

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

JANUARY 2, 2024  
19 HARRISON AVENUE  
6:30 PM OPEN SESSION

**CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES**

The January 2, 2024 meeting of the Roseland Mayor and Council was called to order at 6:30 PM by Mayor Spango. Adequate notice of the meeting was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act in that the date, time and location of the meeting were included in the Annual Meeting Schedule, sent to the official newspapers, posted on the public bulletin board in the Municipal Building 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, Councilman  
John Biront, Councilman  
Eileen Fishman, Councilwoman  
Jean Perrotti, Councilwoman  
Marcelino Trillo, Councilman

**ABSENT:**

Roger Freda, 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.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

Councilwoman Fishman made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 01-2024: "An ordinance of the Borough of Roseland, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, amending certain bond ordinances and appropriating/reappropriating \$1,365,943 in order to provide for water main replacements". The motion was seconded by Councilman Trillo and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Freda absent). The public hearing will be held on January 16, 2024.

## **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Councilman Bardi made a motion to approve Resolution No. 17-2024 approving the December 29, 2023 bill list in the Amount of \$74,976.61. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Perrotti and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Freda absent).

## **ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS**

Councilwoman Fishman made a motion to approve the first nine resolutions on the agenda:

Resolution No. 18-2024 appointing Boswell Engineering as Borough Engineer for 2024 with an estimated contract value of \$250,000.00

Resolution No. 19-2024 appointing Boswell Engineering as the water and sewer engineer for 2024 with an estimated contract value of \$200,000.00

Resolution No. 20-2024 appointing Lite DePalma Greenburg LLC as Special Counsel for Labor Issues for 2024 at a cost not to exceed \$25,000.00

Resolution No. 21-2024 appointing Hendricks Appraisal Company as Real Estate Tax Appraisal Services for 2024 at a cost not to exceed \$20,000.00

Resolution No. 22-2024 appointing McManimon, Scotland, Bauman LLC as Bond Counsel for 2024 with an estimated contract value of \$75,000.00

Resolution No. 23-2024 appointing Acacia Financial Group Inc as the Registered Municipal Financial Advisor for 2024 with an estimated contract value of \$50,000.00

Resolution No. 24-2024 appointing Daniel Bloch of Colliers Engineering and Design as Professional Planner for the Borough including COAH matters for 2024 at a cost not to exceed \$10,000.00

Resolution No. 25-2024 appointing Jeffrey Surenian as COAH Attorney for 2024 at a cost not to exceed \$15,000.00

Resolution No. 26-2024 appointing IMAC Insurance Agency as Broker of Record and consultant for employee benefits for 2024

The motion was seconded by Councilman Bardi and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Freda absent).

Councilman Trillo made a motion to approve Resolution No. 27-2024 appointing Inglesino & Taylor LLC as Borough Tax Appeal Attorney for 2024 at a cost not to exceed \$75,000.00. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bardi and approved by a 4-0 voice vote with Councilwoman Fishman recusing herself from the vote and Councilman Freda absent.

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Councilwoman Perrotti made a motion to approve the next ten resolutions on the agenda:

Resolution No. 28-2024 appointing Connell Foley LLP as Redevelopment Attorney for 2024 at a cost not to exceed \$10,000.00

Resolution No., 29-2024 appointing O'Connor Davies as Borough Auditor for 2024 at a cost not to exceed \$41,000.00

Resolution No. 30-2024 appointing John Voight from Bleakley Financial Group as Broker of Records and Financial Advisor for 2024

Resolution No. 31-2024 appointing Acacia Financial Group as Continuing Disclosure Agent for 2024

Resolution No. 32-2024 reappointing John Matheis to a three-year term as Emergency Management Coordinator effect February 1, 2024 through January 31, 2027

Resolution No. 33-2024 adopting the rules and regulations for the Roseland pickleball courts

Resolution No. 34-2024 ratification of pre-drawn bill list dated December 27, 2023 in the amount of \$699, 293.69

Resolution No. 35-2024 accepting quote from Ridgewood Press for 2024 printing services

Resolution No. 36-2024 appointing Water Resource Management Inc. as the Water Operator and Waste Water Operator for 2024 at a cost not to exceed \$15,000.00

Resolution No. 37-2024 authorizing the mayor to sign an administrative service agreement with Empower Retirement for the deferred compensation plan

The motion was seconded by Councilman Trillo and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Freda absent).

Councilman Trillo made a motion to approve Resolution No. 38-2024 appointing Inglesino & Taylor as Special Litigation Attorney for 2024 at a cost not to exceed \$20,000.00. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bardi and approved by a 4-0 voice vote with Councilwoman Fishman recusing herself from the vote and Councilman Freda absent.

Councilwoman Fishman made a motion to approve the remaining four resolutions on the agenda:

Resolution 39-2024 appointing O'Toole Scrivo as Special Litigation Attorney for Caldwell water and sewer litigation for 2024 at a cost not to exceed \$30,000.00

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Resolution No. 40-2024 appointing DiFrancesco Bateman, Kunzman Davis, Lehrer & Flaum PC as conflict tax appeal attorney for 101 Eisenhower Parkway at a cost not to exceed \$50,000.00

Resolution No. 41-2024 appointing the firm Connell Foley, LLP as Borough Attorney at a cost not to exceed \$96,000.00

Resolution No. 42-2024 authorizing a three-month extension of the IT contract with Quikteks, LLC pending the review of competitive contract proposals at a cost not to exceed \$6,360.00

The motion was seconded by Councilman Trillo and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Freda absent).

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilman Bardi made a motion to authorize Detective Carnevale to carry over fifteen (15) hours of vacation time into the calendar year 2024. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Perrotti and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Freda absent).

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Spango congratulated Councilman Bardi and Councilman Biront on their election. Mr. Spango also congratulated Councilman Bardi on his election as Council President for 2024. Mayor Spango thanked Councilwoman Tolli for her many years of services as a member of the governing body. Mayor Spango recognized Senator elect John McKeon who was in the audience, and congratulated Senator McKeon on his election to the New Jersey State Senate in the 27<sup>th</sup> legislative district.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL**

Councilman Bardi announced that the appraisal company has completed the town wide property revaluation. Notices of the new valuation and estimated taxes will be mailed out in January. The dates for the question-and-answer sessions with the appraisal company will be posted on the Borough's website.

#### **RECREATION**

Councilman Trillo congratulated Chris Bardi and John Biront their election to Council, and congratulated Steve Batta on his appointment as Municipal Judge.

#### **SENIOR & FAMILY SERVICES**

Councilwoman Fishman congratulated Chris Bardi and congratulated John Biront on their election to Council. Mrs. Fishman wished everyone a happy and healthy new year.

**PUBLIC WORKS**

No report

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

Councilwoman Perrotti wished everyone a happy new year. Mrs. Perrotti congratulated Chris Bardi on his reelection to Council, John Biront on his election to Council, and Steve Batta on his appointment as Roseland Municipal Judge.

**CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE & ENGINEERING**

No report

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilman Trillo made a motion to approve the December 19, 2023 Council meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Fishman and approved by a 5-0 voice vote with Councilman Biront abstaining from the vote and Councilman Freda absent.

Councilwoman Fishman made a motion to approve the December 19, 2023 executive session minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bardi and approved by a 3-0 voice vote with Councilman Biront abstaining from the vote, Councilman Trillo recusing himself from the vote, and Councilman Freda absent.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Councilwoman Fishman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bardi and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Freda absent).

  
Mayor James R. Spango

Approved: January 16, 2024

  
Jock H. Watkins, Borough Clerk

**VOICE VOTE**

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

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