

BOROUGH OF ROSELAND
NEW JERSEY

APRIL 4, 2017
140 EAGLE ROCK AVENUE
6:30 PM EXECUTIVE SESSION
7:30 PM PUBLIC MEETING

CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER & SUNSHINE STATEMENT

The April 4, 2017 Meeting of the Roseland Mayor and Council was called to order at 6:30 PM by Mayor Duthie. 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, was sent to The Progress and the Star Ledger, posted on the public bulletin board in the Municipal Building and filed in the office of the Borough Clerk.

IN ATTENDANCE:

John Duthie, Mayor
David Jacobs, Councilman
Richard N. Leonard, Councilman
Peter M. Smith, Councilman
Michelle Tolli, Councilwoman

ABSENT:

Thomas Tsilionis, Councilman
Mark Vidovich, Council President

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Maureen Chumacas, Borough Administrator
Ethan Jesse Sheffet, Borough Attorney
Jock H. Watkins, Borough Clerk
Gary Schall, Superintendent of Public Works

Councilman Smith made a motion to approve Resolution No. 134-2017 to close to Executive Session to discuss the following:

1. Review of Water/Sewer System Analysis Relative to Possible Sale
2. Senior Citizen's Transportation Agreement

Councilman Jacobs seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a 4-0 voice vote (Tsilionis, Vidovich absent).

At the conclusion of Executive Session, Mayor Duthie read the Sunshine Statement again and called the public meeting to order.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Mayor Duthie led the Salute to the Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Councilman Smith made a motion to approve the five resolutions on the agenda and to approve the one item on the Consent Agenda:

Resolution No. 135-2017 approving Redemption Certificate 16-00001, Block 6 Lot 19 – 29 Passaic Avenue

Resolution No. 136-2017 approving the hiring of Assignors and Umpires for the 2017 Youth Baseball/Softball season

Resolution No. 137-2017 granting approval to Verizon Wireless to install Small Network Nodes on poles erected by parties that have lawful right to maintain poles within the public right of way

Resolution No. 138-2017 approving the March 31, 2017 Bill List

Resolution No. 139-2017 approving the hiring of Angela Russomanno as the temporary Planning Board secretary for a salary of \$9,545.00

CONSENT AGENDA

Appointment of Krysten Myslak to the Beautification Committee to fill the unexpired term of Lauren Ponzio as Alternate No. 1, with a term expiring on December 31, 2017

Councilwoman Tolli seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a 4-0 voice vote, with Councilman Leonard abstaining on Resolution No. 139-2017 (Tsilionis, Vidovich absent).

MAYOR'S REPORT

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC WORKS

Councilman Smith announced that the annual hydrant flushing is scheduled to begin soon. Mr. Schall added that the flushing will begin at the end of April and should conclude in May

Mr. Smith reported that the end of the cleaning contract is approaching. Council agreed to continue using a sheltered workshop to perform the work. A resolution of award will be prepared for the next meeting.

Councilman Smith reported that Mr. Schall has recommended awarding a contract to Goksu Construction to complete the improvements at 140 Eagle Rock Avenue for a total cost of \$27,300.00. A resolution of award will be prepared for the next meeting.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilman Jacobs reminded residents to lock their cars.

RECREATION

Councilman Leonard reported that the Recreation Committee discussed the possible reduction of fees for Not-For-Profit organizations. After discussion, a resolution setting the Lacrosse fee at four hundred dollars (\$400.00) will be prepared for consideration at the next meeting.

Councilman Leonard suggested that the proposed ordinance banning the sale of dogs and cats from pet shops be referred to the Health Department.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Councilman Leonard suggested that Council create a Pedestrian Safety Committee to review crosswalks and other pedestrian safety matters in the Borough. Mrs. Tolli suggested that the timing of pedestrian signs, especially near the post office, also be considered. After discussion, the Public Safety Committee agreed to review the suggestion with the Office of Emergency Management.

After discussion, Councilman Leonard made a motion to approve Resolution No. 140-2017 to award a contract to Top Line Construction Corp. in the amount of \$317,218.80 as the lowest responsive, responsible bidder for the Becker Farm Road Improvements project. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jacobs and approved by a 4-0 voice vote (Tsilionis, Vidovich absent).

Mr. Schall reported that bids for the CDBG project for elevator improvements at 140 Harrison Avenue are due on April 13th and that the plan is to award the contract at the subsequent Council meeting. Plan review and inspections will be done by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. Mr. Schall also noted that a preconstruction meeting for the Monroe Avenue Improvements project is scheduled for tomorrow.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Councilwoman Tolli noted that blue and silver pinwheels have been placed around town in an effort to increase awareness of child abuse prevention efforts.

Mrs. Tolli reported that West Caldwell has requested that Caldwell add West Caldwell as an additional insured for the shared senior transportation bus. Mrs. Tolli added that Caldwell has agreed to address Roseland's other concerns in the upcoming contract renewal for the joint transportation agreement between Caldwell, West Caldwell and Roseland.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

No report

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Leonard made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2014 Caucus Meeting and the minutes of the December 9, 2014 Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jacobs and approved by a 4-0 voice vote (Tsilionis, Vidovich absent).

CORRESPONDENCE

Borough Clerk Watkins reported that Roseland has received an Order from the Essex County Board of Taxation requiring that a town wide revaluation be completed by October 2019 to become effective in 2020.

Mayor Duthie suggested that since the e-mail request from Assemblywoman Holly Schepisi was received today, that members of Council need some time to review the request.

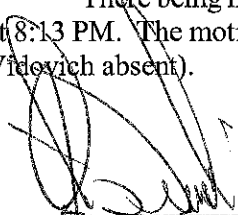
PUBLIC COMMENT

Claudia Reis of 4 Cooper Avenue asked what was discussed with regard to the water system analysis and the financial analysis in executive session earlier this evening. Borough Attorney Sheffet responded that it would not be appropriate to talk about what was discussed in executive session. Mayor Duthie added that there was not enough time to fully discuss the matter and that the professionals would be coming back. In response to a question from Ms. Reis, the Mayor stated that the next discussion would also be in executive session and that it is not possible to speculate at this time as to when the matter can be discussed in public session. In response to additional questions, Ms. Reis was advised that the Borough and the Water/Sewer Utility have separate budgets, and that there is presently no outstanding debt in the Water/Sewer budget.

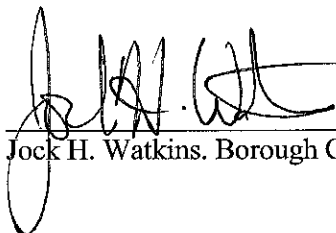
Mr. David Schwartz of 16 Schweinberg Court asked whether Council had any plans to promote community healing following the recent report of inappropriate texting. Mayor Duthie stated that the texting was inappropriate and offensive. Mr. Duthie answered that the first step has been taken in that arrangements were made to provide in-house diversity and sensitivity training for all employees and the governing body. The Mayor added that there was one hundred percent participation. Mayor Duthie also stated that there are plans to host several community events for all residents in order to get to know one another better in an informal setting. Mayor Duthie also reported that he has made himself available to anyone wishing to discuss the matter personally and that he has already had face to face and e-mail conversations with residents.

Mr. Schwartz offered two proposals for consideration. First, he suggested that the Council members involved in the conversation donate their municipal stipends to certain charitable causes, specifically the Anti-Defamation League, the NAACP, the Southern Poverty Law Center, or the Equal Justice Initiative, or some other similar charity. Secondly, Mr. Schwartz offered to provide his services to facilitate community conversations. Mayor Duthie thanked Mr. Schwartz for his kind offer and asked that Mr. Schwartz provide his contact information to Clerk Watkins.

There being no one else wishing to be heard, Councilman Smith made a motion to close the meeting at 8:13 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jacobs and approved by a 4-0 voice vote (Tsilionis, Vidovich absent).



Mayor John Duthie



Jock H. Watkins. Borough Clerk

Approved: April 18, 2017

ROLL CALL

Aye: Jacobs, Leonard, Tsilionis, Tolli, Vidovich
Nay: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Smith