

**BOROUGH OF ROSELAND
COUNTY OF ESSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

MARCH 12, 2024
19 HARRISON AVENUE
7:00 PM EXECUTIVE SESSION
OPEN SESSION TO IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW

COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING MINUTES

The March 12, 2024 budget meeting of the Roseland Mayor and Council was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Spango. Adequate notice of the meeting was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act in that 48-hour notice of the date, time and location of the meeting was sent to the official newspapers, posted on the public bulletin board in the Municipal Building, posted on the Borough's website, and filed in the office of the Borough Clerk. This meeting was also available via Zoom conference call.

IN ATTENDANCE:

James R. Spango, Mayor
Christopher Bardi, Council President
Eileen Fishman, Councilwoman
Neal Goldstein (Via Zoom)
Jean Perrotti, Councilwoman

ABSENT:

John Biront, Councilman
Marcelino Trillo, Councilman

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Maureen Chumacas, Borough Administrator
Jock H. Watkins, Borough Clerk
Joni McDonnell, Borough Attorney

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Mayor Spango led the salute to the flag.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Bardi made a motion to approve Resolution No. 108-2024 Approval to Close to Executive Session to discuss the following:

1. Litigation
2. Personnel

The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Fishman and approved by a 4-0 voice vote (Biront, Trillo absent). Council returned to open session at 7:15 PM. Mayor Spango read the opening statement again and Clerk Watkins took roll again with Councilman Biront and Councilman Trillo absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

DISCUSSION

Mrs. Chumacas advised Council that their recommended adjustments to the proposed budget have been made. The new budget reflects a 1% increase to the municipal portion of the budget compared to 2023. The increase to an average home will be approximately \$29.00. The average Roseland home had an assessed value of approximately \$460,000.00 in 2023. The average home this year has an assessed value of \$639,634.00.

Councilwoman Perrotti advised Council that there is one significant update to the capital budget. Council previously approved a bond ordinance in the amount of \$600,000.00 for the purchase of a new fire engine. Due to supply chain issues and other impediments resulting from the Covid-19 emergency, the fire department was unable to solicit specifications from vendors. As a result, the projected cost of the base fire engine has increased from \$600,000.00 to \$950,000.00. The fully outfitted engine is projected to cost \$1,300,000.00 and take thirty-six months to complete, compared to the typical eighteen-month time frame prior to Covid-19. Mrs. Chumacas suggested that Council could amend the previous bond ordinance and repurpose the funds to facilitate the proposed 2024 capital projects. Council could then adopt a new bond ordinance to finance the fire engine with the first payment of \$500,000.00 not due until 2027.

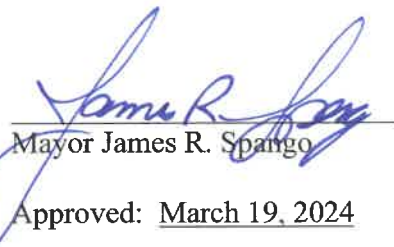
The 2024 budget will be introduced at the March 19th Council meeting with the public hearing scheduled for the April 23rd Council meeting.

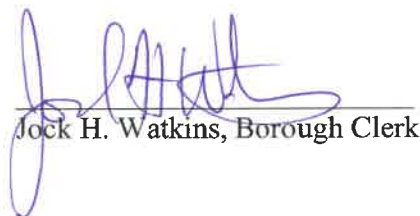
PUBLIC COMMENT

William Tedesco

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Bardi made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 AM. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Fishman and approved by a 4-0 voice vote (Biront, Trillo absent).


Mayor James R. Spargo
Approved: March 19, 2024


Jock H. Watkins, Borough Clerk

VOICE VOTE

Aye: Bardi, Fishman, Goldstein, Perrotti
Nay: None
Recuse: Biront
Absent: Trillo