

This Regular Meeting of the Borough of Raritan Governing Body was called to order by Mayor Charles McMullin in the Meeting Room of the Raritan Municipal Building, 22 First Street, Raritan, NJ 08869 at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 23, 2019.

The Mayor announced this Regular Meeting was called pursuant to applicable portions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Adequate Notice was communicated to *The Courier News*, *The Star Ledger* and *The Breeze* on January 3, 2019, posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building, on the Borough website and made available in the Office of the Borough Clerk.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor McMullin, Councilman Bray, Councilman Carra, Councilman Giraldi, Councilwoman Melitsky, Councilman Orozco
Also Present: Borough Administrator Jaxel, Borough Clerk Colvin, Borough Attorney Robertson, Borough Engineer Schrek
Absent: Council President Tozzi

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

Councilman Orozco

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution No. 2019-04-077

Executive Session

1. Personnel
Public Works, Volunteer Firefighter, Social Media Policy
2. Contract Negotiations
SASSA, Public Safety Expansion
3. Attorney Client
Medical Marijuana

On a motion by Councilman Bray, seconded by Councilman Giraldi, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2019-04-077.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Bray, Carra, Giraldi, Melitsky, Orozco

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

Council convened in Executive Session at 6:32 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilman Bray, seconded by Councilman Orozco, Council moved to Reconvene in Regular Session.

Recorded Vote

All in Favor

Motion Carried: 5-0

Council exited Executive Session and resumed Regular Session at 6:55 p.m.

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 McMullin opened Public Comment for any member of the Public wishing to speak.

Robert Zutterbaum, American Cancer Society: Mr. Zutterbaum asked for permission to hang a banner across Somerset Street, as the organization has done for many years, sometime in May for the annual Relay for Life event. Mayor and Council verbally approved and asked Administrator Jaxel to coordinate the banner hanging.

PROCLAMATION

Honoring Eva Torres – Ambassador of Military Children for the Borough of Raritan

Mayor McMullin welcomed Eva Torres and her mother, Christine, to the front of the Meeting Room and read the following Proclamation:

Proclamation

HONORING EVA TORRES – AMBASSADOR OF MILITARY CHILDREN FOR THE BOROUGH OF RARITAN

WHEREAS, the month of April was designated as the 'Month of the Military Child' in 1986 by then U. S. Secretary of Defense Casper W. Weinberger to recognize military children for their sacrifice and bravery on the home front; and

WHEREAS, Military children deal with separations, deployments, frequent moves and even their parents' injuries as part of the life they were born into or entered into with their families; and

WHEREAS, there are currently 1.88 million Military Children in America; and

WHEREAS, Raritan Borough resident Eva Torres, who lives with her mother, Christine, is the daughter of Specialist Richard Torres, U.S. Army National Guard, who is stationed in Africa; and

WHEREAS, Eva demonstrates strength and resiliency beyond her years and is an inspiration to everyone with whom she comes in contact.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charles McMullin, Mayor of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey do hereby honor Eva Torres by naming her Borough of Raritan Ambassador of Military Children and officially designate April 26, 2019 to be Recognizing the Sacrifice and Bravery of the Military Child Day in the Borough of Raritan.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my Hand and Affixed the Seal of the Borough of Raritan this Twenty Third Day of April in the Year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Nineteen.

Attest:

ERIC M. COLVIN
BOROUGH CLERK

CHARLES MCMULLIN
MAYOR

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. April 9, 2019 – Executive Session
2. April 9, 2019 – Regular Session

On a motion by Councilwoman Melitsky, seconded by Councilman Bray, Council moved to Approve the Executive Session and Regular Session Minutes of April 9, 2019.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Bray, Carra, Giraldi, Melitsky, Orozco

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

WORK SESSION

1. Lawn Mower Purchase (DJ)

Administrator Jaxel said Council had previously approved \$10,000.00 for a lawn mower for Public Works and an additional \$1,000.00 is needed for the purchase.

On a motion by Councilman Bray, seconded by Councilman Carra, Council moved to Approve an Amount Not To Exceed \$11,000.00 for the Purchase of a New Lawn Mower.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Bray, Carra, Giraldi, Melitsky, Orozco

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

2. UNICO Request (DJ)

Administrator Jaxel said the local UNICO has made a request to use the kitchen in the basement of Borough Hall to cook once per month on Wednesdays. Various members of Council expressed approval. There was no formal vote.

3. Capital Budget – Police Radios (DJ)

Administrator Jaxel said a Bond Ordinance would be needed to purchase new radios for the Police Department in order for members to be in tune with the Somerset County frequency. Various members of Council expressed approval to have the Bond Ordinance drafted. There was no formal vote.

4. Raritan & Eco Day Parade (PO)

Councilman Orozco said the Sports Committee would like to hold a parade for the Little League on Raritan & Eco Day, adding the Police and Fire Departments have provided approval. Mayor McMullin asked Administrator Jaxel whether any additional information was needed prior to approval, to which Administrator Jaxel said nothing additional would be needed. Various members of Council expressed approval to have the Bond Ordinance drafted. There was no formal vote.

5. Medical Marijuana (CM)

Mayor McMullin said the Planning Board began a study in June 2018 on whether and/or where to allow a medical marijuana location in the Borough. The Mayor said the State of New Jersey has not yet passed legislation regarding marijuana and the Planning Board has stopped its study in the meantime. A conversation between the Mayor and members of Council ensued concerning whether the Borough should move to allow a medical location. Ultimately, the Governing Body agreed to wait until additional information comes from Trenton

6. SASSA (CM)

Mayor McMullin said the Borough has deliberated in recent months about whether to renew with Robert Wood Johnson and Somerville for ambulatory services or to go exclusively with Robert Wood Johnson.

On a motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman Bray, Council moved to Exclusively Use Robert Wood Johnson for Ambulatory Services.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Bray, Carra, Giraldi, Melitksy, Orozco

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

7. Architect for Public Safety Expansion (CM)

Mayor McMullin said an architect can do a needs analysis for a cost estimate and asked Engineer Schrek for his opinion. Engineer Schrek said the architect is already involved and could extend the analysis to the Washington School grounds. Councilman Giraldi suggested capping the amount at \$20,000.

On a motion by Councilwoman Melitsky, seconded by Councilman Giraldi, Council moved to Authorize the Extension of the Needs Analysis.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Bray, Carra, Giraldi, Melitksy, Orozco

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

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 McMullin opened Public Comment for any member of the Public wishing to speak.

Victor Laggini, 250 Weiss Terrace: Mr. Laggini said he has seen no changes in the circumstances surrounding noise and air quality in his neighborhood coming from the NJ Transit yard. Mr. Laggini asked the Governing Body to take another step to stop the issues.

Councilman Bray said he experienced noise and air quality issued on several occasions when he visited the location. The Councilman said he has reached out to NJ Transit and Senator Doherty.

Mr. Laggini said these issues stopped for approximately 10 years, but have begun again in recent months.

Mayor McMullin said the next step is to contact Senator Doherty again and ask for his assistance.

Marissa Martin Sarao, Weiss Terrace: Mrs. Martin Sarao said she has lived on Weiss Terrace her entire life and the situation has indeed started again, with train activity loud enough to rattle the walls in her home and poor air quality. Councilman Giraldi said the last time the issues subsided was a result of the action of a Congressman.

Kristin Hayward, Canal Street: Ms. Hayward asked about the old United Dye building status, adding every time it rains the area floods and smells.

Mayor McMullin said the Borough has issued fines and the matter is currently being adjudicated in court. The owner is also scheduled to come before the Planning Board soon, the Mayor said, adding the owner has been uncooperative in the past.

ORDINANCE – SECOND READING & PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance No. 2019-03

An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan,
County of Somerset, State of New Jersey
Establishing A Cap Bank

Mayor McMullin opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2019-03 for any members of the Public wishing to be heard.

Neither seeing nor hearing any member of the Public, Mayor McMullin closed the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2019-03.

On a motion by Councilman Bray, seconded by Councilman Carra, Council moved to Adopt Ordinance No. 2019-03.

Recorded Vote:

Yea: Bray, Carra, Giraldi, Melitsky, Orozco

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Passed: 5-0

ORDINANCE – INTRODUCTION

Ordinance No. 2019-04

An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan,
County of Somerset, State of New Jersey
Authorizing the Sale of Borough Real
Property – Block 35 Lot 5.01

Mayor McMullin explained this property is located at the corner of Tillman and Raritan avenues, adding the property was ultimately demolished and the Borough owns the title.

On a motion by Councilman Carra, seconded by Councilman Orozco, Council moved to Introduce Ordinance No. 2019-04.

Recorded Vote:
All in Favor
Motion Passed: 5-0

PUBLIC HEARING – 2019 MUNICIPAL BUDGET AS INTRODUCED

Mayor McMullin announced that the 2019 Municipal Budget will be the third consecutive budget to not contain a municipal tax increase.

Mayor McMullin opened the Public Hearing on the 2019 Municipal Budget.

Christine Torres, 1315 Harding Court: Mrs. Torres asked whether the Economic Development Committee will have money appropriated and, if so, when money can be spent. Administrator Jaxel said upon adoption, which is scheduled for May 14.

Neither seeing nor hearing any member of the Public, Mayor McMullin closed the Public Hearing.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution No. 2019-04-078 through Resolution No. 2019-04-081)

Resolution No. 2019-04-078	Authorizing Refunds – Recreation Baseball
Resolution No. 2019-04-079	Amending 2019 Municipal Budget
Resolution No. 2019-04-080	Acknowledging Renewal of Community Development Block Grant & Home Investment Partnership Program Activities
Resolution No. 2019-04-081	Authorizing the Execution of Agreement – Street Fairs, LLC.

Councilman Bray asked Councilman Orozco whether he had spoken with the Events Committee to coordinate dates, to which Councilman Orozco said he had and there is no conflict with the proposed May 9 date of the street fair.

On a motion by Councilman Orozco, seconded by Councilman Giraldi, Council moved to Approve the Consent Agenda.

Recorded Vote:
Yea: Bray, Carra, Giraldi, Melitsky, Orozco
Nay: x
Abstain: x
Motion Passed: 5-0

BILL LIST

Resolution No. 2019-04-082	Approving Bill List
----------------------------	---------------------

On a motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilwoman Melitsky, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2019-04-082 – Bill List.

Recorded Vote:

Yea: Bray, Carra, Giraldi, Melitsky, Orozco

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Passed: 5-0

PURCHASE ORDER REQUESTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Giraldi – Councilman Giraldi said Raritan & Eco Day will take place Saturday, April 29 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Councilman said the Basilone Committee meeting was canceled.

Councilman Bray – Councilman Bray said the Economic Development Committee has a host of ideas that members plan to begin unveiling in the upcoming weeks and months, adding the group will have a table at Raritan & Eco Day. The Councilman said the Historical & Cultural Committee met last week and will host an event on May 9.

Councilwoman Melitsky – Councilwoman Melitsky said CO Gara reported 80 inspections in the last two weeks and Property Maintenance Officer Mulcahy reported 45 inspections in the same time period and issued 51 notices of violations, adding most of which were for grass.

Councilman Carra – Councilman Carra said the Planning Board will meet tomorrow evening and the Board of Health will host a free Health Workshop on various days in May and June. The Councilman said the Municipal Court collected more than \$16,000 in the last month.

Councilman Orozco – Councilman Orozco said Little League will have a parade this coming weekend, adding lifeguards are still needed for the summer and registration for summer camp is ongoing until the end of June.

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 McMullin opened Public Comment for any member of the Public wishing to speak.

Christine Torres, 1315 Harding Court: Mrs. Torres thanked Mayor and Council for honoring her daughter, Eva, with a Proclamation earlier in the meeting. Mrs. Torres also thanked the Governing Body members who reach out to her while her husband is deployed.

Neither seeing nor hearing any additional member of the Public, Mayor McMullin closed this Public Comment.

REGULAR MEETING ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilman Bray, seconded by Councilman Carra, Council moved to Adjourn the Regular Meeting.

Recorded Vote:

All in Favor

Motion Passed: 5-0

Regular Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Eric M. Colvin, RMC, QPA, CMR
Borough Clerk

Approved: _____