

BOROUGH OF ROSELAND  
NEW JERSEY

APRIL 18, 2017  
PUBLIC MEETING ROOM  
19 HARRISON AVENUE  
6:00 PM

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The April 18, 2017 Meeting of the Roseland Mayor and Council was called to order at 6:00 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 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  
Thomas Tsilionis, Councilman  
Michelle Tolli, Councilwoman  
Mark Vidovich, Council President

**ABSENT:**

Peter M. Smith, Councilman

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Maureen Chumacas, Borough Administrator  
Ethan Jesse Sheffet, Borough Attorney  
Jock H. Watkins, Borough Clerk

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilman Vidovich made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 141-2017 Approval to Close to Executive Session to discuss the following:

1. Tax Appeals - 56 Livingston Avenue
2. West V. Borough of Roseland
3. Senior Citizen Transportation Agreement
4. Personnel

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

**CALL TO ORDER AND SUNSHINE STATEMENT**

At the close of Executive Session, Mayor Duthie called the public portion of the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Councilmen Jacobs, Leonard, Tsilionis, Vidovich,

Councilwoman Tolli, and all advisors were present. Councilman Smith was out of state on business.

### **SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

Mayor Duthie led the salute to the flag.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

Mayor Duthie acknowledged receipt of a twelve thousand dollar donation from ADP and expressed the Borough's thanks and appreciation for their continued community support. The donation will be equally shared by the Roseland Police Department, the Roseland Fire Department, the Roseland First Aid Squad, and the Roseland Office of Emergency Management.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS**

Councilman Vidovich made a motion to approve the eight resolutions and the two Consent Agenda items:

Resolution No. 142-2017 awarding a contract to Goksu Construction, LLC, who provided the lowest quote for Municipal Building Work at a cost of \$27,300.00

Resolution No. 143-2017 approving the waiver of the Field Permit Fee of \$1,190.00 for the West Essex Field Club, establishing a new fee in the amount of \$400.00, and authorizing a refund in the amount of \$790.00

Resolution No. 144-2017 approving the umpires for the Men's Softball League

Resolution No. 145-2017 approving the cancellation of water sewer billing-balances and refunds

Resolution No. 146-2017 approving the April 14, 2017 Bill List

Resolution No. 147-2017 authorizing the refund of Building Permit No. 16-254 to Meyer & Depew Co.

Resolution No. 148-2017 authorizing the use of Open Space Trust Funds for the services of Robert W. Wogisch for startup preparation work at the Thomas J. O'Beirne Field and Fernwood Field

Resolution No. 149-2017 approving the ratification of payroll for March 2017

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Accept with Regret the Resignation of Sheryl Ryan as the Co-Chairperson from the Municipal Youth Guidance Committee

### Treasurer's Report

Mayor Duthie acknowledged that Sheryl Ryan has been an active member of the Municipal Youth Guidance Committee for fifteen years and suggested Ms. Ryan be presented with a proclamation at a future meeting.

Councilwoman Tolli seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a 5-0 voice vote, with Councilman Vidovich abstaining from Resolution No. 146-2017 (Smith absent).

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Duthie reported that he attended the Sues Café at Noecker School. At the request of a teacher, Council agreed to host a mock Council meeting with students at a meeting in June.

Mr. Duthie announced that Saturday is opening day softball/baseball season and that the annual parade will begin at 9:00 AM at Fernwood Field.

Mayor Duthie congratulated Stella Marano on her selection as Senior Citizen of the year. Ms. Marano will be honored at the Senior Luncheon in May.

Mr. Duthie announced that the Borough would be hosting the first Open House on Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am until 1:00 PM. The meet and greet will enable residents to meet and talk with elected officials and representatives from various Boards and Departments.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

No Report

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Councilman Jacobs congratulated Stella Marano on her selection as Senior of the Year.

Mr. Jacobs recommended that Martin Greenwald be appointed to the Shade Tree Commission. Mayor Duthie appointed Mr. Greenwald to fill the unexpired term of Robert Spero.

Councilman Jacobs reported that two police candidates were interviewed during executive session. Mr. Jacobs made a motion to appoint Mark Aue [Resolution No. 151-2017] and Richard Romeo [Resolution No. 152-2017] as patrolmen effective May 1, 2017. Mr. Jacobs recommended that the candidates be sworn in by the Clerk on May 1<sup>st</sup>, and that family members be invited to attend a formal appointment at the May 2<sup>nd</sup> Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vidovich and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Smith absent).

Mr. Jacobs reported that Chief McDonough and Lt. Cioffi received a commendation from the Newark Department of Public Safety for their assistance on November 26, 2016, providing additional security at a heavy metal concert in Newark, in response to intelligence suggesting possible gang violence at the event.

Councilman Jacobs announced that the Senior Advisory Board is working on some new programs that will be announced in the near future.

### RECREATION

Councilman Tsilionis noted that the annual Baseball Parade will take place on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at Bond Force Park and Fernwood Field, beginning at 9:00 AM.

Mr. Tsilionis noted that one of the resolutions passed earlier in the meeting was to refund the West Essex Field Club, based on new format for local teams involving a flat fee rather than a per use fee, in order to accommodate programs that benefit local residents.

Councilman Tsilionis also congratulated Stella Marano on her selection as Senior Citizen of the Year.

Mr. Tsilionis announced that the Annual Fishing Derby will be held at Grover Cleveland Park on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Registration will begin at 5:00 PM, with the derby beginning at 6:00. Application form are available on the Borough's website and County's website.

Councilman Tsilionis reported that he will have the pleasure of reviewing the one hundred twenty-five nominations that have been submitted for Mother of the Year.

### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Councilman Leonard commented on his attendance at the Intergenerational Prom sponsored by West Essex High School, noting that the event drew residents from each of the four sending towns.

Mr. Leonard also highlighted one of many excellent programs being offered at the Roseland Library, noting that on April 8<sup>th</sup>, eight authors were on hand to discuss their books.

Councilman Leonard reported that he will be attending the final strategic planning meeting tomorrow night at Noecker School.

Mr. Leonard announced that Arbor Day will be celebrated at Noecker School on Friday April 21<sup>st</sup>. Key events will include planting of a tree in honor of former teacher Ms. Armella S. Kent.

Councilman Leonard also announced that in addition to the Meet and Greet scheduled on May 6<sup>th</sup>, tire recycling and paper shredding will also take place on the same day by the tennis courts on Harrison Avenue.

### PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Councilwoman Tolli announced that the Beautification Committee has installed new banners, designed by member Sharon Sitnik, on alternating light poles through the center of town. Hanging flower planters will also be added to a number of light poles throughout town. Some of the trash cans which look similar to planters will be relocated in an attempt to discourage people from discarding trash in the flower planters.

Mrs. Tolli reported that the Senior Transportation Committee has advised that Roseland Senior ridership has increased on the Senior Transportation Bus as more residents are taking advantage of the service.

Councilwoman Tolli noted that town wide hydrant flushing is scheduled to take place from May 1<sup>st</sup> through May 12<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 PM to 5:00 AM.

Mrs. Tolli thanked Sheryl Ryan for serving for 15 years on the Municipal Youth Guidance Committee. Anyone interested in serving on the Committee should contact Mrs. Tolli.

### ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

Councilman Vidovich announced that the 2017 budget presentation will be held at the next meeting on May second. The meeting will be held at 19 Harrison Avenue in order to allow the budget presentation to be televised.

Mr. Vidovich reported that he is very enthusiastic about the two police candidates interviewed by the Committee and again by the full Council during executive session this evening.

Councilman Vidovich noted that the Administration and Finance Committee continues to work on Union negotiations.

Mr. Vidovich noted that he plans to suggest that the Senior Citizen's bus be made available to take seniors to the West Essex High School Intergenerational prom next year in hopes of increasing senior participation.

Mayor Duthie announced his desire to establish a Committee to organize a Roseland Community Conversation to provide an opportunity for residents to get together to discuss inclusion, diversity, and sensitivity. Mr. Duthie acknowledged a local resident who works in this field who has offered to serve on the committee and assist with planning the conversation or conversations. It has been suggested that the committee include one other community member, an elected official, a law enforcement official, an educator, a faith leader, and a high school student.

Councilman Tsilionis made a motion to form a Community Conversation Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tolli and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Smith absent). Mayor Duthie stated that he will not serve on the Committee but will participate in the discussions. Councilwoman Toll volunteered to serve as the elected official on committee. Councilman Vidovich also offered to serve on the Committee if multiple elected officials would be welcome.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilman Jacobs made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2017 Caucus Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Leonard and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Smith absent).

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

JoAnn Yates, 5 Second Avenue, stated that there was a rumor that the Borough Administrator acted improperly regarding the Library. Administrator Chumacas stated that the alleged rumors were false.

Jean Perrotti, 12 Second Avenue, asked if Council has received the water report, if they have reviewed the report, and if Council is ready to review the report publicly. Mayor Duthie answered that a draft report has been received, Council has begun reviewing the report with the professionals, but additional sessions will be required to complete the review. Mr. Duthie stated that the report will be shared with the public, once a final report is prepared.

Ms. Perrotti noted that the minutes of the March 7<sup>th</sup> meeting indicate that funds have been budgeted for infrastructure repairs, and asked what infrastructure repairs were planned. Councilman Vidovich answered that funds have been budgeted for roadway improvements. Mayor Duthie added that water infrastructure is covered under a different budget. Mr. Vidovich also suggested that residents can review the budget on the Borough's website. Mayor Duthie added that the budget will be reviewed in detail at the May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

Ms. Perrotti referenced questions at the last meeting by Progress reporter Mr. Burke regarding possible PILOT projects. Ms. Perrotti noted that property tax revenue is split between the borough, the county, and the school system, but PILOT funds primarily go to the town. Ms. Perrotti asked if the Borough was planning to require that the PILOTs under consideration in Roseland would include funding for the Board of Education as has been done

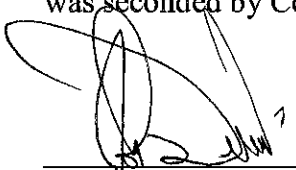
in Jersey City and Bayonne. Councilman Vidovich answered that Council has always taken care to protect the school system.

John Matheis, OEM Coordinator, thanked ADP for their generous donation to the Office of Emergency Management adding that the funds will be put to good use toward the safety of the town.

Stacy McCormack, 14 Lyons Avenue, stated that there were rumors around town, and accused the Borough Administrator of acting improperly regarding the Library. Administrator Chumacas stated that the alleged rumors were false.

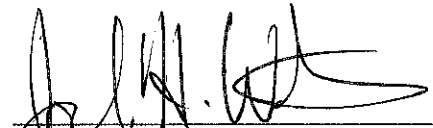
Eileen Cushman, 15 Schweinberg Drive, asked if Council had investigated the alleged, potential conflict of interest of the engineer preparing the water report. Mayor Duthie answered that Council has been given a legal opinion that no conflict of interest exists.

Councilman Jacobs made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vidovich and approved by a 6-0 voice vote.



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Mayor John Duthie



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Jock H. Watkins, Borough Clerk

Approved: June 20, 2017

**ROLL CALL**

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