

APRIL 21, 2020  
VIA CONFERENCE CALL  
7:30 PM OPEN SESSION

CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency, the April 21, 2020 meeting of the Roseland Mayor and Council was called to order at 7:30 PM via teleconference 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. The change of the location of the meeting to telephonic, the teleconference access telephone number, and the teleconference access website were posted on the website, sent to the official newspapers and posted on the doors of the municipal building.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

James R. Spango, Mayor  
Christopher Bardi, Council President  
Eileen Fishman, Councilwoman  
Roger Freda, Councilman  
Jean Perrotti, Councilwoman  
Michele Tolli, Councilwoman  
Marcelino Trillo, Councilman

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

An image of the American Flag was displayed on the computer screen as Mayor Spango led the salute to the flag. Mayor Spango then asked for a moment of silence in honor of all those affected by the current health emergency.

**PRESENTATION**

Council President Bardi displayed a PowerPoint presentation of the proposed 2020 municipal budget. Administrator/CFO Chumacas assisted with the presentation.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Sheryl Ryan	37 Oak Drive
Ann-Marie Carey	Stonegate Drive
Corby Murano	11 Davenport Avenue

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

Councilman Freda made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 12-2020 "An ordinance amending and supplementing Chapter 19 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of

Roseland entitled "Streets and Sidewalks". The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Perrotti and approved by a 6-0 voice vote. The public hearing will be held on May 19, 2020.

**PUBLIC HEARING/ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES**

Clerk Watkins read Ordinance No. 06-2020 by title only for the second time: "An ordinance to amend Chapter 14 entitled "Parks and Recreation" to modify permit fees for use of certain fields by non-sanctioned groups, organizations, or activities". Councilwoman Fishman made a motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance No. 06-2020. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trillo and approved by a 6-0 voice vote.

**Public Comment**

Ann-Marie Carey      Stonegate Drive

There being no one else wishing to be heard, Councilwoman Tolli made a motion to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Fishman and approved by a 6-0 voice vote.

Clerk Watkins read Ordinance No. 06-2020 for the third and final time: "An ordinance to amend Chapter 14 entitled "Parks and Recreation" to modify permit fees for use of certain fields by non-sanctioned groups, organizations, or activities". Councilwoman Tolli made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 06-2020. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bardi and approved by a 6-0 roll call vote.

Clerk Watkins read Ordinance No. 07-2020 by title only for the second time: "Calendar Year 2020 ordinance to exceed municipal budget appropriation limits and to establish a Cap bank in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14". Councilwoman Perrotti made a motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance No. 07-2020. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trillo and approved by a 6-0 voice vote.

**Public Comment**

There being no one wishing to be heard, Councilwoman Fishman made a motion to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tolli and approved by a 6-0 voice vote.

Clerk Watkins read Ordinance No. 07-2020 for the third and final time: "Calendar Year 2020 ordinance to exceed municipal budget appropriation limits and to establish a Cap bank in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14". Councilwoman Perrotti made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 07-2020. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trillo and approved by a 6-0 roll call vote.

The public hearing on Ordinance No. 08-2020 was tabled to 7:30 PM on Tuesday, May 19, 2020.

The public hearing on Ordinance No. 09-2020 was tabled to 7:30 PM on Tuesday, May 19, 2020.

The public hearing on Ordinance No. 10-2020 was tabled to 7:30 PM on Tuesday, May 19, 2020.

Clerk Watkins read Ordinance No. 11-2020 by title only for the second time: "An Ordinance Appropriating \$82,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund for the Acquisition of Computers and Related Equipment in and by the Borough of Roseland, in the County of Essex, New Jersey". Councilwoman Tolli made a motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance No. 11-2020. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bardi and approved by a 6-0 voice vote.

#### Public Comment

There being no one wishing to be heard, Councilwoman Fishman made a motion to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trillo and approved by a 6-0 voice vote.

Clerk Watkins read Ordinance No. 11-2020 for the third and final time: "An Ordinance Appropriating \$82,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund for the Acquisition of Computers and Related Equipment in and by the Borough of Roseland, in the County of Essex, New Jersey". Councilwoman Fishman made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 11-2020. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bardi and approved by a 6-0 roll call vote.

#### INTRODUCTION OF 2020 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Councilman Bardi made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 136-2020 – Introduction of 2020 Municipal Budget. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trillo and approved by a 6-0 voice vote. The public hearing on the 2020 Municipal Budget is scheduled for 7:30 PM on Tuesday, May 19, 2020.

#### APPROVAL OF BILLS

Councilman Trillo made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 137-2020 approving the April 17<sup>th</sup> bill list in the amount of \$432,914.78. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tolli and approved by a 6-0 voice vote.

#### ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Councilman Freda made a motion to approve the eight resolutions on the agenda:

Resolution No. 138-2020 authorizing the purchase of a 2020 Police Interceptor through State Contract at a cost of \$36,696.00

Resolution No. 139-2020 accepting conveyance of Roseland pump station equipment from Foulerton Brook Condominium Association

Resolution No. 140-2020 authorizing submission of the 2020 Recycling Tonnage Grant application

Resolution No. 141-2020 authorizing a contract with Edmunds & Associates in the amount of \$18,000.00 for the conversion of construction and zoning permits from proprietary software

Resolution No. 142-2020 rescinding Resolution No. 106-2020 "Authorizing the Purchase of RTV-24-7 Internet Live Streaming System"

Resolution No. 143-2020 authorizing the cancellation of water sewer billing balances

Resolution No. 144-2020 ratifying March 2020 salaries

Resolution No. 145-2020 approving the refund of intramural basketball program fees

The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Perrotti and approved by a 6-0 voice vote.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilman Trillo made a motion to accept with regret the resignation of Jeff Liddle from the Recreation Committee effective March 23, 2020. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bardi and approved by a 6-0 voice vote.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Spango gave an update on the Covid-19 pandemic, advising that there are sixty-one reported cases in Roseland and there have been eight deaths. Mr. Spango thanked the Police Department, Fire Department, Department of Public Works (DPW), Office of Emergency Management (OEM), and Recreation Department (working remotely) for maintaining government services during this health emergency. Mayor Spango thanked the Recreation Department, DPW, and OEM for facilitating the Easter Bunny drive through town.

Mr. Spango asked that everyone thank all those who are working during this health emergency for keeping life as close to normal as possible. The curve is beginning to flatten and there is hope that there will be a gradual return to normal. Mayor Spango thanked everyone who has been helping with the senior in need program. Details will be made available explaining the recently created Roseland Relief Fund. The quality of mail service continues to be an issue, and has been exaggerated by the health emergency as the post office is experiencing the same difficulties as everyone else. Several conference calls have taken place with the regional manager of the Postal Service. Roseland carriers are operating out of the Livingston Post Office at present due to several sick employees in the Roseland office. Information on small business assistance is available on the Borough's website. Mayor Spango thanked Council members, Borough employees, and residents for adhering to social distancing practices.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Councilman Bardi explained that the budget that was introduced tonight will be available for review on the Borough's website. The property revaluation may be postponed until next year. Guidelines for donating to the new Roseland Relief Fund will be posted on the Borough's website along with instructions on how to make online donations. Mr. Bardi thanked Council, health care workers, and public safety professionals for their work during this health emergency, and thanked Mayor Spango for his leadership.

### SHARED SERVICES

No report

### REDEVELOPMENT AND LEGAL

Councilwoman Fishman thanked Councilman Bardi for the great job preparing and presenting the budget. Mrs. Fishman also thanked Administrator Chumacas and department heads for their work preparing the budget. Mrs. Fishman commended the heroes during this health emergency, Health Officer DiLizia, Administrator Chumacas, first responders, health care workers, pharmacists, doctors, and nurses. As the health emergency continues, the Borough is routinely reviewing safety procedures. Mrs. Fishman commented on the establishment of the Roseland Relief Fund. Plans and work on park upgrades are continuing.

### PUBLIC WORKS

Councilman Freda commended the Roseland First Aid Squad (RFAS) and thanked the police department, fire department and OEM for their work during the health emergency. Mr. Freda asked residents to continue to stay off playgrounds and tennis courts. Mr. Freda thanked Captain Matheis and the recreation department for facilitating the Easter Bunny drive through town.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilwoman Perrotti thanked members of the police department, fire department, RFAS, and OEM for their efforts. Chief McDonough asked that residents be reminded not to leave keys in their cars and to keep garage doors shut. Chief McDonough also cautioned residents about numerous telephone scams involving the \$1200 federal stimulus. The Roseland Board of Education introduced their 2020 budget which represents a 3.2% tax levy increase, which equates to an approximate \$62.83 increase on an average home valued at \$465,000. The budget includes capital projects, maintenance projects, and an additional special education teacher. The West Essex Board of Education is scheduled to introduce their budget next week.

### RECREATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Councilwoman Tolli reported that the Caldwell Food Bank will be open on Wednesdays from 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM for pickups. The Food Bank will be accepting donations of food on Wednesdays and Thursdays between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM. Spring recreation programs have been cancelled or postponed. The annual Holiday cupcake decorating contest has tentatively been rescheduled to Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. The hanging planters in the center of town were installed prior to the quarantine. Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Church will be checking on the welfare of senior residents. Mrs. Tolli expressed her sadness in the passing of Santo Barretta. Mr. Barretta was a founding member of the RFAS. Mrs. Tolli thanked all emergency services for their efforts during these difficult times. Councilwoman Tolli thanked Councilman Bardi, Administrator Maureen, Council members for their work on preparation of the budget.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilwoman Perrotti made a motion to approve the March 3, 2020 caucus meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tolli and approved by a 6-0 voice vote.

Councilman Bardi made a motion to approve the April 7, 2020 caucus meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilman Freda and approved by a 5-0 vote, with Councilwoman Tolli abstaining from the vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

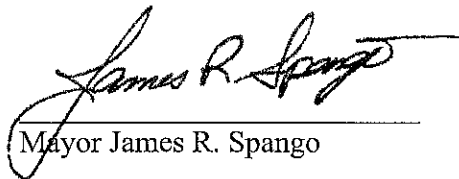
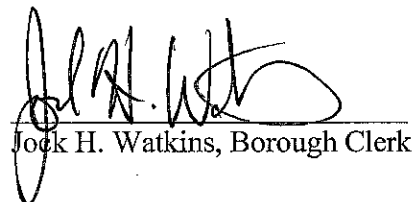
None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Spango encouraged residents to stay home, stay healthy, and stay positive. Councilwoman Fishman made a motion to close the meeting at 8:39 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Perrotti and approved by a 6-0 voice vote.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor James R. Spango  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jock H. Watkins, Borough Clerk

Approved: May 19, 2020

**VOICE VOTE**

Aye: Bardi, Fishman, Freda, Perrotti, Tolli, Trillo  
Nay: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None