION

Councilwoman Gara led the invocation and flag salute.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution No. 2015-09-107 - Executive Session - Subject Matter:
PBA Employment Contract; Fire Prevention Officer Salary; COAH
Litigation; Attorney/Client Privilege

On motion by Councilwoman Gara, seconded by Councilman Foohey,
it was moved to approve Resolution No. 2015-09-107.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Gara, Giraldi, Sibilia
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

Council convened in Executive Session at 6:35p.m.

On motion by Councilman Sibilia, seconded by Councilman Foohey,
it was moved to come out of Executive Session.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Gara, Giraldi, Sibilia

Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

Council came out of Executive Session at 7:03p.m. and resumed in Regular Session.

Mayor Liptak announced that in order to accommodate the Fire Chief who was in attendance, she would move the Old Business Agenda Item forward for discussion.

OLD BUSINESS

Fire Department - Purchase of Fire Truck (PG)

Brian Kredatus, Raritan Fire Chief updated the Mayor and Council on the status of purchasing a new fire truck. Chief Kredatus stated that the Fire Department has been in contact with vendors and carefully looking for a new fire truck and evaluating all available options to ensure the best value available. Councilman Giraldi asked for a timeline and approximate price. Chief Kredatus responded that an estimated price would be approximately \$468,000 and he is currently working on a purchase with the manufacturer.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 25, 2015 - Regular Meeting

On motion by Councilwoman Carra, seconded by Councilman Foohey, it was moved to approve the August 25, 2015 - Regular Meeting minutes.

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Giraldi
Nay: XXX
Abstain: Gara, Sibilialia

Motion Carried 3-2.

September 8, 2015 - Executive Session

On motion by Councilwoman Gara, seconded by Councilman Sibilialia, it was moved to approve the September 8, 2015 - Executive Session minutes.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Gara, Giraldi, Sibilia
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

September 8, 2015 - Agenda-Workshop Meeting

On motion by Councilwoman Carra, seconded by Councilwoman Gara, it was moved to approve the September 8, 2015 - Agenda-Workshop Meeting minutes.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Gara, Giraldi, Sibilia
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARING

Environmental Commission – Removal of Non-Participating Members

Mayor Liptak requested a motion to open the Public Hearing.

On motion by Councilwoman Gara, seconded by Councilwoman Carra, it was moved to open the Public Hearing on removal of the non-participating members of the Environmental Commission.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Gara, Giraldi, Sibilia
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

Borough Attorney Wenner reviewed the purpose and intent of the public hearing and stated that two members of the Environmental Commission, Candace Bauer and Karen Baez have been notified by letter of the public hearing, if they choose to attend. Mr. Wenner requested that Councilman Foohey, liaison to the Environmental Commission state why these members should be removed. Councilman Foohey stated that both members have failed to attend meetings in over one year. Borough Attorney Wenner stated that failure to attend meetings would constitute cause for removal.

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On motion by Councilman Foohey, seconded by Councilwoman Carra, it was moved to remove Candace Bauer and Karen Baez from the Environmental Commission.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Gara, Giraldi, Sibilialia
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

Mayor Liptak asked if there were any comments from the public. There being no comments Mayor Liptak called for a motion to close the public hearing.

On motion by Councilman Foohey, seconded by Councilman Sibilialia, it was moved to close the Public Hearing.

Recorded Vote: All Ayes

Motion Carried 5-0.

ORDINANCES - SECOND READING

Ordinance No. 2015-09 - An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, Adding Chapter 260, Precious Metals, Gems, and Secondhand Goods, to the Code of the Borough of Raritan

Mayor Liptak stated that this ordinance is currently tabled until October 13, 2015. No action was taken; the ordinance remained on the table.

Ordinance No. 2015-12 - An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, Amending Chapter 207, Land Use and Development, Section 61, Subdivisions, of the Code of the Borough of Raritan to Change the Minimum Radius of Turnarounds at the Terminus of Dead End or Cul De Sac Streets From 50 Feet to 45 Feet

Mayor Liptak called for a motion to table Ordinance No. 2015-12 pending approval by the Planning Board.

On motion by Councilwoman Carra, seconded by Councilwoman Gara, it was moved to table Ordinance No. 2015-12 until the meeting of October 27, 2015.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Gara, Giraldi, Sibilialia
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 2015-09-108 - Authorization of Preliminary Costs for Preparation of an Engineering Study to Re-Design the Electrical System at the Raritan Borough Public Library

On motion by Councilman Foohey, seconded by Councilwoman Gara, it was moved to adopt Resolution No. 2015-09-108.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Gara, Giraldi
Nay: Sibilialia
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-1.

Resolution No. 2015-09-109 - Award of Contract for Professional Engineering Services - Re-Design of the Electrical System at the Raritan Borough Public Library

On motion by Councilwoman Carra, seconded by Councilman Foohey, it was moved to adopt Resolution No. 2015-09-109.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Gara, Giraldi,
Nay: Sibilialia
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-1.

Borough Attorney Wenner read the following Resolution into record.

Resolution No. 2015-09-110 - Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Amendment to the Municipal Shared Services Defense Agreement

On motion by Councilwoman Gara, seconded by Councilman Foohey, it was moved to adopt Resolution No. 2015-09-110.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Gara, Giraldi
Nay: Sibilia
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-1.

APPROVAL OF BILLS LIST

Mayor Liptak called for a motion for approval of the Bills List.

On motion by Councilwoman Carra, seconded by Councilman Giraldi, it was moved to approve the Bills List for the period of August 24, 2015 through September 18, 2015 in the amount of \$3,729,037.43.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Gara, Giraldi, Sibilia
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

PURCHASE ORDER REQUESTS

Fire Department - Tires for Tower 52-2 - Richie's Tire Service in the amount of \$5,917.00 (pending certification of funds).

On motion by Councilwoman Carra, seconded by Councilwoman Gara, it was moved to approve the above listed purchase order (pending certification of funds).

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Gara, Giraldi, Sibilia
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

Councilwoman Carra delivered the Fire Department Report and reviewed some of the training classes that the firemen have attended. Ms. Carra reviewed the fees collected by the Vital Statistics Office for the month of August and also stated that the Board of Health has completed the work on the fee schedule and would like to introduce this Ordinance at their meeting in October.

Councilwoman Gara invited everyone to the Police Department Promotion Ceremony to be held on September 30th at 6:00p.m. Ms.

Gara reviewed the September Police activity report and congratulated the Police Department, Public Works Department and the Basilone Parade Committee on a wonderful parade. Ms. Gara also announced that the Senior Citizen's are holding a medicine drop off for the general public at their December 9th meeting; details are on the Borough website.

Councilman Giraldi thanked the Basilone Committee for a wonderful parade and stated that it was a great event. He also mentioned that he was unable to attend the Historical and Cultural Committee meeting this month since it was on the same night as the Basilone Committee meeting.

Councilman Foohey stated that the Environmental Commission did not meet due to a lack of a quorum and the commission hopes to have new members appointed shortly. Mr. Foohey reported that JFK School will hold their back to school nights in October and the PTO is collecting box tops for education. Bridgewater-Raritan High School has rescheduled their football game with Union and the football team, under Coach Scott Brey, is currently ranked 18th in the NJ.com top 20. Mr. Foohey also gave a report from the Board of Education.

Councilman Sibilia did not have anything to report.

Mayor Liptak thanked the Basilone Parade Committee, Police Department, Fire Department and Public Works Department for a fantastic job on the parade and stated that it was a beautiful day. Mayor Liptak announced that there will be a public shredding on October 3rd at the Branchburg Municipal Building. Also, the Raritan Public Library hosted a guest speaker from the Middlesex County Library Association to talk about 5013C status and fundraising possibilities for the Library Friends Group. In addition, the 4H fairgrounds will be hosting the Vietnam Veterans Traveling Memorial Wall starting on October 1st for a limited number of days. Mayor Liptak stated that this is a very moving tribute to Vietnam Veterans.

NEW BUSINESS

New York Avenue Emergency Sewer Repair (SS)

Borough Engineer Schrek informed Council that there was another sewer break at a private residence and a contractor was engaged by the homeowner to make the repairs. Mr. Shrek reminded Council that in the past the Borough's policy has been to cover the repair from the curb to the main sewer line. Mr. Shrek continued that the work has been completed and the homeowner is requesting reimbursement. Borough Administrator Jaxel stated

that he has reviewed the contractor's bill and the homeowner has provided proof of payment.

On motion by Councilman Foohey, seconded by Councilwoman Gara, it was moved to reimburse the homeowner in the total amount of \$9,775.25 pending certification of funds and all required documentation.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Gara, Giraldi, Sibilialia

Nay: XXX

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

Department of Transportation Grant (SS)

Borough Engineer Schrek informed Council that grant applications are due to the Department of Transportation by October 20th, therefore a Resolution of Approval would be needed by the October 13th meeting. Borough Engineer Schrek recommended that the Borough apply for improvements to Sherman Avenue and reviewed this proposed project.

Councilman Sibilialia stated that it has been brought to his attention that the Borough pool has been drained and he was concerned if this was a waste of water. Borough Administrator Jaxel stated that he is aware of this and it was his understanding that the pools would be cleaned out and refilled.

Mayor Liptak stated her concern for a crosswalk at Second and Thompson Streets since this is a bus stop and creates a dangerous situation for children. Borough Engineer Schrek stated that an ADA ramp would be required for a crosswalk. Councilwoman Gara suggested calling bus transportation to move the bus stop.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Robert Lee of 87 E. Somerset Street, Raritan, New Jersey commented on Borough issues that have not been handled in a timely matter or followed through on and stated that these things shed a bad light on the town.

Zach Bray of 101 Anderson Street, Raritan, New Jersey thanked Councilman Foohey for his comments about the Bridgewater-Raritan football team. Mr. Bray stated that his uncle has been the coach for nine years and he wishes him and his players continued success. Also, there are quite a few players on the team from Raritan.

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ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Councilman Sibilia, seconded by Councilwoman Gara,
it was moved to adjourn the meeting.

Recorded Vote: AYE: All Ayes
 NAY: XXX
 Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45p.m.

Respectively Submitted,

Marguerite Schmitt, RMC
Borough Clerk

Approved: _____